

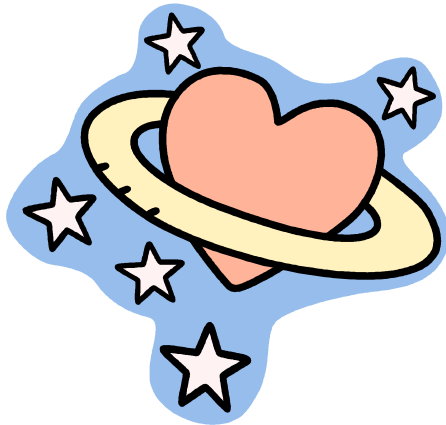
HOME TOWN NEWS

ALPLAUS, NEW YORK 12008

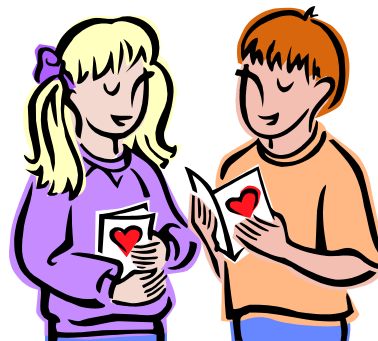
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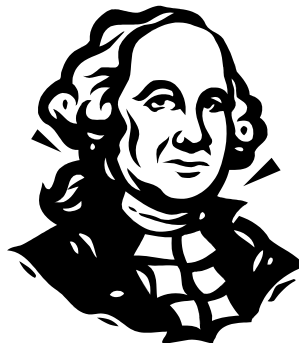
No. 2



Happy Valentine's Day to all!



President's Day Feb. 21st



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Home Town News underwritten by
Alplaus Volunteer Fire Company

On the Hill

Winter weather continues to overwhelm us with a storm (or two) each week and long icicles every where you look. Many of us have ice dams along the eaves and water dripping - not the picture post card of a New York up state winter wonderland. On the plus side, it's nice to see neighbors helping each other with clearing driveways, cars, and fire hydrants of all the snow. And the snow sports have been great.

Take a good look at the Alplaus Fire Department News article below - Your neighbor the firefighter was called to respond to an emergency situation 346 times in 2010. They deserve our respect and support. And they especially would appreciate the help of new members for their all volunteer department. Stop by the firestation to say hello and learn more about volunteering.

Also note the business notice by Samuel's on page 5. Stop by to say hi and enjoy a hot drink and refreshment on a cold winter's day.....AWH



ALPLAUS FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

ANNUAL INSTALLATION & AWARDS BANQUET

by *Mike Sheppeck*, AFD HISTORIAN

The Alplaus Volunteer Fire Company held the Annual Installation and Awards Banquet this past Saturday, February 5th, at the Edison Club.

The fire officers for this year were reported to you last issue. Among the highlights of the evening, Don Cartwright was awarded Firematic Firefighter of the Year, and Chris Breslin was named Social Firefighter of the Year.

A number of others were recognized with awards, including Jim Palmer & Explorer Nick Abel. Drew Coppola, Don Cartwright, Gary Hastings & Kurt Haushalter received their 25 Year pins, and Mike Cuoco a 50 Year pin. Andimo Coppola [25 years] & Bob Culver [50 years] were not able to be present to receive their pins.

Join me in heartfelt congratulations to each of them for their respective noteworthy achievements and dedicated service to the community.

On the Board of Fire Commissioners, Jim Palmer was elected to a five-year term, and Dan Mahl was appointed to a one-year term to fill a vacancy. Mary Breslin was appointed Deputy Treasurer, and Kathy Casey was named District Secretary. They join Treasurer Shawna Thompson, Chairman Andy Gilpin, and Commissioners Don Cartwright & Mike Sheppeck to complete the Board.

AFD saw another record year for call volume, finishing with 346 responses in 2010. This is an increase of 40 calls over the previous high, set just last year. Think about it. Almost once every day one of your neighbors needs someone to help them. Become a vital part of the team of volunteers that struggles to be there when you need them. They cannot do it without you.

Alplaus Ladies Auxiliary

by Jill Batson

The Ladies met for our Holiday Party at the Turf in Scotia on January 19th. Even though it was bitter cold and snowing outside, the company inside was warm and welcoming. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and a nice evening out with friends.

We would like to thank our community for another successful Chili Challenge held at the firehouse on 1/28. It was nice to see so many people come out on a cold winter evening and take part in this event.

Congratulations to all of our winners!

Best Chili: Tamesa Casella
 First Runner-up: Gail Shakeshaft
 Second Runner-up: Amelia Esposito
 Third Runner-up: Shelly Dodge

We will be resuming our regularly scheduled meetings on February 28th to plan all of our upcoming spring and summer events. This is typically our busiest time of year and would love to see some new faces and hands to help!

For more information on joining the Auxiliary contact Margaret @ 399-7682

Alplaus Bird Line

by Shawna Thompson

Congratulations to Jessica Evans, who is now a member of the Bald Eagle Club! OK, maybe there isn't an official club, but on January 17, she saw her first Bald Eagle. It was walking on the ice out on the river, and she was so excited she whipped off an e-mail right away. Eagles appear around here fairly regularly, so if you want to be a member of the club too, just keep paying attention.

Muriel Ciancetta was surprised to see a Carolina Wren in her yard, now that it's the northern ones migrate south to here, the most northern range of their winter habitat. The one Muriel saw was seeking refuge in the bird feeder. Not just on a perch, he climbed right through the hole and sat IN the birdfeeder, on top of all the seed!

Ellen and Dave of Hill Street have seen the flock of hardy Bluebirds that wintered over once again. They seem to be staying in the

vicinity of Glen Cliff School. They probably aren't any happier about this winter than we are.

This weather is hard on everyone, whether you are a human shoveling, shoveling, shoveling, or a bird looking for food. Water is just as big a problem as food is at this time of year, so a pan of water set out would be very helpful. Try to make it available at the times your feeder is busiest, since the water will freeze quickly. The birds seem to do OK if it is warm enough to thaw and create puddles, but often those puddles are on the road and very salty.

I heard a rumor about a large grey goose sighting and a penguin, but until I can verify it, I won't talk about it further here. If you have a bird sighting, contact the Bird Line at 399-0490 or swanalaka@aol.com and share.

News from the ARA Board

Greetings from the Alplaus Residents Association Board during this wonderful winter season. The weather is cold and snowy, and this is a quiet time for our little hamlet. With all of this snow and ice, don't forget to help the Fire Department and dig out fire hydrants that might be near your home. Also, with the warm up over the weekend and a lot of snow and ice load on our roofs, don't forget to shovel off your low angle roofs to help prevent a collapse.

The ARA had a meeting on January 26th to talk about hamlet issues and plan for the coming year. This is a great time to take stock and to begin getting ready for the events that we will have throughout the year. In the next issue of the Hometown News I will attempt to list the events for the year, so that everyone can put them on their calendars.

A few things of note are:

The Annual ARA Meeting will be held on **March 24th at 7 pm at the Firehouse**. This is our annual meeting to review 2010 ARA events and happenings, select the slate of officers for the 2011 ARA Board, collect membership dues for the ARA, announce upcoming events, discuss issues that are important to the residents and have a question and answer session with a panel of Town of Glenville Board members and Schenectady County officials.

Letters are being sent to all of the Town Board members, Susan Savage, Ray Gillan of Metroplex, Town of Glenville Commissioner of Public Works and others. Hopefully by next month's Hometown News we will have some RSVP's to announce the panel.

The membership dues for the ARA are \$3 for individuals and \$5 for family. The dues are used throughout the year to support

ARA efforts and are a big part of helping us host the various events and activities that make our little hamlet so great.

During the last ARA Meeting, we discussed the sewer project and the promise by Town officials of seeing a reduction in our sewer bill as other users came on-line. Currently, there have been additional users added (Glencliff School and Clifton Park home owners), but we have not seen a reduction in our bills. Further, Town of Glenville received a grant related to the sewer project and a very favorable interest rate on the loan. With all of these considerations, we should have seen a reduction in the bill, but currently the tax amount has not gone down. The ARA is working to resolve this issue and Barb Casey has put in numerous requests to the Town regarding this issue. We will continue to push this issue and continue to make inquiries in hopes of getting the Town to follow through on reducing our sewer bills.

Volunteer with the ARA Board

The ARA Board could always use more people to help and volunteer their time. We have openings on the Board and if you would like to provide support to the Board and its activities throughout the year, please contact me to sign up. This is a great way to support our little community and provide much needed help with activities, events and other happenings around town.

Thank you and I hope that everyone had a safe and joyous Holiday Season.

Andy Gilpin
gilpinandy@gmail.com

Joe Bena wins 600th coaching win

by Cliff Hayes

From the HTN February 2000, "Joe has done it again!" Our neighbor Joe Bena, at the time wrestling coach for Niskayuna HS, had exceeded the mark of 374 for coaching wins.

Well, he is still coaching, now at Duanesburg, and recently was featured in the Gazette 1-24-11 by winning his 600th.

Congratulations to Joe!

Happy Valentine's Day from Samuel's!

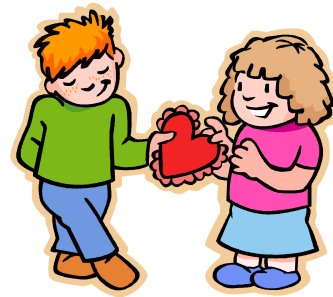
A special thanks to all of our Alplaus neighbors for your patronage.

We have expanded our menu to include soups and paninis as well as breakfast sandwiches, homemade bakery items, and extensive selections of espresso drinks.

Order your Valentine's Day treats today:

Heart shaped cakes, Cheesecakes, Pies.....and more.

Hope to see you all soon.



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Tuesday - Friday	7-5
Saturday	8-3

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Notes from the Alplaus Church

With Lent coming up next month (Ash Wednesday is March 9th), you may be thinking about the “traditional” practice of giving up something for Lent. While in Manhattan recently attending to our son who had his tonsils out at age 28, I was asked by a young Hindu woman about the Christian practice of fasting during Lent. I explained that when most Christians give up something for Lent, it’s often not food.



Some people tie this practice in with their New Year’s resolutions to give up smoking, or better watch their diet - in other words, give up something for their own benefit. But the prophet Isaiah castigates the people of Israel for such practices (Isaiah 58:3-5). Fasting is not an exercise to make you look good in your neighbor’s eyes, not done so that you can feel all sanctimonious and righteous. Better, he says, is to give up something by sharing it with others. Share food, clothing, your home, freedom, justice. This is an acceptable fasting, when your motivation is not self-serving but other-serving.

So I was thinking about sharing within our community. Another thing I noticed in walking around Manhattan was churches who share a space. One church a few blocks from Times Square had posted the worship times of six congregations who were sharing the building. The Alplaus church doesn’t have other congregations asking to share our space, but we do share with a Scout troop, a bridge club, and the knitting group. We host a monthly community luncheon at which you are invited to share food. We’ve offered to share our very accessible space and kitchen with people in the community who need a meeting space, or a larger room for a family gathering, or a Tupperware party, whatever. This general, open invitation hasn’t worked very well. So I specifically invite the ARA to hold their next meeting at the church.

During this cold and snowy February, there are not a lot of “extra” things going on at the church. Tuesday the 8th at noon is the community luncheon. Sunday the 13th is Boy Scout Sunday which all are welcome to attend.

Stay warm, watch out for ice, and think about what you might share for lent.

Pastor Coil

Creation of the Alplaus Sewer District #1

by Cliff Hayes

It was early spring in the year of 1934 at a Glenville Town meeting, held in Scotia during that time; health officer Treder reported a sanitary sewer spill into the storm sewer at the base of Butterfield Avenue near 2nd Street. A health officer was part of the town board during those days to monitor conditions at the Glenridge Sanitarium and the Schenectady County home among other responsibilities including possible pollution of Alplaus Creek. It was determined by Treder to obtain the services of the NYS health department after conditions had not improved by late summer.

It wasn't until June 1935 that the NYS Health Engineer stated the conditions still had not improved and, after a lengthy speech to the town board, recommended a sewer district be established. Glenville supervisor Buys suggested to Ira Tripp, representing Alplaus at the meeting, to canvas the Alplaus residents on this matter. The Alplaus Civic Improvement Association, similar to the ARA during that time, appointed Messrs. Pitt, Lockrow & Jones as representatives as a voice to the people for this problem. They proposed the sewer district would be east the Schenectady Railway Tracks (Bruce Drive). Mr. Lockrow visited the 36 property owners to explain the situation and received positive results from most home owners.

The NYS Engineer then stated at a later meeting the sewer district could possibly be funded by the Works Public Administration, a form of stimulus resource during those times. He roughly estimated the cost on an 8" sewer would be 35 cents a foot, \$1.00 a cubic yard for excavation. Supervisor Buys suggested that the TERA engineers go ahead and make plans and get estimated costs. TERA was an emergency relief association during the depression years. Engineer Maxwell of the TERA at a July meeting indicated the proposed project would be of approximately \$18,000, the Federal Government (WPA) to pay \$15,500 and the residents of the district \$2,600, plus \$125 for legal expense of which the town board accepted. Supervisor Buys then suggested while a petition be circulated in the village of Alplaus of all property owners the sewer district plans be sent to Albany for approval which was the case and had been forwarded to Washington for Federal approval.

On August 15, 1935 a special meeting at Alplaus Fire Station provided the following information: according to the report of the assessors, total number of property owners, 66, total assessed valuation of the district \$140,450. The petition was signed by 40 residents, representing an assessed valuation of \$82,250, which is considerable above the required 51%. Supervisor Buys is authorized to petition the Comptroller of the State of New York to make an investigation as to the desirability of creating a proposed sewer district at Alplaus.

At another special town board meeting in late October 1935, Supervisor Buys announced the WPA Alplaus sewer project had been released by the State and Federal authorities and those operations are to begin at once and he needed the necessary authority from the Board to carry out the Town's part of the agreement. In early November, the director of the WPA for Schenectady County, 27 men started work and eventually the project would employ 58 men. The project is estimated to cost \$17,665.

On March 21, 1936, the Schenectady Gazette reported "*work on the Alplaus sewer project, suspended because of the exhaustion of funds Thursday, will be resumed Monday, Colonel Denis C. Dempsey, county WPA manager, announced last night. He received word from Albany yesterday that a supplementary appropriation has been made to continue the work.*" On May 7th, the Gazette stated from a town board meeting "*the WPA project underway for several months is slated for completion today.*"

In the summer of 1936, the town board debated on how the Alplaus Sewer District should be assessed. Engineer Maxwell advised a total of 6,045 feet, and 74 Y's in the sewer district. After considerable discussion, it was determined it be assessed on the basis of service available to each lot in the district. Documentation in detail of the sewer district was filed in the office of the town clerk and published as a legal notice in the local newspaper.

My thanks to Joan Szablewski, Glenville town historian, for providing archived town minutes to review and research information.

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