



OTSEGO COUNTY

Department of PLANNING AND SOLID WASTE

197 MAIN ST, COOPERSTOWN NY 13326
(607) 547-4225 Phone, (607) 547-4285 Fax

Visit: otsegocounty.com/planning and otsegocounty.com/solidwaste

NEW PLANNER JOINS DEPARTMENT

WELCOME!!

The Planning Department welcomes Psalm Wyckoff as the department's new Planner. Psalm grew up in Laurens. She attended SUNY Oneonta where she received a bachelor's degree in Geology. She has completed graduate coursework in SUNY Albany's Regional Planning program. Psalm currently resides in the Town of Westford with her family.



Psalm has 11 years of experience as an environmental consultant where she gained experience in assessing the environmental impacts of various projects, including projects with regional and state-wide impacts. She is well versed in assessing hydrologic, visual, noise, and traffic impacts. She has also supervised projects requiring mitigation of air and wetland impacts.

Psalm also has a strong background in GIS. She implemented the use of GIS at her former place of business and supervised the team of technicians who produced maps for various projects throughout the state.

Psalm has worked to assist municipalities with drafting local land use ordinances aimed at environmental protection, including mining and groundwater protection ordinances.

MEETING SCHEDULE & UPDATES

Aug 15 – NYS Ag & Market Municipal Planning Grant Application due out
Aug TBA - LUCA (Census training session) – Place & time TBA
Sep 04 - Grant deadline for Snowmobile Trails Enhancement
Sep 08 - 12-2pm Hazardous waste collection for CESQGs – NYS DOT Oneonta
Sep 09 - 8am-2pm Hazardous waste collection for households - NYS DOT Oneonta
Sep 17 - Grant deadline for Farmland Protection Implementation Grant
Sep TBA – Grant deadline for Town Farmland Protection Plans
Oct TBA - Grant deadline for Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI)
First Thursday monthly – 6pm – County Planning Board – Meadows Ofc Bldg
First Wednesday monthly – 10am – County Board Meeting – County Ofc Bldg

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Otsego County will hold its 10th annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, September 8th. The collection will be held at the NYS Department of Transportation work yard on NYS Route 7, just west of NYS Route 205 and the Soccer Hall of Fame complex. In addition to households, qualifying businesses that meet the criteria of a state defined Conditionally Exempt

Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) may bring hazardous waste materials on the previous day, Friday, September 7th. The householder component of the weekend collection event



will run from 8am to 2pm on Saturday. CESQGs can make appointments to bring their materials on Friday from noon – 2pm. Appointments are

required and can be made between August 20th and September 4th by calling the department at 547-4228. CESQGs can call to make appointments immediately.

Among the materials accepted are solvents, pesticides, chemical cleaners, anti-freeze, hobby and pool chemicals, fluorescent bulbs, propane tanks (under 40 lbs. in size), automotive batteries, and paints. Paints should be separated between latex and oil-based, and labeled on the lid with an "L" or "O", since volunteer workers separate the two types for handling. Paint that is dried out should be thrown away as trash, or paint that is nearly empty should be opened and absorbent material should be added to it before being thrown away as trash.

Home electronics will also be collected. There is a charge of \$5 per computer monitor, \$2 per microwave, and \$5-25 for television sets, depending on size. There is no charge for computers, fax machines, printers, VCRs and any other home entertainment electronics. Kitchen appliances and automotive electronics are not accepted.



New this year will be the collection of some non-hazardous items that will be recycled. Bicycles that are intact with minimal rust and in repairable condition will be accepted for a \$10 donation. Sewing machines (without cabinet) will be received at no cost. Both items are part of the "Pedal for Progress" program that will forward these items, in refurbished condition, to countries in South America and Africa. Our HHW day will also receive for the first time electronic media (tapes, cassettes, cartridges, cases) at no charge.

The Otsego County Conservation Association is a major partner in this effort each year. OCCA helps cover some program costs and arranges for a large team of volunteers to help with the assorted jobs required for a smooth weekend when as many as 400 cars come with waste materials. Except for the prices noted above, the household collection is free of charge. For CESQGs, the county subsidizes the first \$50 of the cost of disposal and the business

pays the balance. For more information, call the Planning and Solid Waste Department at 547-4225 or 4228.

The expenses of the HHW Collection event are covered by the Otsego County Solid Waste User Fee.

BUY-OUT AWARDED

Almost one year later, the County received a notice from the New York State Emergency Management Office, approving Otsego County's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application for the voluntary acquisition of up to nine (9) properties submitted last October.



Following the June flood of 2006, Otsego County submitted a letter of intent with nine voluntary agreements from property owners willing to participate in the buy-out program.

The nine properties experienced damages equal to or greater than 50% of the property fair market value and were located in the 100 year flood plain. The properties in the buy-out include four parcels in the Town of Otego; two in the Village of Unadilla; one in the Town of Unadilla and two in the Town of Milford. The approved scope of work includes property acquisition, demolition, and removal of all structures on the property, site restoration, and deed restriction of the acquired property. The total cost of the acquisition project shall not exceed \$1,056,744.

Since the initial application, one property sold in the Village of Unadilla and will not be part of the buy-out. A request for proposals for appraisals has been awarded to Kathryn Ridgway Real Estate Appraiser who will prepare pre-flood appraisals for the eight remaining properties by July 20, 2007. The next step in the process, if the appraisals are acceptable to the property owners, is to make an offer for property to the owners, at which time the owners can agree to sell or decide to not be part of the buy-out. The offer is based on the pre-flood

appraisal minus and federal money received for flood damage reconstruction. Once offers are made and accepted, the county will move forward with request for proposals for title searches, property surveys and demolition and restoration of the participating properties. The property will remain in *perpetuity*, which means deed restrictions will control the use of the land for specific uses outlined by the state and federal governments and the property can only be held in ownership by a municipality, government entity or non-profit organization.

The application was a joint effort between the Otsego County Planning Department, the technical support of Timothy Hayes, Associate Director of the SUNY Oneonta Center for Economic and Community Development, and the financial support from United Way.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATED



The Otsego County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan is now in Washington at the FEMA office for final review and approval. With personal assistance from John Krol and Michael Michale of SEMO the office is confident that it has addressed all the missing pieces to a document that was initiated over two years ago. Members of the County Planning Department have been continuously working on the required revisions for the county plan since May 2006.

The major benefit of participating in this program is having the opportunity to participate in future State and Federal disaster relief and mitigation programs. The county is already actively participating in a "buy-out" grant contingent upon approval of All- Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is important that the county and local levels of government take actions and use mitigation strategies in order to lessen the impact of future natural hazards. Our department would like to thank those who were great resources in helping it obtain the needed information for revising the 28 individual plans and one county plan to coincide

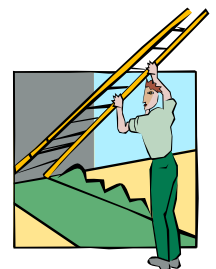
with the different communities throughout the county.

In regards to the six municipalities that did not participate originally - Town of Butternuts, Town of Edmeston, Village of Gilbertsville, Town of Maryland, Town of Pittsfield and the Town of Westford - there is still the opportunity to begin the process of developing a plan. Psalm Wyckoff met with the town of Maryland and Westford during the month of June to move forward with an application when monies become available in order to prepare a hazard mitigation plan for their communities. Funding is still available to communities and now is the time to reconsider a municipality's interest in the program. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assists communities in developing hazard mitigation plans. Those plans outline the community's risks, goals, and actions related to hazards. The objective of the program is to prevent future losses of lives and property due to disasters. The benefits of having a plan include: the receipt of money from government funding after a hazard occurs; reduction of National Flood Insurance Rates, and benefits to a community's approach to growth and development pressures.

Our office is willing to assist communities with the initial steps of preparing the grant application and obtaining the money source to prepare a plan. Our approach is to work with the remaining interested communities as a joint effort and possibly develop a single request for proposals. We are available to answer any of your questions.

OFFICE OF SMALL CITIES TEMPORARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANT

Our office continues to administer the \$250,000 from the Office of Small Cities temporary housing assistance grant addressing unmet needs of households with flood damage repairs. Working closely with Otsego Rural Housing Assistance, we are able to assist



eighteen qualifying households to provide for the cost of repairs to primary and mechanical components.

Although the flood is a year behind us, there are households still in the process of reconstruction. With the additional award money from the Office of Small Cities, many of the unmet expenses to homeowners can now be recaptured. The housing rehabilitation segment of the program is structured to expand eligible activities for low and moderate income households to include primary components and mechanical components. The primary components consist of: foundation, exterior wall structure, roof structure, floor structure, columns, joists and partitions. The mechanical components consist of windows and doors, plumbing, heating, electrical, wells, and septic system. Each applicant was reviewed for income verification, duplication of benefits and homeownership. Awards were made for out-of-pocket expenses and work proposals. To date, approximately \$53,000 has been processed for program activities. We have until August 28, 2007 to disburse the remaining award money and complete the projects.



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGE OF LAURENS

BREAK GROUND FOR NEW WATER SYSTEM

SYRACUSE, N.Y., June 8, 2007 – Patrick H. Brennan, State Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency, joined Laurens Mayor Robert Zack and other local officials on Wednesday, June 6 to officially break ground for the Village's new water distribution system.

"One of USDA Rural Development's primary missions is to improve the quality of life in rural communities and helping villages like Laurens build and maintain water infrastructure is one of the ways we accomplish that goal," Brennan said. "Laurens new water system will replace a system that is more than 100 years old and ensure that

residents have clean, safe drinking water for years to come."

During the groundbreaking, Brennan presented a ceremonial check for \$367,000 to the village. The check represented a subsequent loan and grant combination, approved in December 2006, that raised USDA Rural Development's total investment in Laurens water system to \$1,567,000. USDA Rural Development provided a \$1.2 million loan and grant combination to Laurens in 2005.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In fiscal year 2006, the USDA Rural Development water and waste water programs invested more than \$51 million in rural New York. In total, USDA Rural Development invested more than \$258 million in the state last year, raising its total investment in New York to more than \$1.2 billion since 2001. Further information on rural programs is available by contacting the state office at (315) 477-6400 or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ny>.

LOCAL UPDATE OF CENSUS ADDRESSES - LUCA

What is LUCA?

Some of you may or may not know what the LUCA acronym stands for. LUCA stands for Local Update of Census Addresses. Yes, the 2010 census is approaching and now is the time your community can become an active part in the process.

Beginning last January the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board (STERPDB) in conjunction with the State Data Center and the Boston Office of the US Census Bureau, held a series of eight introductory workshops throughout the region. The purpose of

the workshop was to familiarize local towns, villages, county and local planning officials the LUCA process which will unfold over the next three years. In January 2007, communities were asked to designate an official local contact for their local government.

In July, a second letter will be sent from the Census Bureau requiring a response from local governments that will require a decision whether or not the community wishes to exercise its option to have input into the census process. Both STERPDB and Empire State Development are encouraging localities to choose OPTION One, which gives the locality the most flexibility and preserves the right to appeal the final census housing counts and any undercounts.

Why is this important to your community?

It is important to have an accurate account of you population to ensure the people residing in your community are counted. The most common discrepancies in many rural areas involve either mobile home parks where units may share an address, or larger homes, which have been divided into apartments and are reported as single street addresses. Recently released population estimates by the US Census suggest the region as a whole and most of its counties lost population between July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2006. Otsego County is estimated to have lost approximately 177 persons. This is reflected in the statewide population loss.

Population statistics are important for the following reasons:

- Housing and infrastructure projects
- The relationship of high concentrations of elderly populations to available services and facilities
- Economic development
- Population trends to future community needs
- The need for new schools
- The relationship of demographic characteristics to existing emergency services.



- Appropriation of Congressional Seats
- Appropriation of Federal funds to state, tribal, and local governments
- Accurate local statistical data

The census is a key component of a municipality's approach to applying for available federal and state funding. A good example of this is the appropriated federal money from the 1990 census data as compared to the 2000 census. In the year 2000, approximately \$283 billion in federal grant money was distributed to state and local governments by formulas based on the 1990 census data. When the population estimates were updated to reflect the 2000 census results, an additional \$388 million in federal grant funding went to the 23 states that had above average estimate revisions. A complete count is vital to cities and towns nationwide.

Time Line:

January 2007- highest elected officials and other contacts were mailed an advance letter and information about the LUCA program.

July 2007 – Census Bureau will mail LUCA invitation letters to the highest elected officials and other contacts. Registration and materials shipped.

July 2007- LUCA program registration and materials shipped.

August 2007 – April 2008 – LUCA training workshops and review.

November 2008 – December 2009 – Canvassing, feedback, and appeals.

September 2009-January 2010 – The LUCA Appeals Office will review and rule on all appeals.

Further information on LUCA can be found at www.census.gov or by calling our office.

Find it at www.otsegocounty.com

As a regular feature of our newsletter, we will highlight some of the things you'll find at our department's two websites. Information is found according to department. Go to www.otsegocounty.com, pull down the department directory, and then click on "Planning" or "Solid Waste".

Among the things you will find at "Planning":

- Directory of Municipal Officials and Land Use Regulations (names, telephone & fax numbers, meeting dates and times)
- Past newsletters
- List of available publications
- Information about the County Planning Board
- Pictures of our staff members
- Links to other important sites, such as: flood maps, county and local census data, historic topographic maps, map of archaeologically sensitive areas, maps of census types, listing of NYS Dept. of State land use publications, and more

Here is a featured website link:

FEMA Flood Maps

www.msc.fema.gov



A FIRMette is a full-scale section of a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that you create yourself online by selecting the desired area from an image of a Flood Insurance Rate Map. The FIRMette also includes the map title block, north arrow, and scale bar. There is no charge for making a FIRMette. And because a FIRMette is a full-scale section of an official FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, it can be used in all aspects of the NFIP, including floodplain management, flood insurance, and enforcement of mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements. Click on FIRMette Tutorial to learn how to create and print a National Flood Insurance Map. Follow step one to find a flood map and step two to learn how to create and print your own NFIP map.

Among the things you will find at "Solid Waste":

- Pictures and locations of the county's 13 local recycling stations
- Details of the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
- Listing of how to properly dispose of many types of waste materials
- Listing of what is recyclable
- Listing of solid waste haulers serving Otsego County

In the near future, we will post on our websites copies of municipal zoning maps, agricultural district maps, and much community facility and resource inventory data.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT AVAILABLE FOR TOWNS

An Opportunity to Develop Farmland Protection Plans



The Municipal Grant Program for Agricultural Economic Development and Farmland Protection will provide funds to towns that wish to develop farmland protection plans that complement county plans. The grants will be made available through the state's Farmland Protection Program and will be administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Town governments would be eligible for grants up to \$25,000 or 75% of the cost of developing a plan (which ever is less). Two towns can opt to join together in the planning process and thereby receive up to \$50,000 in grant funds. A simple application form is expected to be available on the internet after August 15th.

The grants funds can be used to:

- review current land use regulations or the agricultural component of an existing comprehensive plan to assess if they are farm friendly and/or-
- develop a new town agricultural protection plan
- pay outside consultants to do either of the above

Farmland Protection Plans would:

- identify the areas that the town wants to support and protect agriculture
- analyze the value of the proposed protected land to the local economy
- evaluate the open space value of the proposed protected land
- describe the threats to productive farmland and consequences of farmland conversion
- outline the activities and strategies the town intends to use to support local farms

If Your Town is Interested in the Municipal Planning Grant

The NYS Dept of Ag & Markets suggests the following steps to prepare for the application:

1. Form a special committee to evaluate topics on agricultural economic development and farmland protection
2. Survey local farmers and citizens to identify and prioritize needs
3. Review "Guide to Local Planning for Agriculture in New York" by the American Farmland Trust, available on the web at:

http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/30379/Guide_to_Local_Planning_for_Agriculture_NY.pdf

4. Identify protection techniques that would lead to the implementation of programs and strategies to protect and maintain the economic viability of local agriculture
5. Conduct a workshop on "Why Plan for Agriculture" using the "Guide" as a workbook
6. Examine land-use planning tools that could benefit agri-businesses such as: Right to Farm Law, Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), Cluster Subdivision, Incentive Zoning

Call the Otsego County Planning Department at 547-4225 if your town is interested in applying for a Municipal Planning grant. We will make sure that you receive the application form and guidance as soon as it is released by the Dept of Ag & Markets.

Local Government Training Sessions Held

A series of three evening training sessions were held in May and June for local government officials. On May 22nd, a staff planner and attorney from the NYS Department of State presented information on two topics – rental

housing and property maintenance/enforcement of local laws. About 40 people attended this session. On May 30th, a guest speaker from the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District discussed various aspects of storm water management. There were about 20 attendees. The series concluded on June 4th with a session on the powers and duties of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. This session was presented to an audience of about 60 people by Erik Miller of the Otsego County Conservation Association.

Certificates of course completion were distributed to those local officials who were meeting requirements under a new state law to receive a minimum of four hours of training per year in land use. Copies of hand out materials used at the session are available by calling the Planning Department. The department plans to hold a series of local government workshops like these at least once per year. The sessions are held at The Meadows Office Building and are free of charge.

Snapshots



From the *Planning Division* of the department...

Several projects in the Southern Tier region of the state are seeking funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

From the seven county Southern Tier East (STE) region, a total of 13 projects have been submitted as formal applications for funding. Only one project – Southern Tier Farm to School – includes Otsego County as part of its service area.

Proposed by the Rural Health Network of South Central New York, the lead agency for the Regional Community Food Project, the plan calls for an increased local agricultural production, value added food processing and food distribution for schools in the immediate region. The project will demonstrate the viability of the Farm to School concept in eight schools and one college/university.

Project sponsors for ARC funding must be incorporated not-for-profits, municipalities and other public entities such as IDAs and school systems. Applicants may apply for up to \$150,000 in grant funds with at least a one for one dollar match in cash or in-kind services. Projects must meet at least one established goal related to sustainable community and/or economic development. Applications are generally due each June. County officials, usually from planning and economic development offices, serve as the reviewers of the applications. The STE Regional Planning Development Board will prepare final recommendations for funding at its meeting in late August. County Representative Greg Relic and County Planner Terry Bliss currently sit on that board. **The County Planning Board has two new members.** New appointments to the board were made by County Board Chairman Donald Lindberg. Jeffrey House, Downtown Developer for the city of Oneonta and Flo Loomis, a member of the New Lisbon Planning Board have accepted three-year appointments to the board effective July 1. They replace Benjamin Dixon of Oneonta and Tom Pritchard from Arnold Lake. The new members join the other members of the nine member board – Joanna Ahern from the town of Maryland, Tom Clarke from Springfield, Phil Durkin of Cherry Valley, Doug Gohde of Middlefield, Wendy Mitteager from Oneonta, Ron Streek from Cooperstown and Rene Walker from Laurens.

**OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.
197 MAIN STREET
COOPERSTOWN NY 13326**

The board meets the first Thursday evening each month to review local projects pending approval from local governments and to work on plans for specific topics. The board is currently considering alternative energy policies for the county. Meetings are open to the public.

From the *Solid Waste Division* of the department...

Plastic flower pots are recyclable, so long as there is a #2 on the bottom. They are accepted at any of the county's 13 recycling drop-off stations around the county. Please rinse dirt from the pots.



Recycling at the County Fair will be in place for the second straight season with help from local high school students. This program is supervised by the Wildlife Learning Company under contract with the county. Attractive recycling bins will be used and the units are also available for rent by other organizations for their public events. Call the department for more information.

PLANNING AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Terry Bliss – Planning Director

Karen Sullivan- Senior Planner

Psalm Wyckoff - Planner

Joy Bailey – Keyboard Specialist

Becky Myers – Clerk