



TOWN OF

COLONIE CHRONICLE

Fall 2010

www.colonie.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events	2
Taking Stormwater by Storm	2
One Town, One Book	3
New Paving Program	4
Strong Season at Golf Course	5
Never Discard a Book!	6
Don't Flush Pharmaceuticals	7
Colonie Legal	8

TOWN OFFICIALS

Paula A. Mahan
Supervisor

Nancy R. Hernandez
Deputy Supervisor

Robert D. Becker
Board Member

William E. Carl
Board Member

Daniel J. Dustin
Board Member

Daniel A. Hornick
Board Member

Linda J. Murphy
Board Member

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MAHAN



Greetings,

After the more relaxed pace of summer, we return to our busy lives with a renewed sense of purpose. Children return to school, adults settle in to more demanding routines, and we ready our homes for winter. Fall is always a good time to make progress on projects old and new.

So it is here in the Town of Colonie. We continue to make progress in the area of planning and economic development. One focus is on redevelopment of abandoned or underutilized sites. The new Fresh Market Commons (at the intersection of Route 9 and Route 155) is a great example of our vision for redevelopment in our Town.

In addition, we have begun the process of reviewing the Town's 2005 Comprehensive Plan to assess Colonie's progress in meeting its goals.

We are interested in your comments and feedback as we move through this process. For more information and meeting dates, go to www.colonie.org and click on "Comprehensive Plan Public Comment Opportunity" under "News."

I am also happy to report good progress over the summer with our new five-year paving plan. Work will continue through October. To date, 32 Town roads (either whole roads or portions of roads) have been repaved. We have also completed 35 stormwater management projects. You can read more about the paving plan in this issue.

The Farmers' Market at the Crossings has had another banner year, once again generating more than \$10,000 that will be used to further beautify The Crossings. The Market has also become a popular Saturday gathering place for residents, giving us all a new sort of Town square.

So I find it fitting that the Farmers' Market has grown to encompass other community efforts, and in this issue you can read more about two of them. The "Book Nook" sells donated books at extremely reasonable prices to benefit both The Crossings and the Town Library. And on September 25, the Market will host a pet adoption clinic with the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society.

Finally, in this issue you can read about many important events on our fall calendar including Harvest Fest on September 26, Halloween at The Crossings on October 30, and a Hazardous Household Waste Disposal Day on October 6 – all free to Town residents.

You might also want to note the many free events connected to "One Town, One Book," as the Library invites us all to read and discuss a new history of the Pilgrims. Happy reading!

Finally, I hope you will all have a full and productive fall season.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan
Colonie Town Supervisor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farmer's Market at the Crossings

Saturdays through October 30
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The Crossings

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturdays through September 25
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The Crossings

(Proceeds benefit the Town Library and The Crossings)
For info, call 605-5739)

Harvest Fest

(Free)

September 26
Noon – 5:00 p.m. – The Crossings
For info, call the Youth Bureau, 456-2135

One Town One Book Events

(Free)

October 5 – October 28
For info, call the Town Library, at 810-0314 or 458-9274

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day

October 6
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Colonie Town Landfill
(By appointment only. See story Page 4.)

Halloween at The Crossings

(Free)

October 30
10:00 a.m. – Noon
The Crossings

(Costume parade, music, spooky stories, refreshments)
For info call the Youth Bureau, 456-2135



Sign of the Times: This sign outside Memorial Town Hall now welcomes Colonie servicemen and women home from overseas duty. Pictured here are the first three names to be displayed on the sign. "This sign is a small way to let our soldiers know that, as a community, we honor their service and welcome them back to Colonie," says Town Supervisor Paula Mahan. The sign was fabricated by the Town's Sign Shop. To have a soldier welcomed home on the sign, call the Supervisor's Office at 783-2728.

TOWN WORKS TO TAKE STORMWATER BY STORM

As part of our ongoing Stormwater Management Program, the Public Works Department is actively working with developers to ensure that all new construction projects within the Town of Colonie include plans to prevent stormwater runoff from increasing beyond existing levels.

Currently, that means many new projects are incorporating stormwater retention ponds to capture runoff so it can be released more slowly, avoiding flash flooding and erosion.

"Stormwater mitigation is big responsibility for the Town, and one we take very seriously," says Supervisor Paula A. Mahan. "Ultimately, the purity of our water is at stake. We must do everything we can to protect it from the contaminants contained in uncontrolled runoff."

Recent regulations from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation stipulate that stormwater runoff from new projects not exceed pre-project levels. For the future, it is anticipated DEC may require that runoff levels actually be *decreased* from pre-development levels.

"What we're likely to see for new development in the future is fewer large retention ponds in favor of smaller ones and other runoff mitigation strategies such as rain gardens," said Jack Cunningham, the Town's Commissioner of Public Works. Rain gardens are shallow depressions planted with deep-rooted plants that can absorb runoff, he explained.

The Town is also required by DEC to monitor 20 percent of its stormwater outflows every year. "With nearly 1,800 outflows in the Town, that's a big job. It's also one that our new five-year Paving Plan is helping us address," Cunningham added. (See Paving Plan story, page 4.)

Colonie is a member of the Stormwater Coalition of Albany County. Each year, members must report stormwater program activities to DEC. These reports have been submitted by the Coalition as a Joint Annual Report.

You can access the report at www.colonie.org by clicking on "2009 Albany County Stormwater Report," under the "News" section of the homepage. Then, click on the "Annual Report" box in at upper left. Scroll down to find Colonie's reporting section.

The Colonie Chronicle

Paula A. Mahan, Town Supervisor

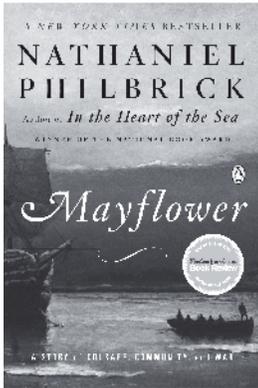
Sara Wiest, Editor

The Colonie Chronicle is published periodically by the Town of Colonie to provide residents with information on Town happenings and services. For more information, call 518-783-2728 or e-mail the editor at: wiests@colonie.org

ONE TOWN, ONE BOOK

In October, the William K. Sanford Town Library will be leading a really big book group, as it conducts its first-ever “One Town One Book” program.

The idea behind “One Town One Book” is simple: a community chooses a book, and then encourages as many people as possible to read and discuss it.



The book, *Mayflower*, by Nathaniel Philbrick, is a National Book Award-winning account of the Pilgrims, their journey from England, and the rigors they faced in establishing the Plymouth Colony.

According to a Booklist review, “. . . piety, wrath, gratitude, duplicity – a panorama of human character and historical portent is on display in Philbrick’s skillful rendering.”

More than 200 copies of *Mayflower* (some in large print and on CD) are now available for checkout. In addition, several “One Town One Book” events will be held throughout October, including a Noon Book Review at the Library on October 7 (12:15 p.m.) and book discussion groups on October 19, 24, and 28.

Other events include a Plimoth Plantation museum presentation on October 5 (7 p.m.); a screening of the History Channel’s *Desperate Crossing: The Untold Story of the Mayflower*, October 12 (6:30 p.m.); a genealogy program, October 23 (2:30 p.m.), and a special Thanksgiving reenactment for teens 13 and older, October 16, 1-7 p.m.

“One Town One Book” is being supported by special legislative funding secured by Assemblyman Bob Reilly.

For more information or to sign up for events, call 810-0314 or 458-9274, or stop by the Library’s Information Desk. Information will also be posted to the Library’s Website at www.colonie.org/library.



Future Officials? Christian Brothers Academy students, from left, Kéron Coffin, Evan Gallitelli, and John Lapishka, and Shaker High School students Anna Flores, Haley Bryk, Alexandra Coyle, and Leah Reidy met Colonie Town Supervisor Paula Mahan and Deputy Supervisor Nancy Hernandez, center, as part of Students in Local Government Day last spring. Students from Colonie Central High School also participated. The event is sponsored each year by the Town of Colonie in cooperation with the three high schools located in the town.

SAVE THESE DATES!

The Town of Colonie will host “Harvest Fest,” on Sunday, September 26 (Noon – 5 p.m.) and a children’s Halloween Party on Saturday, October 30 (10:00 a.m. – Noon). Both are free and will be held at The Crossings.

Designed to appeal to young and old alike, Harvest Fest is one of the best-attended events on the Town of Colonie events calendar. It will feature wagon and pony rides, a petting zoo, face painting, caricatures, a magic show, and craft activities with the Colonie Youth Bureau, Pinebush Preserve, Shaker Heritage Society, and Ashokan Blacksmithing.

There will also be food vendors and a craft show, and vendors from the Farmers’ Market at the Crossings will also be participating.

Music at Harvest Fest will include steel drums (11:30 a.m.) and the classic rock of “Real Radio” (12:30 p.m.) and the “Pipe Kings” (3:00 p.m.). Music for kids is slated for 3:00 p.m.

At the Halloween party, children can march in costume, hear music and spooky stories, and munch on cookies and juice. The schedule includes Andy “Music Man” Morse (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.), a Costume Parade (11:00 – 11:15 a.m.), and a Spooky Storytime presented by William K. Sanford Library’s Children’s Services (11:15 – 11:45 a.m.)

For more information call the Colonie Youth Bureau at 456-2135.

A Cool Task: From left below, workers prepare one of four new rooftop HVAC units hoisted by crane onto the roof of the William K. Sanford Town Library in July. Next, a unit in mid-air. Finally, the largest unit is lowered into place. The new units were made possible in part by a \$661,900 stimulus grant announced by Congressman Paul Tonko last November. Fifteen-year savings from the new library units and a new boiler at the Community Center are expected to be \$447,000.



TOWN BEGINS FIVE-YEAR PAVING PROGRAM

In May, the Town began a five-year, \$10 million paving program to improve the Town's roads and stormwater system.

"This program is necessary in order to bring Colonie's roads back to top working condition," said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan. "It will return the Town to a regularized repaving schedule and allow us to address a number of thorny stormwater issues."

One of the largest towns in the U.S with almost 56 square miles, Colonie has 315 miles of Town road, each of which should be replaced every twelve to fifteen years.

On a rating scale of 5-10, with lowest-rated roads most in need of repair, Colonie now has 146.8 miles of Town roads rated at 7 or below. That means 46.6 percent of all Town roads are in need of repair or nearing the end of their useful life.

According to Commissioner of Public Works Jack Cunningham, "Keeping all our roads in good condition is a constant work in progress. With the new paving program, we will be able to jump-start the process."

Approximately 48 roads are slated for paving through the new program. About 12.25 road miles will be paved during the first year. Roads were selected based on road conditions, usage, proximity to other roads being paved, and extension of road life, as well as cost factors.

Also this year, numerous drainage improvement projects will tackle stormwater drainage, sinkhole repairs, culvert and dry well replacement, and sump pump tie-in repairs.

Road construction projects are posted at www.colonie.org three weeks in advance of the start of work. (See "2010 Paving Plan" under the "News" section on the homepage.)

Paving is being performed by Carver Construction, low bidder on the project.

FALL CLEAN-UP REMINDERS

Residents have one more chance this fall to bring hazardous household waste to the Town Landfill, on October 6 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pre-registration is mandatory and proof of residency is required at the time of disposal. To pre-register, call 800-494-2273 between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

For a list of acceptable/non-acceptable materials go to www.colonie.org (click on "2010 Household Hazardous Waste Dates" under "News") or call the Division of Environmental Services at 783-2827.

While a wide range of hazardous household materials can be accepted, the Town may refuse materials deemed unacceptable to the managing chemist on site.

Residents should also note that November 19 is the last scheduled collection day for the Town's 2010 Yard Waste Recycling Program.

Finally, compost is available free of charge to Town residents at the Town of Colonie Landfill. About 25,000 tons of compost is generated each year from recycled yard waste brought to the Landfill.



No more potholes? Through the Town's new paving program, roads are re-paved using a "Cold in Place" process, which uses materials recycled from the road surface to create a new, pothole-resistant subsurface. At top, pavement scraped from the road will be ground up and mixed with fine gravel in the first vehicle. Next, a conveyor belt carries the aggregate to the truck in the background, where it is mixed with binding chemicals. Second picture, the mixture is laid onto the roadbed, where it forms a subsurface that will set for two weeks before being paved over. Because it is loosely packed and malleable, "Cold in Place" helps reduce potholes caused by cycles of freezing and thawing.



Lost-Ditch Effort? Top, Colonie DPW employee Adam Wands points out an eroded stormwater outflow. The structure has been rebuilt as one of 29 drainage improvement projects underway this year through the Town's new five-year paving and storm-water repair plan. Bottom, the stormwater outflow site after rehab construction was completed. The terrain under the drain has been banked and covered with rock to help deflect and slow the flow of rushing water.



Staying the Course: The Town of Colonie Golf Course is now the busiest golf course in upstate New York . Here, the beautiful fifth green.

TOWN GOLF COURSE ON PACE FOR STRONG SEASON

As we roll through the summer months, the Colonie Town Golf Course is on pace to have another successful campaign. Last season brought over 70,000 rounds to the four nines at the golf course, making the 2009 season the busiest since 1998 and the second best season in course history.

The action this season has been just as brisk, making the Colonie Town Golf Course the busiest golf course in upstate New York.

A few highlights already this season include hosting the Albany County Amateur, the New York State Junior Championship Qualifier, the Northeast New York PGA Assistant Professional Championship, and the Colonie Town Championship.

Upcoming events include the Saul Greenhouse Best Ball Championship on September 19, and the Crosstown Cup Matches on October 9 and 10.

The Colonie Town Golf Course also plays host to a number of golf outings, many of which benefit local charities. In 2009, tournaments held at the course raised over \$85,000 for local causes.

Ongoing projects at the Golf Course include expansion of the driving range tee as well as multiple drainage projects designed to keep the course playable during the inevitable wet periods of the golf season. The range tee expansion will increase the hitting area, allowing more time for the turf to regenerate, giving patrons a better surface to hit from.

According to Superintendent John Risler, he and his staff have received many compliments on the condition of the course throughout the beginning of 2010 and expect the good playing conditions to continue.

The Colonie Town Golf Course will stay open until the snow flies. Says Head Golf Professional Noel Gebauer, “Hopefully, Mother Nature will cooperate, and golf will be played well into the late fall this season.”



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 Management & Planning.....	782-2609
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.....	783-2895
Planning & Economic Development	783-2741
Police (Non Emergency)	783-2811
Pruyn House	783-1435
Public Works Engineering ..	783-6292
Environmental Svcs.	783-2827
Highway.....	783-2795
Latham Water Dist.	783-2750
Pure Waters	783-2766
Recreation	783-2760
Senior Resources	459-5051
Supervisor.....	783-2728
Tax Department	783-2730
Town Clerk.....	783-2734
Youth Bureau	456-2135



NEVER DISCARD A BOOK!

That's the credo of Friends of the Library, whose weekly book sales at The Farmers' Market at The Crossings provide devoted book buyers with hardcover books for \$1.00 and paperbacks for 50 cents.

Proceeds benefit both The Crossings and the William K. Sanford Town Library.

This is the second year the group's Book Nook will be a Farmers' Market fixture, drawing "lots of foot traffic and avid readers" and generating "a nice sense of community," says Friends Vice President Lisa Armao.

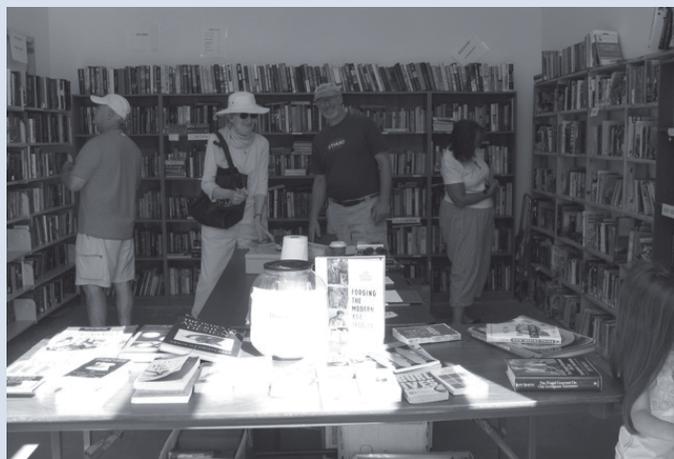
Some people even request the kinds of books they want – which the Friends endeavor to provide from their growing stock of donated books. "Last year, there was a big interest in cookbooks. This year there seems to be a big interest in autobiographies and large-print editions," says Armao. The Friends also need children's books.

Now in its third year, Friends of the Library is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization that exists to support the Town Library. Now numbering about 60 members, Friends is always looking for new members, says President Vicki Ketz.

"Friends of the Library is a great organization, and we're working hard to try and help the community. We'd love to have more members to work with us in support of books, readers, and our wonderful Town Library," Ketz says.

Memberships in the Friends of the Library are \$15 for families, \$10 for adults, and \$8 for seniors. For more information call 605-5739, or e-mail FOLmembers@gmail.com.

Those wishing to donate books may bring them to the Book Nook or to the garage at The Crossings. Especially needed, are large-print and children's books.

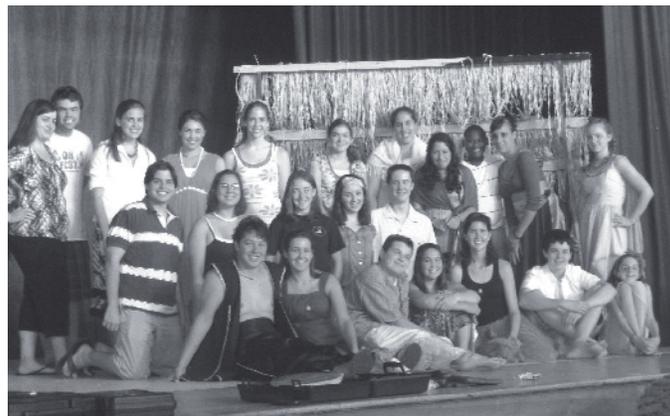


Bibliophiles at Play: Friends of the Library treasurer Richard Friedman minds the Book Nook 'store,' as fellow book lovers browse around for their next great read. Now in its second year, the Book Nook has become a popular feature of the Farmers' Market at The Crossings. Proceeds from the sale of its donated books benefit both The Crossings and the Town Library.

AROUND TOWN



Nine Lives: For the ninth year running, the Children's Library at the William K. Sanford Town Library has been named the region's best in the annual Times Union Readers' Poll. Here, two young patrons enjoy an afternoon at the library with their mother. Colonie was also named for best pool (Colonie Town Pool) and best playground (The Crossings).



On An Island: Cast and crew of Colonie Youth Theatre's production of *Once on This Island*, a Caribbean adaptation of the Little Mermaid fairytale. Featuring almost non-stop music and dancing, the musical was presented at Colonie Central High School August 4-7. Coordinated by the Town's Youth Bureau, Colonie Youth Theatre is an annual summer program giving young people in grades five through twelve the chance to perform in a major theatrical production.



Ace Pitchers: Colonie Town Supervisor Paula Mahan, center, threw out the first pitch at a Valley Cats baseball game August 10 accompanied by two members of North Colonie Youth Baseball's Challenger Division, Anthony and Ed Lawless. The Challenger Division is for players with special needs from 5 to 21 years old. Just ahead this fall: Challenger soccer. In addition, there are also Challenger bowling and basketball programs. For more information, call 785-7496.

DON'T FLUSH PHARMACEUTICALS!

Even though it's contrary to what some of us were told, residents should not flush pharmaceuticals down the drain says Diane Davies, Chair of the Town's Conservation Advisory Council. Otherwise drugs can then end up in our lakes, rivers, and streams.

Recent studies have found low levels of antibiotics, hormones, steroids, and contraceptives in 80 percent of the rivers and streams tested throughout the country. Other studies have shown that the presence of drugs in water can reduce the fertility of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Currently, the State's Department of Environmental Conservation recommends checking with your pharmacy to see if it will accept unwanted medications. If not, the next best option is to watch for a local pharmaceutical collection event.

According to Jack Cunningham, Commissioner of Public Works, the Town is currently working on a plan to facilitate disposal of pharmaceuticals at the Town of Colonie Landfill. In the meantime, if you must dispose of unused medications in the trash, please follow the guidelines below recommended by DEC.

First, to avoid accidental or intentional misuse, treat all medications (both liquids and pills) by adding water and then salt, ashes, dirt, cat litter, coffee grounds, or another undesirable substance. Avoid crushing pills, as some medications can be harmful in powder form.

Do not mix discarded drugs with food. This helps guard against consumption by scavenging animals or humans.

Next, hide all medications in an outer container, such as a sealable bag, box, or plastic tub, sealing the latter with strong tape, and dispose of it as close to your trash collection day as possible.

Although medications self-administered by injection with a needle or "sharp" may be disposed of in the trash, DEC strongly recommends that attached needles be disposed of at hospital-based household sharps collection programs. All hospitals in New York State (except federal facilities) are required to collect sharps from households. Medications without attached needles should be disposed of in the trash in the manner described above.

If sharps are being placed in the trash, they should be placed in a puncture-proof container, sealed with strong tape, and labeled "sharps."

More information can be found at www.dontflushyourdrugs.net

FARMERS' MARKET TO HOST PET ADOPTION CLINIC

One of the few dog-friendly markets in the Capital Region, on September 25 the Farmers' Market at the Crossings will be cat friendly as well.

On that day the Market will host an ambitious cat and dog adoption clinic with the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society – ambitious in that it is designed to help the Society win a \$100,000 national prize.

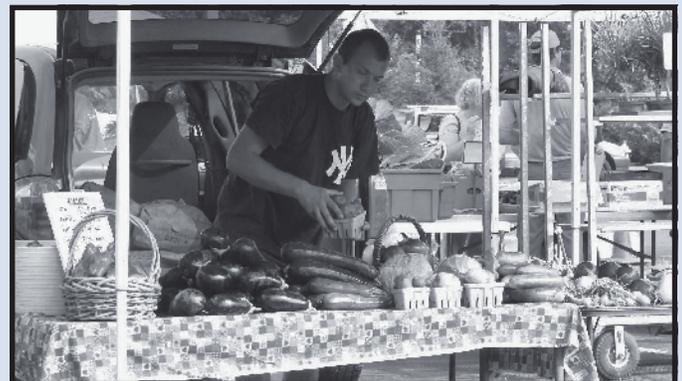
The Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society is one of only 50 shelters nationwide selected to participate in the "Save More Lives 100K Challenge" announced by the ASPCA in May.

To qualify for the challenge, shelters need to save a minimum of 300 more cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies from August through October than during the same three-month period last year.

The \$100,000 prize will be awarded to the shelter that saves the most animals beyond the 300 minimum adoptions. Prize money must be used to support efforts to adopt out more animals.



Got Milkbones? Two 'patrons' at The Farmers' Market at The Crossings, one of the few local farmers' markets welcoming man's (and woman's) best friend. The Market will also be cat friendly on September 25, when it hosts a pet adoption clinic from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Got Vegetables? With 30 vendors, the Farmers' Market at the Crossings is the Capital Region's second-largest farmers' market, accepting both WIC and seniors farmers' market checks. Last year the market generated \$10,000 for repairs to The Crossings' Meeting House and playground.



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THE COLONIE FERAL CAT PROGRAM

by Michael Magguilli, Town Attorney



*“No matter how much cats fight,
there always seems to be plenty of kittens.”*

- Abraham Lincoln

Ever since a Town Board meeting earlier this summer, when a number of people expressed their concern about a feral cat colony, I can't seem to get away from cats. When I signed on for this job, I never realized the diversity of issues

I would face as Town Attorney. Consequently, I am now the Town's feral cat expert, a position I'm sure some people believe I'm well-suited for by both intelligence and temperament.

Research shows that feral cats can be a serious public health and safety issue. The problem is nationwide. There is much debate about the humane way to deal with feral cats. Some groups promote an ordinance prohibiting feeding them. Other groups promote capturing and euthanizing all but feral kittens. Some groups promote licensing laws, and many groups claim a Trap-Neuter-Release program is the correct answer to the problem.

Luckily for the Town, there are many dedicated and concerned people who offered their help in arriving at a workable solution. Supervisor Mahan and I met with representatives of the Humane Society, local veterinarians, private citizens, and animal legal rights advocates who freely and generously gave their time, expertise, and suggestions. These meetings made it apparent that feeding bans, euthanizing the cats, and cat licensing are not the answer to the problem.

Research has shown that feeding bans are rarely effective because they are nearly impossible to enforce. Regarding euthanasia, the Town Board determined that euthanizing cats is inhumane and expensive, since it requires taxpayer dollars to pay for intake, housing, handling, feeding, euthanizing, and disposal. Other municipalities with cat licensing laws have found that licensing fees do not cover the real costs of the licensing program.

After much deliberation, the Town Board decided to address the public health and safety issues posed by feral cats by supporting the Trap-Neuter-Release method of feral cat control. Trap-

Neuter-Release is a full management program in which stray and feral cats already living outdoors are humanely trapped, vaccinated, sterilized and then marked by veterinarians. Kittens and cats able to be socialized are adopted into good homes. Other cats are returned to their familiar habitat by volunteers, unless acceptable placements can be arranged.

To implement the Trap-Neuter-Release approach, the Town plans to initiate what it calls the Colonie Feral Cat Program. This program is intended to be a partnership between the Town of Colonie and volunteers in the Town. The program anticipates volunteers willing to offer their time and effort to address the feral cat problem. What the program is designed to do is to support citizen volunteer groups and individuals dedicated to the care and sterilization of feral cat colonies using the Trap-Neuter-Release method.

The Colonie Feral Cat Program will use a three-pronged approach to support citizen volunteers in the Town. First, the Town will loan Havahart Animal Traps at no charge to residents through our Animal Control Officers. Second, the Town will provide educational resources and information to groups and individuals willing to participate in the Program in order to increase community awareness and education. Third, the Town will provide contact information regarding local veterinarians and organizations willing to spay, neuter, and vaccinate feral cats for no charge or at a reduced charge. The Town is negotiating now for these services.

As I stated in the beginning of this article, I can't seem to get away from cats. Last week, my oldest son brought home three kittens he found under a porch. The kittens were a few days old and each fit in the palm of his hand. After taking the cats to the vet, who provided tiny feeding bottles, I find myself taking my turn evenings feeding the little creatures. I'm enjoying it immensely, so maybe this really is an avocation for which I am well-suited by both intelligence and temperament.