

# Town of Hammond Newsletter

Third Edition - Spring / Summer 2012

Beautiful Sunset Over Snake Oil & Bluff Islands – Photo Courtesy of Howard Demick

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*Spring Greetings! Please enjoy the following newsletter from the desk of Supervisor Bertram and the Town Board.*

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TO BEGIN ~

The Town and Village of Hammond have signed a memorandum of understanding with the St. Lawrence County Planning Office to develop a Comprehensive Plan for Hammond. The State defines a comprehensive plan as an “instrument for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of a municipality.” Before a document can be produced to guide Hammond’s vision for the future, a thorough understanding of the existing conditions in the community needs to be developed. To develop this existing condition framework, the County Planning Office will be traveling throughout Hammond; and summarizing what information already exists about the Town and Village. There will also be a public outreach meeting in Hammond in the month of May. Citizens’ input will be very important in this planning process. Look for publicity of this meeting over the next month. The Comprehensive Plan should be completed by the fall. For more information please contact Jason Pfothenauer at the County Planning Office (379-2292), Mayor Shelly Youngs, or Supervisor Ron Bertram.

## WHEELCHAIR LIFT INSTALLATION COMPLETE ~

A wheelchair lift was recently installed at the Town Hall, which will facilitate wheelchair access to the library, courtroom, assessor’s office, building codes office, supervisor’s office, restroom, as well as to Town Board and Planning Board meetings. Improvements were also made to the restroom to make it handicap accessible. Deputy Supervisor, Doug Delosh, has overseen this project and the Town was fortunate enough to obtain grants through the diligent work of Bill Freeman & the Town Library Board. A grant from the Justice Court Administration Program was also written by Honorable Lisa Proven and the Town Court Clerk, Emile Bickelhaupt. This amounted to very little out of pocket expenses on the Town’s behalf.



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### TOWN REMAINS IN A HEALTHY FINANCIAL POSITION ~

The budget for this year continues to be positive. The 2011 fund balance ended with an increase of \$30,593 over 2010 due to diligent fiscal oversight by the budget officer and Town Board, as well as strong sales tax revenues. A small tax increase was deemed necessary by the Town Board due to large increases in retirement costs, the definite need to build the sand and salt storage facility and replace highway equipment this year. The Town's budget is also readily available on the Town's website for your review: [www.townofhammondny.com](http://www.townofhammondny.com)

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### SALT & SAND STORAGE BARN ~

The Town's sand and salt storage facility is now complete. After being covered, less than one month old, the roof was destroyed by a violent wind storm, which was fully replaced under warranty by the construction company. The Town has also purchased salt and sand for next year's winter roads in advance, at a reduced cost on last year's contract prices, which will save the Town money in this year's budget.

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### COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE ~

The Town Highway Superintendent is working with the Town Board to open a brush, limbs and tree debris collection center at the end of the Hyde Road. No leaves or trash can be accepted. Also, any scrap metal may be brought to the Town Barn during working hours. Dates that the center will be open are as follows: Brush collection dates: May 21-26, June 18-23, Sept. 17-22, and Oct. 22-27. From: 8 AM - 3 PM each day. All residents of Hammond may contact Don Greene at the Town Barn (324-5611) to make an appointment if you cannot be there during posted hours. The Town Barn hours are: 6 AM - 4:30 PM Monday-Thursday between May 7<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>, and 7 AM - 3:30 PM Monday-Friday after October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Town is also working with the Village to obtain a Grant to purchase a wood chipper and make mulch available to the citizens.

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### RABIES CLINIC ~

A combined Town and Village Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7 PM at the Hammond Town Barn. The clinic is offered at no charge. St. Lawrence County is no longer offering this clinic; however, good will offerings will be accepted to help defray the cost of Veterinarians.





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## **ANNUAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION ~**

Of particular mention should be the upcoming annual assessment roll which will be completed by the Town's Assessor. Steve Teele's office hours are: Monday's and Friday's from 1-5 PM in May for all interested property owners who wish to speak with him. The Town will hold "Grievance Day" on May 23<sup>rd</sup> along with BAR hours. Grievance Forms can be obtained online or by reaching Darlene (Town Clerk, Ext. 11) or Steve (Town Assessor, Ext. 14) at the Town offices. 324-5321. Grievance forms need to be filed by May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is the date determined by NYS or one may not challenge their assessment. It is very important that property owners take action by speaking with the assessor before or by that day. The tax roll has been completed and the Town is currently at 100% valuation. There will be no raises in assessments this year, except for home improvements and additions to the roll.

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## **SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM ~**

This year's Youth Program including baseball, softball and swimming will have 94 children between the ages of 7-12 participating. Hammond will be fielding 3 baseball teams (1-Grasshopper and 2-PeeWee). The Grasshoppers will be coached by Andrew Hodgdon and the PeeWee teams will be coached by Yvette Bogardus and Kevin Toland. Girls' softball will field 3 teams (1-Intro and 2-Sr. League). Cory Tanner will be coaching both Intro to Softball and one of the Senior League teams and Jessica Vaughan will be coaching the other Senior League team. Swimming will have 30 participants and will be overseen by Michele Brown. For any questions regarding registration, please contact the Town Board via phone or email.

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## **HAMMOND'S SINGER CASTLE IN NATIONAL TV SPOTLIGHT ~**

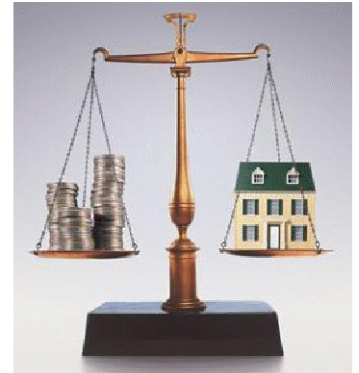
As a reminder, TNT has added its first-ever reality competition to its roster with *The Great Escape*, a series that will follow three teams each week as they surmount obstacles, fend off pursuers, and compete for cash in cinematic venues such as castles and sinking ships. The series will kick off this summer and Hammond should be very proud to have Singer Castle as a part of the series' venues for this exciting new show. "*The Great Escape* is a fast-paced series with all the heart-pounding excitement and nail-biting suspense of a summer popcorn movie," said TNT's executive vice-president of programming Michael Wright.

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## **PLEASE STAY INVOLVED & INFORMED ~**

Citizen input and involvement is very important to the success of our community.

<b>Town Board Meetings.</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of Each Month. 7:15 PM – Town Hall
<b>Village Board Meetings.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds. of Each Month. 7 PM – Community Center
<b>Planning Board Meetings.</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds. of Each Month. 7:30 PM – Town Hall



*Image Credit: David Holloway/TNT*





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**IN CLOSING ~**

Once again, we want to thank you for taking the time to read the Town's 3<sup>rd</sup> edition newsletter. As Town Board members, we take the opportunity to serve you very seriously and are happy to be able to keep you informed on an ongoing basis. You are always encouraged to attend Town Board meetings and we are here to answer any questions that you might have as the year progresses.

***Wishing you and your family another enjoyable and beautiful summer!***

*With Best Regards,*

<b>Ron Bertram</b>	<i>Town Supervisor</i>
<b>Doug Delosh</b>	<i>Town Councilman</i>
<b>Howard Demick</b>	<i>Town Councilman</i>
<b>James Pitcher</b>	<i>Town Councilman</i>
<b>James Tague</b>	<i>Town Councilman</i>

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*Stay up to date – Visit the Town's website!*     [WWW.TOWNOFHAMMONDNY.COM](http://WWW.TOWNOFHAMMONDNY.COM)

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