

HOME TOWN NEWS

ALPLAUS, NEW YORK 12008

January 2011

Vol. 135

No. 1



HEAT UP JANUARY WITH OUR CHILI CHALLENGE

SPONSORED BY
THE LADIES AUXILIARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011
AT THE ALPLAUS FIREHOUSE
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Donation: Adults: \$6; Children under 12: \$3

Call Margaret at 399-7682 for more details.
Sign up at the post office to enter your chili in the contest.

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Home Town News underwritten by
Alplaus Volunteer Fire Company

On the Hill

Winter made an early start with a colder than normal December. Now some snow has come and gone. January will warm up with the 5th Annual Alplaus Chili Challenge. Mark your calendars for Friday, January 28th for the Annual Alplaus Chili Challenge. There is an urgent need for Chili Cooks - see the entry form on page 7 of this Home Town News for details.

Stay warm, be careful on the ice and snow out doors, and be prepared for the next winter storm. Also, please make sure the nearest fire hydrant is cleared after each storm.....AWH

Alplaus Ladies Auxiliary

by Jill Batson

Welcome **2011!** We hope this New Year brings health and happiness to all! We started out the month of December with our **Holiday Cookie Sale**. We are pleased to announce, that once again, it was a great success. We were sold out of cookies with in a few hours! We were able to deliver 12 boxes of cookies and goodies to our home bound neighbors in need of some holiday cheer.

We would like to send out a **HUGE** thank you to our friends in the village that contributed to our adopted family. We were able to make this Christmas very special for a family in need. The Mom was very grateful to us and she appreciates everything we did for her and her two little ones.

Mark your calendars, Friday, January 28th is the date for this year's **Chili Challenge**, dig out

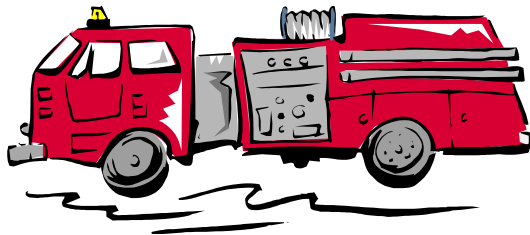
your recipes and come join the fun. We are looking for "Chili makers."



Come out and sample some chili and vote for your favorite recipe! Donations of \$6 for an adult or \$3 for a child 12 and under are greatly

appreciated. Entry forms can be found at the Post Office or contact Margaret @ 399-7682.

We would love to see some new faces in 2011. Please consider joining the Auxiliary. We meet every fourth Monday of month at the Alplaus Firehouse @7pm. Make a difference in your community, become a part of it!





ALPLAUS FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by *Mike Sheppeck*

The Alplaus Volunteer Fire Company has held their annual elections, results of which are itemized below. Those elected will be formally installed at the Annual Installation and Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 5th, at the Edison Club.

Social Officers for 2011 are:

President	Alex Coppola
Vice President	Gary Hastings
Treasurer	Joe Beaver
Financial Secretary	Carl Nappi
Recording Secretary	Jim Palmer
Corresponding Secretary	Scott Runkel
Statistical Secretary	Jim Palmer
Historian	Mike Sheppeck
Trustee	Tom Kiernan

Firematic Officers for 2011 are:

Chief	Andy Coppola
Assistant Chief	Kathleen Sheppeck
Captain	Chris Breslin
Captain	Nate Boutwell
Captain-Fire Police	Kurt Haushalter
Lieutenant	Scott Runkel

In the Fire District election, the referendum to move away from the elected Treasurer model to the appointed model was passed overwhelmingly. As you may recall there were no declared candidates for the two open Commissioner spots. Jim Palmer was elected by write-in for the five-year term. The write-in for the second vacancy ended in a tie between Joan Mullins and Art Lyman.

I understand that Jim has agreed to serve, and that both Joan & Art have declined. The Board will need to appoint someone to fill the open position.

If interested, please contact any of the sitting Commissioners, Andy Gilpin, Don Cartwright or myself.

Alplaus Bird Line

by *Shawna Thompson*

Young Christopher Sparano has been bird watching for a year now and still enjoys this hobby. He looks birds up himself in the bird guide, and is teaching his parents how to identify the different visitors. Recently I saw Christopher in Samuel's and he told me he thinks the Junco's are very beautiful and the Goldfinches are his favorite birds. How refreshing to see the neighborhood kids get excited about nature!

Stella Blue Casella and her family were surprised one morning to find an adult Great Horned Owl



trapped in their batting cage! It had been frigid cold overnight and they were worried about him. A neighbor helped raise up the netting to the batting cage, and with a little coaxing the owl finally flew off. Tamisa has some great pictures that really show off the impressive legs and talons on this giant owl.

Jessica Evans was confused about an almost white hawk frequenting her yard. She was unable to make a good ID from any of her

bird books. As it turns out, "Whitey" has lived in Alplaus for many years, and is a Red Tail Hawk. He seems to get paler every year, but the tell-tale red color is still visible on the



top of his tail. There is a lot of variation in individuals of this species, but if you look very closely, all Red Tails have a speckled band across their chest. It's very obvious in some birds, and very hard to see in others, like "Whitey".

With the recent snowfall it has been interesting to see all the footprints in the snow. The large feet of Canada Geese leave webbed prints, and when the birds take flight, their wings leave impressions in the snow alongside their running feet. A flock of turkeys left lots of prints around a stand of trees... I guess they think it's safe to come out now that Thanksgiving and Christmas are over.

If you see anything interesting, call the Bird Line at 399-0490 or e-mail me at swanalaka@aol.com.



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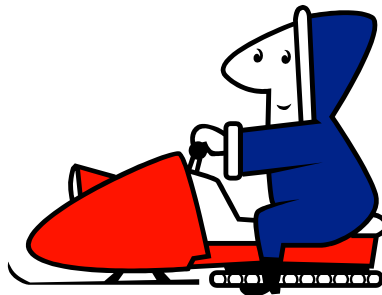
Notes from the Alplaus Church

Whew! I'm glad (or sad) that's over! Is that how you feel after Christmas? I admit to a little gladness after December 25th. After four services and the Vedder wedding in a stretch of eight days, I can use a little slowing of the pace, a little time to regroup. On the other hand, I am NOT ready to see valentines and notices of President's Day sales. I need a little time to re-order my life into the season of snow, of more indoor activities, of reading by the fire, of getting my exercise on the Wii, of building anticipation of spring.

And we have a whole new year named twenty-eleven in which to live a new cycle of life. Maybe we can do some new things, or do some things better. Maybe our state and national legislatures can learn to cooperate to make our lives better instead of each fighting only for their own. Maybe I do believe in miracles!

In the life of the church, January is the month for planning out our new year, setting a new budget, electing new leadership. What will we, can we do differently this year to reach out to the community, to build community spirit and cohesiveness, to offer ourselves and our facilities for the betterment not of the church but of Alplaus? How can we open our doors and reach outside our walls? This is the challenge of this season.

As far as planned activities for the month of January, we look forward to the



knitting group meeting again and making things for those in need. We look forward to hosting the Community Luncheon at noon on the 11th when folks gather from all around to share food and fellowship.

We look forward to something a little different, too. Worship on the 16th will feature my a cappella gospel quartet. The service will be built around music by the quartet with the theme that the way a quartet works - blending different voices and talents into a harmonious accomplishment - is a good model for a church or a community. All are welcome to join us for an hour or so at 10:15.

Pastor Carl



From Alplaus, NY 12008

<http://www.alplaus.org/>

Happy New Year to All

&

A healthy 2011



Sch'dy County Farm on Hetcheltown Road

at Compost Facility, barn demolished in 2010

(picture taken 1973 courtesy of Glenville History Center)

Your History Group



HOT! HOT! HOT!

5th Annual

CHILI CHALLENGE

CALLING ALL CHILI COOKS

**Come join us for a Night of Fun
and Good Eating**

**SPONSORED BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY
OF THE ALPLAUS FIRE COMPANY**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011

AT THE ALPLAUS FIRE HOUSE

5:30 - 7:00 PM

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

***FILL OUT THIS ENTRY FORM AND RETURN IT BY
MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011 TO:**

***THE ALPLAUS LADIES AUXILIARY, P.O. BOX 43, ALPLAUS, NY 12008**

***MAKE A LARGE CROCK POT OF YOUR FAVORITE CHILI**

***BRING YOUR OWN CONDIMENTS FOR YOUR CHILI**

(CHEESE, CHILIS, SOUR CREAM,.....)

***CALL MARGARET ROCKWELL, 399-7682, WITH ANY QUESTIONS**

*Wishing You a Happy
and
Healthy New Year*



Mail Center USA

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