

OCTOBER 2009

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HILTON

VILLAGE NEWS

COMMUNICATION BRINGS UNDERSTANDING

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TOM TILEBEIN TO RETIRE

January 29, 2010 will be the last day of work for Tom Tilebein, Hilton's Superintendent of Public Works; Tom is retiring. For the past 21 years Tom has served as Superintendent and upon his



retirement, will have worked for the Village for 33½ years. The Hilton community will be at a great loss when Tom leaves. Over the years he has proven himself to be dedicated, hard working and a very talented individual. He will be greatly missed.

Tom's career in the Village of Hilton began in 1976, when he was hired by Bob Elliott, Village Administrator, as a laborer, under the Supervision of George Sheffield, Street Superintendent, Jim Ingham, Water Superintendent and Mayor Tom Younker. After a short 4 years with the Village, Tom's talents and work ethic quickly excelled him in his career. In 1980, Jim Ingham was made Village Administrator and Tom was promoted to Assistant Superintendent and

Community Center Manager. His duties entailed overseeing the reconstruction of the Community Center after a fire damaged a portion of the building. He was also charged with the reconfiguration of the building space to prepare for village offices to relocate from Main Street. By 1989 George

Sheffield retired and Tom was promoted to the position of Superintendent of Public Works. Jim Ingham retired as Administrator in 2000. The Village eliminated the position of Administrator and the duties were divided up between Tom and Janet Surridge, then Clerk Treasurer, increasing the responsibilities of both Tom and Janet to what they are today.

Tom has had many accomplishments throughout his career that he can be very proud of. A few of the projects that Tom was responsible for are as follows. From 1989 to 1995 he headed the cleaning and re-lining of the water distribution system within the village; an unseen but

vital project. He was involved with the new construction of many of the subdivisions in the early 1990's. He headed up the major conversion project of the Hojack railway bed to a roadway and designed and supervised the Jennejohn Lodge, Village Park and Salmon Creek Park development projects. He coordinated the house tear-down and post office site preparation for our current post office and was also charged with the recent fire hall demolition. That project



resulted in the recycling of over 99% of the building and site materials. Tom was also responsible for the purchase of the street lighting system from

RG&E. The list of Tom's accomplishments goes on.

Tom has also been active on many committees. He currently represents the County Executive on the Monroe County Recycling Advisory Committee, and throughout his career he has been heavily involved in promoting recycling and has saved the village untold amounts of money by his recycling efforts. He chaired the Monroe County

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TILEBEIN RETIRES

Storm Water Coalition from 2007-2009 and currently serves as Hilton's representative. Under Tom's leadership the Village was awarded the 2006 NYS Environmental Excellence Award from the DEC. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Upstate NY Municipal Workers Compensation Group. In 2006 and 2008 the Village was awarded the best safety record under Tom's leadership.

In an unusual decision, Tom hired the first female member of the DPW crew, because of her outstanding qualifications.

Since 1976 Tom has lived in the village with his wife Mary, of 35 years. His future plans include golfing, boating and doing things of interest.

When asked about his years working for the Hilton community, this is what Tom had to say.

"First, I'd like to thank every employee that I have had the pleasure of working with, for their dedication and hard work. The residents of this village should be as proud of your accomplishments as I have been. You are truly an exceptional group of individuals that provide more services to one of the larger village populations, with the least number of staff. Village residents certainly get their money's worth, and I thank each one of you for demonstrating a proud work ethic each day."

"Secondly, it's not often that someone from outside the Hilton area is given the opportunity to serve in this position. The motto of the 'Little Village with a Big Heart', is true. I was

Polls will open on the third Tuesday in March for the election of Mayor and two Village Trustees.

Those interested in running must pick up a petition from the Village Office after January 1, 2010. Candidates must obtain 100 signatures within 30 days in order to be on the ballot. Petitions must be returned to the Village Office by February 1st. Candidates

can run independent and do not have to be affiliated with any party. Mayor and Village Trustee positions are both 4 year terms. Watch the Suburban News in November for an article entitled "Notice of Election" for more information.

Current Mayor, Larry Gurslin, has announced that he will not seek re-election for the 2010-2014 term.

LEAF COLLECTION OCT 19TH - DEC. 4TH

welcomed to this community from the start, and over the years the best part of my job was meeting and helping the people of Hilton. Today, Hilton is MY hometown, and I thank each resident for the opportunity to serve you. It was my pleasure."

Best wishes Tom! The Hilton community has been blessed by your exceptional talents and we are grateful for the many years you have given to make our village a better place.

The Village Board has appointed Mike McHenry as new Superintendent, to replace Tom in February. Mike is a 28 year employee of Hilton's DPW. He began as a laborer, was promoted to Foreman four years later, and for the past 16 years, has been Assistant Superintendent. He is well qualified for the new position. Congratulations Mike!

Hilton's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

SAVE THE DATE

Join in the festivities of the Christmas season with friends and family, singing carols while the village Christmas tree is lit. Enjoy refreshments while waiting for a surprise visit from Santa.

**Saturday
Dec. 5, 2009
7:00 pm**



**at the
Village Community Center
59 Henry Street**

PROMOTIONS TRANSFORM OFFICE STAFF

The Village Board recently announced the addition of a new position within the Village Office and has promoted three of the office staff employees. The newly added position is that of Village Manager of which **Janet Surridge** has been promoted. **Shari Pearce** has been promoted to *Village Clerk* and **Maryalice Edwards** promoted to *Village Treasurer*.

With the approaching retirement of Tom Tilebein, DPW Superintendent, the Board felt a new position in the office was warranted. As the new Village Manager, Janet is assuming a large portion of Tom's administrative responsibilities and will combine the remainder of his obligations with those of both Mike Lissow, Code Enforcement Officer, and Mike McHenry, Tom's replacement.

Janet Surridge has been working for the Village for the past 35 years. Her experience, skills and knowledge have earned her the trust and admiration of the Village Board. Because of the Board's confidence in her abilities they felt that she would be the perfect fit for the new position.

Janet began her village career in 1974. Because of her business major she was hired as a part-time employee, helping out after school as a typist. In 1976, after graduation, she was offered a full time position as Clerk-Typist. By 1978 she was promoted to Deputy Clerk and in 1980 became the Clerk-

Treasurer. She has held that position for the past 29 years. Following the 2000 retirement of Jim Ingham, Village Administrator, Janet was given 50% of his administrative duties, with the other 50% going to Tom Tilebein. For the



Village Office Staff

Shari Pearce, Maryalice Edwards, Janet Surridge, Amy Harter, Debbie Jones

past 9 years Janet and Tom have shared responsibilities of managing the Village. With Tom's retirement, the Board saw a natural progression of Janet becoming Village Manager.

In her new position, Janet oversees and monitors all activities that deal with finance, function, planning, improvement, development, personnel, and daily operations within the village.

Shari Pearce, a graduate of MCC, earned an Associates degree in Business. She began her Village career in 1993 as secretary to both the Mayor and the Planning Board, and assisted in the front office. After 5 years she was promoted to Billing Clerk for water, sewer, gas and electric. 5 years later she became Deputy Clerk. After 16 years of experience in the Village office, she has

demonstrated successful abilities in accounting and business. Her promotion to Village Clerk will add many new duties to her position, a few of which include the management of the front office, preparation of all village laws and legislation, and

assisting the Mayor.

Maryalice Edwards, a graduate of the Niagara Community College, earned an Associates degree in Accounting. She started with the Village in 2001 as a part time receptionist. She was hired in 2003 as full time Deputy Treasurer. Her 8

years of experience with bookkeeping, tax receiving and payroll have helped prepare her for the new duties she will add to her job. Responsibilities will now include preparing the budget for the village and handling accounts payable, among other things.

Special recognition goes to **Amy Harter** and **Debbie Jones**, who have been an essential part of the office staff for a considerable number of years. Their cooperation and assistance with the ongoing transformations have been invaluable to the daily operations in the office. Both Amy and Debbie have been learning additional skills to assist with billing and water clerk duties.

Congratulations and best wishes in your new roles!

99% OF FIRE HALL BUILDING RECYCLED

Hilton Village Public Works crews along with crews from the Town of Parma Highway Department joined forces to dismantle and tear-down the old fire station on South Avenue. The combined undertaking resulted in a very successful recycling project.

Before the demolition began, professional crews came in to remove any asbestos within the structure. Following, village and town crews united to remove anything of value from the building. Wiring, duct-work, piping, metal trusses, door frames, metal doors, water lines, sewer lines and anything

else that could be salvaged was removed and turned in for scrap to be recycled. During the demolition, the main components of the structure were also separated. The steel was sent to a metal recycling plant. The cinder blocks, brick and concrete slab were crushed up to make stone aggregate for use in future village construction projects. Only a very small portion of the structure was unsalvageable; including the asbestos, drywall, wood, ceiling tiles, roofing and miscellaneous garbage.

99% of the building in tonnage was completely recycled and will be reused in some way in the future. Taxpayers can be very proud of the hard work and cooperative efforts of the crews that kept most of this structure from going into a landfill. Special thanks to Tom Tilebein and Brian Speer who led the project; well done!

Separating the cinder blocks, bricks and concrete



Separating the steel



Separating the waste



Inside the fire station "stripped"



VILLAGE *Environmental* ISSUES

RECYCLING - SCALES ON EQUIPMENT HELP CUT DOWN ON WASTE

The Village of Hilton is very fortunate to have employees who are concerned about the environment. Superintendent of Public Works, Tom Tilebein, is one such person. Under Tom's leadership, Hilton became the first village in New York State to install weight measuring scales on their refuse equipment. The purpose of these scales is to measure the amount of waste that is going into landfills. The village subsequently set new

guidelines for residents on how much refuse could be picked up on a given stop. Restrictions were also added to what types of materials that could go into the refuse containers. Brush, leaves, wood chips and grass clippings were eliminated from the solid waste stream. In turn, those items that were eliminated were picked up separately and recycled. This helped to keep village costs down and helped people to cut down on waste.

Landfill sites charge by the ton. By reducing waste tonnage and recycling the materials we can, we help the earth and we help ourselves.

The Village also offers weekly recycling of televisions, computer monitors and motor oil and annual recycling of household hazardous waste. Please visit our website at www.hiltonny.org or call our office at 392-4144 for more information.

RG&E DROPS “VOICE YOUR CHOICE”

VILLAGE PROGRAM INVITES NEW CUSTOMERS

In a soon to be announced decision, RG&E will be dropping their “Voice Your Choice” electricity program. The program offered customers the opportunity to choose from a fixed rate or a variable rate plan. The change will take place after

January 1, 2010. Reasons for the change are unclear, but following the approval of the Public Service Commission, customers of RG&E will be offered a variable rate plan only. The Village of Hilton’s electricity program will be unaffected by the change. The program will continue to offer both fixed and variable rate plans and will remain a stable provider that customers can depend on from month to month.

Customers will enjoy uninterrupted service.

Interested persons are invited to inquire by calling the **Village office** at **392-4144** to sign up.

History of the two providers shows the Village plan provides a savings over the RG&E rates. ■

VILLAGE WEBSITE OFFERS NEW FEATURES

The Village of Hilton website is continuously being updated and now offers some new features.

First, visit the home page at www.hiltonny.org.

Enter your e-mail address to receive updates and alerts directly from the Village Office. These alerts will help to notify you of temporary water-shut-offs, road projects, emergency closings and other important events.

Additionally, property tax bills can now be viewed online. The location of the tax bills can be found off the home page; select the “Services” tab, then select the “Additional Services” tab. Click on the “View Tax Bills Online” tab. Type in the appropriate information and your tax bill will be displayed on your screen. This feature is also located under the “Government” tab followed by the “Treasurer” tab.

Another new feature is the Village Clerk page and the Village Treasurer page. Both are located under the “Government” tab on the homepage. Each will offer additional features for your convenience.

Take a few moments to visit the website and familiarize yourself with all the information that is there for you.

If you need assistance or have suggestions, contact Debbie at debbie@hiltonny.org or call 392-4144 ext. 100. ■

WATER BILLING SCHEDULE CHANGE

Submitted by
Shari Pearce, *Village Clerk*

The Village Clerk would like to announce a change in the water billing schedule. Due to the increasing cost of postage and a heavier work load in the summer months, a new billing schedule has been approved.

Currently, water bills are mailed four times a year. With the new schedule they will be mailed out three times a year. Rates will remain unchanged at \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons and \$.13 per day. Bills will be calculated for four months instead of three and will be mailed the first week in January, May and September.

The office staff is always looking for ways to improve efficiency and reduce costs to tax payers. Any questions, please call the Village office at 392-4144.

STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT

The office staff would like to clarify how street lighting repairs are handled and why.

To maintain cost efficiency of labor and equipment use, streetlight replacements are done when a minimum of 10 bulbs have been reported out. Wait time for replacements may vary as little as a few days to a more lengthy period of up to 3 months. Fixing just one bulb at a time is too costly and non-productive. Outages must first be listed, then serviced when crews can attend several on one date.

Please be patient and rest assured that repairs will be made in as timely a manner as possible.

Outages may be reported by calling 392-4144. Please include the pole number and address.

PUBLIC WORKS CREW RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY

Congratulations to the employees of Hilton's Dept. of Public Works for their excellent safety record in 2008.

Because of their conscientious efforts to make job safety a priority, DPW employees have been recognized by the Monroe County Worker's Compensation Program for one of the best safety records in the county. Their outstanding record has helped to save the Village thousands of dollars. 2008 brought the Village a \$30,000.00



The following employees deserve recognition.

Pictured:

Chad McManus,
Cody Kelly,
Jeff Pearce,
Brian Lissow,
Seb Burritt,
Tom Tilebein
Superintendent,
Keith Brown

Asst. Superintendent,

Mike McHenry *Asst. Superintendent,*
Greg Brothers, **John Burch,**
Doug Jock, **Karen Strassner,**
Tom Wright, **Russ Zurick,**
Jim Leise and **Carl Johnson.**

Be sure to congratulate the crew on their outstanding job!

refund from the insurance company. In 5 years the Village has received over \$130,000.00 in refunds from lack of claims. Insurance rates have decreased.

This is not the first time that the crew has been awarded for their efforts. In 2006 they were also awarded best safety record.

NEW LEAF MACHINE ARRIVES



Included in the Village's 10 year replacement plan was the purchase of a new leaf machine. The new machine was ordered and delivered in August of 2009. The new machine boasts of dual axles, heavier hosing and a larger, heavy duty motor which will help prevent overheating.

The old leaf machine will be sent to auction. Collection begins Oct. 19th and ends Dec. 4th.

WHAT'S NEW IN HILTON

HOVEY STREET TO BECOME



The Village Board and the NYSDOT are considering changing traffic direction on Hovey street from two-way to one-way, northbound only. The roadway will be used as an inlet allowing traffic from the Main Street area into

Hovey Square. Outlets will remain on Lake, Railroad and East Avenues.

The recommendation to go forward with this change came from the year-long Main Street district traffic study, done in 2008.

The Board is open to trying this transformation for a period of time, and will study the results. The change is supposed to significantly improve the safety and efficiency of the intersection at Main and Hovey Streets. The change will take place in the Spring of 2010.

NEW MASTER PLAN FOR HILTON

VILLAGE BOARD SEEKS INTERESTED COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

The Village Board is seeking individuals from the Hilton community who are interested in participating on a committee, seeking to update and modernize the master plan of the Village.

Hilton's original master plan was put together in 1977. The 100+ page document, was created to give guidance and direction to board members and help them in setting goals for the future. The document highlights concepts and proposals including such things as improvements,

planning endeavors, zoning guidelines, land use, and a general vision of the future. Such a document is necessary for determining budgetary needs and provides for the possibility of obtaining grant money for future projects.

The Board seeks to revise and update the very detailed and well written document to make it current and incorporate other documents and amendments that have been added since.

Currently the Board has

budgeted \$10,000 toward the revision. A total of \$25,000 may be needed for completion.

The committee will be selected by June 2010 and if budget permits, will proceed in the later part of next year.

If you are interested, please submit a letter stating your intentions. Include your name, address, e-mail and phone. Submissions can be turned in at the Village office addressed to Vice Mayor, Walt Horylev.



Saturday, July 25, 2009 will be remembered as the day that Hilton was hit by a tornado.

The following information was gathered from the National Weather Service website, and used with permission courtesy of NOAA/NWS.

During the late afternoon hours on July 25, 2009, severe weather developed over Western NY between Buffalo and Rochester. The first storm moved across northern Erie County with numerous funnel cloud sightings and hail to 1 inch diameter. This storm weakened as it moved to the northeast

while a second storm formed rapidly to its south, and eventually produced two tornadoes across Western NY. The first occurred at 4:50pm EDT, touching down in the town of Darien, just southwest of the Village of Corfu in Western Genesee County. The second tornado occurred at 5:55pm EDT touching down in the Village of Hilton in Western Monroe County. The damage was less extensive than the first tornado, with primarily tree damage and broken outdoor furniture. One home sustained minor structural damage. The tornado was on the ground for about 10 minutes, had a 1.5 mile long path, 30 yard width and a rating of Ef0, with peak winds estimated at 75 mph.

The storm had unfortunate timing for the Hilton Fire Department. The annual

carnival was in full swing when the National Weather Service broadcast warnings of severe weather. The severe weather broadcasts quickly changed to an imminent tornado warning. Thanks to the quick thinking and fast action of fire department personnel, the carnival was quickly shut down and the grounds were evacuated. People were moved into the near-by exempt club, located on the hill just south of the carnival grounds, where they remained until the storm safely passed. This was the first time that the carnival had to be cancelled. The fireman's field was flooded, resulting in a great deal of clean-up work. Fortunately there were no injuries from the storm.

The tornado was the first in Monroe County since September 1981.



Photo courtesy of Amy Lissow



Photo courtesy of Amy Lissow



Photo courtesy of NOAA/NWS

Flooded carnival grounds on the firemen's field and a damaged roof with downed tree limbs on Hillside Drive.

REFUSE & RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

HOLIDAY

ALL DEPTS CLOSED

SERVICES RESUME

Veterans Day Wed., Nov. 11 Thurs., Nov. 12
Thanksgiving Thurs., Nov. 26 Wed., Nov. 25
Floating Holiday . . . Fri., Nov. 27 Services unaffected
Christmas Fri., Dec. 25 Services unaffected
New Year's Fri., Jan. 1, 2010 . . Services unaffected
Martin Luth. King . Mon., Jan. 18 Tues., Jan. 19
President's Day . . . Mon., Feb. 15 Tues., Feb. 16
Good Friday Fri., April 2 Services unaffected



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Refuse pick-up and Recycling for the Thanksgiving holiday will take place the day before the holiday.



HISTORIAN'S OFFICE WELCOMES VISITORS



Contributed by
Dave Crumb
Village Historian

The Village of Hilton's Historian's office has a long history in itself. Village events, photographs, and other records pertaining to the long and interesting history of our community have been carefully collected, archived, and preserved for people of the future to explore and enjoy.

This interesting legacy is the result of a succession of generous people who have given of their time and passion for history itself and also for the benefit of the Village of Hilton.

Before 1900, there was no formal Village Historian; there were however, people who were interested in what went on in times gone by. Mary Archer Stevens might be considered the first person to collect village-related history. Another was William V. Newcomb, who collected early photos of the village and labeled them. Following was Elizabeth V. Keller, the first official Village Historian. Then came Leith C. Wright. Although she was never historian of the Village, Shirley Cox Husted, sister of Leith and Town Historian, contributed much to the Hilton archives. Following Leith was Mary

Townsend, and currently, me.

We are fortunate in Hilton to have a Mayor and Village Board who support and value the Historian's office

As the new Historian I would like to welcome visitors to the office. The wealth of information is only good if it can be viewed and made useful to an interested community.

Historian's hours are Wed. 6-8pm or by appointment at 392-5848. Assistant Historian, John Corcoran's hours are Tues. & Thurs., 2:15-3:30pm. The Historian's office is located on the first floor, at 59 Henry Street in the Community Center.

Hilton Village Office 392-4144

Janet Surridge, Village Manager
Shari Pearce, Village Clerk
Maryalice Edwards, Village Treasurer
Mike Lissow, Code Enforcement Officer
Amy Harter, P.B. Secretary, Cust. Care
Debbie Jones, Z.B. Secretary, Cust. Care

Board of Trustees

Larry Gurslin, Mayor
Walt Horylev, Vice Mayor
Jim Gates, Trustee
Joe Lee, Trustee
Larry Speer, Trustee

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Christine Brower
Joe Galatio
Bob Hunte

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Richard Bjornholm, Chairman
Richard LaForce
Jim Bimmler
Bob Cusenz
Pat Holenbeck

Public Works 392-9632

Tom Tilebein, Superintendent 392-4144
Mike McHenry, Asst. Superintendent
Keith Brown, Asst. Superintendent
Crew After Hours Pager: 529-0822 or 525-0709
Greg Brothers Carl Johnson Jeff Pearce
John Burch Jim Leise Karen Strassner
Seb Burritt Brian Lissow Tom Wright
Doug Jock Chad McManus Russ Zurick

Newsletter Written, designed and edited by Mary Lissow. Send your comments/suggestions to: marysemail@frontiernet.net