

Message from Rhinebeck Mayor Gary Bassett

It's been another busy month in Rhinebeck Village Hall, and I am happy to share some of the things our government is doing.

We have a new member of the Village Board, Brant Neuneker, who brings years of local government experience to the task, and will get started as the new Liaison to our Water Department. Brant is also going to continue in his role on the Village Code Revision Committee until that project is completed.

Bryan Alix, a water department employee, is now taking on the job of Chief Water Plant Operator. Tom Wallbank, who has done a wonderful job running the plant for 20 years, is moving on to a new job in Coxsackie. I was sad to see him go, but this is a great opportunity for him, and I feel lucky that Bryan stepped into the role.

The budget year for 2016/2017 is closed, so a report on our finances will be coming from Village Treasury soon. Meanwhile, we continue to seek cost savings in many areas. All the Mayors and Supervisors in Dutchess County have been meeting with County Executive Marcus Molinaro to develop a "County Wide Shared Services Initiative", in the face of yet another mandate from NY State. We are studying tax savings through sharing IT Services, procurement, and other services.

The Village and Town of Rhinebeck have already embarked on another study and requested a grant to study court services. If approved, the focus will be on how we might save money through consolidation of administration and facilities of the courts.

The Shared Highway IMA (Inter-Municipal agreement) is also very close to having a signed agreement, with the scope of work and IMA ready for signing with the County. Plans are coming together for the paving of Montgomery St. and Astor Drive in July. Northern Dutchess Hospital is working with the Village and Town Highway departments on this project.

Our ongoing collaboration with Rhinebeck Schools continues with monthly meetings focused on safety issues such as crosswalks, field usage and communications.

This month, Rhinebeck Village and Town will be hosting 7 local municipalities which depend on water from the Hudson River. We plan to develop a scorecard on water quality that we can use to monitor water quality and protect the supply for the future. If you're interested in serving on the Environmental committee, please contact either Elizabeth Spinzia, Town of Rhinebeck Supervisor (ESpinzia@rhinebeckny.gov) or myself (MayorBassett@VillageofRhinebeckny.gov)

Route 9's water infrastructure project continues to move forward with a start date later this year. DOT has accepted our plans, we are now in the process of investigating all of the finance options available for the project.

And, thanks to the Frost Foundation, we are now accepting bids for the new sidewalk on the south side of West Market Street, towards the Library. Due to a County and Community Development Block Grant, we were awarded \$100,000 to install handicapped access improvements in Legion Park with a handicapped accessible path, fishing dock and parking improvements.

It's only June, but planning for the Sinterklass Parade to be held on December 2nd, is already in the works. The Dutchess County Emergency Response and Department of Health are vital partners with our Police, Fire and EMS Services as we look ahead to the celebration of the 10th year of this traditions

On June 3rd, members of the Rhinebeck Police Department and NY State Police held a community outreach event in the parking lot at Foster's. Everyone got a chance to learn more about our local law enforcement. Two bicycles were raffled off, and there were pencils and coloring books for the kids.

And, Mayors and Supervisors from Rhinebeck, Red Hook, and Tivoli are working on details of a new contract with PANDA, an invaluable source of news and information for our communities. You can see all our meetings on PANDA. And, we also welcome you to come in person anytime.

Feel free to contact me anytime at MayorBassett@VillageofRhinebeckny.gov or come to see me during open hours from

1pm to 2pm daily.

Sincerely,

Gary Bassett

Mayor, Village of Rhinebeck