

**VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK**  
**NEWS AND NOTES/2011 AUTUMN EDITION**

The past few months have been dominated by storms, first hurricane Irene and then Snow leaf. Snow leaf was the more devastating to our community. With 22 inches of wet, heavy snow, trees branches snapped taking down power and utility lines. When a storm of this magnitude hits we ask residents to follow these protocols:

- Keep enough water and nonperishable foods on hand to last up to 72 hours.
- Stay off the roads during the event-Give our highway crews a break!
- Stay clear of downed power lines. Safety first.
- When it's time for debris clearing, work on limbs and branches first. These items will be picked up with the backhoe. Delay placing leaves in the street until branch pickup is complete.

**The Village Highway crew asks that all limb and branch debris from Snow leaf be paced curbside no later than Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Do not mix brush and leaves! Leaf pickup will continue through December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thank you to Bob, Geoff, and Darrin for an outstanding job.**

Elections: Thank you to everyone who came out to vote during our bi-annual village elections. Mayor Laura Hurley, trustee Thomas Whalen, and trustee elect Mike Herzog will join board members Edward "Buddy" Cox & Joe Spagnola as your representatives beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. We thank deputy mayor Stan Morse for his four years of active productive service to the village and wish him well as he leaves the board December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**During the election discourse a great deal of discussion focused on our business district and revitalizing downtown. Our local businesses have long provided us with our heart beat and community center. I encourage everyone to support our business community by patronizing our shops and utilizing local services. In this era of, bargain hunting, commercial malls and online purchasing, consider your neighborhood merchants first. *Shop Small* this season. Let's keep our money where our hearts are! We can make a difference.**

Participate in the Process: A joint meeting of the Village and Town will take place on Monday December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please join us at 7:00 pm at Town Hall as we present the final results of the Shared Services grant. We will also be discussing the Joint Emergency Preparedness plan that is ready for adoption. In other business, Fire Chief Ted Bownas will be on hand to review the progress of the building and apparatus replacement committees.

***Please direct water and sewer questions to village hall at 677-3939 or email concerns to [deputyclerk@village.millbrook.ny.us](mailto:deputyclerk@village.millbrook.ny.us)***

**The honorable Louis “Mickey” Prisco will be retiring after more than thirty years of service to the community. Judge Prisco has served honorably and with the highest degree of integrity. He has helped countless people both on and off the bench. When Mickey informed the board of his decision not to seek reelection in 2011, the board moved to consolidate court operations with the Town of Washington.**

Beginning January 1, 2012 the village will no longer have a justice court. All judicial proceedings will take place in town court. While the financial savings is minimal for the village, this move allows us to free up space at village hall and more importantly separates our youth from the court operations. The village board has long been of the opinion that “bad guys” and “kids” do not mix. (Our police department will maintain an office on the second floor however all arrests are processed at Troop K.)

**We thank the Town of Washington for their cooperation and support during this consolidation process. This move will substantially increase the work load of the town court officials and increase overall town appropriations. It is expected that an increase in fines and forfeitures will help to offset the increased expenses , however, it is very important to remember that any time a village operation is consolidated into the town, their budget will be increased.**

Along with Judge Prisco, Acting Justice Ray Meier and Court Clerk Dawn Marie Klinger will be ending their service to the village. On behalf of the entire community I thank them all for their dedicated service and wish them well in the future.

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I’m often asked if it’s necessary for the village and town to maintain separate highway departments. My response to this question is yes, for the following reasons;

**The village streets have underground water, sewer, and storm drain systems, manholes, catch basins and miles of sidewalks. These systems must be continually monitored and maintained. In addition, tree pruning and brush and leaf removal are vital services. It is unlawful to burn within the village limits and therefore, these materials must be picked up and recycled. Employees also have general laborer duties including mowing, garbage removal, and general maintenance work.**

The town highway department budget exceeds the overall village tax levy! The town maintains over forty miles of roadways including 27 miles of dirt roads. Dirt road upkeep is time consuming and more costly than maintaining paved roads. Town trucks are larger and their plows are equipped with wings that are not compatible with village streets. The town employs a seven man crew which is smaller than a decade ago. Consolidation would not simplify operations or eliminate positions since both municipalities are working at bare bones levels and equipment and manpower are already shared as needed.

**However, sharing a garage is a viable option. It makes sense to have everyone housed at one location where we share the costs of an upgraded facility. We expect to further investigate this possibility with the town during the upcoming year.**