

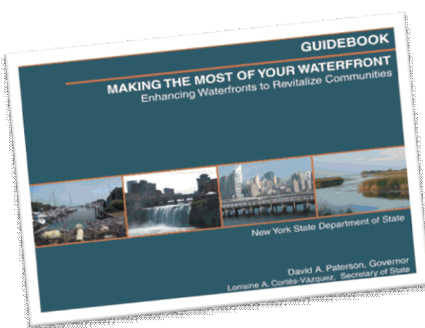
# Town of Hammond Newsletter

5<sup>th</sup> Edition – Fall/Winter 2013  
Chippewa Bay Sunset

*Please enjoy the following newsletter from the Desk of Supervisor Bertram and the Town Board!*

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## SCENIC AREA OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE (SASS) UPDATE ~

In an exciting effort to help promote tourism in Hammond and Chippewa Bay, as well as the rest of the 1000 Islands, the Hammond Town Board is currently spearheading an effort to pursue the awarding of a distinction known as Scenic Area of Statewide Significance (SASS). This designation, awarded by the NY Department of State, has only been given to two other areas: the Hudson River Valley & East Hampton in Long Island. It identifies a community's scenic resources and looks at how they can be improved or protected. Last fall the Town Board received a \$75,000 grant to conduct a Thousand Island Regional Assessment that will be reviewed by the Department of State to determine if this area qualifies for the distinction. Hammond has been joined by all of the villages and towns along the St. Lawrence who stand to benefit from this designation including: the Village and Town of Morristown, the Village of Alexandria Bay & the Town of Alexandria, the Town of Orleans, the Town & Village of Clayton, and the Town & Village of Cape Vincent. A representative of each of these municipalities, as well as reps from the Jefferson & St. Lawrence County Chambers and Planning Offices, 1000 Islands Land Trust, Save the River, Seaway Trail, St. Lawrence & Jefferson County Legislators who represent the towns seeking the award, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the North Country Regional Economic Development Office, the Antique Boat Museum, and others have formed an advisory board to oversee the hiring of the consulting firm. Singer Castle provided the perfect setting for the July meeting of these bodies and the Department of State official in charge of the process. It's anticipated that the Town of Hammond will contract this winter with a consultant who will be responsible for documenting the scenic & historical areas within our town. You can play an important part in this process by attending informational meetings & sharing our views about the importance of a variety of areas within Hammond. Additional information will be forthcoming over the course of the next several months. STAY TUNED!



**VIDEO PRODUCTION ~**

The Town Board has invested in our community and surrounding areas by partnering with other entities to produce some outstanding video footage of the St. Lawrence River, Black Lake and many other points of interest in our town. This amazing footage spearheaded by 1000 reflections will soon be available to us to use for promoting our town!

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC) UPDATE ~**

The committee had its first official meeting in April. Under the direction of Erica Demick, a website and facebook page has been developed for our community: [www.VisitHammondNY.com](http://www.VisitHammondNY.com). Please enter this site and review for yourselves what Hammond & Chippewa Bay have to offer! Our area boasts over 115 businesses (please join us!), 48 of which are contributors to the group and we have 300 +/- followers on Facebook (like us!). Following the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan, a "Farmers' Market" was established, bringing garden fresh vegetables and hand made wares closer to our area. Under the direction of Lori Thistle and sub committee members Mary Hamilton, Brooke Stark, Lisa Sarfaty and Anna McMaster, a number of vendors participated at the Hammond Museum each Wednesday from July-Sept for what promises to be a yearly local interest event. The committee is now sponsoring a "Photo Contest" with awesome prizes from various local businesses for the top 3 photos. Email: [visithammondny@gmail.com](mailto:visithammondny@gmail.com) to participate. Photos will be used in the promotion of our area. The group also hosted "Business After Hours" at Bella-Brooke Vineyard on October 9<sup>th</sup>, which was a great success! They are currently developing a tagline and logo for Hammond, as well as planning a "River Day" with fireworks for next summer. Please consider getting involved in this exciting group! Your ideas are welcomed in order to keep moving our community forward.

**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ~**

Deputy Supervisor, Doug Delosh, and Highway Superintendent, Don Greene, have both been involved in the county wide Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is a plan the county is developing to identify hazards in our county. Once identified, these hazards will be cataloged and rated as to severity and effect they would have on the population. Grant monies may be available to mitigate these hazards and involvement in the plan is mandatory to make a municipality eligible for funding.



Howard & Rosemary Demick (Left), Lonna Davis & Jimmy Pitcher (Middle), Erica Demick (Right) all enjoying the first Business After Hours event



Jodi Hollister (Left) & Carol Davis (Right) owners at Bella-Brooke Vineyard

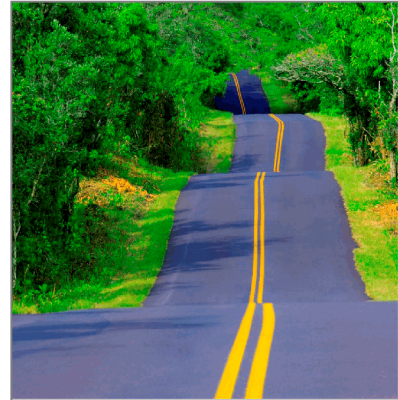


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## ROAD REPAIR PLAN & MORE ~

The Town Board and Highway Superintendent, Don Greene, have embarked upon an aggressive road repair plan this year. We are trying an approach that has been used by the county and state with great success. CHIPS [consolidated highway improvement program] funds were able to be allocated for the program this year, which will allow us to crack seal over 7 miles of roads this year to be followed by paving these roads next year. Normally we are able to only pave less than 2 miles of roads each year with traditional hot mix methods. A recent road survey found less than 30% of town roads were deficient and this approach will bring that number below 10% in 2 years. We are also installing a wood boiler system at the town garage which will save taxpayers considerably on ever increasing heating costs. Last but not least we are also revamping a dangerous curve and insufficient bridge culvert on the River Road. This will improve safety and also the drainage in that area.

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## 2014 BUDGET ~

It's budget time once again. While some items (such as union contracts and health insurance costs) continue to increase, we are finally seeing retirement costs beginning to stabilize. Mandated upgrades to protective gear, radio and safety gear have caused an increase in the fire department tax levy. The increase in the sales tax rate is set to take effect in December, but will only provide a modest (if any) increase in town revenue as the county is using the majority of these funds to stabilize the county tax rate. Rest assured, the Town Board is diligently working to minimize tax increases for every taxpayer.

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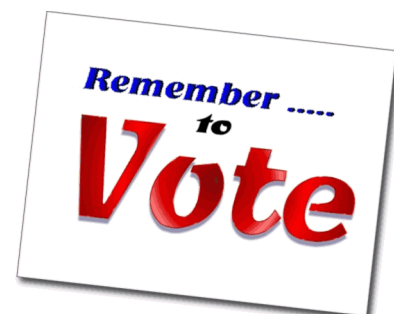


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## REMEMBER TO VOTE ~

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – don't forget to exercise your right to vote in this year's local & county election! The following positions in Hammond will be voted upon: Town Clerk, Town Councilman (Vote for 2), Town Highway Superintendent, Town Justice (Vote for 2) and Town Supervisor. Polls are open from 6 AM – 9 PM at the Fire Department. IMPORTANT DATES: November 4<sup>th</sup> is the last day to deliver an absentee ballot application or apply in person at the Board of Elections; once you receive your ballot and vote, it must be postmarked by November 4<sup>th</sup> to be counted by the Board of Elections. If you have any questions, please contact the Board of Elections at (315) 379-2202 or visit their website at the link below.

[www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/departments/boardofelections/](http://www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/departments/boardofelections/)



**MEETING DATES & TIMES ~**

**TOWN BOARD -**

2<sup>ND</sup> Wednesday, 7 PM, Town Hall

**PLANNING BOARD -**

3<sup>RD</sup> Thursday, 7 PM, Town Hall

**VILLAGE BOARD -**

1<sup>ST</sup> Wednesday, 7 PM, Village Hall

**ECONOMIC DEV. COMMITTEE -**

2<sup>ND</sup> Wednesday, 6 PM, Village Hall

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM ~**

The 2013 baseball, softball and T-ball season was a great success, headed by Cory Tanner. This year we had 67 boys and girls participating in those three categories. At this time we would like to extend a special thank you to Cory Tanner, Kevin Toland, Yvette Barney and Kyleigh Stowe for their time and energy they gave to the boys and girls in our community. Also, we want to express our gratitude to all assistants, umpires and parents for the support they gave the athletes. The Town Board and Cory both appreciate the support we receive from the entire community and look forward to next year. Our Town also had over 40 participants in the summer recreational swimming program at Keywadin State Park under the supervision of Michele Brown and Connie Shoulette – thank you both!

*On behalf of the entire Town Board, we would like to wish you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season!*

Ron Bertram | Doug Delosh | Howard Demick | Jim Pitcher | Jim Tague



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