

# East Syracuse Views

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Spring 2010

Village of East Syracuse, 204 North Center St., East Syracuse, NY 13057

Telephone 315-437-3541; Fax 315-463-2150

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Web site: [villageofeastsyracuse.com](http://villageofeastsyracuse.com)

## ***From Mayor Liedka***

Happy Spring! I have seen a lot of our residents working hard to clean up after a long winter! I personally thank you!

The Board of Trustees has been doing some work of their own, as the 2010-2011 budget was recently passed. I am pleased to announce that our tax rate has not increased once again! It certainly wasn't easy, however. With the loss of 50 percent of our share of county sales tax, it made this budget nearly impossible to balance. Rising costs in the state pension and insurance coverage continue to stress the bottom line. Couple that with revenues on the decline, and you have a tough scenario at hand. But the Board has taken action. In fact, over the last two years, spending has been cut by nearly \$516,000 to keep the tax rate stable for four straight years. It certainly came with some casualties, including the elimination of two full-time positions and a part-time position.

In regard to the sales tax issue, I want to commend my fellow mayors for their continued lobbying efforts to protect our share of the tax. We worked hand in hand and attended over ten meetings to make the County Legislature aware of the catastrophic impact that the elimination of the tax would create. Our voice was heard. The fact that villages were able to get 50 percent for the next 10 years is remarkable, considering towns and school districts will be phased out to zero. But 50 percent still isn't good enough. The Village on average takes in \$380,000 per year in county sales taxes. Next year we are looking at only half of that. The next budget will put the Village in its most difficult position financially that it will ever face. Tough choices on services, personnel and departments will have to be made. Otherwise the tax rate will spike to an unacceptable level. I find this unfortunate because all villages and towns in this county run balanced budgets and don't have deficits. The state and county have huge deficits to be made up, and send the problem downstream to land on our backs. The Board is working on contingency plans and will continue to study shared services or consolidation of services. We will make sure that Village property owners are well informed of any decision that would impact services.

### *Mayor*

Danny J. Liedka

### *Trustees*

James Carr Jr.

Barbara Falcone-

Quonce

Jodi Gehrke-Turner

Chad Tolhurst

### *Justice*

Donald Benack Jr.

### *Fire Chief*

Michael Cramer

### *Village Clerk*

Patricia J. Derby

### *Treasurer*

Christopher Hoch

### *Chief of Police*

Donald Morris

### *Director of Parks & Recreation*

Thomas Richardson

### *Supt. of Public Works*

Ronald A. Russell III

### *Director of Operations*

Frank Stirpe

**(Mayor's column cont.)**

In closing, I wish you a pleasant warm weather season. As always, my door is always open. Feel free to contact me any time with problems, observations, or a kind word. It is truly my pleasure to serve each and every one of you.

**End of an Era**

With the closure of St. Daniel-St. Matthew Academy as an educational institution in June of this year, many are wondering what will happen to the building. But the doors will not be closed and locked, leaving a ghost building. Church officials are in the process of expanding the day care center and it will occupy the main floor of the building. The center will take care of infants 6 weeks to 16 months old, toddlers 16 to 36 months of age, and older youngsters as well. State licensing applications are being processed.

Another part of the building will be used for the church's religious education program. The gymnasium, which is in use now nearly every evening, will continue to be used. The large kindergarten room will become a community room. The weekly fish fry, held during the season of Lent, will continue and, of course, the weekly bingo games will go on.

The building will remain a viable facility for the benefit of the Village, residents, and businesses.

**Village Election**

Congratulations to Trustees Barbara Falcone-Quonce and James Carr who were re-elected for a one-time 5-year term. Upon completion of the 5-year term, the terms for Trustees will be four years.

The next Village election will be held in March 2013.

**Annual Village Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Village was held on Monday, April 5, at the Municipal Building. The re-elected Trustees were sworn into office by Village Justice Donald Benack Jr.

Mayor Liedka proposed Robert Jokl Jr. as Acting Justice for a one-year term. Following approval by the Trustees, Justice Jokl was sworn in by Justice Benack, with Justice Gideon assisting.

The meetings of the Village Trustees will be held on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building Court Room. This represents a change from previous years in that only one meeting per month will be held (instead of two). Meetings are open to the public.

The next organizational meeting for the Village will be Monday, April 4, 2011, 6 p.m., at the Municipal Building.

**Pool Fees**

This years pool fees are essentially the same as last year, with the exception of the swimming fees, which are as follows:

- Residents and Pool members are free
- Non-residents will pay as follows:
  - 1 person – \$2
  - 2 people – \$3.50
  - 3 people – \$5.25
  - 4 or more – \$7
- Children 4 and under are free
- LINK program participants are free

Pool membership fees:

- Single membership – \$80
- Family – \$120
- Senior rate (50+) – 10% discount
- Town of DeWitt youth – \$30 and the youths must be at least 48" tall to swim independently. This fee is a change from previous years.

Fees for water aerobics, Mommy & Me, Pool Pals, Children Learn to Swim Lessons, Pool Rental, and Pavilion Rental remain the same. Please check with the Village Office for these rates.

**Parks Department Activities****➤ Taste of East Syracuse**

The fourth annual Taste of East Syracuse is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, at the Municipal Building parking lot on North Center Street from 5 to 9 p.m. Food and refreshments will be sold by area businesses. **Supergush** and **Noisey Boys** will entertain.

**➤ Community Weekend**

Save July 9 and 10 for the Annual Community Weekend, with the Ice Cream Social to be held at Loomis Field on Friday, July 9, from 5:30 to

8:30 p.m. The Annual Concert and Fireworks take place on Saturday, July 10, at the East Syracuse Elementary School field. **Dan Elliot and the Monterays** play from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m., with the fireworks to follow.

### ➤ **Gazebo Concerts**

This summer's concerts in the gazebo at Ellis Field are:

- **Stroke** – July 7
- **TJ Sacco** – July 14
- **Gary Dunes Band** – July 21
- **Nick Malpagano** – July 28

All concerts will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Food and refreshments will be sold.

### ➤ **Senior Day Trips**

The Trustees have approved offering the following day trips for adults 21 years and older. Bus transportation is included.

- June 8 – Turning Stone Casino; \$15 free play or bingo bucks, \$5 food coupon; \$11 for residents, \$13 for non-residents
- June 22 – Esperanza Rose Boat Cruise; \$40 for residents; \$45 for non-residents
- July 6 – Picnic at Ryder Park; \$10 for residents; \$12 for non-residents
- July 15 – *The Pajama Game* at Cortland Repertory Theater; buffet lunch at Orchard Vali; \$35 for residents; \$37 for non-residents
- July 24 – Skaneateles Lake Dinner Cruise; \$40 for residents, \$42 for non-residents
- August 10 – Tioga Downs Gaming & Racing; \$20 free play and buffet lunch; \$26 for residents; \$28 for non-residents

### ➤ **HorseShoe Club**

The HorseShoe Club will meet Thursday mornings, 9 a.m., through the summer at Ellis Field. Cost is \$5 for residents, \$10 for non-residents.

### ➤ **Summer Basketball League**

Thursday Nights are reserved for the Night Outdoor Basketball League at Ellis Field Park. Play begins May 27 and goes through August 12. Team registration fee is \$175, and games are scheduled for 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 p.m.

### ➤ **Coed Softball League**

The Summer Coed Softball League will play Sunday mornings at the East Syracuse Elementary School field, from June 6 through August 8. Team registration fee is \$100. Games will be played at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

### ➤ **Karate and Gymnastics Programs**

Two 8-week Karate Programs will be held at CNY Karate for teens, pre-teens, and 4-5, 6-7, and 8-10 year olds. Cost for the 4-week sessions is \$44, and classes start the week of July 5.

A 5-week CNY Gymnastics Program begins July 8 at a cost of \$45 per person or \$40 each for two people in the same family.

Contact the Village Office for more information on any of these Parks Department activities.

## **Youth Day Picnic**

The East Syracuse Youth Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 21, at Ellis Field/Hanlon Pool. The purpose of this event is to help children going from preschool to elementary get needed school supplies. Backpacks filled with school supplies will be given to each registered child in attendance. Food and refreshments will be served, and the event is free.

## **Police Department Award**

The Village Police Department has been awarded the Community Traffic Safety Program Platinum Award for 2009 by the Triple A. This is the highest award recognizing communities that not only demonstrate outstanding success in addressing local traffic safety issues, but demonstrate a trend of improvement over five years. Congratulations to Chief Morris and the members of the Village Police Department.

## **Police Department Stats**

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Arrests	32	24	33	26
DWI arrests	5	6	5	5
Traffic stops	90	97	97	130
Traffic tickets issued	42	54	58	91
Parking tickets issued	89	95	40	55

Motor vehicle crashes investigated	32	18	22	19
<b>Total incidents</b>	744	670	650	593

### ***Village Treasurer***

Christopher Hoch is the new Treasurer for the Village.

### ***Driveway Repairs***

If you are considering repaving your driveway between the sidewalk and the road or between the garage and the sidewalk, in either or both cases, be sure that the sidewalk is **NOT** included in the repaving.

### ***Volunteer of the Year***

Gina Palladino has been recognized as Volunteer of the Year for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Congratulations, Gina.

### ***Seasonal Reminders***

- Yard waste – collected every Monday from April through late fall (approximately the first of November, depending on the weather).
- Trash Collection – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month (year round). Stickers required.
- Leaves – the remnants of last fall's leaves should be placed in a metal or plastic container that can be picked up and emptied or in biodegradable leaf bags – either or both can be left at the curb for pickup.
- Mowing – grass, weeds and uncultivated vegetation – mow before a height of 8" is reached.