

The Village's Sesquicentennial Celebration started off with a great reception on March 28 at the Fire Hall. We hope you were able to be there and enjoy the food, the displays, and the presentations. Mrs. Anna Wallace was honored for her 29 years as the Village's Historian. Here are more events to put on your calendar:

May 24 - Community picnic to be held at Rotary Park (Telegraph Road) at 2 p.m. showcasing Middleport restaurants. Bring a dish to pass & join us for a "Taste of Middleport." Ecumenical Church service to be held at

4 p.m. by MICCA. Calendars, mugs, and t-shirts will be available for purchase. "Guess How Many Centennial Wooden Nickels" contest will start. Keep your sesquicentennial commemorative pen after you write your guess!

May 25 - Dedication of the brick walkway will be part of the Village's annual Memorial Day Service, which starts with a noon parade. We have sold over 200 bricks for the walkway! Due to some delivery issues, they may not all be installed in time. Our apologies to anyone whose brick wasn't in for the dedication.

July 18 - Street dance from 7 - 9 p.m. on Park Ave., between Main and Vernon Street. The Easy Street Big Band will perform. Watch for details. "Guess How Many Centennial Wooden Nickels" contest winner will be announced during the dance.

September 5 - The committee will have a float in the annual Charlie Shephard Memorial Kiddies Parade. There will be a special "historical" category in the parade this year, too. Civil War re-enactors encampment will be held during the Middleport Festivities.

From the Desk of Thomas Arlington, Assessor, Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer:

Many people don't realize that the Village of Middleport falls into two townships. Just a reminder that, regardless if your property is also in Royalton or Hartland, if it's in the Village of Middleport and you need a building permit, you should get your application for it at the Village Hall, 24 Main Street. After you have submitted your permit application, I will review it, sign it, and the Clerk's Office will issue the permit. If you're not sure if you need a permit for the job you're planning, contact me at (716) 735-3303.

How do I apply for the **ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION** on my residence when I turn 65 years of age? In the calendar year, if **one of the spouses** turns 65 (if owned by husband and wife); they may apply for the enhanced STAR exemption. **This must be done by March 1st of that year.** Applications (RP-425) are available at the Assessor's office or on-line at

www.orps.state.ny.us. Proof of age can be a birth certificate or driver's license. Proof of income is your state or federal income tax return, using the **adjusted gross income**. If no income tax return is filed, a worksheet listing income amounts can be used. Each year the state advances the income filing year (this year it was based on 2007) and the adjusted gross income is amended according to cost-of-living adjustment. Once you receive the enhanced STAR exemption, a renewal form will be sent to you each year to simply sign and report your income. For owners still filing a state income tax return, there is a program to annually verify income with the Dept. of Taxation & Finance. For information on property co-owned by siblings, parents and children, etc., please contact the Assessor's office at (716) 772-7826, ext. 7 if your property is in Royalton and (716)735-7220 if your property is in Hartland.

The Code Enforcement Office is receiving more and more complaints about unkempt yards throughout the Village. As a property owner, it is your responsibility to maintain your yard, not only because your neighbors don't want to look at your mess, but because garbage can cause health and safety issues. Please note the following excerpt from the Village's Property Maintenance Code (adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Middleport March 18, 2002):

§143-1.B Legislative findings and purpose:

The Village Board hereby determines that the outdoor storage, accumulation, deposit or placement of abandoned, junked, discarded, wholly or partially dismantled or unlicensed or unregistered motor vehicles, rubbish, debris, solid waste, or grass or weeds in excess of six inches in height upon private property constitutes a public nuisance.

§143-3.A Outdoor deposit or storage of waste:

No person, as owner, occupant, lessee or agent, or in any capacity, shall store, deposit, place, maintain, grow or cause or permit to be stored, deposited, placed or maintained or grown outdoors any abandoned, junked, discarded, wholly or partially dismantled, unlicensed, unregistered or non-code-compliant motor vehicle or any solid waste, rubbish or debris, or grass or weeds in excess of six inches in height, upon any private property within the Village.

§143.9.A Additional enforcement; alternative enforcement relief:

A violation of 143-3 of this chapter is a violation punishable by a fine of up to \$250 and/or imprisonment for up to 15 days. Each additional week of continuous violation of the terms of this chapter constitutes a separate violation.

FREE RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINICS 2009

The Niagara County Department of Health in cooperation with the Niagara County Veterinary Society will hold FREE Rabies Immunization Clinics in 2009

FOR DIRECTIONS call the specific clinic site

FOR ANY OTHER CLINIC RELATED QUESTIONS: call 439-7511

Saturday, June 6 Hyde Park - Oasis/Centennial Pavilion (behind Ice Arena)

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 911 Robbins Drive, City of Niagara Falls

* Phone: 286-4956

Tuesday, August 11 Town of Lewiston Highway Garage

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. 1445 Swann Road, Town of Lewiston

*Phone: 754-8218

Saturday, September 12 Cornell Cooperative Extension ("County Fairgrounds")

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 4487 Lake Avenue, Town of Lockport

* Phone: 433-8839

Saturday, December 5 City of North Tonawanda - Public Works Department

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 758 Erie Avenue, City of North Tonawanda

* Phone: 695-8585

(Flu shots will also be available at this clinic)

* By law, all cats, dogs and domesticated ferrets must have a current rabies vaccination from four months of age and on.

* Cats and dogs receiving immunization WITHOUT PROOF of a previous rabies immunization will receive a certificate valid only for one year. Cats and dogs WITH PROOF of previous rabies immunizations will receive a certificate valid for three years.

* Ferrets must receive vaccinations annually, regardless of previous immunization.

* **All Animals** must be properly restrained. Cats & Ferrets must be in a box

or carrier. Dogs must be leashed.

* **The Department does not offer dog or cat vaccinations other than rabies. It is very important for the health and well being of your animal and the other animals attending our rabies clinics, that they have seen a veterinarian and are up to date on all of their immunizations, to include dog parvo virus.**

* Volunteers are needed. Please call 439-7511 if interested.

* It is requested that anyone bringing more than six animals to one clinic contact the Niagara County

Department of Health at **439-7511** up to one week prior to the clinic so paperwork can be processed more efficiently.

VETERINARY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NIAGARA COUNTY VETERINARY SOCIETY
REMINDER

The Village of Middleport Public Works Department reminds Village residents of its yard waste pickup policies:

LEAVES: In the fall, leaves are to be raked to the edge of the street and left in open piles. *Any other time they are to be bagged and placed out with garbage.*

BRUSH: Brush is to be placed at the curb, butt site toward the street, stacked no more than 4 feet high. Please do not place roots, stumps, vines or rose bushes out for chipping. Brush will be chipped each Monday *except for the months of January, February and March.* When tree or lawn work is performed by a private contractor, they should take away the debris.

WOOD CHIPS: Wood chips are available for Village residents' yard use. Please call Dan Dodge at 735-3303 for arrangements.

Residents and business owners, please also note that refuse & recycling should not be placed to the curb before 6:30 p.m. the night before pickup. If you regularly place your trash to the curb prior to 6:30 p.m., you may be cited under this code. We are all responsible for keeping our Village looking nice. Placing garbage to the curb too early makes the area look shabby. Landlords: please make sure your tenants are aware of this regulation.

NIAGARA COUNTY LANDFILL & RECYCLING CENTER - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! (Route 93 By-Pass (Between Hinman Rd. & Route 31) in Lockport

Call us at 434-6568 about our Electronics Disposal program, paint exchange program, landfill program, paper recycling program. We take refrigerators, freezers & air conditioners, tires, used clothing & more. Some items are free to drop off & some have a cost. We accept: Asbestos Roofing & Siding, Asphalt Paving, Bricks, Concrete,

Drywall, Electrical Wiring, Glass, Masonry, Metals (including appliances, must be separated), Non-Asbestos Insulation, Plaster, Plumbing Fixtures, Rocks, Roofing Shingles, Soil, Unsealed Plastics, Wall Coverings, Wood.

Landfill Disposal rate: \$63.60/ton with a \$10.60 minimum

Summer Hours: 4/15 - 11/15 Mon - Fri 7am-5:00pm Sat 8am - 12noon

Winter Hours: 11/15 - 4/15 Mon - Fri 8am-3:45pm Sat 8am - 12noon

5 Perfectly Painless Water Savers (Originally Published by Hearst Communications, Inc.)

With water bills rising and many water tables going down, it makes eco-sense and dollar cents to conserve. Here are five painless ways to get started.

Install a Low-Flow Showerhead

Save water and money, and still have ample water pressure, with a low-flow showerhead, which can slash bathing-water consumption 50 to 70 percent. The devices are simple to install and start at around \$8. Many styles and features are available, including flow-adjusting dials and a pause button.

Turn Off the Tap While You Brush

Don't let your water dollars -- and one of nature's most precious resources -- run down the drain. Just turn off the water while you brush your teeth. The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of two gallons a minute, according to the EPA's WaterSense initiative. That means you'll save up to 8 gallons of water a day per person.

Water Your Yard in the Morning

The best time to water outdoors is in the morning, both to reduce water waste and to promote healthy flora. Morning air is cooler, so less water is lost to evaporation than during the middle of the day. If you water in the evening, you run the risk of promoting fungi and bacterial diseases.

Use a Pro Car Wash

It may surprise you, but commercial car washes use water more efficiently, typically using 45 gallons of water per car. Home washers typically use between 80 and 140 gallons. Commercial car washes must also drain their wastewater into sewers, versus simply running it across your driveway into the land.

Fix That Leak

Don't ignore that dripping faucet or leaky pipe joint. One faulty faucet wastes 3 gallons of water per day, reports the U.S. Geological Survey. So get a pipe wrench and tighten those seals, replace old and worn hardware, and call your neighborhood plumber if you need help. Every drop really does add up.

The US EPA WaterSense program offers this additional advice:

Take a shower, not a bath

A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water; a five-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons. If you do take a bath, stopper the drain right after you turn on the water and adjust the temperature as the tub fills.

Did you know that you can lose 74,000 gallons of water a quarter from a 1/16 inch hole in a pipe? Increase the hole to a ¼ inch, and a whopping 1,181,500 gallons can be lost in a quarter. If you think you have a leak, there are ways to confirm it. Most leaks are from toilets. One of the quickest ways to determine if your toilet is leaking is to put some food dye in the tank and don't use the toilet for about a half hour. If the dye shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. If you still think you have a leak but have determined it's not your toilet, then use the leak detector on your water meter. Most homes in the Village have a radio-read meter head on the meter in the basement. Watch the little red arrow on it for a few minutes. If it moves although no one is using water, you have a leak. Another method to determine a leak is to read the meter, don't use any water for awhile (try reading the meter just before you leave for the day), then read it again. If water has gone through the meter without anyone using it, there is a leak. No one likes paying high water bills, so it's a great idea to make sure that you're doing everything you can to conserve and repair leaks.

FYI, the Village does not have a program to fill swimming pools using metered water so that sewer charges aren't incurred. If you have a pool that holds 13,000 gallons of water, the additional amount on your bill would be \$111.80.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

Swim Classes will be held from July 6 through July 24, 2009, and July 27 through August 14, 2009. Sign up will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at the Village Hall. Any child in the Roy-Hart School District age 6 months or older is invited to take these no-cost classes. Parents must register their children themselves or send a signed permission slip with another adult who will sign for them. Children cannot sign for themselves. All children registered in either of the preschool classes must have a **parent** with them in the water during the lesson. . **THERE WILL BE NO PHONE SIGNUPS PRIOR TO THIS DATE. IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND SIGNUP, PLEASE SEND SOMEONE IN YOUR PLACE. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO DO THAT AND IF THERE IS ANY ROOM AFTER SIGNUP, YOUR CHILD MAY BE FIT IN.**

Summer Recreation will be held again for **Village residents only** entering Kindergarten through 6th grade in September 2009. The program will most likely run from July 6 through July 24, 2009. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Library and the Village Hall in June.

The Middleport Free Library's Director Melane Shuttleworth would like you to know that the Library is sponsoring a Summer Reading Program this summer which includes something for all ages. Programs begin on July 9 and run for six weeks. The theme this year is ***Be Creative - Read!*** Story-time for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds will be held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Stories, crafts, and special guest readers will be featured. The family programs for school age children will be held on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. The Library has received an Arts Niagara Decentralization Grant, which will fund professional artists at these events. Programs will consist of a summer series of concerts featuring unique musical instruments. The ***Friends of the Library*** will again sponsor the "Act Out" drama club for sixth through tenth graders. This year's play will be ***The Will and the Spirit***. The first informational meeting will be held May 26 at 4:00 p.m. Please call the Library (735-3281) to register for all programs and for additional information.

<p>Do you know who your elected and appointed Village Officials are?</p> <p>Mayor: Julia Maedl</p> <p>Deputy Mayor: Tom Conley</p> <p>Trustees: Liz Bateman, Frank Sarchia, and Dick Westcott</p> <p>VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE - 735-3303</p> <p>Clerk-Treasurer Rebecca A. Schweigert</p> <p>Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.</p> <p>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - 735-3373</p> <p>Village Coordinator Daniel A. Dodge</p> <p>Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.</p> <p>Summer hours: 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.</p> <p>POLICE DEPARTMENT - 735-3373</p> <p>Police Chief John J. Swick</p> <p>Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.</p> <p>Non-emergency calls: 735-3700</p> <p>Emergency calls: 911</p> <p>CODE/ZONING OFFICER - 735-3303</p> <p>Tom Arlington</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ANNUAL EVENTS HELD IN THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT</u></p> <p>Chocolate Event sponsored by Friends of the Library - February</p> <p>Baseball/softball sign up - February</p> <p>Fish Dinners sponsored by the Cataract Lodge - during Lent</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Rotary Club - day before Easter</p> <p>Arbor Day Celebration - last Friday in April</p> <p>National Day of Prayer Service - first Thursday in May</p> <p>Village-wide garage sale - first Saturday in May, includes Scout & Barge Canal Art Center fundraisers</p> <p>American Legion Poppy Drive - during May</p> <p>Memorial Day Parade, Services & Celebration - Memorial Day, includes the Rotary Club duck race in the canal & the library's used book sale</p> <p>Middleport Festivities- Saturday before Labor Day, includes Scouts Breakfast, parade, chicken bbq, concert, etc.</p> <p>Car Show- Sunday following Labor Day</p> <p>Holiday Arts & Crafts Show at the Fire Hall - 4th Saturday in October</p> <p>Veterans' Day Service & Boy Scout Flag Retiring Service - Veterans' Day</p> <p>Village Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Sing-a-long - TBA</p> <p>If you would like any more information about these events, please call the Clerk's Office at 735-3303.</p>
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