

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area

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Moriah Central School students and all our area's college students, have a wonderful year exploring your WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE.

Fact Finder, after a summer hiatus, is happy to be back in the business of keeping Port Henry and "Surrounding Area" informed on meetings and happenings directly affecting its residents. During this unreported period there was much rain, rain, rain which haunted Port Henry's Farmers' Market, two regular Village Board meetings and a special meeting to accept the Zoning Commission's final report, two Town Meetings, Edge sponsored Moriahstock, many meetings of the Zoning Commission in preparation of that final report to the Village Board, the Moriah Chamber of Commerce set up a new office on Main Street and Port Henry hosted a grand, old-fashioned Labor Day Parade and Celebration – just some of the things that happened during a Fact-Finder-free summer.

BOARD MEETING

August 12, 2013

A letter was received from the NYS Office of Emergency Management on August 5th stating that FEMA has granted the beach appeal in the amount of \$167,009. (I wonder how they come up with that \$9. figure at the end?)

The Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall to review the Commission's "Preliminary Report". The report recommends the initial zoning regulations and boundaries, which will be presented to the Village Board. If adopted by the Board, these recommendations could lead to the establishment of zoning laws within the Village. Copies of the full report and maps are available at the Village Hall, the Library and the website. Public participation is encouraged. (The meeting was held, but few people showed up. However, those who did attend asked questions, showing interest and understanding.)

A letter was received from the NYS Division of Human Rights and the Village's Attorneys with regard to the discrimination complaint against the Village. The case has been dismissed and the file is closed.

A letter was received from the Colonial Surety Company's attorneys advising the Village that the remaining retained funds in connection with the Port Henry Beach and Campground Restoration Project may be released to A.P. Reale & Sons, Inc.

Mayor Guerin executed the Agreement with AES for the Elizabeth Street Community Development Block Grant Project.

The NYS Department of Health conducted an inspection of the beach on July 12, 2013. Four minor violations were found and have since been corrected.

The Board approved the Port Henry Municipal Beach and Campground Emergency

Preparedness Plan as was presented to them. Also approved was the Port Henry Fire Department's 2013-2014 List of Elected and Appointed Officers. Three resolutions were made and approved for the use of monies to buy equipment for the Water and Wastewater Departments and the DPW and pay a company for the installation of a lateral sewer line. Approval was also given to the Northeast Bass Association to use the beach on September 6th & 7th for their fishing event.

The Port Henry Fire Department reported 1,448.52 Man hours to date this year, this is 1,448.52 VOLUNTEER Man hours, accrued in calls answered, OSHA training, additional training and participation in maintaining clean and on-the-ready equipment and firehouse.

September 9th Board Meeting

The Zoning Commission presented its Final Report to the Mayor and Trustees at a special meeting on August 26th. The Board accepted the report as presented, thanked the commission for their volunteer work and officially dissolved the Commission. For the many who may be very interested in zoning, but were unable to attend meetings of the commission, copies of this Final Report are on file in the Village Office and available to be read also on the website.

There will be a **Public Hearing** on **October 15th at 6:45 pm**, before the scheduled monthly meeting of the Board at 7 pm, to extend the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development in a Portion of the Village of Port Henry. This is proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2013. A copy of this proposed law is on file in the Office of the Village Clerk and is open for inspection when the office is open. Port Henry residents are heartily encouraged to keep abreast of happenings like this. Make yourself informed rather than suddenly finding you are facing a voting decision about which you know little or nothing. Mark your calendars, become an informed and involved citizen or - don't complain later.

The Town of Moriah sent a letter in conjunction with the Village of Port Henry to the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation on August 29th in support of the Manhole #13 project (that on-going Manhole #13! Maybe the Village will finally get help on this one!) Senator Little and Assemblyman Dan Stec were copied on the letter.

A Hawkers, Peddler's and Solicitor's License was issued to Jim and Maureen Finguera to sell "Accents on Glass" in the Boyea's Lakeside parking lot. Mr. Finguera produced a permission letter from owner John Boyea, as the Board requested.

During the public discussion portion of the meeting, a request was put forth to gain the approval of the Board to go forward with a ***Trees for Main Street*** project proposed by the pH7 Committee and several other Port Henry residents. Prior to this meeting the Board had been given a rather extensive report on the benefits of this project and suggestions as to the types of trees best suited to this area and the requirements of village life. The Board was very open to the project as long as the Village was not responsible for its cost. The project is now officially on its way and, of course, the first order of business is to begin to raise money for purchasing the trees, much of the work involved has already been volunteered. The first effort to raise money will be holding, ever so often, a **Free - Make-a-**

donation - Make-an-offer event at the Info Booth. Beginning Saturday, September 28th, PROVIDED IT IS NOT A NASTY DAY and the OPEN flag is out, there will be FREE items, items your make a decision as to your donation and other items up for bargaining. It will be fun and when there are trees back on Main Street you can say you helped put them there. Check out next Saturday and each Saturday (possibly even Sunday) for the OPEN flag at the Info Booth.

IMPORTANT NOTE! The Village Office will be closed Monday, October 14th in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday. The regularly scheduled Board meeting on this date will be rescheduled for Tuesday October 15th at the usual time 7 pm at Village Hall.

LABOR DAY

Port Henry's Labor Day Parade a Smash Hit – by Frank Martin

Combining old traditions and new stars, this year's Labor Day parade was one of the best in memory. There were many long-time favorites marching down Broad and Main Streets including our signature swooping green Champ float—probably the only one of its kind in the country. Because Port Henry is the official “Home of Champ”—our friendly sea monster gives the village an “exclusive” each year at Labor Day, appearing here and nowhere else.

Also soaring over the parade was *Dancing Queen*, one of the J-24s in the growing fleet of the North Cheever Yacht Club. Young sailors rode on deck high above the street, handing out candy and sailing tips to the crowd.

Besides being home to Champ and seasoned sailors, Port Henry is a “Village of Public Art”. Appropriately, the Spring Street Sensations, a creative club of young artists marched proudly carrying hand-painted candy bars of their own design. At about mid-point in the exciting parade, the crowd cheered loudly as the Bryant's Lumber float/truck rolled by carrying numerous Bryant-family members and celebrating this esteemed business's fiftieth year of operation. Congratulations to all Bryants and we hope you will appear in next year's parade for your 51st anniversary.

No Port Henry Labor Day parade is complete without the wonderful spinning go-carts of the Shriners and our local fire departments with their polished array of historic and new firefighting equipment. We are much safer and secure for their volunteer efforts...and Labor Day is a good time to thank them.

Also in the parade were political candidates seeking our votes, a mint condition 1968 Plymouth Road Runner, and important celebrities typified by Jackie Viestenz, this year's Grand Marshall. Jackie wore a bold sun hat and waved nonchalantly to adoring crowds along the route as she was chauffeured in a luxury convertible. More than one attendee became a little choked up by the grandeur of the scene.

Perhaps most touching of all was the herd of four miniature donkeys from Butternut Ridge Farm near Peru, N.Y. marching in formation. Butternut Ridge is a ministry of animal therapy for local nursing homes and hospitals founded by the Rev. Kenneth Parker. The donkeys made a later appearance for petting and photo opportunities at the village beach part of the celebration.

The parade's newest musical talent included the Wadhams Waddlers—a popular new folk band known for their range of instruments including everything from harp to violins. The Waddlers performed later in the afternoon back at the beach as games for kids and adults continued all day in what proved to be one of the best Labor Days held in Port Henry in quite a long time.

The Basketball Tournament - reported by Christine Wilson

The Basketball Tournament was one of the exciting events held at the Beach for the Labor Day Celebration. It was very successful, involving about 20 young people, 6th grade through 10th grade, for about four hours and some were campers. There were teams of 3, such as the Lake Monsters, the Elite Team, the Tall, Dark and Handsomes, Champlain Car Wash and the Pinkies (3 girls playing, teamed 2 girls and 1 boy). It was three-on-three, double elimination, bracket basketball having to score 12 in the first plays and 14 in the championship. This is what a Labor Day Celebration is all about, games, competitions and FUN!

The Cardboard Boat Race – reported by Ray Bryant

When this editor first heard that there would be a Cardboard Boat Race, I envisioned little boats constructed of cardboard and then being raced in water, what water I didn't know. Well! Wrong, wrong, wrong! These were to be boats in which a person would sit and row out, ten or fifteen yards from shore, with a paddle made of the same cardboard as the boat, to a waiting boat and then row back to shore. There were 20 to 25 entrants who were willing to devise a boat (and a paddle) from cardboard held together by duct tape and expect to win a race by paddling out and back with themselves in the boat, in water. Each contestant chose his own cardboard, was given a roll of duct tape, a box cutter and about an hour-and-a-half in which to design and execute this (to me, quite doubtful) project. There seemed to be three design: box shaped, rowboat and kayak. There were 3 aged groups vying for 3 first place gift certificates. Being fascinated by all this, I asked Ray, who was a participant in the event, how many boats sank and he said, "The majority." However, there was an official winner in the upper group, Jarred Garrison! Wow! Who would have thought it could be done! The younger groups did not have official winners, but winners nonetheless and everyone participating received a prize for their efforts.

The Celebration at Port Henry Beach - reported by Sandra Lovell

Port Henry must have a special guardian angel for holidays, because Saturday, August 31st was a weather mess as was Monday, September 2nd, but that important day - September 1st - was just plain glorious, maybe a bit on the warm side, but who would dare complain? It had been decided to try having the Parade, as usual, on Main Street, but have the major portion of the celebration at Port Henry Beach. Some setting-up began as early as 8 am or maybe even earlier. Most vendors were ready for business by nine. The dunking booth was filled around 11am, ready for Tom Scazzafava to get his first

dunking soon after. One friend, who could not be at the celebration, so wanted to dunk Tom that they paid someone else to do it and be sure to let him know from whom that particular dunking came. Dunkee for the afternoon's fun was Port Henry's Mayor Ernie Guerin.

Children's Games were ready to go well before the 10 am official opening time, but as two of the games (the Money Dig and the Toy Dig) were about digging in the sand and there was no tent to signal this was not just regular beach activity but a part of the celebration, Children's Games was not visited by near as many children as had been hoped for, but next year, you may be sure, there will be a tent and other things to draw the kids to these free games. However, Penelope the Clown was doing her thing in fine, tent-covered style and drew children like bees to honey. There was a nice variety of sale items among the vendors – jewelry, scarves, T-shirts appropriately advertising the area, the book *Moriah and Port Henry in the Adirondacks*, authored by Jackie Viestenz and Frank Martin and filled with wonderful pictures*, hand-painted bowls and decorative items, free school supplies and books, vegetables, BQ chicken dinners, caramel corn and other naughty edibles (check with Laura).

There was a pervasive feeling of celebration and enjoyment in the air. The campers joined in and seemed to enjoy having a ready-made party right at hand. As with all new ventures, there were pluses and minuses to the change of venue for the major Labor Day celebration. One of the pluses was having the lake and beach for use and tables and benches for picnicking. As to the minuses, the Chamber needs everyone's input so next year's celebration will be even better. Seriously, the Chamber Office is open often. Don't hesitate, anytime you see that "Open" flag out, feel free to drop in, give ideas how to improve next year's celebration, how to draw people and businesses here. It's your Chamber, help it work for you.

*If you have not had the opportunity to purchase this fascinating book, it can be found in several local stores as well as the Library.

LITERACY VOLUTEERS OF AMERICA

Literacy Volunteers of Essex/Franklin Counties will host three tutor training workshops for prospective volunteers throughout Essex and Franklin Counties this fall. The first being held at the Port Henry office, 3265 Broad St. Tuesday October 1st from 1–4 pm. This twelve hour Basic Literacy training will give you the tools, tips, and strategies needed to help a student learn how to read, improve literacy skills, or obtain their high school equivalence diploma. There is no fee to participate and all materials are included.

If you are patient, flexible and dedicated to helping people in this area, you are a prime candidate. Please contact us at 546-3008 or lvsandra@hotmail.com. Also, if you haven't done so already, please visit our new website that has a whole page dedicated to tutors! www.litvol.com

Look for the next issue of the Fact Finder on **Saturday, October 5th** at Adirondack Hair Associates, Macs and Moriah Pharmacy; also, find copies to read at the Sherman Free Library. There

are read-while-you-wait copies (but no one will be upset if you leave with one) at John Eisenberg's Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau's Champlain's Best Wash, Don Foote's "Miss Port Henry" Diner, Danielle and Andy Brassard's Firefly Home Furnishings and TFCU. NOTE: The Fact Finder may also be found on-line at porthenrymoriah.com. Go to "Living Here" and you will see "Fact Finder" to the far right, one line down.