

MAYORS REPORT TO THE VILLAGE BY: RICHARD WINTERS

First let me thank you for electing me the Mayor. In speaking with residents during the campaign they all expressed their wishes about wanting change in the village government. I can assure you that changes will be made. In order to communicate the changes made we have created a quarterly newsletter, called the "Liberty Village Voice." The newspaper will be published by our staff at no additional cost to the Village.

The newsletter will contain changes made in village government and articles of interest. The newsletter will be published four times a year and will be found on

the villages new web site and in the village office.

Now on to the business of government. I want to assure you that the trustees and myself understand how important it is to maintain a financially strong village.

Despite the difficulty of the task, our employees are working to achieve the goal.

As a beginning we are undertaking an internal review of all departments, looking at new ways of doing business and even looking at mutual sharing of services with the Town of Liberty.

I want you to know that all departments are reviewing their budgets in order to find ways of improving their

financial positions. Despite our efforts we must continue to balance services provided against the cost of those services.

As we proceed in our audit of the village we will share our findings and our plans to rectify the problems. Regardless of what administration created the problem, our task is to "Solve It".

As we travel down this long and difficult road I know that you will support the changes that we will make in order to achieve our financial independence and improve the environment of the Village of Liberty. I can assure you that we are doing all we can in order to achieve your wishes.

I appreciate all your support.

VILLAGE ESTABLISHES A LOAN COMMITTEE

In the past there has been many inquires as to what the process is for granting micro-enterprise loans or emergency loans. In order to create a process that will assure fairness to all parties the village has established a loan committee and standardized the

loan application. The new process will also include an interview with the committee before a final decision is made.

Loan applicants will be asked to discuss their proposals and provide information to show that they have the ability to repay the loan.

The loan committee will include trustees, an outside member of the community and the Director of Community Development.

CODE ENFORCEMENT TIPS FROM- PAM WINTERS

As the winter approaches keep in mind that the heat must be on beginning September 15th and kept on until May 31st of the next year in all rental apartments. Interior temperatures can be no lower than 68 degrees. This is measured on the interior wall and two feet from the floor.

The recently completed Fall Clean-up was a huge success. I want to remind you that no items were accepted without a permit. The permits were available at the village clerks office.

Again this year we did not accept household garbage, large stumps, rocks, batteries, tires, hazardous materials or yard debris.

I can report that we had 100% compliance by our villagers to these rules.

As for the sanitation, you are again re-

minded that household garbage is to be disposed of using clear bags. The bags should be placed into cans with lids or into dumpsters with covers. Recyclable items are to be separated out. Cardboard is to be flattened and tied. Printed material explaining how to correctly recycle is available upon request at the Municipal Building.

Repairs to your property that involves digging –call DPW 292-7031



**HAVE PRIDE IN THE VILLAGE
KEEP IT CLEAN**

VILLAGE JUSTICE TO OBTAIN GRANT TO MODERNIZE JUSTICE COURT

As the Justice for the Village of Liberty, Justice Harold Bauman has always been a community leader. In conjunction with the Community Development Corp., the Justice Court is applying for a grant to renovate the area adjacent to the court room housed in the Municipal Building. The new changes will include handicap

entrances, a waiting room and a new sound system so people can hear the proceeding.

The Justice Court in Liberty is the second busiest court in the county and has two full time court clerk's. The grant should be awarded by the

end of the year and work begun immediately.

Its important that you Remember that the Justice court is considered the peoples court.

"The justice court is the peoples court"

VILLAGE POLICE ADD K-9 DOG TO IT'S FORCE

The Village of Liberty Police Department has always prided itself in using the latest equipment. However, this addition adds a new tactic to the force. As society has changed the need for more advanced techniques is required to detect crime. In response to the challenge, the police department has responded by establishing a K9 unit for drug detection and tracking. Our new officer is named "Chase". The Dog is

imported from Slovakia where the dogs are specially bred. The new Police Officer was hired using funds from a fundraiser and generous support of the community and National Association of Chiefs of Police. So what is the benefit of a K-9 unit. The biggest asset is his immedi-



ate availability. In the past we had to wait for mutual aid from another agency.

So what are the benefits of having Officer Chase. He will: Reduce the threat of serious injury or even death of another Officer.

Assist in the arrest of serious or violent offenders

Locate lost or missing persons and hidden suspects.

And, finally, he will help find drugs that are targeted for our children.

Yes Officer Chase has a big job to do and he is looking for your support.

ECONOMIC HARD TIMES CALL FOR TOUGH DECISIONS

While Wall street headlines talk about recovery and improved performance of the stock market, every mayor knows that main streets battle is far from over. In fact many towns and villages are faced with hard financial decisions in order to meet their obligations.

The choices are not very pleasant. Mayors are looking at laying off workers, outsourcing services, instituting non-pay days, a freeze on hiring and working with unions to defer salary increases. In the past, most mayors have frowned on these measures, now they are left with little options.

Mayors are faced with either making the changes or increasing taxes and fees for all other services. Even areas previously untouched like the Police Department have been the target of the cuts. However, one thing is certain, villagers are crying out "NO NEW TAXES" or "HIGHER FEES"

So what is the solution? If the villages are going to get through these tough times it will require sacrifice on the part of all. The solution will depend on how much the departments can save, improve the collections of fines and fees, work with the unions to share the pain and freeze all new hiring as a beginning step. On the other hand villagers must understand that if they want services they must be willing to bear the cost.

In the end mayors and trustees must exhibit leadership in working toward solutions that will allow them to minimize tax increases. While no increase is preferable, I believe that a minimal increase to residents is bearable if they know that their government has done everything possible to achieve its goal before turning to the residents.

Dr. Edward Lagarde, Ph.D

LP BACKUP GENERATOR TO GO ON-LINE AT THE WATER FILTRATION PLANT.

For the last four years the Village of Liberty residents lived with the lack of a back up system in the event electricity at the Water plant went out. While a LP Gas system was installed it did not work under frigid conditions. After identifying the problem, a meeting of all the parties involved in the solution was conducted and within two weeks the problem was resolved. The new system was installed and ready to protect our villagers during frigid weather.



THE VILLAGE WILL HAVE A NEW WEB SITE

The Village of Liberty is moving into the 21st century. The Village is currently working with a local web designer to implement its new web site. The web site will provide village residents and visitors with a central source of information regarding upcoming events, contact information, a newsletter of important changes in the village, board minutes for all meetings, frequently requested forms, and articles of interest. The web site will also have poll questions asking for residents to provide their voice on village matters. The web site domain name will be "VillageofLibertyNY.org" The web site is being rolled out in November of this year.



VILLAGE OF LIBERTY

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News items of Interest:

The Village of Liberty in conjunction with the Community Development Corporation is applying for a \$200,000 Micro-Enterprise Grant for Small Business.

The Village of Liberty in conjunction with the Liberty Chamber of Commerce to develop a plan to assist business during the winter months.

The Village of Liberty in partnership with the Town of Liberty and Community Development will hold the "first ever" summit to discuss economic strategies.



THE ARTS AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

For many communities, creating a cultural space or creating cultural events is the foundation for their revitalization. Cultural tourism is big business. Art and various cultural activities transform vacant spaces into productive and welcome venues, but they do more than that for the town or village.

The arts can have a magnet affect on new businesses, residents and visitors. Think of the resurgence of interest in Sugar Loaf or the concert goes at Bethel Woods. Creativity and ideas as the Nation's economy trends towards a knowledge base have emerged as an important economic engine. MASS MOCA(Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) in North Adams, Massachusetts stands as a prime example of the transformative impact of the arts. The Year it opened, the museum and its spillover effect on the area business,

generated \$14.2 million in growth for the local and regional economy.

Equally important , the arts , whether visual or performing arts can transform the spirit, inspire communities and serve as a bridge for diverse populations. In small towns and large cities across the country the arts are distinguishing themselves as expressions of communal ideals and identity. Indeed too, they are spilling forth from museums and galleries and claiming space in delightfully unexpected places. Large murals appear on city sidewalks, lighted figures seem to hover beside an apartment building, and a lowly gate becomes a fierce and fascinating guardian in the hands of a skilled sculptor.

Even store fronts that were vacant one day, can burst with creative energy the next, Take a stroll down Main Street in

Liberty and you might be in for a surprise with the progress . Without question, the arts have a real and necessary place in our lives. Let's welcome them.

Allen Wright