

## **MARCH 2017**

### **TOWN BARN MEETING**

Our town barn is in need of major repair which will incur significant costs. The town board is conducting a special meeting on **APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM** to present to the public the issues with the town barn and the search for funding sources. Community concerns and input is needed. Please attend this very important meeting.

### **FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

It is with much thought that I have decided not to run for Town Clerk in the next election.

If anyone knows of any Resident that would like to run for this office, you can contact me at 315-429-8612 to set up an appointment to discuss the office and its many duties, such as: Tax Collector, Registrar, Records Management Officer, Notary Public, etc. Suggested qualifications: Knowledge of Office Procedures and Computer literate. It is a work in progress. There are many details to this position which sometimes are unexpected and sometimes it may take a lot of research.

Diana Massicotte

### **TOWN SPEED LIMITS**

The Town Board is considering requests from residents for lowering speed limits on town roads. We want to hear from you regarding this matter. Should we consider lower speed limits for specific roads or all town roads? A portion of the **APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>** regular town board meeting will be devoted to community input on this issue. Please attend or call/email the supervisor to comment.

### **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

At the March Town Board meeting, a local law was presented to increase the number of members on the Board of Assessment Review from three to five. The reason for the change is that in the past it has been necessary for members to recuse themselves, making it difficult for property owners to receive a decision from the Board of Assessment Review. A public hearing will be held on **APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> at 6:30 PM** prior to the regular town board meeting before this local law is voted on.

This is a five year term, a year running from October 1 to September 30. The terms of the current members of the board end: September 30, 2017 for Mary Beth Salamone, 2020 for Sue Fogarty, and 2021 for Margaret (Peg) Klages. If enacted, the town board will make the two additional appointments from a prospective list. In order to stagger the terms, one new member will serve the remainder of this term until September 30, 2018 and the other would serve the remainder of this term until September 30, 2019.

All residents interested in being considered for one of these positions must contact Allicia Rice, supervisor, prior to April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. You will be provided with information regarding the duties of the position and required training at the Fulton County Office Building in Johnstown.

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To contact the supervisor, call 315-429-0527 during office hours (Tuesday and Thursday 10 – 2, Saturday 12 – 3) or leave a message on the town clerk's phone 315-429-8612. Or email the supervisor at [Stratfordsupervisor@hughes.net](mailto:Stratfordsupervisor@hughes.net).

## **BTI**

It's getting that time of year that the creeks start opening up to embrace the coming warm weather. It's also the time of year that black fly larvae start changing into those pesky flying, biting, irritating bugs that we all know too well. Spring is the time of year we like to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather and we all would rather enjoy this without the clouds of biting black flies around our heads! This is why the Town of Stratford supports the use of BTI (bacillus thuringiensis israelensis) to control these black flies. BTI is a biological product with a protein crystal that is fed to black fly larvae in clean fast flowing water. The protein is very target specific. It only kills black fly larvae and a few small midge species that filter feed. Their alkaline digestive system releases the poison from the protein. No other organisms are affected.

The town currently employs a team of five Pesticide Technicians, Peter Szczebak, Nicole Wainwright, Elizabeth Hastings, Jeff Lanphere, Larry Staring and one Commercial Pesticide Applicator, Mike Sokira. All applicators have passed NYSDEC tests pertaining to safe use of pesticides and the specific pest we manage. We all carry a NYS pesticide applicator picture ID with us. We monitor and treat streams, starting in early March with the last snow still on the ground. We usually treat into July or until we consistently see no larvae present. There can be several larvae hatches per year. BTI is the only pesticide approved for use on NYS lands. We can treat one stream up to ten times from March 1st to the last day of July. All residents and seasonal residents have received letters in the past, explaining our program and asking for permission to cross your properties to reach fast flowing streams. Any property owners that elected not to allow us on their properties, have their properties marked on our maps indicating they do not allow us access. This is how we honor property owner's right to refusal. All other properties we enter, we do so with respect. We work on foot so the only thing we leave behind is our footprints. So you will probably see us around, pack baskets full of equipment on our backs, treating streams, killing black fly larvae as we go.

All of our applicators carry copies of the pesticide label with them and, if asked, will make them available to you. They also have NYS Pesticide Business triangles in both front windows of their vehicles while conducting business. All information about the program is posted in the Stratford town hall. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the black fly control program. Enjoy your Spring!

Thank you,  
Michael Sokira, BTI Director  
315-429-3657

## **RECYCLING**

By now you may have received a brochure at the transfer station with information concerning the changes in recycling. If not, brochures are available at both the town clerk's office and the transfer station. We no longer have to sort paper, cardboard and containers, and plastic bags are no longer needed to contain recyclables. All sorting will be done off site. This change was largely done to encourage more recycling.

Recycling saves the town on its solid waste bill. Garbage costs the town \$53.00/ton, whereas recycling only costs \$10.00/ton. The metal recycling dumpster will still be there for metals that are excluded from the regular recycling. The metal from this dumpster costs the town \$20.00/ton. The clothing bin and electronics trailer will also remain.

Recycling saves the town money! Please make the effort to dispose of garbage and recyclables appropriately.

## **HELP STRATFORD FIREFIGHTERS**

The Stratford Volunteer Fire Company is in need of volunteers to assist at the firehouse while the personnel are out on major alarms. Manpower is needed to deliver beverages and snacks to the emergency scene as well as maintaining a rest area within the firehouse during and after the emergency. Anyone interested call Chief Brian Alling 315-429-3186 or email [strat4rdfire@gmail.com](mailto:strat4rdfire@gmail.com). This does not require any training or personal expense; it is simply to support the firefighters.

Chief Brian Alling