

# HOME TOWN NEWS

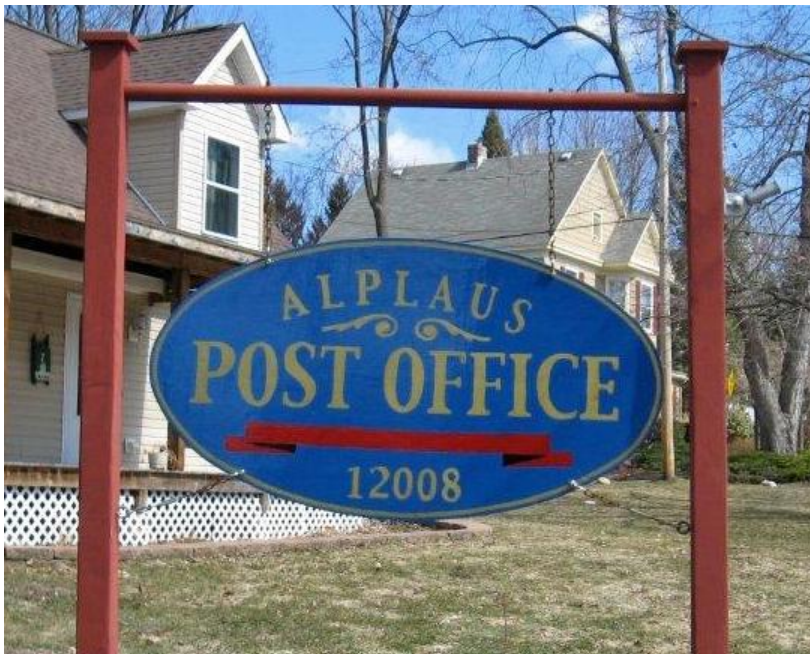
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## APO Sign Repainted - Thanks, Leanne Goldberg!



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## On the Hill

The cast changes but the play goes on. There have always been special people in Alplaus over the 45 years Judy and I have lived here who step up and do things that we all see need to be done but don't quite find the time and energy to do them. The latest case in point is the repainted APO sign done by Leanne Goldberg. Thanks, Leanne.

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in Alplaus.....AWH

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## 2011 Alplaus Outstanding Citizen Award

*by Gray Watkins*

This year's recipient grew up on a dairy farm in rural Maine, attending a one room schoolhouse where his teacher was his Great-Aunt Nellie. He really did walk a mile to school, up hill each way, every day. After attending Thornton Academy in Saco, Maine he went to the University of Maine, receiving a BS in Engineering Physics in 1960.

He came to this area that June to work for GE at KAPL. He was lucky enough to meet a fiery redhead on a canoe trip in the Adirondacks in 1963. Judy is still paddling the front of his canoe more than 45 years later. This year's outstanding citizen and his wife settled on Hill Street in Alplaus in 1966 after finding a nice house and meeting the next door neighbors, Mario and Muriel, who continue to be very good friends to this day.

This year's winner was the oldest of three sons, so he and Judy followed the same pattern, having three sons named after the

Saints: John, James and Mark. Their boys almost always acted like Saints and have now grown and moved away, living in Florida and Illinois. He has two grand sons: Joseph and Aaron. He retired from KAPL in 1999 and continues to live in Alplaus, where his boys consider him to be on vacation every day.

We present the Outstanding Citizen Award, however, for contributions to the community. This year's winner has been the editor, publisher, and chief cook and bottle washer responsible for publishing the Home Town News for more than 11 years. He has also had the pleasure of serving as a Fire Commissioner for Glenville Fire District #2 (Alplaus) for the past 7 years.

So it was with great pleasure that I presented this year's Outstanding Citizen Award to Art Harris at the March 24th annual meeting of the ARA.

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## July 4<sup>th</sup> in Alplaus

*by Mary Breslin*

It's that time of year again when the Alplaus Community begins planning for July 4<sup>th</sup> activities. As many of you know, Alplaus celebrates Independence Day in style with an ecumenical church service, kid's carnival, block party, and parade. It's a great party and great chance to visit with all your neighbors - because everyone is there!

Lots of people are needed to make these fun-filled activities happen and you can help too! Since you'll already be coming to the activities, why not spend an hour or two helping out. We need people cooking burgers and fries in the cook shack for the block party and the parade. We need people to help block traffic for the parade. We need people to help line up the parade entrants. And we need people, floats, and music in the parade!!!

Volunteer slots are available for Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 10 am for set-up and running through 10 pm for cook shack and clean-up. Helpers are needed July 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 am and running through 3 pm. Please contact Mary Breslin at 399-0354 or [mbreslin002@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mbreslin002@nycap.rr.com) if we can count on you for an hour or two. Just let us know what day and time you can be available and we'll find a job for you!



## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS


*by Mike Sheppeck, AFD HISTORIAN*

As many of you are aware, this will be the first year since joining the Fire Company in 2001 that I will not be coordinating the many activities and details necessary to produce the annual Fourth of July festivities, however the time has come for me to pass the baton. Mary Breslin will be stepping into this role and giving the marching orders this year. Thanks to everyone for your support over the past years and be sure to lend a hand and help Mary make this year the best one yet.

Congratulations to Art Harris as Alplaus Citizen of the Year, and thank you Art for your service to the Fire Company and Glenville Fire District #2.



**Art Harris receives his award from Gray Watkins at the Annual ARA meeting.**




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## *Alplaus Ladies Auxiliary*

*by Margaret Rockwell*

The Ladies of the Auxiliary met this past Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> for their monthly meeting. We have many plans in motion for the upcoming year. Our next event is on Sunday May 1 from 2-4. It will be an afternoon tea. Invitations are currently being distributed throughout Alplaus by our members and it is open to any Lady in Alplaus. If you did not receive one personally, you may not have been home at the time of delivery and can pick one up in the post office or in Samuel's. Don't forget to r.s.v.p.

Plans have been set in motion for the Annual Garage sale and Flea Market taking place on June 4. Call to reserve your table or place your home on the official map that the Auxiliary distributes so

your home sale doesn't get missed! Pat Beaver 399-0468. This event brings a lot of people from outside our town and is a good opportunity to show our community spirit.

Keep watching for more details on the Paddling for a Cure event scheduled for July.

Thomas Corners Fire Company is having a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Palm Sunday from 8am to noon. All you can eat breakfast buffet. \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 years old.

Join us for a meeting. See what we are about. We meet the fourth Monday of every month until after May, and then resume our meetings in September.

## **News from the ARA Board**

The annual Alplaus Residents Association meeting held on March 24<sup>th</sup> went very well and was well attended by residents and local officials. This is our annual meeting to review 2010 ARA events and happenings, elect officers for the 2011 ARA Board, collect membership dues for the ARA, announce upcoming events, and discuss issues that are important to the residents

Susan Savage, Chair of the county board, gave updates on the Yates Farm town house development project and the waterfront development adjacent to Stan Kivort's property. She reported that both of these projects are stalled and no movement was anticipated in the near future. She also reported that Target would be beginning construction on their new store in the old Kmart location on Route 50 this year. Demolition would begin in the spring and summer, and should be completed by the fall.

Several members of the Glenville Town Board; Chris Koetzle, Gina Wierzbowski, and Sid Ramotar, were in attendance to answer questions and give residents an update on Glenville Town matters. Tom Coppola, town Public Works Director and Highway Superintendent told us how things were progressing with the addition of more Clifton Park users to the Alplaus sewer system. Tom reported that the sewer taxes have gone down over the past three years and will continue to go down as more users are added to the system. He and members of his staff answered questions from residents at the meeting.

Chris Koetzle reported that bulk pick-up and leaf

removal will happen again this year. He told residents to check the Town website for more information. Chris said that NYS DOT is planning roadwork on Maple Avenue at the Alplaus Avenue intersection this year. The objective is to straighten the curve a bit and to add a traffic light to the intersection.

Upcoming construction work on Glenridge Road is a NYS DOT project that entails widening the road under the railroad bridges and reducing the grade of the hill going east toward route 146. This is a major project and would mean some detours and road closures over the next two years. It was mentioned that some of the detours would mean that traffic would need to be diverted down Bruce Drive for a period of time during the construction.

Chris also said the Town Board is reviewing Interdepartmental charges associated with the sewer project and intends to make a decision on how to handle these charges going forward.

Finally, ARA business affairs were taken care of. The officers for the next year were elected, the Alplaus Citizen of the year was announced, the Ladies Auxiliary and Fire Department reported their events for the year, and several other people reported on successes and events for the year.

The July 3<sup>rd</sup> Block Party and 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade need volunteers this year. If you would like to help with this great event, please let me know by email (see below) or by phone 366-2675

Andy Gilpin gilpinandy@gmail.com

## Alplaus Bird Line

*by Shawna Thompson*

Several snowfalls have happened since last month, suggesting the Red Wing Blackbirds came north too early! But many other birds have returned recently as well. If you look closely you can almost tell the Robins that wintered over from those that went south. The locals are a little thinner, and a little drabber. The well-fed southerners were in for a big shock as they were forced to weather several snowstorms after their return.

Bluebirds have been seen by many people. Again, some are the hardy ones that spent the winter and others are the returning birds that left the cold behind. Canada Geese are returning in their V-shaped formations, and ducks of many species are showing up.

Margaret Rockwell saw a Wood Duck on the river last week. If you have never seen one of these gorgeous birds you may want to go look around on the riverbank. A Wood Ducky in spring plumage is a very lucky find. The only duck more beautiful is a male Green Winged Teal in his spring finery. They live around here too, so look carefully and you may spot one.

For 11 of the last 13 years Cedar Wax Wings have come to eat crabapples off Kathy Boyle's trees at this time of year. They arrived on Sunday, April 3rd; right on time.

Those of you who get your mail at the Post Office may have noticed the pair of English Sparrows that moved into the bird house over the door. This has been their nesting spot for several years now. Be prepared for lots of flying around once they have young.

The bird song filling the air now is different that what we heard over the winter. There is a lot of twittering, calling, and song in the air. The birds are ready to find mates, build nests and raise young. If you haven't cleaned out last-year's birdhouses yet, you better do it quickly.

Remove any old nesting material and wash the house out with a weak (5%) bleach solution. Birds often have mites, and small critters that may use the house in the winter can bring in fleas. Rinse THOROUGHLY, dry it out, and return it to the yard. When activity starts, enjoy the show and contact the Bird Line at 399-0490 or swanalaka@aol.com.

## APO News

*by Kathy Boyle*

A **BIG** thank you to the ARA and to Leanne Goldberg for all her hard work on the Alplaus Post Office sign. **It looks GRRREAT!!!!!!**

Several changes to USPS prices go into effect April 17, 2011: The cost for domestic First-Class Mail letters weighing up to 1 oz. will not change; it will remain at 44 cents. The cost for mail pieces over one ounce will increase, as will prices in other mailing categories described here.

What is changing?

- Additional ounces (after the first ounce) for First Class mail will increase from 17 to 20 cents.
- Postcard postage will increase by 1 cent, going from 28 cents to 29 cents.
- Letters to Canada or Mexico weighing up to 1 oz. will increase to 80 cents.
- Prices for mailing services such as Standard Mail, Periodicals, Package Services and Extra Services will change.

What isn't changing?

- Postage for First-Class Mail letters up to 1 oz remains at 44 cents.
- One ounce letter postage to international destinations other than Canada or Mexico remains at 98 cents.
- Express Mail and Priority Mail are not affected.

For additional pricing information go to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

## Notes from the Alplaus Church

Ah, spring! A time of rejuvenation, new growth, an energy spurt. A time of looking forward to new life as the birds return, begin the mating rituals, and build nests. A time when bulb and root type flowers begin to poke their heads above the earth (or snowbanks). Now if it would only get here. As I write this we are dodging what was supposed to be a significant nor'easter and spring seems to be holding back from fully arriving. It'd better hurry up - my golf league is scheduled to start in only three weeks.



Significantly, I've just downloaded a new app for my iPhone which will allow me to video and analyze my golf swing. I can draw lines on the video to see if my head is staying still, my hips are swaying appropriately; my elbow is staying straight, and so on. So that I know what I should be looking for, there are instructional videos from Tiger Woods.

Since we are still in the season of Lent and looking forward to a late Easter, the idea of analyzing the rest of my life to see if I'm "doing it right," and having guidelines to help me judge is appealing. I don't think there's an iPhone app for that, though. Fortunately I have my religion to guide me, to provide a moral compass; I have the church to help me analyze and interpret. While it is possible to have a moral philosophy and set of ethical standards without religion, it is not possible to have a religion without moral standards and ethics built in. The nice thing about religion is that scripture reading and church attendance serve to keep reminding me, giving me feedback on how I'm doing just as the flight of the golf ball when I hit it gives me a kind of feedback on the quality of my swing.

Now that we're into April, there are several events coming up at the church to inform you about.

- The 7:30 pm Wednesday evening Lenten worship series is still going on for a few more weeks.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 9, 10:00-11:30. We will not be using real eggs, but there will be prizes and games for the kids to enjoy. Please bring all the kids you can round up.
- The Community Luncheon will be at noon on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Just bring a small dish of something to share and join the fun. The only "religious" part of the luncheon is the grace.
- Our Palm/Passion Sunday service is 10:15 am April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- On Good Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm, we offer a service in connection with Burnt Hills United Methodist. The service will center around a reader's theater titled "*Gathering at Golgotha*."
- The Easter Sunrise service will be at 7:00 am. If it's a sunny morning the sun streaming through the stained glass window behind the altar is gorgeous.
- Easter Sunday worship is at 10:15 am.

Application materials for summer camps at Skye Farm have arrived. Please encourage kids to go. Scholarship money is available. Contact Barb Trask.

Happy Easter. And don't snitch the ears off your kids' chocolate bunnies (unless they're dark chocolate; then send them to me!).

*Pastor Carl*

## Alplaus History Bits

by Cliff Hayes

The author writing the biography of Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., the most famous prior resident (1947-1951) and Fire Company member of Alplaus, has started a weekly blog of the subject which can be found at <http://writingkurtvonnegut.com/>. An interesting read leading up to the release of the book scheduled for November 2011 completing a five year project.

Some recent Alplaus videos can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/> inserting 'Alplaus' in the search box. One shows the promotion of the Fire Company, another someone recorded a portion of the 2007 Fourth of July parade.

Selected local headlines down through the years:

From the **Oswego Daily Times**-July 18, 1891

### **BURGLARY**

SCHENECTADY, N.Y.—July 18—The safe in the office of J. Hannigan & Co., hay shippers, at Alplaus, three miles from this city was cracked last night by burglars. Eighty dollars' worth of postage stamps and \$700 worth of checks, payable to the firm, were stolen. (*Note: Industrial Handling Service now occupies this building*).

From the **Albany Evening Journal**-Oct 17, 1911

### **TUBERCULOSIS PAVILION**

Schenectady, Oct. 17—The patients of the tuberculosis hospital at the Madison station, near Alplaus have been enjoying the autumn weather in their tents on the hillside. It is expected that the new buildings will be ready for occupancy before the severe weather begins. Three pavilions and a large house for the nurses' home and executive quarters are being built. At the present 30 patients are living in tents and the house that later will be the farmer's residence is used for dining room and other such purposes. There are a few very ill patients at the hospital and some are almost cured. (*Note: The hospital was located on the grounds of Conifer Park and Madison station was the trolley stop on Glenridge Road*).

From the **Schenectady Gazette**-May 14, 1915

### **SCARLET FEVER CAUSES ALPLAUS CHURCH CLOSING**

On account of the prevalence of scarlet fever in the neighborhood, the services of the Union M. E. church and Sunday school at the Alplaus School House will be omitted Sunday, being resumed the following Sunday. (*Note: Church services were held at the one level [2 levels later] school on the hill at that time as construction of the church was started that year*).

From the **Fulton Patriot**-Feb 18, 1920

### **BRONZE MEDAL FOR BOY SCOUT**

A bronze honor medal has been awarded Scout Raymond S. Brinkman of Alplaus, N.Y., by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America for his act of saving the life of Jeanette Rosenstock.

This is one of the highest awards which any scout can receive for life saving. Scout Brinkman is the first scout under the Schenectady Boy Scout council to receive this honor.

Miss Rosenstock was rescued by the scout when she was skating on the Mohawk River near her home at Alplaus. She fell through the ice into about 30 feet of water, and although she was able to keep her head above the water she was rapidly sinking, owing to the heavy woolen clothing she had on. Through the prompt action of Scout Brinkman, the girl was rescued and taken to her home. (*Note: Scout Brinkman was raised on Bath Street and a member of the Schenectady council since the Alplaus troop wasn't organized until later.* )

# Passport Photos & Lamination

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