

In Touch with Locke

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2005

DID YOU KNOW?

- There is help available with heating bills and food needs as we near the holiday season. See stories on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

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Thanks for your service to the town!

This year, several of our elected officials and members of our various town boards are leaving office. We thought it would be fitting to talk to them about their time in office and the challenges for the future.

Paul Palmer, Locke Town Supervisor for the last four years, is leaving the post this year – in the good hands of our newly-elected supervisor Jean James.



“I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and support,” Palmer said in November. “A lot of good things happened and I met an awful lot of nice people.”

Palmer said he’s proud of many town accomplishments during his time as supervisor, including progress made on the water project and upcoming water meter installations; improved town meetings; a Community Development Block Grant that Jean James secured for the town; a new salt shed and the decision to lease rather than buy new highway department trucks.

Palmer, who’s retired from Borg-Warner, said he decided not to run again so that he and his wife – who’s also retiring soon – will have more time to travel and visit family.

Ken James has served for seven years on the town board. He said he’s proudest of the work done on the water project; the policy of rotation of highway equipment to keep costs down and the town’s decision to survey Locke Woods and use revenue from timber sales there to help fund the water system.



Thanks to the many town elected officials and board members for their years in office!

Ed Sharpsteen is retiring again after serving as highway superintendent for a second time. Sharpsteen was superintendent from 1992-2002 and then again starting in 2004. During the last two year, the department has been busy with the new water



system, as well as road work and snowplowing. Ed and his wife plan to travel and spend time at the home in Florida.

Sara Friend is leaving the planning board after serving for 15 years, the last seven of those as chairwoman.

She said she’s proud of the planning board’s work in passing an adult entertainment law, telecommunication tower law and junkyard law. She is also glad that the town has in place a long-range plan and thinks the new planning board will have plenty to do as they work to update laws, take part in subdivision reviews and consider the possibility of a site plan review process.

“We treated everyone equally,” Friend said.

“Everyone had to follow the same rules and who you were didn’t matter.”

Friend said the new planning board chairman, Thane Benson, will be looking for two new members .

Congratulations to new and re-elected town officials: Jean James, Patricia Dillon, Julie Parker, Natalie Hingston, Philip Franklin and Pete Compton. There will be a vacancy on the town board starting Jan. 1. If you’re interested, please send a letter to the town clerk.



The holidays are bright and merry, thanks to the L.O.C.K.E. Group!

Santa arrives on December 2 at Town Hall

The L.O.C.K.E. Group meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month and all are welcome!

We had a great night for Halloween on Oct. 31. After the parade down Main Street, there was costume judging with prizes, games and refreshments. A good time was had by all.

Christmas is just around the corner. The group decorated Main Street on Nov. 20, meeting at the fire house at 10 a.m. to make the big wreath of live greens for the Town Hall and preparing the small wreaths and candy canes for hanging.

Santa will arrive at 6 p.m. on Dec. 2 with the lighting of the

new little tree on Main Street, and the decorating of the tree with bows by the children. Then, back to the fire house for pictures with Santa, presents and refreshments.

Moving right along, we will be painting Easter eggs at our Jan. 10, 2006 meeting. Come and join in on the fun!

— Ardith Coulson, secretary

Market vendors mark good year in 2005

The Locke Farmer's Market finished its third season with dedicated vendors and customers supporting local growers and the Fire Department. The recipients of the WIC coupons were able to take advantage of local produce as were the participants in the Senior Nutrition Program. Donations were received from local businesses and we thank



The First National Bank of Groton, Hatfield's Garage, The Kilborne Agency and Clark's Transmission for their support. Our vendors showcased local products from wine to crafts to produce and baked goods.

The community supported the local Food Pantry with donations of food, school supplies and paper products which were collected at the Market. Thanks also to the Fire Department for the use of their building and for being there every Saturday morning to make coffee, donuts and breakfast sandwiches.

News from the Code Enforcement Officer

Here is some important information from our code enforcer:

BUILDING PERMITS

Another year has passed and I'm sure plans are already under way for many new projects for the upcoming year. Please remember to include the Code Enforcement Office early on in your planning stage to avoid any delays when it's time to start your project. I am always happy to answer questions and help people through the permit process,

especially when it may involve other agencies.

JUNK VEHICLES

Please remember that the Town Code prohibits more than one unregistered vehicle located on a property. I will be addressing any violations over the next few months.

EXPIRED PERMITS

I have a large number of permits that I have not completed the necessary inspections on, received the required electrical

inspections for and therefore have not closed out with the required Certificate of Occupancy/Compliance. This can have significant effects on the property owner should they attempt to refinance or sell the property or have an insurance claim. If you have not closed out a permit you obtained over the past four years, please contact me over the next several months.

FIRE INSPECTIONS

As required by New York State I

will be conducting fire inspections of all businesses. Please contact me to set up a date and time.

OFFICE HOURS

I will generally be in Town on Monday Mornings, but this is subject to change so ALL appointments and inspections must be verified by phone. Please feel free to call or contact me anytime. My cell is (315) 730-6327 and e-mail is mwel-lauer@yahoo.com.

Fire anniversary remembered, quilts explored

On May 21, 2005, we had out “Remembering the April 10, 1075 Locke Fire” meeting. We greatly appreciate and thank Stuart Powers (who was Locke Fire Chief at that time) for showing the slides that he took on that day. Pat and Charlie Dillon told of the horrible experience on that day, when they lost their home and all belongings. Stella and Covert Alvord also told

of losing Alvord’s garage and all on Main Street. Allan Hargett (Moravia Fire Dept. member) told of the firefighting. Others that were in town on that day told their remembrances — with 32 people attending and enjoying refreshments and conversation.



On Nov. 19, a Locke History meeting was held, with Betsy Hargett doing a program on “Underground Railroad Quilts.” Those that attended brought a favorite Christmas decoration with family history, to share. Holidays bring history in the making. May you all have happy ones. — Your Locke Historian, Esther Thornton

FINCH SETS MEETING

State Assemblyman Gary Finch invites all Locke residents to a meeting from 9-10 a.m. on December 3 at the Locke Town Hall. He will be available to listen to concerns and answer questions.

A BLOOMING GOOD SUMMER

Gardens were planted with flowers grown by Future Farmers of America at the Moravia Central School.

Lots of watering was done to keep the gardens growing this year because of the drought and everyone worked hard to keep things looking good. Thanks to all the dedicated gardeners. The Town looked good because of you.

Fairground buildings get extreme makeover

The buildings at the Locke Fairgrounds are constantly being improved, thanks to the work of the fire department and other community groups who’ve helped fund the improvements.

Most recently, projects have included installing permanent bath-

room facilities and finishing the interiors of both buildings.

The small building will now have drywall and insulation and a full kitchen so that it can be heated for banquets and other functions, said Renee O’Donnell, Locke Fire Department president. The bigger building will be blacktopped and

concreted inside.

The fire department hopes to have the projects completed by the time of the fair next spring!

The fire department also hopes to soon be purchasing a new engine to replace an old one, thanks to a grant!

Funds available to help with heating bills

Cayuga County will receive about 40 percent more aid this winter to help residents with heating costs through the HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program).

Locke residents can apply for help with heating bills or weatherization assistance. Apply for HEAP grants through Catholic Charities at 253-

2222 or the weatherization program by calling the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency at 255-1703, ext. 152.

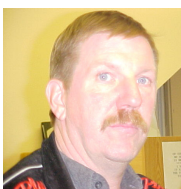
Seniors who are having difficulty paying fuel bills or need furnace repairs should call the Cayuga County Office for the Aging at 253-1226.

The American Red Cross and local

utility companies can help residents with fuel bills through Project Share. Contact the Red Cross at 252-9596.

There are also grants, low-interest loans, and cost sharing programs to assist eligible households with home repairs in some localities. For further information, call Homsite Development Corporation at 253-8451.

New highway superintendent looking forward to the job



Pete Compton, Locke’s new Highway Superintendent, has worked at the

highway department for the last three years and was formerly the parts manager and assistant service manager at Walters Chevrolet.

One of his first priorities will be finishing the water system. He said the water system meters will be a priority, explaining that although the installation is nearly

complete, residents won’t be billed until 2007, to give the town time to see how much water residents are using.

Town of Locke News

Newsletter editor: Kathy Hovis

For story ideas or suggestions, call 497-9184

or e-mail khovis@scccinternet.com



Be sure to visit our wonderful Web site at <http://www.co.cayuga.ny.us/locke/>

The site contains meeting information, town news and lots of great historical photos.

Thanks to Webmaster Jon Velazquez for all of his work. If you'd like to contact him, e-mail jv16@cornell.edu.

Did you know that you can make donations or get help from the food pantry right here in Locke? Emergency food and other necessities are stored in the Milan Baptist Church. Call 497-1874 if you need assistance or wish to donate. Not only food is needed. Paper products, school supplies and personal products are also needed. With heating prices on the rise and gas so expensive, we need to help out our neighbors!

Important town numbers

TOWN BOARD

Paul Palmer, supervisor	497-1253
Ken James, deputy supervisor	497-3135
Charlie Mott	497-0899
Julie Parker	497-3953
Jean James	497-3135

PLANNING BOARD

Sara Friend, chairwoman 497-3735
Members: Mara Engelman, Jody Ketchell, Thane Benson, Jack Corcoran (alternate)

BOARD OF APPEALS

Wayne Clarke, chairman 497-2858
Members: Jody Ketchell, Sandy Ketola, Fay Hacker, Ken Devine, Ralph Crandall (alternate)

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT

Members: Judy Benoit, Michael Hingston, Jim Naylor

ASSESSOR

Fitts Appraisal Company 1-800-548-8842

TOWN OFFICIALS

Andrew Fusco, town attorney 253-5555
Natalie Hingston, clerk & water collector 497-9338
703 Route 38; Hours: Monday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday 3-

7 p.m. & Friday, 9 a.m. to 2p.m..

Philip Franklin, Justice	497-0893
Mike Wellauer, code enforcer	730-6327

Hours: Monday mornings, but call for appointment. Other times by appointment. E-mail is mwellauer@yahoo.com

Carl Collier, dog control	253-4367
Ed Sharpsteen, highway superintendent & water district maintenance	497-1560

Julie Henry, fair housing officer	497-3953
Esther Thornton, historian	497-0537

COMMUNITY MEETINGS CALENDAR

(monthly unless otherwise noted)

Town Board: Second Thursday, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Planning Board: First Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Locke Seniors: Third Tuesday, noon, Town Hall. Bring a dish to pass and table service.

L.O.C.K.E. Group: Second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

Board of Appeals: Third Thursday, 7 p.m.

Locke Community Development: Meets as needed,

Contact Jean James at 497-3135 for more information.