

# Woodbury Bulletin Board - March Issue

## By Town Councilman James Skoufis

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

With the brunt of this winter's fierce weather hopefully behind us, there's a lot to look forward to in March. Enjoy!

Always,  
James

### **Your Local Government**

- Village elections are right around the corner on Tuesday, March 16 - polls are open from noon to 9:00pm on the top floor of the Highland Mills Fire House. We have three qualified candidates running for the two trustee seats that are up - Lorraine McNeill (Alliance Party), Neil Crouse (CommUNITY Party), and David Sutz (CommUNITY Party). Village elections typically have very low turnout - often around 20% - so every vote carries significant weight. Mark the date on your calendar and be sure to exercise your democratic right.
- Last year the town, after a tremendous amount of work by Supervisor John Burke, then-Councilman Mike Queenan and others, brought the dial-a-bus to Woodbury for the first time. The terrific weekly service came out of the gate strong with 30-40 residents using the bus in each of the first two months, but its popularity has since slowed. While cold weather is likely partly to blame, it's incredibly important that there are more riders between now and when the contract is up for renewal in the summer if the program is to persevere. As a reminder, the bus runs every Tuesday and ride reservations are made by calling 845-783-6222; reservations need to be made at least 24 hours in advance and rides cost \$1.00 (50 cents for seniors).
- Due to the inclement weather during the last village board meeting, a continued public hearing on the comprehensive plan will take place on March 9 at 7:30pm at Town Hall. A continued public hearing on the Brigadoon roads dedication will also be held on the same night.
- It is with deep disappointment that I read Governor Paterson's proposal to close or cut a number of parks in the Lower Hudson Valley, including Anthony Wayne Recreation Area in Harriman State Park, Schunnemunk State Park, the New Windsor Cantonment, and the Fort Montgomery Historic Site. Especially during difficult economic times, our public parks are an invaluable resource to local families and as the Times Herald Record points out, there is little financial justification to follow-through on the proposal: the money saved from these cuts would account for less than one-tenth of one percent of the budget gap - and that does not even take into account the tourism and business dollars that local

communities would lose as a result. It goes without saying that I vehemently oppose Governor Paterson's proposal and I urge everyone who shares the same feelings to write letters to the editor and contact their state legislators.

- Good news for Woodbury taxpayers: the Town Board will vote tonight to refund a number of bonds from the 1990s, resulting in a savings of an estimated \$150,000 over nine years for an average of about \$17,000 per year. That's a lot more money where it belongs: in your pocket!
- At the recommendation of the Environmental Conservation Committee, the Town Board passed a resolution making Woodbury New York's newest Climate Smart Community. Due to the hard work of the committee, energy data and information has been inventoried for all municipal buildings to lay the groundwork for the town to become more environmentally friendly and, in the process, save taxpayer dollars. I applaud my fellow board members for taking this important first step and I look forward to continue working with them and the committee to make Woodbury a greener and cleaner community.
- The New York State Thruway Authority, as of this week, has closed five Woodbury Toll Plaza E-ZPass lanes in preparation of converting them into high-speed ones. The new, 65-mph lanes will be able to process about 2,000 cars per hour, an increase of 1,400 cars from the 5-mph lanes; construction will take about eight weeks to complete.

### **Woodbury Calendar**

- Saturday 3/6: The Woodbury Historical Society hosts its Winter Social at 2:00pm at the Senior Center in Highland Mills. Free and open to the public, refreshments will be served. Also, some of the newest additions to the Society's collection of Woodbury history will be on display; for more information, call 928-6770.
- Sunday 3/7: The Highland Mills United Methodist Church will hold a good old-fashioned "Hymn Sing" at 2:00pm - all are welcome. The church is located on Rt. 32 at Ridge Road; for more information, call 928-0691.
- Thursday 3/11: Palaia Vineyards hosts a Ladies Night Out every second Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 10:00pm. They're serious when they say ladies only! Call 928-5384 for more information.
- Thursday 3/11: The Monroe-Woodbury School District meeting previously set to arrange for field use has been rescheduled - it will be held at the Education Center in Central Valley at 6:00pm. Any community groups or teams that wish to use the fields this spring should submit a request at this meeting.

- Saturday 3/13: There will be a free pancakes, bacon & sausage breakfast with coffee, tea & juice at the Central Valley United Methodist Church (in coordination with the Woodbury Lions Club) on Smith Clove Road from 8:00 to 10:30am. Organizers ask that you "bring a can if you can" for their food drive; for more information, call 928-6570.
- Saturday 3/13-14: The Central Valley Elementary School Drama Club presents Annie Jr. at the CV Elementary School Auditorium. Saturday's show is scheduled to begin at 7:00pm while Sunday's is set for 2:00pm.
- Friday 3/19-21: It must be Performing Arts Month here in town - the Monroe-Woodbury High School Drama Club is also presenting a show: a Seussical, directed by Stacy Hintz. Shows will be at the MWHS Auditorium at the following times: Friday at 7:00pm, Saturday at 7:00pm, and Sunday at 1:00pm; adult tickets are priced at \$12 while students and seniors get in for \$10. Our schools put out truly talented shows - please come out and support them and their hard work.
- Saturday 3/20: Free breakfast, round two - this one at the Highland Mills United Methodist Church from 8:00 to 11:00am. Again, there is no charge but donations will be accepted, with all proceeds going to benefit Haiti relief efforts; for more information, call 928-0691.
- Sunday 3/21: As part of the Woodbury Reads program and its celebration of Bill Bryson's adventures in "A Walk in the Woods," the Woodbury Public Library will host a presentation at 3pm by a representative of the New York/New Jersey Trail Commission on hiking the Appalachian and other trails in our area. Light refreshments and door prizes; call 928-2114 or 928-6162 to sign up.

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