

# HOME TOWN NEWS

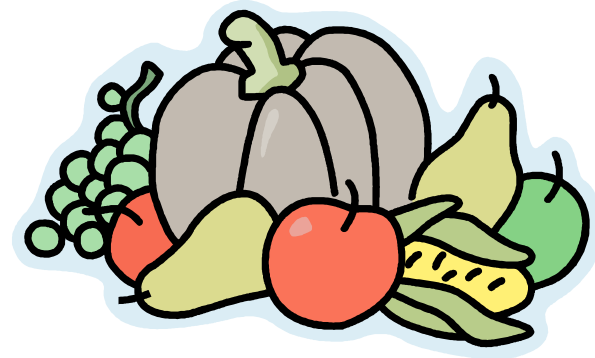
ALPLAUS, NEW YORK 12008

October 2010

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## A Rich Harvest In 2010



## Autumn Chores and Rewards



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## On the Hill

A week ago we needed rain and many were praying for it. The storm last Thursday and Friday dropped six inches on Hill Street by the gauge in Judy's flower garden. This should bring us back to normal for 2010.

I can report to those who watched me digging in the front yard through out September that I repaired a cellar drain just in time for the six inch rain storm and we had a dry cellar through the storm. Mission accomplished.

I offer the bit below from The Old Farmer's Almanac for your entertainment. They do say that a pretty normal winter is in store for us. Please note the several notices for October activities in Alplaus.- we have a busy month ahead.....AWH

## 2011 Long-Range Weather Forecast for Schenectady, New York

(from *The Old Farmer's Almanac*)

**OCTOBER 2010:** temperature 48° (avg.); precipitation 3" (0.5" below avg.); **Oct 1-8:** Rainy periods; **Oct 9-14:** Sunny, turning warm; **Oct 15-19:** Rain, then sunny; **Oct 20-26:** Rain and snow showers, cold; **Oct 27-31:** Sunny, cool.

**NOVEMBER 2010:** temperature 34.5 ° (4 ° above avg. north, 1 ° below south); precipitation 4" (2" above avg. north, 1" below south); **Nov 1-4:** Rain and snow, then sunny, cold; **Nov 5-7:** Showers, seasonable; **Nov 8-16:** Periods of rain and snow, chilly; **Nov 17-25:** Rain and snow, then sunny, cool; **Nov 26-30:** Showers, mild.

### Annual Weather Summary: November 2010 to October 2011

Winter will be milder than normal across the north but colder across the south, with the coldest periods in early and mid-December, early and mid-January, and mid-February. Precipitation will be below normal, with near- to below-normal snowfall. The snowiest periods will be in late December, mid- and late January, mid- to late February, and early March.

April and May will be cooler and drier than normal.

Summer temperatures will be near normal in New York and cooler than normal elsewhere, with below-normal rainfall. The hottest periods will be in late June and early and late July.

September and October will be cooler than normal, with precipitation above normal in the north and below normal in the south.

## *Alplaus Ladies Auxiliary*

*by Jill Batson*

*The first event for our fall season was a covered dish dinner on September 27th. The food was delicious and we were busy planning our future events.*

*The fall season is upon us and the Auxiliary will be baking cookies, pies and other goodies for our Election Day bake sale on 11/2/10. So stop by and vote and grab a sweet treat! Along with the fall comes the thought of the Holiday season, let us do your baking this year! Our Annual Cookie Sale will*

*be held 12/11/10 at the Post Office. Watch the Home Town News for more details to follow in the November issue.*

*Our next meeting will be held on October 25th @ 7pm. We will be discussing this years community outreach programs among many other events on our agenda. Please consider joining us! For information on the Auxiliary call Margaret @ 399-7682.*



## ALPLAUS FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Mike Sheppeck

National Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9; the theme for the week is "*Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With*". Learn more at: [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/smoke\\_alarms2010.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/smoke_alarms2010.shtm)

Alplaus FD will be joining East Glenville FD at their firehouse, 433 Saratoga Road, for an Open House on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4 PM. You may also see Alplaus firefighters in your neighborhood that week to distribute materials for the Annual Fund Drive. Feel free to stop and say hello.

The Fire District will be holding the public hearing on the proposed budget for 2011 on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, at the firehouse. In addition, anyone interested in running for a spot on the Board of Fire Commissioners must submit a signed petition, due in November, in order to be on the ballot in December.

The Alplaus Run-Around will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, with the first race beginning at 10 AM. The Fire Company Halloween Party and Parade is also on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1 AM.

This past Friday saw some excitement for the AFD when the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole dropped more than six inches of rain on the way by and caused some flooding along the Mohawk River. Debris and high water conspired to help six boats and some large sections of dock break loose near the Lighthouse Restaurant and head downstream. The fire departments on the river participate in a Water Task Force, which mobilized boats from Scotia, Schenectady, Niskayuna and Alplaus to attempt to intercept the wayward craft before they went over the low head dam at lock 7, while of course minimizing risk to life and limb.

Also, a problem was where to put them once we had them, since predictions at that time were 3-5 more feet before the river crested. Alplaus teamed up with Niskayuna District #2's airboat to push two of the biggest, still faithfully moored at their slips, out of the current to safety in the old Erie Canal channel behind the Yacht Club. Other rescuers were struggling in their effort to tow most of the remaining strays back against the current all the way to the Marina. A Canal Corp. barge called to assist got as far as the Rexford Bridge and had to turn back because it could not fit under the bridgework. The last of the runaways had been tied off to one of the channel buoys, the airboats ended up going back out for it. Amazingly, all the stray boats were eventually recovered safely, although perhaps a little the worse for wear. Scotia FD's boat did unfortunately sustain some damage in the process. The hot dry summer and rainfall deficit worked in our favor and helped to minimize the flooding.



**Alplaus FD airboat WR224 pushing a section of dock and two runaway boats to safety.**

## 30th Alplaus Run-Around

*by Andy Gilpin*

Fall is a great time of year in our little village. With the weather changing, the days are getting a little shorter, and the leaves are starting to change; Alplaus is a really beautiful place to live this time of year. One of the great things that take place every year is the Annual Run-Around 1 mile Fun Run and 5K. This great community race is now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year and this year it will be Saturday, October 30th, starting at 10 am.

Everyone is welcome and it is a great time to come out to meet and reconnect with your neighbors and friends. We also need help with the day of the Race if anyone is interested in volunteering. If you are willing to help the day of the Race please contact Andy Gilpin at 518-366-2675 or email [gilp18@hotmail.com](mailto:gilp18@hotmail.com). Also, the Annual Alplaus Fire Department Halloween Party will be on the same day and will start at 1 pm. You can check the Alplaus website, [www.alplaus.org](http://www.alplaus.org), and the post office for more information.

Finally, I wanted to extend to anyone in the community who is interested in serving with the Alplaus Residents Association Board. The Board is still looking for interested people who would like to help and support the community of Alplaus. The Board meets approximately 7 times a year and the time demand for serving on the Board isn't too much. Thank you ahead of time for your support and volunteerism. If you're interested please email me at [gilp18@hotmail.com](mailto:gilp18@hotmail.com).

### Race Registration Form:

**Free T-Shirt  
With  
Registration**

**Saturday October 30, 2010 10 a.m.**

**Start and finish at the Alplaus Fire House**

- Events:** One Mile Fun Run. Course: Flat  
5K (3.1 miles) Run. Course: Mostly flat with one short moderate grade.
- Start Times:** Registration- 9:30 am **10 a.m.** – One-Mile Fun Run **10:30 a.m.** – 5K Race
- Entry Fee:** \$5 for the One-Mile Fun Run, \$10 for the 5K Race
- Awards:** One-Mile Fun Run: Place ribbons and Prizes to top 3 males/females in each age group. Ribbons for all competitors.  
5K Race: Place ribbons to top 3 males/females in each age group; special awards to overall first male/female and to first male/female from the Alplaus Fire District. No duplicate awards.
- Divisions:** 5K: Age 13 and under; 14-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60 and over.  
One Mile: Age 12 and under; Age 13 and over.
- Refreshments:** Cider, Coffee and Doughnuts
- Sponsors:** The Alplaus Residents Association and Alplaus Fire Company

## Notes from the Alplaus Church

I had a couple of strange bird things happen lately. Not that the birds were strange - well, maybe one was. I looked out the back of parsonage toward the edge of the property where I've been clearing brush and saw this funny, fat bird about the size of a chicken with a really long pointy beak. It would take a step, and then rock back and forth as though it were really unsteady on its feet. It took me about ten minutes with the bird books to identify it - a woodcock! They usually stay in the brush and are very hard to spot.



It was right after that that I loaded a bird identification app on my iPhone called iBird Plus. The next time I spot a strange bird, maybe I can figure out what it is much quicker.

Then this week I was working in the office and heard an irregular tapping. I got up to see if anyone was at the back door of the church. As I passed the air conditioner fitted into a window using particle board in place of those side curtain expanders, a bird flew away. I'm not sure if that woodpecker was a seeker trying to come to church or if he really thought there'd be bugs in glued-together wood chips.


But back to what this column's supposed to be about. What's going on at the Alplaus Church? At first I was tempted to say "Not much." But then I thought about it again. Besides the obvious Sunday School (9:15 am) and worship (10:15 am), there are Scouts, choir rehearsal and the bridge group on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. A Cub Scout den will be meeting there soon. There's the knitting group on Thursday afternoons who currently have made over 150 hats which we will be taking to City Mission to give away soon. And there are the once a month things like church meetings, the United Methodist Women's group, and the Community Luncheon.

Still, that means the building is not being used a lot of the time. If you can think of more uses for our building, other groups who might meet there, let us know by calling 399-6000.

There is one other activity coming up this month - a **ROAST BEEF DINNER**. I've sent Art a poster to include in the HTN this month if he will. C'mon and share a meal with your neighbors!

*Pastor Coil*

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# ROAST BEEF DINNER

Alplaus United Methodist Church  
Brookside Avenue

*Saturday, October 16*  
*5:00 – 7:00 pm*

**Prices:**

Adults (age 13 and over)	\$9.00
Children (age 5 through 12)	\$5.00
Under age 5	FREE

In order that we prepare enough food,  
please reserve your places by calling 399-  
6000 or e-mailing [umccarl@nycap.rr.com](mailto:umccarl@nycap.rr.com)  
by the 9<sup>th</sup>.

## The Alplaus Bridge

by Cliff Hayes

During the last century there were at least two significant improvements to the Alplaus Bridge spanning the creek on Alplaus Avenue in the village.

According to newspaper accounts, the first occurred in the spring of 1914 when a dam at Vischer Ferry failed due to a rapid thaw after a snowy winter causing major flooding along the Mohawk River destroying many bridges including Freemans Bridge. Flooding also occurred in the Alplaus Creek which washed away (presumably) the wooden Alplaus Bridge. Coincidentally, a contract for a new steel bridge had been issued in November of 1913 at a Glenville town board meeting with Schenectady County and was in the process of preparing for erection at the time of the flood. The contractor doing the work was Groton Bridge Company. After assessing the damage created by the flood, it was determined to raise the new bridge 5 feet higher above the normal water line than the previous old bridge. Work on the new bridge was expedited and by early summer the new bridge was useable.



Saved by the rubble within a dumpster headed for a landfill, Ben Gordon of Alplaus Avenue salvaged an 8 X 10 photograph of the new steel bridge. The only inscription on the picture was "Alplaus Bridge, early 1900's". Most likely the picture was taken about 1915 showing two boats making headway toward the river on a cruise and a farmer with a horse drawn carriage crossing the bridge proceeding to the village, maybe to the Jacob Boyce grocery store.

The bridge mentioned above began to degrade in the 1960's and the state department of public works during inspections of many bridges at the time decided to replace Alplaus Bridge. When the plans to replace the bridge were presented at a public meeting, the Alplaus community responded with a rebuttal. Initial plans called for locating the bridge to the north of the existing bridge maintaining traffic during the construction of the new bridge necessitating the removal of many elm and maple trees also taking some existing land from property owners.

An Alplaus committee was formed, chaired by Bob Culver, called "Save the Trees" and had a petition signed by more than 250 of the 310 registered voters in the village proper stating, —"We, the undersigned, would be willing to accept the inconvenience of using an alternate route through Alplaus during the removal of the old Alplaus bridge and the construction of a replacement". After many meetings, Alplaus wins and the new bridge would be located in the same location as the old bridge thereby saving the trees. In May 1968, the Bruno Trimpoli General Construction Co. was awarded the \$293,356 contract to replace the bridge. During the bridge replacement, the AFD garaged one of the fire trucks at John Zachar's on Mohawk Avenue providing for emergencies west of the creek.

On October 20, 1969, Benjamin Foot (westside), Ida Dillman (eastside) and Rev. Dilio Mariotti of the Alplaus Church performed the ribbon-cutting to officially open the new bridge.

# Halloween Specials!



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