

COLONIE INTERNET SAFETY

In March, Supervisor Paula Mahan attended a seminar regarding Internet Safety hosted by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's Office and the Sand Creek Middle School.

The advent of the Internet has opened a new world filled with wonderful learning and entertainment opportunities. However, this new world also provides a gateway for anyone to enter our homes via our computers. Being informed about how to protect ourselves and our children, as well as learning about the risks that are out there, is the best line of defense.

Below are recommendations by the Attorney General's Office that can help you maintain a safe online experience for you and your children:

Secure Ordering Sites

Always make sure that a web site is secure before providing any information like a credit card or a bank account number. Secured web sites use encryption to scramble your information as it is transmitted over the Internet.

Protect Your Personal Data

Many web sites require you to register before entering or ask that you complete questionnaires and surveys. Look for privacy policies that explain why the information requested from you is necessary, how the information will be used, and what steps will be taken to safeguard it. If a privacy policy is not posted, you may want to ask the company these questions and if you do not like the answers you receive, you might consider leaving. Be particularly wary before providing any information that can be used to steal your identity and facilitate fraud, such as your social security number and mother's maiden name.

Watch Your Cookie Crumbs

Some web sites use cookie-files which could potentially allow a web site to track information about your browsing habits to that site. While cookies do not reveal your identity, some privacy advocates have expressed concern that when combined with registration information from web sites, cookies are a potential privacy threat.

Most browsers allow you to either reject cookies or warn you before one is accepted by your computer for storage. Programs are also available that allow you to automate the process of reviewing or rejecting cookies.

Spam®

Be aware that your e-mail address can be captured even if you don't explicitly provide it. Often, spammers use software to "harvest" e-mail addresses from chat rooms, web pages, on-line bulletin boards and newsgroup postings.

Spammers and con artists often use on-line user profiles to help them select their targets. As a result, you may want to be careful about how much information you reveal about yourself.



How Do You Avoid Spam®?

- * Do not respond or retaliate.
- * Inform your ISP.
- * Use filters.
- * Use a forwarding address.

Tips for Parents

You are your child's Internet access provider. Set rules for using cell phones, computers, and all other Internet-ready devices.

Set rules for how much time your children can spend online, what programs they can use, what sites they can visit, and who they can talk to.

What you say online stays online! Teach children to protect their identity and their reputation by keeping personal information (name, age, birth date, location) private.

Explain that anything posted online can be seen by anybody and become a part of their digital footprint for years to come.

Know what is on your computer! Check your computer's Internet history to see what sites have been accessed and what programs have been downloaded. Consider using filtering and monitoring software.

Most importantly, talk to your children about their online experiences and the dangers that are out there. Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if anything makes them uncomfortable.

Remember, if you believe your child is in immediate danger contact your local law enforcement agency.

I would like to thank the Sand Creek Middle School and their Parents Teacher Organization for hosting this important event. I would also like to thank the Attorney General's office for presenting this valuable information and I look forward to my continued work with his office.



Town of Colonie Memorial Town Hall
534 Loudon Road
Newtonville, NY 12128
www.colonie.org

COLONIE LEGAL

by Michael Magguilli, Town Attorney



Signs of Spring

By Percy Bysshe Shelley

*And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.*

They're everywhere. They pop up like dandelions and are about as welcome. It's like cardboard spam on the side of the road.

If you've left your house for any reason in the last month or so, you know what I'm talking about. They spring up this time each year. You see them along roads, on right-of-ways and nailed to utility poles. Unfortunately, they don't go away by themselves. I'm talking about those annoying, illegal and intrusive cardboard advertising signs that hawk virtually every service

and product from roofing, siding, paving and seal coating to part time jobs. To our great misfortune, the list is endless. The proliferation of illegal signs throughout the Town has become a public nuisance.

Fortunately, most of these signs are illegal under our Town Code. In order to address the problem of illegal advertising signs, Supervisor Mahan has instructed the Building Department and my office to adopt a zero tolerance policy to those who post the illegal advertising signs. Supervisor Mahan has requested the Building Department to conduct intensive sweeps throughout the Town to locate, photograph, record and remove the illegal signs. Offending persons and businesses who post these signs will be offered the opportunity to remove the illegal signs voluntarily before action is taken. A letter will be sent to business owners giving them 10 business days to remove the signs. If they fail to respond or to remove the signs within the 10 day grace period, the Town will enforce the ban against illegal signs to the fullest extent of the law.

As for the law, Town Code §190-83 prohibits posting illegal signs. Under the Town Code, if a person or business fails to remove the sign within 10 business days after notice is provided, the Building Department is authorized to remove the illegal sign and charge the Town's cost of removal to the owner of the business that placed the sign.

More importantly, and what will provide the Town with real muscle to enforce the sign law, is that posting illegal signs is also a violation of the New York State Penal Law. Penal Law §145.30, entitled "Unlawfully posting advertisements," provides that a person is guilty of unlawfully posting advertisements when, having no right to do so nor any reasonable ground to believe that he has such right, he or she posts, paints or otherwise affixes to the property of another person any advertisement, poster, notice or other matter designed to benefit a person other than the owner of the property. The best part of the Penal Law statute from a law enforcement point of view is that the law provides that where the sign consists of a commercial advertisement, it is presumed that the vendor of the specified product, service or entertainment so advertised is the person who placed the sign or caused it to be placed upon the property. This provision makes it much easier to enforce the law.

Unlawfully posting advertisements is a Penal Law violation and subjects the offender to a term of up to 15 days in jail (Penal Law §70.15(4)), a fine of up to \$250.00 (Penal Law §80.05), and restitution to the municipality (Penal Law §60.27) for each offense. Each illegal sign is a separate violation of both the Town Code and the Penal Law. Given the number of signs some businesses have posted around the Town, the penalties can be very costly.

The Town is giving fair warning to persons and business who flout the law and post illegal signs. Hopefully, the response of these persons and businesses will be quick, compliant and cooperative. It is time for these illegal, annoying and intrusive signs to come down.

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COLONIE CHRONICLE

July 2009

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TOWN OFFICIALS

Paula A. Mahan
Supervisor

Nancy R. Hernandez
Deputy Supervisor

Robert D. Becker
Councilmember

William E. Carl
Councilmember

Nicole Criscione-Szesnat
Councilmember

J. Brian Hogan
Councilmember

Thomas F. With
Councilmember

Elizabeth DelTorto
Town Clerk

C. Michele Zilgme
Receiver of Taxes

www.colonie.org

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MAHAN



Greetings,

Summer is finally here and we are looking forward to long days full of sunshine! After the December ice storm and what seemed like unending snow this past winter, this summer season is long overdue.

We have many things happening in Colonie in the coming months; this edition of the Colonie Chronicle will help keep you informed of them. There are numerous picnics and concerts, information about the increased funding for Colonie Seniors and updates on the progress of several programs and initiatives.

Last summer we had an article in the Chronicle about the Town's noise ordinance. With the arrival of the summer, also comes the "sounds of summer". Whether it is children playing outside, dogs

barking, music or lawnmowers, our open windows and increased time outside can make these normally unheard noises come to our attention. Due to resident concern, the Supervisor's Office, the Police Department and the Town Attorney's Office have been working diligently to review the effectiveness of our current noise ordinance.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan

Paula A. Mahan
Colonie Town Supervisor

INCREASED FUNDING AND PROGRAMS FOR COLONIE SENIORS

The Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department and Supervisor Paula Mahan are pleased to announce the grant awards for the Elder Programs Initiative. The Elder Programs Initiative is intended to provide new and enhanced programs and services to seniors in the Town of Colonie. The funded programs and services will support seniors in their effort to remain in the community, help to provide independence, reduce isolation, and encourage socialization, physical activity and continued contribution to community life.

The funds to support the EPI were derived through savings achieved in administrative costs. This funding will be used to directly benefit the seniors in the Town.

In total \$55,000 in grants were awarded as part of the EPI. \$18,000 of this has been awarded to various senior clubs and centers in the Town. Based on the guidelines of the Initiative, clubs submitted proposals requesting recreational and educational equipment. Included in the \$18,000, is \$1,500 in funds to offset the cost of the annual Colonie Senior Picnic.

Senior Resources has set aside nearly \$30,000 in funds for the Umbrella of Colonie program, administered by Colonie Senior Services Center. Some of those funds will go toward subsidized memberships for low-income seniors and the other portion will be used to help with the cost of home repairs. The remaining \$7,500 will be used to expand the outreach and assistance programs on the north side of Town provided through the Senior Resources Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crossing Book Sale

Saturdays, June 6 - October 31
9:00AM - 1:00 PM
The Crossings
Proceeds to benefit The Crossings of Colonie Park and the Friends of the William K. Sanford Town Library.

For more information, please contact Kevin Morgan at 438-5587

Farmers' Market at the Crossings

Saturdays, June 6 - October 31
9:00AM - 1:00 PM
The Crossings

For more information, please contact Alison McLean at 783-2729

Concerts at the Crossings

July 16 - The Pipe Kings— Classic Rock
July 23 - Keith Pray - Jazz
July 30 - Holly McCormack - Opera
Aug 6 - Georgie Wonders Orchestra— Big Band Music
Aug 13 - Kristen Caesar's Kidz Theater – Musical Theatre
Aug 20 - The Pipe Kings— Classic Rock
Aug 27 - Jeff Gonzales – Country, Bluegrass, Folk
6:30 PM

For more information, please contact the Youth Bureau at 456-2135

Red Cross Babysitting Course

August 31 - September 3, 2009 (Monday-Thursday)
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Town of Colonie Youth Bureau – East Lounge
1653 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205

For more information, please contact the Youth Bureau at 456-2135

Summer Youth Theatre

August 5 at 7:30 PM
August 6 at 7:30 PM
August 7 at 7:30 PM
August 8 at 2:00 PM.

The Town of Colonie Summer Youth Theatre (CYT) will be performing "Hello Dolly"

All 4 performances will be held at Colonie Central High School auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the door. \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors.

For more information contact the Youth Bureau at 456-2135

Harvest Fest at the Crossings

Sunday, September 20
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

For more information contact the Youth Bureau at 456-2135

LIBRARY RECEIVES CHILDREN'S SERVICES HONORS



On June 10th, 2009 the Upper Hudson Library System recognized the William K. Sanford Library Youth Services staff with Best Program of the Year honors for their Festival of Lights program. The spirit of the program crossed languages, continents, and cultures to bring together people from major ethnic groups to celebrate each other's

cultures and beliefs. The Upper Hudson Library System is a coordinating and support body for the 29 public libraries in the Capital Region.

Then on June 11, library staff woke to find that they had once again been voted the Best Children's Library in the Capital District by the Times Union Annual Reader's Poll (second was the Clifton-Park Halfmoon Library and third was the Bethlehem Library). This was the Youth Services staff's eighth straight year receiving this honor.

COLONIE MEANS BUSINESS

By Supervisor Paula Mahan

In April and May, the first two meetings of the Small Business Advisory Council took place. The Council's primary role will be to disseminate information to and from the small business community and to compile information on small business in the Town of Colonie.

Chairing the SBAC is Diane Conroy-LaCivita, former Town employee and small business owner. Numerous small business owners have joined the SBAC and the first meeting in April had over 40 members attend.

A great deal of attention in economic development is dedicated to the larger commercial entities and too often we forget the true backbone of our economy, the small business. The facts are small businesses are responsible for two out of three new jobs created and they represent nearly 40% of the gross national product.

The Town of Colonie relies on the Council to act as a liaison to Town government, providing input and feedback on the practices and policies of the Town. They will also serve in an advisory capacity to aspiring small business owners, helping to provide guidance and support based on their knowledge and experience.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the Supervisor's office:

Supervisor Paula Mahan
Memorial Town Hall
P.O. Box 508
Newtonville, NY 12128
Colonie@colonie.org

NOEL GEBAUER NAMED GOLF PRO

On April 10, 2009, Supervisor Paula Mahan announced that she was notified by the Northeastern New York Section of the Professional Golfers' Association (NENYPGA) that Town of Colonie Golf Pro Noel Gebauer was named the 2009 NENYPGA Golf Professional of the Year.

The distinction, which was awarded at the Spring Membership Meeting on April 20th, is the highest honor awarded by the PGA Northeastern New York Section. In a letter to Town Hall, Tracie Heighes, Executive Director of the NENYPGA, indicated Noel's contributions and commitment to the game of golf are the primary reasons for this distinction.

"Noel is completely deserving and fitting to earn the section's most coveted award, Golf Professional of the Year," said Heighes. "His level of service to the association has been ongoing for nearly a decade with his election to the Board of Directors in 2001 and his continual progression through the NENY PGA Board's officer chairs."

Gebauer has been the PGA Head Professional at the Town of Colonie Golf Course since 2007 and has previously been recognized by the NENYPGA as Teacher of the Year in 2003 and winning the Horton Smith Award in both 2004 and 2005.

"It is very gratifying to be selected for this award, especially since it comes from my fellow golf professionals and peers," said Gebauer. "This honor is a direct reflection of the successes we have had in improving the golf operations at the Town Course that, without the support of Supervisor Mahan and the Town Board would not be possible."

Noel has also served on the Board of Directors of the NENYPGA, including as President from 2006 to 2008. In 2005, he was named one of America's Top Teachers by Golf Magazine.



ALBANY TULIP QUEEN



For the past 61 years, Albany has crowned a Tulip Queen to serve as a City Ambassador, and help the mayor promote a number of different volunteer projects. This year's winner was Loudonville's own Juliana Hernandez, daughter of Deputy Supervisor Nancy Hernandez and her husband David Hernandez.

Juliana is a senior at the College of St Rose focusing on Public Communications and Spanish. As the President of the Communications Honor Society she organized the AIDS Walk, educational events and fundraised for Relay for Life. She has volunteered for the organization S.O.M.E., Habitat for Humanity, Esperanza (translating for missionaries in Costa Rica) and participated with the Intercultural Leadership Mentor Program at St. Rose. In her spare time Juliana plays guitar, sings, enjoys jogging, traveling and reading. She looks to obtain her Masters in International Affairs to work with a community outreach program with emphasis on immigration issues or as an international reporter using both English and Spanish languages. As a member of the Tulip Queen and Court she wants to work as a team on motivating children to develop confidence and a love for reading.

Juliana will work with the four other members of the court to represent the city of Albany.

CIVILIAN POLICE ACADEMY

On May 19, 2009, the 2009 Civilian Police Academy class held its graduation ceremony. Each year, the Colonie Police Department holds a training class for civilians that can be completed in just 8 weeks. This program is open to Colonie residents who would like to get a better understanding of what our Police Department does on a daily basis.

Chief Steve Heider and Supervisor Paula Mahan both attended the graduation ceremony and congratulated the graduates. In the class this year was Councilman Bob Becker and our Senior Attorney Allegra Edelman.

- CLASS OF 2009 -

Bob Becker	Diana Macy
Lisa Bonomo	Maryann Malinoski
Richard Duval	Rachel Manning
Allegra Edelman	Michael Nolan
Joshua Goebel	Jill Norvik
Diane Goes	Bruce Wilhelm
Amber Gordon-Nolan	Kathleen Wilhelm
Sean Gray	Jonathan Williams
Mary Henion	Joanna Zwink

CPR FOR ALL TOWN EMPLOYEES



In an effort to commemorate the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Month, the first of several CPR training courses for employees took place at Memorial Town Hall on April 29, 2009. These classes are part of an initiative announced by Supervisor Paula Mahan to make CPR Training available for every Town employee in 2009. Supervisor Paula Mahan and Town Clerk Elizabeth DeTorto were among the first employees who received CPR certification from the Colonie Emergency Services Department.

As of June 9th, almost 100 Town employees have completed the CPR courses and over 100 more have signed up to take classes this summer. In addition, several new AED machines have been placed in key areas throughout town buildings in case of an emergency.

Many thanks to EMS Assistant Chief Bevilacqua and his staff for the effort and time put in to providing Town employees with CPR training. This valuable training will benefit not only Town employees, but anyone they come in contact with who may have a cardiac event.

COLONIE PHONE DIRECTORY

Main Line 783-2700
Animal Control 783-2711
Assessor 783-2701
Attorney..... 783-2704
Building..... 783-2706
Civil Service 783-2721
Community Development... 783-2718
Comptroller 783-2708
Emergency Mgmt. & Planning 782-3609
EMS 782-2645
Fire Services 783-2712
General Services..... 783-2726
Historian..... 782-2593
Human Resources..... 783-2720
Justice..... 783-2714
Library..... 458-9274
MIS..... 783-2722
PEDD 783-2741
Police (Non Emergency) 783-2744
Pruyn House 783-1435
Public Works Engineering .. 783-6292
Environmental Svcs. 783-2826
Highway..... 783-2795
Latham Water Dist. 783-2750
Pure Waters 783-2766
Recreation 783-2760
Senior Resources 459-5051
Supervisor..... 783-2728
Tax & Assessments 783-2730
Town Clerk 783-2734
Youth Bureau 456-2135

