

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area

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Cathy & Tim Sprague, Ginger Carrier and Maureen Finguerra**

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:

This issue of Fact Finder has been delivered on Thursday afternoon instead of Friday or Saturday, as is usual, because we want readers to know about (in time to plan to attend) the Distinguished Young Women Program being presented at Moriah Central School this Saturday, November 15th at 7pm.

Seven very special young women will be receiving recognition for being outstanding in one or more of the following categories: Scholarship, Personal Interview, Fitness, Talent in Their Area of Choice, Self Expression, Be-Your-Best-Self, and the Spirit-of-the-Program.

The winner of Spirit-of-the-Program is decided by a peer vote and Be-Your-Best-Self will feature 14 sixth-graders who have served as Little Sisters to the contestants. They will perform a skit (judged the week before by a special panel of judges) based on the five elements of Be-Your-Best-Self (Be Healthy, Be Involved, Be Studious, Be Ambitious and Be Responsible) and what these traits mean to these potential distinguished young women.

The stars of this year's Distinguished Young Women Program, **Blake Bigelow, Sarah Burbank, Lauren Cross, Kayla Curran, Shelby MacDougal, Caitlin Pelkey and Brianna Sargent** will not only receive well deserved recognition but there is more than \$2000. in cash or scholarships to be awarded. The program has been a challenge this year with only about a month in which to complete the preparations but all participants, adults and students alike, feel the challenge has been well worth it.

The contestant chosen as the 2015 Distinguished Young Woman of Moriah will move on to participate in the State finals on January 10, 2015 at Cohoes High School.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$5.00 by calling Mrs. Langey at the school, 546-3301, or may be bought at the door for \$6.00. Doors will be open at 6:15. By attending, not only are you supporting our future generation, you will be enjoying a fun night out.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING NOTES

Port Henry's monthly Village Board meeting was held Monday, November 10th. The first obvious fact about the meeting was lack of public participation. Other than the mayor, the trustees, the department heads and staff, there were three village residents present, including myself. This would seem to be a terrible comment on the disinterest and lethargy of the majority of Port Henry residents. Yet, I know most people are tired from working and the thought of going out to a meeting Monday night, does not sound at all interesting let alone appealing. However – let's be honest, when the time comes to vote on Port Henry being zoned or not zoned, I feel quite comfortable in prophesying there will be a large turn-out. And, as everyone knows, often most of us vote with little or no solid facts about subjects or people on which we vote. Therefore, when we walk into a voting booth, we are gambling, just as surely as we do when we walk into a casino. This is not a scold, it is a plea for Port Henry residents to become involved in what makes Port Henry tick and how each of us can help its ticking.

Recently the Village *finally* received \$167,009 in FEMA reimbursement funds for Beach Restoration made necessary because of flooding caused by Irene and ___. The word “*finally*” was used on purpose, because it has taken over two years for this money to be received and there is no reimbursement for interest on the loans which had to be taken out to pay for repairs immediately or for lawyers fees connected to these loans. Another reimbursement of \$189,000 is waiting in the wings for the Campground Restoration, again caused by the same two water witches. However, this sum is not expected on stage for five or six months, more interest and possibly more lawyer fees.

More money news and this is *excellent* news! At last! Manhole 13s problems will be solved! The Village has received a \$500,000 grant to correct Manhole 13's problems. Manhole 13 has been like the *running joke* in a comedy skit at Board meetings, except that the problem isn't a joke at all. The problem came to head when the State issued an ultimatum get it fixed or else, the “or else” not being a happy or even acceptable solution. Therefore, you see why this grant is so vitally important. Note the back and forth between the State and Village has been a comedy of errors, many on the State's side or caused by changes of State expectations.

Notice was received from the New York State Department of State, informing the Village that Local Law No. 3 of 2014: extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development in a Portion of the Village had been filed and is in full force and effect.

Currently the Village is waiting to hear from the attorney concerning additional questions and clarification on the proposed zoning regulations. Trustee Staley Rich said our needed proposed Village of Port Henry Comprehensive plan was judged to be very well done and should be examined by a Planning Agent as one of the next steps in the zoning process before holding a public meeting which must be held before the Board offers it to the public for vote. A “yes” vote means the Village becomes a loosely zoned municipality with the benefits of protection which it affords but with very few private property restrictions.

There was quite a long discussion between Code Enforcer Bill Ball and the Village Board concerning properties not in compliance with village laws and that have had violations issued on them and what the enforcement options there are for Village.

A resolution was passed to approve and authorize the Village teaming up with Essex County Public Health Department in order that the Village may be considered a safe-streets-community which will then enable the Village to apply for grant funding for crosswalk signs, etc.

A written request was received from Debbie Henry, on behalf of the Sherman Free Library, for permission to, again, place a sign in the traffic Oval advertising the Library's Holiday Bazaar on December 6th being held at the Presbyterian Church as it was last year. They also requested permission to place a sign on the corner of Church and Main Streets on the day of the bazaar. As the request is a non-profit organization and for a very short time, the request was granted.

The Board approved the November 2014 billing for Water and Sewer. They also approved a 2014 Property Tax Re-levy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The first real assurance that Christmas is rapidly nearing is the scheduled arrival in Port Henry of CP Rails Christmas Train on **November 29th at 4:45pm**. As usual, non-perishable donations of food will be accepted by the Town of Moriah Food Pantry. **A special note:** after the Train, the Chamber of Commerce Office on Main (next to the Pharmacy) will be open, to welcome to the Christmas season, by serving hot spiced cider and cookies and giving out toys to children.

PORT HENRY PORTRAITS

Sue McHone is a recent retired returnee to Port Henry. Her grandmother graduated from Port Henry High School when it was housed in another building other than the Old High School from which Sue's mother graduated. Sue also attended school in the Old High School from kindergarten through tenth grade until her family moved to Burlington, VT. In 2012 she bought a house here and began renovations which are still continuing as she lives it, after moving here permanently this past June. Immediately Sue established her intent to become fully involved in Port Henry life, by sharing ownership of a new business, Made in the Mountains Craft Shop, with Linda Smyth and Jackie Viestenz. Now - she has bought the building in which the Craft Shop is Located. This is dance-on-the-rooftops wonderful! This assures that the Craft Shop will be a permanent part of Port Henry's business scene. At the moment, the Craft Shop is a seasonal business, to reopen in the Spring, but if it continues as it began, who knows.

What did Sue McHone do between leaving Port Henry and returning? She did a mix of education and career. After graduating Burlington High, she attended UVM for several years studying music (she plays both the clarinet and the piano). Then she moved to Boston and changed not only her school, but her focus of study. She received a BA in History from U Mass. She then earned an MBA at Simmons College in Boston. During this same time frame she worked fifteen years as a Woolworth manager and then sixteen years at Harvard as a financial administrator. To balance all this work Sue holiday travelled to many places: Japan, Switzerland, Italy, many times to Mexico, twice to China and others. Sue also loves to cook, knit (you can check out some of her handiwork at the Craft Shop) and read. They say if you want a job done and done well, give it to a busy person. Welcome back Sue and thank you for returning to Port Henry.

CELEBRATING AN OLDER BUT "NEW" BUSINESS

Saturday the 6th was quite literally a "ribbon-cutting-day" in Port Henry. Attorney Julie Garcia celebrated the merger of her law office with the Glens Falls firm of Stanclift, Ludemann, Silvestri & McMorris PC. The ceremonial ribbon-cutting and a few well-chosen congratulatory words from Moriah Chamber of Commerce President Tim Bryant, Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Matt Courtright and Town of Moriah Supervisor Tom Scozzafava made the event official for the newly formed merge and for twenty or so of the interested public. Julie Garcia and Tucker Stanclift thanked Port Henry and the Town of Moriah for their welcome into the community of this new full-service law partnership.

The formal welcome over at the office, the fun welcome began at King's Inn. It was quite a gathering, about over the three hours filled with much conversation among groups of friends and much, much food and drink consumed from a wide choice of viands (this slightly old-fashioned word is the only word to describe the quality and selection of food spread over a long table and a smaller table held fruit and many choices of dessert.

Stanclift, Ludemann, Silvestri & McMorris bring with them two Associate Lawyers Stacy Frederick and Dustin Bruhns and offices in Glens Falls and Chestertown. All three offices will be available to service all the legal needs of their surrounding vicinities and will be used by which ever lawyer fits the needs of a specific case. For information on any of the offices call the Port Henry number, 546-1040, a painful but easy number to remember and - they have legal expertise in many areas and, will travel.

INTERESTING QUESTIONS TO ASK THE INTERNET:

1. Is the US Government a Corporation? Surprise!
2. What are some of the worst (scariest) roads in the world?

3. What are America's most dangerous roads?
4. How can understanding the bat's immune system help find a cure for viruses like Ebola?
5. What are some of the most unusual bridges in the world?
6. What is the Bialowieza Forest? Ask this to learn about the last vestige of primeval forest on the European continent. It has fascinated me for years. Once it was prominent on my bucket list, but I know I will never be able to stand there and feel what much of Europe was like a long, long, long time ago. This realization saddens me.
7. How many large American businesses outsource work to foreign countries? This is a very interesting question. It leads to all sorts of informational detours.

After exploring the answers to these questions, you may ask the most important question of all, which are scary and which of these is the sacriest?

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, November 29, 2014** at Macs, Moriah Pharmacy, Sherman Free Library, George's Restaurant, John Eisenberg's Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau's Champlain's Best Wash, Don Foote's "Miss Port Henry" Diner, 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.