CAMPBELL TOWN NEWSLETTER
Campbell, New York
OCTOBER 2016 ~ Quarterly

Newsletter Staff
Sandy Austin & Wendy Oman
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."

OCTOBER TOWN BOARD MEETING CHANGE OF DATE!

The second Monday in October is Columbus Day, so our monthly meeting will be moved to **Tuesday, October 11th at 6:00 p.m.** At this meeting we have set aside some time for an informational session on our Water District #1 Extension.

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EXTENSION OF WATER DISTRICT #1.

Currently the Town of Campbell has three water districts. Water District #1 is in the Town's hamlet area extending from the railroad tracks down to the Campbell-Savona High School; and across the Cohocton River on County Route 333 and Tannery Road to the hill. Water Districts 2 and 3 are located in E. Campbell.

The Town of Campbell is proud to provide high-quality drinking water that is clean and safe for these water districts, and is very excited and pleased to have received a grant through New York State Community Development Block Grant program to do an engineering study for the extension of Water District #1.

The proposed study area is located east of the railroad tracks along County Route 333 to NYS Route 415, south on NYS Route 415 to the Seager Court and north on Route 415 to the Colonial Coach Park, and back down Clawson Drive to complete the loop to the railroad tracks.

Many of the wells in this area are located on small lots in close proximity to aging septic systems, and may have contamination.

In collaboration with the Department of Health, the Town will be soliciting participation of residents in the study area to agree to drinking water sample collection and analysis, at no cost to the resident. The sampling is anticipated to take place in the fall by a team consisting of a DOH representative and a community representative, they will present identification and collect a sample from the tap. An informational meeting will be held at the Town Hall on October 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., representatives from the Town, Department of Health, and HUNT will be available to discuss the sampling, water extension study and answer any questions.

Results of the sampling will only be used for this study, to identify if there is a compelling need to extend the water supply and to solicit future grant funding for a water service area extension. Individual sample results will be shared confidentially with residents. Anonymous results from the water sampling and engineers report will be shared at a future public meeting. Thank you in advance for your participation in protecting the health of our community.

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EAST CAMPBELL TOWN PARK

For the past two or three years, the Town has been actively doing projects to help refurbish our Town Park on Meads Creek Road.

Last year, the Town's Highway Department replaced the pavilion roof, trim, gable ends and stained the exposed wood. The Heavy Equipment BOCES Class excavated and poured a new concrete floor under the pavilion.

This spring, the Heavy Equipment BOCES Class was back with several tons of "rip rap" around the parking lot to help keep people from driving on the playing fields and damaging the turf, as happened last winter. This group also replaced the wood on all the benches and installed a gravel apron around the pavilion's new floor.

Also for the park pavilion, the BOCES Building Trades Class built two eight-foot picnic tables which can seat up to 16 people.

Looking ahead to 2017, future projects are planned to enhance the park. We have also submitted a new grant application for approximately $150,000 for park upgrades and should hear by sometime in October as to whether or not we were successful in getting it.

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SNIPPITS OF HISTORY – "RAFTING LOGS"

Let me tell you about Gen. George McClure who came from Ireland in 1790. He happened to go to Northumberland [which is in the middle of Pennsylvania on the Susquehanna River] and saw a sign there that said they were looking for carpenters to work at Bath, New York. So, he travelled up the river to Bath and met Capt. Charles Williamson who was glad to have him work. He learned to build arks; in those days a typical ark was 75 ft. x 16 ft. and they would ship lumber, wheat, pork and other products from upstream; this was in 1795!!!

About 1801, settlers arriving in what would become Campbell, learned by their example. They also learned that the Cohocton River meets the Chemung River near Painted Post where it becomes part of the Chemung River down to about Athens, Pennsylvania where it merges with the Susquehanna River which ends up at the Chesapeake Bay.

In those early days, settlers soon looked at the Cohocton River as a way to raft logs and finished lumber in fleets, downstream to a market. They also found it useful to run a grist mill or sawmill or a tannery; and as a highway to the markets of the world for their logs, furs and leather.

During this time, people were discovering that the streams were navigable at certain times of the year and they used the waterways to get their products out. Since the forest was the one thing that was here and in large supply, the men in Campbelltown would cut down their logs as they could; then in spring when the rivers rose they would "raft" logs down the river. What this means is, they would hook the logs together into rafts. Some products they would take all the way to the end of the river which is at Havre de Grace in the Chesapeake Bay. Corning, in its early days, was a lumber town and buyers there would purchase logs which were rafted down, until the supply was gone.

The reminiscence of Jonas Stevens now makes sense when he said --"The entire adult male population left their homes each year [in Spring or when the water was navigable] for the long voyage and come back and tell us of places such as Northumberland, Harrisburg, Port Deposit and Havre de Grace and of Philadelphia and Baltimore as places they had visited."

Rafting of lumber began to wane as the forests were depleted. At one time the mills of the Southern Tier of New York were believed to be the biggest in the world.

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TENTATIVE – TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT
October 31 – Monday 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Check the webpage after the Board Meeting
October 11 for final determination of Halloween!

HISTORIAN

WELCOME Sally Dyer-Congdon as our new Historian! Sally has great ideas and projects in mind for the Town. Drop Sally an e-mail using our town website under the tab "CONTACT", or call the Town Hall at 527-8244 Ext. 216 and leave a message. While on the webpage, take a look at the "HISTORY" tab too for more about our town.

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CAMPBELL IS A PICTURESQUE TOWN

Next time you visit the Town Hall, take a look at the new display of picturesque places in the Town.

ONE CRAPPY STORY!!!

Over the years I have really enjoyed some of Dick Peer's stories. Dick was a writer for The Leader for a number of years and as it happened, he grew up in the Town of Campbell. He moved here in 1938 and they lived in a house right by the railroad tracks. In those days the homes had electric but no running water. For bathroom use they had outhouses. He said that one morning his dad was out using the outhouse as the 6:30 a.m. train went by. All of a sudden there was a windstorm of paper flying around as the train disappeared. The paper turned out to be dollar bills which Dad Peer then gathered. It turned out to be $300.00. The only logical explanation was that someone had put the money in the train's toilet which then emptied out on the tracks. Dad Peer turned the money over to the railroad, but no one ever claimed it. After 30 days his dad then got to keep the money. I thought that this was about the crappiest story I had ever heard!

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Check it out!