

HOME TOWN NEWS

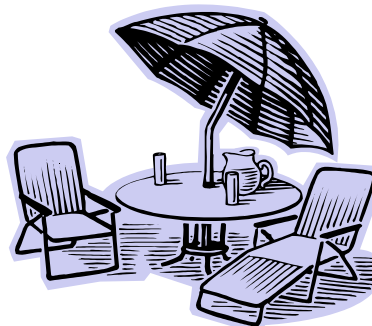
ALPLAUS, NEW YORK 12008

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Relax in the Shade



July 4th in Alplaus

by Mary Breslin

As you start to make your summer plans, remember to block out the first weekend in July for Independence Day festivities in Alplaus. As you already know, it's the biggest and best July 4th celebration around.

As most of you know, Alplaus celebrates with an ecumenical church service, kid's carnival, block party, and parade. It's a great party and great chance to meet all your neighbors.

Within the next month, formal parade invitations will be sent to those who have participated in the past, but new parade entries are always welcome. Now's the time to start talking to your schools, sports clubs, music groups, businesses, or any other civic group about participating in this year's parade. You could even gather your children and their friends and build a float of your own honoring America's birthday. If you'd like an application, contact Mary Breslin at 399-0354 or mbreslin002@nycap.rr.com. Let's make this the biggest, most exciting parade in years.

What's inside

On the Hill.....	2
"Beat Cancer with a Paddle".....	2
Alplaus Fire Department News.....	3
Alplaus Ladies Auxiliary.....	3
Alplaus Residents Association News.....	3
Alplaus Bird Line.....	4
Concert at AUMC.....	4
Notes from the Alplaus Church.....	5
Campership Scholarships.....	5
Yates Cemetery.....	6
4th of July Parade Entry Form.....	7

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Home Town News underwritten by
Alplaus Volunteer Fire Company

On the Hill

Heavy snow storms last winter, ice dams on the roof, a wet and late spring, storms and floods country-wide as the snow melted in March and April - May is very much welcomed this year. No matter how you slice it, mowing your lawn is never as hard as clearing a foot of heavy snow from your walks and driveway in mid-winter.

Alplaus is definitely a summer place - there will be a lot of things to do right here in town this summer, starting with the Village Flea Market and Garage Sale on June 4th, then the Fourth of July celebration, and Paddling for a Cure on July 17th. And that leaves two more months of summer fun.

Let us all take time to honor our mothers this month. Their influence on our lives cannot be over estimated nor fully appreciated. And remember with special thanks this Memorial Day 2011 those who have defended our nation and our families with their lives.....AWH

“Beat Cancer with a Paddle” Team Competition

As you may recall at the 2010 Paddling for a Cure, the Alplaus Fire Company barely squeaked past Rexford and won the team competition. This year the stakes are higher and the competition will be HOT-HOT-HOT as companies raise money to put out the cancer fire. Local fire companies have been invited to form teams at Paddling for a Cure, and the team that raises the most money in donations to the American Cancer Society will win a wonderful prize: A day at a beautiful Adirondack Lake camp complete with paddling, boating, swimming and a provided cook-out. And, a trophy! Last year the prize was bragging rights, this year it's so much more than that.

The team competition is open to anyone that wants to form a team, not just fire companies. Members of the team collect pledges and donations, and the team with the most money wins. So find some like-minded paddlers, think up a fun name (if you wish) and start collecting. If you're on the winning team, we'll see you at the celebration cook-out!

Local author Russell Dunn has generously offered to donate a part of the price of his new book to the American Cancer Society. Paddling in the Capital Region is the theme of Russell's latest book, and it is a wonderful resource for places to go with your canoe or kayak, right in your own backyard. Copies are available at the Post Office and will be signed by the author at Paddling for a Cure on July 17th.

While you are in the Post Office, check out the orange kayak being raffled off. The Perception Carolina is a great boat for beginners or more experienced paddlers. Tickets are just \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5 or 15 tickets for \$10. Even if you aren't a paddler, it would make a great gift for children, grandchildren, or even your spouse!

Registration forms are available at the Post Office too, so you can sign up to take part in Paddling for a Cure. The first 75 people to register get a special gift, and we already have 5 signed up, so hurry and register! This year promises to be bigger and better than ever, so go ahead and paddle with us, or make a pledge to someone who will be out on the water.

Contact Kathy Boyle (399-0421 or kmcgarr1@nycap.rr.com) or Shawna Thompson (399-0490 or swanalaka@aol.com) for more information.





ALPLAUS FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

BY Mike Shepcock

A few upcoming community and department events:

- May 7-8 Section #2 Rowing Championships, Schenectady Yacht Club.
- May 7 19th Annual Indian Kill Fishing Derby at the Indian Kill Preserve.
- May 7 Mayfair Nursery School Open House.
- May 21 Concert at Alplaus United Methodist Church
- May 25 83rd Annual Scotia-Glenville Memorial Day Parade.
- June 6 Annual Inspection and Old Timers Dinner.

Clearly we will be spread a little thin on the 7th, and maybe a few more days as well. We need new members. Consider submitting your application today.

Alplaus Ladies Auxiliary

by Jill Batson

Happy Spring! That means it's a busy time for the ladies; we have been busy planning all of our upcoming spring and summer events.

The **Annual Flea Market and Garage Sale** will be held on June 4th this year, so start going thru those boxes and closets. It's also a great time to do some spring clean up and make a little cash! The cook shack will be open for breakfast and lunch, so stop by for a quick bite to eat and browse around for some bargains.

We have already been reserving tables at the firehouse. If you are interested please contact Pat

@ 399-0468. Once again the auxiliary will be hosting **The Old Timer's Dinner** to be held on June 6th.

We are very pleased to announce that the Ladies Auxiliary will be contributing \$500 toward the **Alplaus Firehouse Scholarship Fund**. This is new to us this year and we look forward to helping kids in our community with the cost of college!

Our next meeting is on May 23rd. This is our last meeting before our summer break. Please feel free to stop by and consider joining us; we are always looking for new members and ideas!

News from the ARA Board

by Andy Gilpin

The hamlet is coming alive with spring flowers, the rain may be slowing down, and we finally might see some sun for a change. This is a wonderful time of year for Alplaus and we are starting to prepare for the summer events.

The largest Alplaus summer events are the **July 4th** celebration and **Paddling for a Cure**. Please keep an eye out in next month's Home Town News for the list of events. In preparation for the events, the ARA could always use volunteers to help with the various activities, so if you would like to help please check out next month's installment for a list of activities and decide where you would like to help.

The ARA is beginning the process of switching web hosting providers for the **Alplaus.org website**. Bud Watson and Jay Goldberg have started the process of switching the information and creating new pages for an updated and new website. Please stay tuned for more information.

The ARA is meeting this month and will be discussing a T-shirt design for this year's 4th of July events. Every year we try to come up with new and interesting designs. If you have any suggestions for a design, please email me your suggestion and/or attach a jpeg of the idea. We are always looking for input from the

residents for this annual tradition.

Thank you and enjoy the great spring weather.

Alplaus Bird Line

by Shawna Thompson

Bluebirds, Catbirds, Wrens, and Robins are all very active in Alplaus with spring activity. Nests are showing up all over the place! Once again the Robins built a nest on the eaves of my screened porch. As much as I enjoy a front row seat watching the young grow up, I miss using my porch because I don't want to disturb the birds. The past couple years we have discouraged nest-building there so we can still use the grill and enjoy the porch. But we went away the "wrong week" and Mama Robin was already settled in and sitting on the nest when we returned from our trip. Oh well. The spring porch clean-up will have to wait.

The very pale Red Tail Hawk is still around and looks even more white than usual. Do birds turn grey in old age like people do? No, they don't, but their color can appear a little less bright in older birds.

The large Pileated Woodpecker has been around and making quite a racket. Flickers,

members of the Woodpecker family, are back, and all this rain has made it easy for them to dig into the ground and find the bugs they like. If you see one busy in the yard, wait till it leaves and then go and look at the holes it made. Flickers stick their beak in the ground and move it all around, leaving obvious holes in their search for ants. The Flicker is fed, the ants are gone, and the lawn is aerated...it's a win-win-win situation.

If you are out on the river and see a large duck-like bird, mostly white with a very dark head, you have spotted a male Common Merganser in breeding plumage. It seems they disappear later in the season, but they have merely molted into non-breeding plumage. Males and females look very similar later in the season, but at this time of year the males are very striking. If you are lucky enough to spot one, call the Bird Line at 399-0490 or e-mail swanalaka@aol.com.

CONCERT

Saturday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m., Alplaus United Methodist Church

A Free Will Offering will be taken

Andrew Calcutt,
Baritone

Bennett Bishop,
Guitar & Baritone



Cindy Pollsen, Soprano,
Guitar & Viola

with **Jim Fry,**
Keyboard & Arranger

Please join us for an evening of inspiring Christian music – from the Classics to Contemporary Anthems

The Alplaus church is handicapped accessible ♦ 1 Brookside Avenue, Alplaus ♦ 518-399-6000 ♦ www.alplausmc.org

Notes from the Alplaus Church

We've been enjoying watching the wildlife on Ericson's pond behind the parsonage. There's a grey heron fishing the edges. The pair of mallards is back. We witnessed the male fighting off a contender for his lady love. And, much to Jack's disgust, the Canada geese are back and messing up his lawn. Whenever we walk by the sliding door to the deck, we check to see who's on the pond. There's a duck, another duck, no goose.



But this morning the mallards and the pair of geese were around on our end of the pond.

Another goose arrived and the fun began. All morning the males were mixing it up and just a few moments ago one male attacked the other. They flew low over the end of the pond, wings beating furiously, right over the heads of the mallards. I could just hear one mallard quacking to the other, "Duck! Duck! Goose!"

OK, I've got the silliness out of my system for a few moments. Let me tell you what's going on at the church this month - not much! We, or at least I, am still recovering from a very busy schedule during Lent and Holy Week. Planning and conducting two services a week (four during Holy Week) kinda wore me down. But now golf season has begun and I can substitute that activity. Maybe even get the kayak in the water this year.

We have a concert scheduled at the church for May 21 at 7:30. I was contacted by a former colleague, Jim Fry, who has formed a new group called *A New Day*, now offering its program to churches and this performance at Alplaus will be their first. Described as stirring Christian music, their repertoire ranges from the classics such as Mendelssohn and Praetorius, Rutter and the King's Singers to contemporary inspirational anthems written by Michael W. Smith, Jaci Velazquez, Mark Schulz and others. The blend of the voices and the unique accompaniments combine to create an atmosphere of worship and thoughtful contemplation along with moments of exciting choral harmony forging wonder and meaning. Some of you may recall Jim Fry as the organist for Burnt Hills UMC. Cost is minimal; a free will offering will be taken.

Here's another opportunity which might interest some of you. On the third Tuesday of most months a small group from the church helps serve dinner at City Mission in Schenectady. We leave about 5:00 pm, serve at about 5:30, and are headed home again by 6:30. It's really not a lot of work and is very rewarding. Our next date is May 17th. Children are welcome, although they should be at least middle school age. Tuesday is also the night they hold a free health clinic and one of our members who is a nurse volunteers there. My wife and I usually eat out afterwards and the juxtaposition of serving those who don't have enough to eat followed by the size of the portions in most restaurants makes us especially cognizant of our blessings. If you'd care to join us in serving, leave a message at the church: 399-6000.

Pastor Coil

Religious-Based Campership Scholarships Available

Summer camps play a valuable role in a child's life. The Alplaus United Methodist Church and the Alplaus Residents Association have a scholarship fund to help finance the attendance at religious-based summer camps for children in our town or who attend the Alplaus United Methodist Church. If your family would like help financing a camp experience for any of your children this summer, please contact Barb Trask at 399-6454 or at dtrask1@nycap.rr.com to receive an application.

Yates Cemetery (1810-1870)

by Cliff Hayes

Tucked away in a remote area on the former land of the Yates mansion/farmhouse on Maple Avenue, once called Alplaus road; is the Yates family cemetery. The cemetery is located on a hill bounded by the CSX rail line approximately a 65' by 85' plot now part of a seven acre parcel owned by the townhouse developers Amedore-Concord, LLC.

Most of the burials are from the Jellis Yates family, Jellis being the son of Joseph who came to the Alplaus area about 1734 and built the mansion acquiring many acres of land in the area. Jellis and his brother, Christopher, both had houses in Schenectady and used the mansion as summer pleasure. According to historical information, Jellis also farmed the many acres surrounding the mansion year-round. Christopher's son, Joseph C. became the first mayor of Schenectady and later Governor of NYS in 1823/24.

Two other families interred are the Brumaghim's who operated a grist mill the first half of the 1800's on the Alplaus kill at the intersection of Hetcheltown and Glenridge roads near the railroad underpass and the road bridge over the creek. The Cooper families who farmed the area adjacent to the mill and probably built the red house, circa 1840, at 10 Hetcheltown Road also have graves in the cemetery.

Much concern has been made of maintenance and survival of the cemetery by historians, preservationists, neighbors, community organizations and others in past years.

In 1945 Lloyd Brinkman, a descendant of one of the first settlers in the Alplaus area, made a report of the condition of the cemetery and listed all the gravestone (16) inscriptions forwarding that information to the Schenectady County Historical Society. In 1950 members of the Glenridge grange with Brinkman conducted some improvement to the cemetery according to a Gazette article. Likewise, John A. Bucci in 1967 recorded his findings on a NYS Historic Trust Statewide Survey form. In 1975, part of Adrienne Karis' work on the national bicentennial, filed an Archeological Site Inventory form to the Division for Historic Preservation NYS Parks and Recreation.

Mark E. Clark of Boy Scout Troop 64 in 1977 was given authorization for an Eagle Scout project to cut

down, remove brush and retrieve any broken gravestone pieces, generally restoring the cemetery. Joseph I. Whittlesey in 1988, a Woodhaven resident, stumbled across the cemetery unbeknown to him at the time. He started an inquiry on what could be done again to restore the graveyard. It wasn't until 10 years later with the help of Whittlesey that Star Scout Josh Meyer of Troop 67 engaged on his Eagle Scout project completing it in 2000.

Meyer appeared to have done a magnificent job by repairing some of the broken stones. With a metal detector, he found the coffin plate of Andrew Yates, son of Jellis, covered by the underbrush and soil. According to Whittlesey's research, Andrew Yates attended the first Glenville Town Board meeting as the town was being formed in 1821. While on summer recess from college in 2002, Meyer returned to accomplish a minor clean-up.

Katherine Delain, an active preservationist, in 2005 wrote an article published in the Gazette and a letter to the Glenville Town Board detesting the townhouse development because of historical nature.

Even though the cemetery is not routinely maintained, it still remains of interest to the individuals who are aware of its existence. According to some communication by the town board, one of the requirements of the townhouse developers will be the responsibility to maintain the graveyard and open it to the public.

The Glenville History Center provided enormous information on the Yates family and the cemetery for this article.



Josh Meyer at the Yates Cemetery 2000



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ALPLAUS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY # 1



2011 ALPLAUS JULY 4th PARADE PARTICIPANT ENTRY FORM

NAME of ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

2011 PARADE PARTICIPATION:

YES We will participate in the 2011 Alplaus Fourth of July Parade!

I hereby agree to indemnify Glenville Fire District #2 against and to hold the district harmless of and from any claims, expense or liability arising out of my participation in the Alplaus 4th of July Parade and related activities. **(signature required)**

Signed: _____

TYPE of ENTRY:

Fire Apparatus Other Emergency Vehicle (**specify**) _____ Vintage Automobile

Unit Number: _____ Year: _____ Make: _____ Driver's Name: _____

Marching Band Civic or Fraternal Organization Ladies Auxiliary

Number of Marchers: _____

Float (**specify**) _____ Other (**specify**) _____

DESCRIPTION for REVIEWING STAND ANNOUNCER:

ENTRY FORM DEADLINE:

Friday, June 24th, 2011

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:

Mary Breslin
11 Mohawk Avenue
Alplaus, New York 12008

Phone: (518) 399-0354 email: alplausparade@gmail.com