

Municipal News

SEPTEMBER 2010

WNY Building Officials and Code Enforcement Officers to Hold 1st Annual Educational Conference

Many local officials have been planning for a year in order to present the First Annual Educational Conference for Building Officials and Code Enforcement Officers. This conference is organized by the Western Southern Tier Building Officials Association and will be presented at the Chautauqua Suites Meeting and Expo Center in Mayville on September 27-29, 2010. The three day program will be held at the Chautauqua Inn and Suites in Mayville. Some of the topics to be presented Monday through Wednesday include: Fire Safety Inspections, Deck Framing, Kitchen Safety, Live Burn Demonstration, Special Inspections, Workers Comp & Disability Insurance, Ethics in NYS Government, Truss Installation and Operating Permits. These courses qualify for inservice education credits.

On Thursday September 30th, NYS DOS will be presenting an all day course on Mandatory Code Update, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Registration and payment for this course must be done through NYS DOS.

Program includes lunch Monday through Wednesday and Dinner Monday and Tuesday at the Chautauqua Expo Center. More information can be found at http://www.wstbo.com/Fall_Conference_2010.html. Limited Seating - Pre registration required - No walk-ins, 18 hours of In-Service Credit ■

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A publication of the Center for Local Government & Community Services

SEPTEMBER 2010



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Serving Local Governments of
Allegany, Cattaraugus, & Chautauqua Counties

EDITORIAL *by Eileen Weishan*

Now that this beautiful, hot summer is drawing to a close, everyone is getting back to the realities of autumn and the deadlines and events that will soon take place such as elections, budgets, tax billing, etc. Please read about the new changes in the Dog Licensing laws and deadlines that Towns must meet.

Training programs are coming up now that summer is over. Events will be held in September for Code Officers, October for Local Officials and in November for Planning and Zoning Board. Take a look and decide what program is best for you.

Even though it is just the beginning of autumn, planning for the May 5, 2011 Local Government Conference will begin the end of September. Give me a call if you would like to participate in the Planning Committee to gather appropriate topics. This does not involve a lot of commitment on your part to participate. Program suggestions are always welcome by phone as well! Tell us what program YOU would like to attend - or be a presenter!!! Give us a call at any time - 716-945-5301.

A N N O U N C I N G **SMART MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES** Practical Resources for Local Governance October 6-7, 2010 Holiday Valley Resort

On October 6-7, Syracuse University's Environmental Finance Center will be offering a program called "Smart Management for Small Communities". For several years the EFC has hosted a three-day conference retreat at Minnowbrook Lodge in the Adirondacks for municipal leaders and technical assistants. This year the conference has been expanded into a series that includes a two day program at Holiday Valley, Ellicottville.

The conference is most appropriate for mayors, supervisors, clerks, board members, superintendents; public works, planning and zoning officials; wastewater and drinking water operators; engineers and consultants. The program will provide technical assistance, funding updates and practical skill-building sessions. Attendees will hear from state and federal agency representatives on funding updates and opportunities, discuss environmental infrastructure project development and participate in concurrent break-out sessions including asset management, drinking water and wastewater management, and sustainable community planning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 . . .

EDITORIAL	1	CENSUS	4
STAFF BIO'S	2	DOG LICENSING	5
TRAINING SCHEDULE	3	CEO'S 1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE	6

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STW STAFF

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GISP Director of Information Services



GINGER MALAK

Senior Regional Development Coordinator



John grew up in Allegany County, graduating from Genesee Valley Central School in 1999. He attended Alfred University where he graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor's in Environmental Science, with concentrations in GIS and Economics. John was hired at Southern Tier West in October of 2003.

At Southern Tier West, John is the Director of Information Services. He is the administrator of STW's Community GIS Program and coordinates all GPS data collection in participating municipalities. John maintains the Community GIS Website and Web Viewer where municipalities can access collected municipal infrastructure data. John does all training sessions on GPS data collection and on using the Community GIS Viewer.

John takes all data requests on behalf of STW. John attends the NYS Data Center Affiliates meetings twice a year. John also is the lead contact at STW on all Census related things, and is available for questions and outreach.

John is currently the project manager for STW's Asset Management Project. This project is providing Asset Management tools and training to 4 participating pilot communities. Upon completion of this project, the goal is to roll out an Asset Management Program that can be offered to all Municipalities.

John provides GIS/GPS project support as need for many areas that STW is involved in, such as transportation, STERA, Wind, and several specific ARC Projects.

In 2009, John received his GISP Certification. A GISP is a certified geographic information systems (GIS) Professional who has met the minimum standards for ethical conduct and professional practice as established by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). ■

Graduating in 1977 from SUNY Fredonia with a BA degree in Sociology/Psychology, Ginger G. Malak began working at Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board in June of the same year.

Ginger is the local coordinator of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Program, providing technical assistance and reviewing project applications for ARC funding. She also serves as the Southern Tier West Development Foundation Coordinator providing coordination assistance to the Board of Directors and coordination of the intake/review of financial requests. In addition, she is responsible for the coordination of regional planning activities in the area of education/training/workforce development and serves as the Chair of the STW Education and Training Committee.

Her expertise is in grant writing, successfully developing and preparing grants for submission to the Federal government (i.e. ARC, USHUD, USDOE, USDOC/EDA, USDOT/FAA, USDA/RD and USDA/RU), the New York State government (i.e. NYSERDA, NYSED, NYSDDED, and NYSDOT), and Foundations (i.e. Ford Foundation, Niagara Mohawk, and Verizon), to name a few. In addition, she provides technical assistance to project sponsors in the rudiments of grant writing; develops and coordinates grant writing seminars; and gives presentations at grant writing seminars. Ginger has managed projects in such areas as aviation, telecommunications, housing, industrial waste reduction, workforce development, and youth leadership. ■

NYS DOG LICENSING LAW CHANGES

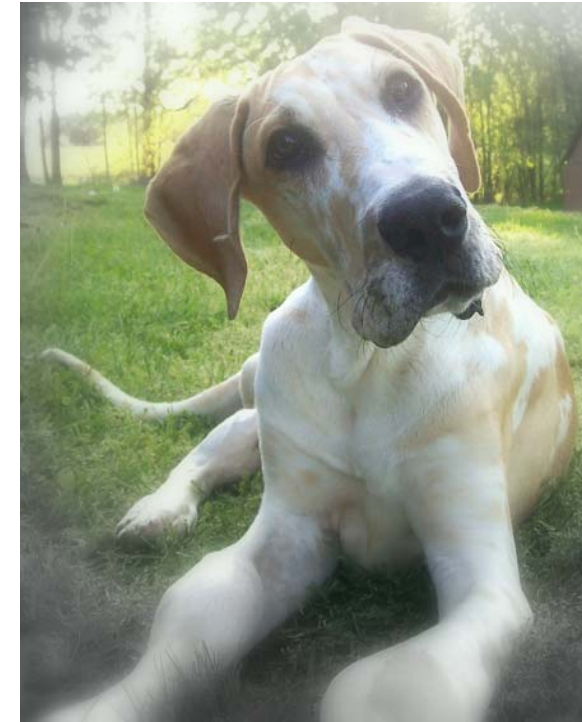
Effective January 1, 2011

(*Excerpts from NYS Agriculture and Markets Website**) "On June 22, 2010, Governor Paterson signed a measure into law as part of the 2010-2011 State Budget that moves the remainder of the dog licensing function required by Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law to the level of local government. As a result, the existing roles of both county government and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) in the licensing of dogs will be eliminated on January 1, 2011."

At the request of local stakeholders led by the NYS Town Clerks' Association and the Association of Towns of the State of New York, NYS Ag & Markets has provided information on their website designed to assist local government, shelters and dog control personnel to prepare for these pending changes. This information can be found at <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/DogLic.html> under Municipal Tool Kit. This site also will include a sample Local Law which has not been completed as of this newsletter printing date.

(*Excerpts from NYS Agriculture and Markets Website**) "Part T of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2010 provides for the elimination of NYSDAM's dog licensing functions, including the agency's centralized Dog Licensing System (DLS). Procurement of new municipal dog tags - as well as the tracking and issuance of license renewals - will be the responsibility of each local government currently authorized to issue licenses."

"In order to offset costs associated with this requirement, Part T eliminates the current revenue-sharing structure (between



licenses (\$2.50 and \$7.50), municipalities will need to establish a local dog licensing fee schedule that compensates for the absence of this statutory fee."

"The website lists "the primary provisions of the new law requiring local board or council action. However, please note that this is a general guidance document only. It is strongly recommended that Part T be reviewed by your respective municipal attorneys and administrative staff as soon as possible."

As Municipalities have begun receiving information from the State about this transfer of responsibilities, the Association of Towns and the New York State Town Clerks Association has been working in conjunction with the local Town Clerks to gear up for the transition.

localities, counties and NYSDAM) and directs 100% of the revenue associated with dog licensing to the town/city where it is raised. In addition, the new statute builds a great deal of local flexibility into Article 7, which will allow municipalities to enact local laws or ordinances that best suit the unique character of their administrative structure and constituencies."

CHANGES REQUIRING LOCAL ACTION BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2011

"As a part of this new flexibility, Part T repeals a significant portion of state-level mandates in terms of licensing fees, exemptions, enumeration fee caps and penalties. Therefore it is crucially important to recognize that local government action will be necessary to determine local fees and other policies prior to January 1, 2011. Without such action, you will not be able to ensure the continuity of revenue used to pay for the licensing function. For example, because the new law removes the state's base fees for

There is much to consider before the end of the year, including license forms and tags, fee changes, software updates, and most importantly, establishing a Local Law for Dog Licensing.

If you have ANY questions about the status of the dog license transfer, give Becky Connolly, Somerset Town Clerk, a call or email: 716-795-3575,

beckyconnolly@roadrunner.com. She would be glad to discuss the issues and how the Clerks are trying to coordinate efforts. Also contact your Town Clerks Association Regional Representative and local county municipal clerks association members. The county associations have been working together to share ideas, discussing buying dog tags in bulk and using one format for dog licenses. The computer software vendors have been working with the Clerks to make sure their dog licensing software will comply with any changes being made locally. ■

Message from the US Census Bureau

The U.S. Census Bureau reported today that it has returned \$1.6 billion in 2010 Census operational savings. This is a significant accomplishment and we would like to thank the American people for standing up and being counted and the hundreds of thousands of dedicated census workers all across the country who helped the Census Bureau fulfill this Constitutional mandate. Our sincerest appreciation also goes out to the more than 255,000 partners who joined us in the important effort. We could not have done it without you! The savings are realized from contingency funding set aside in case a major natural disaster or operational breakdown took place, which has not happened. There were also savings as a result of lower costs during the door-to-door, non-response-follow-up operation mostly because 72 percent of households returned the questionnaire by mail, more than projected or predicted by independent oversight agencies. This meant fewer homes had to be visited to obtain census answers. We also have had a more productive workforce, resulting in lower costs, as well as savings in various other operations. Indeed, nearly all of our 12 major operations were under budget and ahead of schedule.

The 2010 Census is not over yet as we are conducting rigorous quality assurance operations this summer to ensure we have a complete and accurate count. We remain focused on keeping the census on track while continuing to be vigilant with taxpayer dollars. As the law requires, we look forward to reporting the nation's population and apportionment of congressional seats by the end of the year. ■

CENSUS

The Census Bureau's Quality Assurance Operations

The 2010 Census is winding down, and as a census partner, we would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate everyone who has supported and participated in this great effort. However, there are still several quality assurance operations that will continue to take place this month, and we encourage you to cooperate with census workers should they call or visit your household. These final steps will ensure the census will provide the highest quality data possible - information that will benefit our community and the nation for the next 10 years.

If you have already responded to the census, why are you being contacted again? A census worker may call if the Census Bureau has difficulty reading or otherwise needs to clarify your answers. Census workers may visit if your household was incorrectly marked as unoccupied on April 1. You may receive a visit if your address was not included in

the mail-back phase or in the door-to-door follow-up phase. If you filled out a Be Counted form or provided your answers over the phone, a census worker may visit to confirm that the geographic location of your home matches an address in the Census Bureau's files. Finally, census workers may be in your area to resolve any suspected duplicate addresses.

Please keep in mind that the Census Bureau's quality assurance operations will affect a small percentage of the total number of households counted in the 2010 Census.

As always, individual responses are completely confidential, protected, and cannot be shared with anyone. All Census Bureau employees are required to swear an oath for life to protect your personal information.

Please cooperate if a census worker calls or visits your household as part of the final stages of the 2010 Census. This has been the largest domestic undertaking of the American people, and now is the time to make sure the data we all rely on is as accurate as possible. ■



TRAINING SCHEDULE

Code Enforcement: You must register online with NYS at www.dos.state.ny.us/code/edu.htm. Most classes are held from 8am to 4pm.

November 8-10 Course 9A Introduction to Code Enforcement Practices, Town of Cheektowaga

December 7-9 Course 9B Continued

NYS Archives Region 8 Workshop Lineup: For your long-range planning, below is the list of Archives workshops scheduled to be held in Region 8 this fall. All of them will be held from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

September 28 Managing Case Files Effectively, Middleport

November 4 Electronic Content Management Systems, Batavia

November 30 Managing Inactive Records, Batavia

December 3 LGRMIF Grant Application Session, Southern Tier West, Salamanca

December 17 LGRMIF Grant Application Session, Orchard Park

As always, you can register for any of these workshops now at:

www.archives.nysed.gov/a/workshops/index.shtml

Other Statewide Training:

September 20-23 NYCOM Fall Training School, Lake Placid

September 23 Cornell Local Roads - Road Safety Fundamentals, East Aurora

September 27-29 WSTBOA - Educational Conference for Code Officers, Chautauqua Suites, Mayville

October 6-7 Smart Management for Small Communities, Holiday Valley, Ellicottville

October 7 Cornell Local Roads, Traffic Signs & Pavement Markings, Town of Willing

October 14 Cornell Local Roads, Pavement Maintenance, Ellicottville

October 18-20 NYCOM Public Works School, Lake Placid

November 4 NYS DEC Stormwater Symposium - Elmira

November 17 STW Fall Planning & Zoning Conference, Chautauqua Suites Meeting and Expo Center

SMART MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES CONTINUED . .

You may register two ways: 1/ With Monday night lodging including Monday lunch, After-session Reception, Tuesday Breakfast and Lunch. 2/ Without lodging including Monday lunch, After-session Reception, Tuesday Breakfast and Lunch. Monday night after Reception dinner is on your own at one of Ellicottville's many restaurants. More detailed information and registration is available online at <http://efc.syracusecoe.org/efc/events.html?skuvar=10> or www.southerntierwest.org. Any questions contact Southern Tier West - Eileen Weishan, (945-5301 x 207 or eweishan@southerntierwest.org) or EFC - Melissa Young at myoung@syracusecoe.org or at 315-443-8488. ■

SAVE THE DATE for FALL
PLANNING & ZONING
CONFERENCE!!



Plans are underway for the Fall Planning and Zoning Conference to be held at the Chautauqua Suites Meeting and Expo Center in Mayville on November 17th. Programming will include tracks for Planning Board Officials, Zoning Board Officials and Code Enforcement Officers. Registration will be in the mail by October 15th.