

Plattekill Times

WINTER
2011-12

Message from the Supervisor

Caroling at our Town Park along with the tree lighting ceremony have always been one of my favorite community events, judging from the attendance at this year's celebration, it is one of yours too! The Southern Ulster Rotary provided the doughnuts and hot cocoa for the crowd...a big thank you to them. The Modena Fire Department and carolers along with the Plattekill Fire Department added to the excitement of the night with song and festive holiday lights, and of course the delivery of the man of the hour...Santa Claus. Over 200 stockings were handed out to little waiting hands and plenty of memories were made. Thank you to all those who helped put the magic into this special night!

Wayne Harris is a man who wears many hats in our community and as of January 1, he will be wearing one less. Wayne is retiring from his Recreation Director position. Thank you Wayne, for your many years of top-notch service and dedication to this Town. We have seen the events you've planned grow and thrive. You leave big shoes to fill. Thank you again.

Mark January 2nd, 6 PM down on your calendar and witness as our two new councilmen-elect, Mike Putnam and Larry Farrelly are sworn into their new positions. Light refreshments will be served afterward. All are welcome to attend at the town hall and join in as we congratulate and support our new councilmen, and our officials who were reelected. Also note that the Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 4th at 7 PM at the Town hall.

As another year draws to a close, I'd like thank you all for your support and faith in me as your Supervisor this past election season. I am humbled and honored to represent you and this town. Visit me at the Town Hall and tell me how I'm doing. I'm here for you. Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
Bruce Loertscher

Changes Coming to This Town Newsletter

The newsletter you are reading will be experiencing some changes in the near future due to budgetary cuts. It will become shorter in length and fewer printed copies will be made. Instead, readers are encouraged to subscribe to receive and read the Plattekill Times online. It is simple to do and you will be able to view the newsletter in full color when viewing online. To subscribe, visit the Town's Web site at <http://town.plattekill.ny.us> and click on the Newsletter link. Provide your email address and you will be notified via email when the newsletter is published.

The Town will experience significant savings, as well as following a green practice by not printing so many paper copies. You will still receive the information and it will be in color. It will be a win-win for all. Subscribe today!



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Wayne Harris Resigns*
- *Boy and Girl Scout Highlights*
- *Literacy Program at PES*

From the Police Department

With the winter months upon us we find many people unable to afford home heating oil. During the winter months the temperature often dips into the single digits. This can be very dangerous and life threatening, particularly for our elderly and people that are ill. I want to encourage the public to call the Plattekill Police Department at 883-6373 if they know or suspect a neighbor that may not have heat for their home and may be in need of assistance.

Please be aware that the Ulster County Department of Social Services and the Plattekill Police Department has a plan in place to assist residents in time of an emergency need for home heating oil. The Police and Town Supervisor will assist you in obtaining these emergency services. The Fuel Emergency Services Plan will be in effect until March 16th.

The winter months are upon us and the snow will be effecting our driving. Be prepared and keep these tips in mind:

1. Before starting out, always clear snow and ice from the window and lights on your vehicle to increase your visibility and to be seen by others.
2. Don't forget to clean the brake lights too so that drivers behind you will know your intentions.
3. Drive slower and increase your following distance. The posted speed limits are for ideal driving conditions. On dry pavement a car doing 20 mph can stop in 25 feet, but it can take up to 150 feet to stop on an icy road. Slow down! New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to slow down if a special hazard exists due to weather or road conditions.
4. Roadway conditions may vary depending on the sun, shade or roadway surface. Watch for slick spots, especially under bridges, on overpasses, and in shady spots. Be prepared to react physically and mentally. Stay within the limits of your vision. Low beams work better than high beams during snowy or foggy conditions.
5. New York Vehicle and Traffic Law requires that your headlights are on if you are using your windshield wipers due to inclement weather. If your car is equipped with an antilock braking system (ABS), press firmly on the brake pedal. Do not pump the pedal or remove your foot from the brake. You will typically feel the brake pedal "pulse" back against your foot. If your car does

not have ABS for braking under icy or snowy conditions it's best to apply the brake firmly to a point just short of lock-up, then ease off the pedal slightly.

The Plattekill Police Department wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable winter. Remember to always buckle-up!

-Chief Joseph G. Ryan

Assessor's Office News

The Assessors Office for the Town of Plattekill would like to remind all property owners that the filing deadline for all exemptions is March 1, 2012. Property owners who are currently receiving The Enhanced Star, Senior Citizen, Agricultural Disability, and Wholly Exemption from property taxes, must file their renewal form by March 1. All renewal applications will be mailed to property owners by early December. If a property owner does not receive the application, they should contact the Assessors office as soon as possible.

If a property owner is receiving the Basic Star Exemption they do not need to file a renewal exemption. If a property owner will be 65 years of age on December 31, 2012, they may be eligible for the Enhanced Star Exemption, and they should contact the Assessors Office before March 1. The income level for Enhanced Star has also been raised to \$ 79,050. If a property owner did not qualify in the past for the Enhanced Star Exemption because of income, they may be eligible under the new income level and they should contact the Assessors office.

If a property owner has questions about any exemptions and whether they are eligible, they should contact the Assessors Office at 845-883-7331 EXT 17, prior to March 1, 2012.

Please Take Note:

- January 2nd Swearing-In Ceremony @ 6 PM.
- January 4th Reorganization Meeting at 6 PM.
- Highway Department Winter Hours are 6:30 AM to 3 PM

Plattekill Recreation Calendar

January through March

The following activities are planned to continue into the New Year. Additional events will be announced once that information becomes available.

- **Youth Basketball** “Skills and Drills” is offered on Wednesdays at Plattekill Elementary School (PES) January 4th and ending March 14th. Kids play at the following times: 6 PM for 7 to 9 year olds; 7 PM for 10 to 12 year olds; 8 PM for 13 to 15 year olds.
- **Adult Volleyball** is played on Mondays at PES from 7:15 – 9 PM and will resume January 9th through March 12. Just show up to play.
- **Zumba** – Another six week session of Zumba will be offered on Mondays, January 9th through March 12th. The cost for six sessions is \$48.00, payable the first night, or \$12 for walk-ins. Actual dates are: Jan 9, 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 27. Additional sessions are likely to be scheduled in March. The instructor is Lisa Ondreyko and the class runs 6 PM to 7 PM in the Plattekill Elementary School gym.
- **Rocking Horse Ranch** – Plattekill Community Day at the Rocking Horse Ranch date TBA.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - This annual event is planned for March 31st at 2 PM at the Thomas Felten Community Park.

Farewell to Wayne Harris

Recreation Director Wayne Harris has resigned from his position, effective January 1. Recently, I had the pleasure to speak with Wayne and thought I would ask a few questions I thought may be on the minds of our readers. I hope you enjoy.

Why have you decided to resign as the Recreation Director?

No big scoop story here! It just seems like a good time for me to go. I'm growing older and slowing down a little. I want to say that I really enjoyed almost every minute of it. Now it is time for new eyes, new growth, and new ideas.

What are your plans moving forward?

I plan to continue as an Ulster County Legislator and continue to serve on the Arts and Education Committee for Ulster County. I am Chairman of the Legislative Programs Education Committee and will

continue working with the Arts Council of Dutchess County. They fund programs like Unison, Woodstock School of Art, Woodstock Film Festival, UPAC, Ulster County Community College, the County Historian and county libraries, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Stop DWI, Community Action (Head Start programs – six sites), Youth Bureau, Office of the Aging, and the Veteran's Administration. I also serve on the Ways and Means committee (finance committee) and Health and Human Services Committee.

How long have you been involved with the Town of Plattekill and in what capacities?

I was the Recreation Director in 1981 and was on the Town Board for two terms and served as the Deputy Supervisor. My most recent work was as Recreation Director from 1996 until January 1, 2012.

What did you like most about being Recreation Director?

(Continued on page 7)

Community Notes

Plattekill Head Start

Plattekill Head Start is enjoying this unusually warm weather! We are getting the opportunity to go outside every day (when it doesn't rain!) and exercise our large muscles riding bikes, climbing on our climber, playing with balls and in our sand-box. And we can use our outside voices! Inside, we are naming the things we are thankful for, preparing for our Winter Read-Aloud, which will have a Winter themed karaoke and arranging a Craft Day with our parents, guardians and friends. We look forward to the new year where we'll continue to practice writing our names, learning new songs, recognizing our letters and numbers and learning how to keep our bodies healthy and strong. If you are 3 or 4 years old and would like to join us, please call Betsy Escanio at 564-1693 to find out how to apply.

Submitted by Mary Brady, Plattekill Head Start Center Director

The Memorial United Methodist Church in Modena will be holding the following Holiday Services:

Dec 24, 2011 Christmas Eve Service 7:30PM
 Dec 25, 2011 Christmas Day Service 10:30AM
 Dec 31, 2011 Watch Night Service 10:00PM
 Jan 01, 2012 Epiphany Sunday Service 10:30AM

Alice will be away for the winter so if you have any questions you can contact Barbara Terpening at 883-6619.

Christmas in The Big City

Girls from Girl Scout Troop 60042 were lucky enough to take a trip into New York City for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular the Friday after Thanksgiving. The photo above right, was taken in Grand Central Station on their way to see the show. For more information on joining Girl Scouts contact Donna Egan at vank100@aol.com



Girl Scout Troop 60042 in Grand Central Station

Community Service at Thanksgiving

Girls from Girl Scout Troop 60042 spent the day cooking a turkey dinner for a local needy family as part of a community service 'adopt a family' program. After cooking the meal, several



Girls from Girl Scout Troop 60332 prepare apple crisp.

boxes of canned goods were brought to the local food pany.

Sharon Lastowski's Girl Scout Junior troop 60332 has been very active in many community service initiatives. On November 11 and 12, the girls made 6 large pans of apple crisp at their troop leader's house and brought it to the soup kitchen in Newburgh for dessert for that Saturday's dinner. They also helped set up, prepare, and serve dinner.

Plattekill Day 2011

Plattekill Day was on a Saturday September 17th this year due to numerous area events being on that Sunday but the weather was favorable and the turnout high. Many vendors sold out of their foods and area community organizations sponsored booths, vendors sold homemade crafts, many enjoyed the car show and the children enjoyed bouncy houses, a free train ride, games and goodies. Thanks to Micki Obermeyer, Chairwoman for this event and to all of the volunteers who helped make this event safe for everyone.



Barbara's Karate Kids demonstrate their skills at Plattekill Day 2011.

took place at the Thomas Felten Community Park and included the creation of three picnic areas and John David Youman's project took place at the Plattekill Library Community Center. In April, two of the scouts were awaiting approval



*Jakob Lyon, Eagle Scout
Plattekill B.S. Troop 195*

by the Eagle Board of Review. They are pleased to announce that all four young men successfully passed their review and achieved their official Eagle Scout status. The Town wishes to thank these men for their dedication, hard work and service to our Town and congratulate each of them on this remarkable achievement.

2011 Eagle Scouts Achievements in Plattekill

In our April newsletter, we reported that Troop 195 announced that four of their boy scouts have completed their Eagle projects. Jakob Lyon's and Alan Woodruff's individual projects were related to the Memorial United Methodist Church, Dominick Ferrante's III project

The parents of Jakob said they "feel extremely happy and proud of Jakob's accomplishment... When he joined Boy Scouting back in the fifth grade, we could only hope that one day he would be an Eagle Scout. We are very proud that Jakob continued through the scouting program and of all his hard work. Jakob is one of the five percent of all scouts that achieve the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout." When asked what scouting taught their son, his parents replied, "Boy scouting taught Jakob about the importance of good morals, good character, and good citizenship. He also learned a lot about leadership. And most importantly, he learned skills that he will use the rest of his life." Jakob attended Wallkill High School and is currently a Freshman at the Rochester Institute of Technology. If you are interested in Boy Scouts (ages 11-18), please email:

plattekill_troop195@yahoo.com.



At the Town Board Meeting on 10/5/11, Allen Woodruff made Eagle Scout after completion of renovations to rooms at the Modena Methodist Church.

Plattekill Public Library Happenings

As the year comes to an end, we are very delighted to have had some new programs like our DS Gametime. The kids have had a blast racing against each other in "Mariokart!" Our adult "Knit2gether" Group includes beginners and experienced knitters and a few who like to crochet.

In the upcoming year of 2012, we are anticipating many exciting events. We will be having some interesting themed Readalouds such as Thomas the Tank Engine and Candyland. Like us on Facebook to keep updated and to view pictures from our events!

Need help with building a resume or help with homework? We encourage you to use Tutor.com, all you need is a Plattekill Public Library Card.

Library Book Clubs

If you love reading, Plattekill Public Library offers three book clubs where you can satisfy your love of books and get together with others to discuss what you read.

Upcoming selections include: *Room*, *The Language of Flowers*, *The Friday Night Knitting Club*, *Running The Books*, and *The Paris Wife*.

Call the Library at 883-7286 for details.

For more information, check our website <http://plattekill.lib.ny.us>, the library's newsletter (paper copy or via email), our Facebook page, or call the library at 883-7286.

Plattekill Veteran's Committee Plans Events

This group has been hard at work planning events for the coming spring. Here is a glimpse of some events that are "in the works!"

Veterans Memorial Walkway Brick Sale – Starting in January bricks will be available for purchase in support of the Veterans Memorial project. You can personalize your brick with your family's name, or you can dedicate it to someone who served in the Armed Forces. There will be a display in the Town Hall so you can learn more and also purchase a brick. The cost of a small brick will be \$50 and a large brick \$100. And the purchase can be made with the Town Clerk. This is a great way to leave a lasting impression and your "stamp" on the Town and this memorial.

Valentine's Dinner Dance - A Dinner Dance to celebrate Valentine's Day is planned for Saturday, February 11th at the VFW in New Paltz on Route 208 (time TBA). Tickets go on sale in January. To purchase tickets contact Carol Peets at 845-883-5717.

Veterans Golf Tournament - This will be held at the New Paltz Golf Course at 215 Huguenot Street, New Paltz on Saturday May 19th. More details TBA. If you would like your business to sponsor a hole, donate a prize, or sponsor a foursome, contact Mary Bozydaj at 883-6823.

On-going Fundraising – The group continues to raise funds for the future Veteran's Memorial which is planned for the site across from the Thomas Felten Community Park in Modena. If you, or someone you know would like to donate toward this project, all donations can be sent directly to The Community Foundation of Ulster County, 280 Wall Street, P. O. Box 3046, Kingston, New York 12402-3046, clearly marked "Town of Plattekill Veteran's Memorial". Donations are tax deductible and donors will receive a tax-exempt certificate.

For more information, contact Sis Morse, Chair of the Plattekill Veterans Committee at 845-883-6117.

(FAREWELL TO WAYNE HARRIS...Continued from page 3)

I was able to grow the programs over the years due to outstanding volunteers. Ones I must mention in particular are Will Farrell, Frank Scotto, and John Caparaso. They had particular things that they love to do and they were always willing to help. I really hope the programs I started continue to grow.

Can you tell us how your wife helped you in your position as Recreation Director? I saw her at most events.

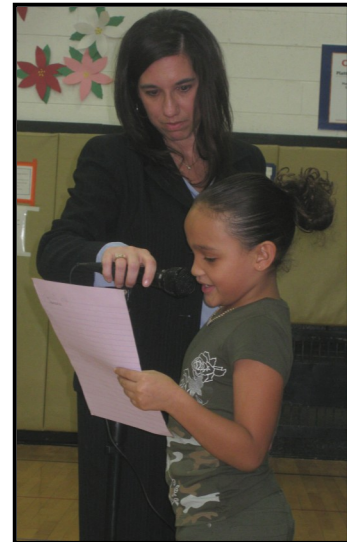
I thank my wife Alice. She did so much, including cooking, cleaning, creating fliers, shopping, and she helped save the Town money because of her savvy shopping. Her efforts helped provide extra prizes and things at events. Her big tip: Shop right after the holidays for the following year!

Do you have any final parting words?

Yes. I want to thank the Town, the volunteers and all of the great families for giving me the opportunity to do this work. I truly enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun.



Thomas Skean reads his poem while Mrs. Detoro, 3rd grade teacher and classmates Brian Cross, Samaria Marks, Katlyn Savoy, and Christina Poirier wait their turn.



Samaria Marks, third grader in Mrs. Detoro's class reads her poem while Mrs. Hasbrouck, Principal, holds the microphone.

Literacy Program in Plattekill

To highlight the literacy program and demonstrate the excellence of the students at Plattekill Elementary School, several students were selected to read their work at the December 15, 2011 Board of Education meeting held at the school. Some students read poems, while others read their vibrantly illustrated stories that were bound into books. Many proud parents attended the event while the Board looked on. It was a celebration of learning and a wonderful way for the Board members to see the work the students are doing. Congratulations to the students and their teachers for all of their hard work!



Emma Hernandez, Mrs. Tanner's 3rd grader reads her story.



Angelena Thomas from Mrs. Tanner's 3rd grade class reads her story with the supportive assistance of PES Principal, Monica Hasbrouck.



Second Graders (L-R) share their work: Lily Hudson, Sanaa Oliva, Angelia Rosa, Teacher Mrs. Bouck, James Rizza, Nolan Kilduff and Jacob Baca.

Town of Plattekill

PO Box 45
Modena, NY 12548
(845) 883-7331

Unless otherwise noted, call the main number for the Town of Plattekill to reach anyone listed here

Bruce Loertscher, Supervisor

Town Board:
Joseph Croce

Mike Putnam as of 01/01/12
Larry Farrelly as of 01/01/12
Jennifer Zupan

Barbara E. Dawes, Town Clerk & Vital Registrar

April Colombo, Deputy Town Clerk

Robert Wager, Highway Superintendent
883-5910

Mike Dunham, Town Assessor

James Brugger
Joseph Locicero
Building Inspectors

Annamaria Maciocia, Town Justice

John G. Sisti, Town Justice

Joseph Ryan, Police Chief
883-6373 (non emergency)

Muriel Obermeyer, Town Historian

Chantel Haight
Dog Control Officer
883-6557 (non emergency)
691-8473 (State Police - emergencies only)

Ulster County Legislators:
Wayne Harris, 883-6022
Kevin Roberts, 566-4143

For emergencies only
Dial 911

Senior Corner

We have a very active senior club in the Town of Plattekill and they invite all resident seniors to come and join. The Plattekill Golden Senior Citizen Club meets four times a month, at 1:30 PM at the Senior Center below the Plattekill Public Library. The membership dues are only \$8/year.

1st Thursday of the month is the business meeting.

2nd Thursday is an activity or speaker at 1 PM.

3rd Thursday is an activity or speaker at 1 PM

4th Thursday Lunch at noon is brought in or the group goes out to lunch.

During a week when there is a trip, there is no meeting. There is also Bingo every Tuesday at 1 PM. If you wish to become a member, contact a present member or officer and try out a meeting.

There elected officers for 2012 are:

President Emilie Rappleyea

Vice-President Dorcas Arocho

Treasurer: Mary Jiminario

Secretary: Dolores Hulse

Ulster County Office of the Aging Home Heating Services Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides funding to supplement heating bills for low-income individuals age sixty and over. **Eligibility:** Applicants must pay for heat directly or pay for heat in their rent payment; live in a HEAP-eligible residence; be a US Citizen or Qualified Alien. Tenants of government subsidized housing where heat is included in the rent or residents of congregate care facilities, dormitories, group homes or institutions are eligible for a one dollar benefit.

Income Limits:

Recipients of public assistance, food stamps or SSI are income eligible for HEAP. All other applicants must meet the gross monthly income test based on household size. Seniors should call the Office of the Aging (340-3006) to see if they qualify. Those under the age of 60 years should contact the Department of Social Services (334-5436) to see if they qualify.

Applying:

Applications for HEAP are accepted early November through March 16th each year. HEAP provides grants on a first-come, first-serve basis, until the funds for the heating season run out. This year, grant awards will be smaller due to reductions to this program. If you have received HEAP from the Office of the Aging the past year, you will automatically receive a HEAP application for the present year.

Weatherization Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP)

WRAP offers a variety of services and resources to low income, vulnerable elderly to assist them in maintaining a safe, affordable, energy-efficient home. **Eligibility:** Applicants must qualify for HEAP, be full-time Ulster County residents over the age of 60, and be responsible for their own heating costs. To apply call Christine Nobel at 340-3006.

This newsletter is a publication by the Town of Plattekill. Contributions should be delivered in writing to the Town Hall to the attention of Town Publicist. All issues can be viewed on the Town's website: <http://town.plattekill.ny.us>. An e-mail subscription to this newsletter is available on this web site.