



Parish Community News

“Toward a More Informed Citizenry”

2938 East Main Street
Parish, NY 13131

Volume 1, Issue 2

April/May 2011

2011 State of the Town of Parish Address

By Supervisor Steve Stelmashuck

Given Thursday March 24, 2011 at the Mills and Petrie Memorial Gymnasium

Good evening. I'd like to take a few minutes tonight to review some things Parish has accomplished over the last few years, give you an update on a few others, and make some proposals for the future.

First, while it is always easier to look at what isn't working or what can be improved, we can't overlook the progress, that we, as a community, have made over the last several years, despite being in the midst of the current Great Recession. This progress includes the fact that planning for improvements to the library and the park in front of the library are complete and will be part of the Main Street reconstruction. Also many new businesses have opened or re-opened, including the Italian restaurant and dog groomer downtown, the liquor store and car wash by Interstate 81, the ATV repair shop on Union Street, the u-store-it facility on State Route 69 East and the Candlelight Restaurant has re-opened under new management, just to name a few.

The Merrill Park gazebo has been relocated to the Town lot downtown and been given electric service. This new venue has been a centerpiece for the re-activated summer weekend farmer's markets and a greatly expanded Olde Home Days celebration. The Village has made many sewer pump station improvements and the senior nutrition site has been expanded and relocated to the Presbyterian

Church Annex. We're inching ever closer to high speed internet service for all those in Parish who want it, and it may become a reality for many later this year.

Our medical center has an improved and stable medical service including physical therapy and State Route 69A has been resurfaced and culverts have been replaced. Both the Gym and Town Barn have seen energy efficient improvements including a new roof, windows, lights and furnace at the Gym and new lights at the Town Barn. These improvements not only save energy but tax dollars as well.

The Village and Town in conjunction have received a \$30,000 grant to be pro-active and plan for the adaptive re-use of Parish Elementary when it closes in the fall of 2012, and we recently received word of a nearly \$13,000 grant to upgrade and improve our court facilities.

Our public library has seen improvements to the children's reading room and its' parking lot has been expanded and resurfaced. KeyBank now has a 24-hour access ATM and our community now has a newsletter to keep the public informed.

To bring more tourism dollars into the community the joint Town/Village Task Force working in cooperation with State DOT has announced that the State Route 69/Main Street reconstruction includes a kayak launch on the North Branch of the Little Salmon River as well

as a park-and-ride at the Interstate 81 interchange large enough to accommodate truck and trailer parking for snowmobiles in the winter season. These are just some of the accomplishments we as citizens can be proud of.

We must also remember that for over two decades now, the Town of Parish, unlike most other municipalities, has no structured debt, saving our taxpayers literally tens of thousands of dollars in interest payments over the course of those years.

Yet even with much to cheer, we as a Town and Village still face many challenges, foremost is the need for public water for all those who both need and want it. While making progress on this front over the last several years, changes in funding rules in 2010 brought progress to a halt. It is my intention to work with the Village through our Joint Economic Development Task Force to find new sources of funding or new ways to structure this project to at least bring water to the residents of the Village. Parish is one of the last villages in Upstate New York not to have public water for its' residents and many of our other current challenges and needs could be addressed if municipal water were available.

Another project that has

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2011 State of the Town of Parish Address

by Supervisor Steve Stelmashuck

(Continued from page 1)

been stalled for too long is the Main Street reconstruction in the Village, now scheduled for 2013. It is my intention to actively lobby our state legislators to keep this deadline or actually move it to the 2012 construction season. Both the Town and Village have recently passed resolutions urging this work be scheduled and completed in a timely manner. We must work with our citizens to put pressure on Albany and firmly say "No more delays!"

In order to quickly bring more revenue into the community and promote our economic goals, it has been suggested that we create a municipal parking area for already popular recreational activities. Working with the Square Valley Snowmobile Club and the Oswego County ATV Club, it is my intention to explore the feasibility of this proposal in order to make an informed decision before the midpoint of summer.

We must also ensure that the adaptive re-use of Parish Elementary is one that has the support of our citizens because it benefits our residents either through direct use as senior housing and/or a community center for example, or because it becomes a business base pumping tax dollars and jobs into our community. We must not allow such a valuable resource to sit idle or unoccupied and it is our intention to work with the Village and School District to see that this facility is used to its' full potential.

I would also like to address the current real property revaluation taking place in Parish. The purpose of the reval is to ensure a level playing field for all property owners. Your assessment should be no more or no less than the realistic full market value of your property. It is the intention of our Assessor to make sure all property owners have the "how to" information and the oppor-

tunity to grieve their assessment. We have a grievance process in place and available for people to use. But in speaking of assessments you have to remember that property value is only part of the equation when it comes to how much property taxes you pay, the tax rate based on the budgetary needs of the municipality is of equal importance.

With this in mind, it is my intention to within the next month appoint an Efficiency Committee to line by line review the current Town Budget and make recommendations for cuts or consolidations. This committee to be made up of representatives of the Town Board, Village Board and private citizens will have the opportunity to not only review the Budget but also to look at areas of consolidation or cost cutting with the Village, the Fire District, the School District, and the County among others. I would also like to see this committee

manner.

In this same vein, it was announced this week that the State Comptroller's Office intends to conduct an audit of some Town departments within the next 30 days. It is my intention to act on any recommendations coming out of this audit and implement remediations or suggestions as quickly as possible and have all such recommendations in place by the 2012 Budget Year.

In speaking to you tonight I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the following. People often ask what do I get for my tax dollars locally. To mention just some: how about local roads cleared and repaired so that our citizens can get to work and our children to school, how about fire protection by well trained and dedicated volunteer firefighters who protect our homes and businesses and come to our aid in accidents and medical emergencies. How about code enforcement to ensure that our buildings are safe and public health is protected, how about our schools educating our children ensuring well informed citizens and skilled workers for the future, how about dog control to make sure pets are protected and people safe; and in the Village how about street lights, public sewers and garbage collection to again promote both health and safety.

These are just some examples of your tax dollars at work for you. Are we perfect? "No." Can we make improvements? "Yes." Tonight I'd like to remind all of you it is your responsibility to watch your government, local, state and national, it is your responsibility to elect leaders who work for your best interests and not those who try to promote private or personal agendas. It is our collective responsibility to work together to build our community and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that Parish is and will continue to be, the Place. Thank You!



L-R MaryAnn Phillips, Mary Lou Guindon, Steve Stelmashuck, John Dunham, and Doug Jordon.

review information or suggestions from the general public on cost cutting or consolidation ideas. It is our duty as elected officials to think outside of the box in these tough economic times and be prepared to make hard decisions to promote a lean, efficient Town government that provides needed services to its' citizens and not unnecessary burdens. The Efficiency Committee should give its' report to the Town Board no later than August 1st, so the Town Board can begin constructing the 2012 Budget in a timely

Stewardship of Our Forests

By Robert Chambers, Conservation Advisor

As indicated in the previous Newsletter, our Parish forests have many benefits to our community as well as being a valuable economic asset to the landowner. Many of our forests are young and have not yet reached their potential value or have been degraded by one (or more) harvests which have removed only the “biggest and best”. The following paragraphs are provided to help forest landowners increase the value of their forests and increase protection from theft.

Create a Forest Management Plan

Landowners interested in enhancing the value of their forest (for either timber or wildlife) will be best served by developing a management plan in consultation with a professional forester with the training and experience to help you achieve your goals. The first step should be to contact the Cortland office of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) (607-753-3095) and request that one of their foresters provide you with assistance; you can also contact a Consulting Forester; a list of these may be obtained at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46800 - or at the Parish Town Office. Landowners with large acreages will likely be directed to this list following a visit by a DEC forester. Although a Consulting Forester may come with a price tag, that cost is usually offset by a greater return than otherwise from your timber harvests. You will also benefit by knowing that the future values of your forest (timber or wildlife) will be enhanced over time rather than degraded.

Also, become familiar with what some of your neighbors may be doing in their forests. There are Master Foresters trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension who can offer advice and insights to forest owners such as yourself. A list of these is available at the Parish Town Office.

Reducing Timber Theft

Timber theft is common throughout New York State, including the Town of Parish (and Village!) and represents a financial loss (often in thousands of dollars) to forest landowners. The NYS Legislature has recently reviewed the problem (2008) and enacted a new and improved timber theft law which favors a landowner’s opportunity for obtaining compensation for their loss. A copy of this law is available for review in the Parish Town Office.

Timber theft may be deliberate or accidental as in cases where property lines are not clearly marked. It also may occur if more trees are removed than the owner originally intended from a sale on their property. Deliberate theft can not always be avoided or prevented, but there are several steps a landowner can take to minimize the probability of theft:

- Be aware of logging activity on adjacent property and make sure that your boundary in that area is clearly marked. Many timber theft cases fail in court because property boundaries were not clearly marked.
- Inform the adjacent landowner and logger that the boundary is clearly marked; a joint inspection should satisfy all.

Inspect the boundary area during and soon after the logging ends.

If the sale is on your own property:

- Use a professional forester to mark the trees to be cut and execute a contract with the logger which identifies the terms of the sale including provision for responsibility of cleanup and correction/compensation for damage to the landscape or property. Although a fee may be charged, it is usually offset by a greater return and adherence to sale conditions. This is particularly desirable if you are following a specific forest management plan. Otherwise, the landowner themselves should mark or otherwise specify the trees to be cut and have the logger sign an agreement as to the terms of the sale including any conditions the landowner wishes to be observed, ie. Timing of logging, cleanup, correction of damage, etc.

If theft occurs:

- Notify your local DEC Conservation Officer to inspect and verify the theft: if you take the case to court, their testimony will be needed. The Timber Theft Law is part of the New York Environmental Conservation Law.
- Contact a professional forester to determine the value of your loss. You may proceed to collect the value directly from the logger, or through the courts where you may collect triple the value of your loss with the defendant liable for the court costs. Timber theft is now classified as a misdemeanor.

Copies of the Timber Theft Law are available for review at the Parish Town Office.

Your forest is a valuable resource-treat it as such!

Example of local forest “Whitney Dam”



Parish Volunteer Fire Company by Roger Fox

2010, pertinent statistics:

396 total calls- the most they've ever had!

For those **396** calls, the fire company spent 284 hours on those incidents with 2,575 man hours expended.

Within those **396** calls there were 6 structure fires in our own district and we assisted other districts 26 times for neighboring structure fires.

52 Motor Vehicle Accidents

250 Medical/Rescue calls

The company spent 2,982 man-hours training.

Don't miss their

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on Sun. May 8.

Chamber of Commerce 4th Annual Photo Contest

by Nancy Weaver-Bookheimer

Psssst! Yes, you with the camera around your neck. You are invited to take photos and participate in the 2011 'Focus on Parish' Photo Contest. This year's theme is Parish at Work and Play. Grab that camera. Find a subject. Snap an award-winning photo. The contest will run throughout the year and awards will be made at the Christmas Tree Lighting Activities. All photos will be on display at the Christmas Tree Lighting Activities held at the Mills and Petrie Memorial Gymnasium on Saturday, December 3rd. Check out the

Chamber website <http://parishchamberofcommerce.parish-ny.com/> for rules and entry blanks. For further information contact Nancy Bookheimer at nancybookheimer@me.com.

Individuals (Parish Residents) can submit as many photos as they want. Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, photographic quality and effectiveness in conveying the theme of 'Parish at Work and Play'.

There will be cash awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners.

With your participation we can make this the best contest yet., if you haven't entered the contest before give it a try. We have winners ranging from 9 years old to over 70 years old.

Winners are determined through a blind judging process by representatives from Oswego County Tourism. The decision of the judges is final.

This contest is for Amateur Photographers only.

2010 Focus on Parish Winning Photos



"First Frost 2010"
1st place Aaron Proia



"Fields to Plow"
2nd place Krista Alsworth



"Living in the Country Raising our Families getting close to nature"
3rd place Larry Priest



"Remembering"
4th place Bridget Swartz

Parish Ecumenical Food Pantry

by M. Bridget Swartz

Our local Food Pantry has been in operation for over 20 years. It was first housed at St Anne's Church until the church closed and then moving to its present location at the Presbyterian Church on 814 Rider Street. We are open on an On Call Basis (625-7833 or 625-4575) and serve an average of 15 to 20 families a month.

The Food Bank of CNY gives us funding through the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) which helps us to stock our shelves and better serve those who come for food. All of our churches help with donations for the past few years the Methodists with Joyce Sanderson chairing, have donated paper products, shampoo, toothpaste, and soap. The Presbyterians have been hosting a Free Soup n Sandwich on Fridays from 11:30—1p.m.; with the donations going to the food pantry.

We serve all sized families and a significant number of senior citizens on limited incomes, many of whom are raising grandchildren. Many of our families are working but due to rising fuel and medical costs need a helping hand to make it through the month.

We are grateful to the folks from our community who donate time and food to the Pantry all year long. A special thanks to the strong volunteers who help unload the Food Bank delivery truck and to the Leiter family who shelves the canned food and to David Sperling who constantly organizes the products according to dates so we distribute fresh food at all times.

Parish Senior Club

by Mary Lou Guindon

Are you 60 years old or more? Looking for something to do in the Parish community? Come join the Parish Senior Club, they meet the third Thursday of each month (March through December). They gather at the Parish Dining and Activity Center, 814 Rider Street for lunch from 11 a.m. to about 1 p.m. for a few laughs, great conversation and a brief business meeting. These Parish area friends enjoy going to dinner, outings, community service and more. Be a part of it, come join a meeting and participate in the planning. Call 625-4617 to reserve a lunch or find out more information or just stop by for a cup of coffee or tea.

Parish Dining & Activity Center
814 Rider Street
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Call 625-4617

The focus of "EmPower NY" is on cost-effective electric reduction measures, particularly lighting and refrigerator replacements, as well as other cost-effective home performance strategies such as insulation, and health safety measures. On-site energy use education provides customers with additional strategies for managing their energy costs.

Join us to learn more on Th. May 26. Join us for lunch, call 625-4617 before May 24.

Parish in the Limelight

by Janet Clerkin

Parish Snowmobile Trails and Businesses will Be Featured on National TV

Two local businesses and many miles of local snowmobile trails will be featured in television shows next year to promote snowmobiling in Oswego County.

The Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning sponsored SnowTrailsTV producer Mike Grant and his crew for a day of riding and filming in Oswego County. They rode 100 miles and visited Parish, Pulaski, Salmon River Falls, Happy Valley, Constantia, Oneida Lake and Williamstown. The group stopped for lunch at the Grist Mill, courtesy of Dave Chapman, before heading toward Oneida Lake.

Several members of the Oswego County Snowmobile Association, led by Bob and Carolyn Prockup of Parish, helped to plan the film production.

"This group spent many hours mapping and timing the route; grooming the trails and coordinat-

ing details to make sure that Oswego County was well-represented and that our trails were in excellent condition," said David Turner, director of the County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning. "Because of their hard work, Oswego County will receive wonderful exposure as a snowmobiling destination when SnowTrailsTV airs next year in the U.S. and Canada."

The Oswego County Tourism Office worked with WPBS public television of Watertown to bring SnowTrailsTV to Oswego County. As part of the promotion, the Watertown station will produce a local series that focuses on regional snowmobiling. Their program, which will run next year in southern Ontario and northern and Central New York public television stations, will feature Rock's Sales and Service of Parish.

Oneida and Lewis counties, and the Town of Webb in Herkimer County also participated in the SnowTrailsTV project.



Bob and Carolyn Prockup (front) enjoyed a break for lunch at the Grist Mill with Mike Grant of SnowTrails TV and Dave Chapman, proprietor of the Grist Mill.

Greater Parish Area Chamber of Commerce

by Dan Dalin

This year the Greater Parish Area Chamber of Commerce will be trying some new things to complement the successful events we have had over the past few years. For starters, members may already have realized a new benefit to their membership. This year, all members will receive a subscription to Oswego Business magazine! This is the only magazine published in the county specifically for the businesses of Oswego County! In addition to this, we are co-sponsoring the newly revised and revamped newsletter to better inform you of what's going on! We are also working on having rotating meetings so we can do a better job of involving each of our business members. All this and we are still continuing with the same events you have come to expect and love throughout the year. Check the website for more details! <http://parishchamberofcommerce.parish-ny.com>

- Farmer's Market— Saturdays 9 a.m.—2 p.m. July 9 —August 27
 - Olde Home Days— Saturday, August 6
 - Harvest Festival— Saturday, October 15
 - Holiday Celebration and Annual Tree Lighting—Saturday, December 3
- Please contact a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to find out how you can participate and make 2011 our most successful year ever!

Dan Dalin
Greater Parish Area Chamber of
Commerce
President
315-415-6482

Parish Community Yardsale Day

Start hoeing out for the Annual Parish Community Garage May 28th from 9am-4pm. Get your sale on the map by contacting Chriss at 625-4169 or parishgaragesale@aol.com. Please leave a description of the location of your sale, house numbers, crossroads and which side of the road (N or S) would be great.

Maps will be available the day of the sale in Canfield Park.

Parish Public Library Chartered on April 7, 1923

by Nancy Bookheimer, Secretary, Board of Trustees

The Library provides the community with the following services.....

- Library is open 20 hours per week
 - 15,046 visitors to the library and 750 visits to the website at www.parishpubliclibrary.org.
 - Fully automated Circulation System.
 - Large Children's Section, Over 2,100
- Books.
- Handicap Accessible.
 - Collection of Over 10,000 books available – Best Sellers to the Classics, Reference Material, Paper Backs.
 - Approximately 10,000 Items are loaned out Annually.
 - Children's Story Hours.
 - How-to Videos, Audio CD's & Foreign Language Tapes.
 - Large Print Book Section.
 - Magazines and Journals.
 - Public-use Computers (5) (3,664 users)
 - Job information
 - Resume Writing Assistance.
 - Study Guides for the GED and SAT
 - Literacy Tutoring Available
 - One-On-One Basic Computer Instructions.
 - Wireless (WiFi) provided to the Patrons/Public.
 - Downloadable Books are now available.
 - Outreach Program for Seniors and home-bound

- Library Sponsored Programs
(Approximately 4,000 Adult/Children took advantage of these programs)
- Annual Community Christmas Open House With Santa, gifts and Storytelling.
 - Barber Shop Singers
 - Speaker Programs
 - Book Sales
 - Children's Summer Reading Program
 - Participation in the Summer Recreation Program
 - Writer's Group
 - Book Club
 - Scrapbooking
 - Participation in the Pre-K Screening
 - Pre School Storytelling
 - Annual Art Exhibit (Featuring Local Artists)

eMedia is now available at the Parish Public Library. You can now download Audiobooks and eBooks, all you need is an internet connection and a library card. Available 24/7 anytime, anywhere. Browse the extensive catalogue, Checkout, and Download - easy as 1,2,3. Enjoy a book immediately or transfer to your iPod, eBook reader, computer or other compatible devices. Go to www.northcountrylibraries.org. - FREE OF CHARGE.

Participation in Community Activities:

- Irish Days
- October Fall Fest
- Christmas Tree Lighting Festivities
- Parish Olde Home Days

In 2010 the number of people passing through the doors of the Parish Public Library (15,046) was roughly six times the population of the Town of Parish (2,558 - 2010 census).

The Friends organization meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm, President, Kathy Perkins.

The Board of Trustees (5 members), President Mary Houghton, meets the 3rd Friday of the month at 2:00pm.

Bridget Swartz is the Library Director and Assistant is Verna Henderson. Bruce Lewis and Linda McNamara round out the Staff.

10 RSVP Volunteers

The Library hours:

Monday 9am – 3pm, and 7 – 9pm;
Wed and Sat 12 – 5pm ; Thurs 7 – 9pm.
Phone number (315) 625-7130
e-mail parlib@ncls.org.

The Parish Public Library is a member of the North Country Library System.

APW Elementary School Working Group Planning for the Future

By Michael McAuliff

The Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District is currently involved in a comprehensive district consolidation and realignment. Phase I of this plan occurred in June of 2008 with the closing of Williamstown Elementary School and the realignment of 5th grade to the Middle School. A re-drawing of the elementary school attendance zones aligned Williamstown students with either Altmar Elementary School or Parish Elementary School.

Phase II of the district's consolidation plan is currently underway and includes the following:

- Expanding the current Middle School to become a district-wide elementary school serving grades UPK-6 and closing Altmar and Parish Elementary Schools .
- Expanding the current high school to become a Junior-Senior High School comprised of grades 7-12.
- Consolidating the current four school

buildings (five including Williamstown Elementary School) located through-out the district into a single two-building campus comprised of a UPK-grade 6 APW Elementary School and a grade 7-12 APW Junior/Senior High School.

An Elementary School Working Group (APWESWG) was established in September 2009 and has been planning and working on various issues concerning the consolidation of Altmar Elementary, Parish Elementary and grades 5 and 6 from the Middle School. The group recently surveyed parents with respect to their questions or concerns relative to the consolidation and developed a presentation focusing on these questions/concerns. The survey asked parents to identify their "two most pressing questions regarding the elementary school consolidation and realignment. Approximately 40 surveys were returned

and questions were compiled into one of five "themes"; 1. Class Size, 2. Influence of Older Students on Younger Students, 3. Staffing, 4. Curriculum/Program and 5. Miscellaneous. The APWESWG developed a presentation based on the parent surveys and presented the information at two parent/community meetings held at both of the elementary schools. During the presentations, parents and community members asked various questions ranging from the impact of the consolidation on staffing to what's going to come of Altmar and Parish Elementary School buildings once they are closed.

The consensus of those that attended the presentations was that for the most part, the information presented by the APWESWG was informative and useful. Future parent/community presentations will be offered as the consolidation draws nearer. For more information concerning the APW Elementary School consolidation please contact Mr. Michael McAuliff, Principal Parish Elementary School at 625-5270.

**New Visions may be coming to Parish this year!
500+ Parish folks are interested, now we are waiting on FUNDING."
Mr. Branca of New Visions is actively working to obtain funding for our project.**

State Route 69 Project, Village of Parish

Parish Economic Development Task Force

The Parish Economic Development Task Force (PEDTF) held its first official meeting on Jan. 31, 2007 with fourteen community members present. This remains a group of civic, government, and leaders in the Town of Parish committed to seeking avenues for the betterment of Parish. This public meeting is held the second Wednesday each month beginning at 8 a.m. at the Mills and Petrie Memorial Gymnasium.

One of the initial steps by the PEDTF in 2007; a letter written to the NYDOT re: the proposed upgrade to Route 69 within the village of Parish that has been delayed over and over again. The NYDOT responded with a letter acknowledging the need was there but nothing could be done until 2009. On April 23, 2008 two NYDOT reps, Ed Wilday and Roy Cary attended their first PEDTF meeting. Did you know that Parish was originally mapped in

2001, and then put on a shelf? Ed and Roy continued coming to Parish and working out details for this Route 69 reconstruction project. The project and the possibilities for revitalizing Parish are exciting. Imagine sidewalks from one end to the other, a bike lane, parking lanes, the wonderful park setting in front of the Parish Public Library, the park and ride (west side of Co. Rt. 26 between the Rt. 81 north exit and State Route 69) to name a few. Parish would look inviting!

Ed retired last year; Roy continues to attend the PEDTF meetings and is now talking of his retirement. Roy would like to see this project completed during his watch. He has ridden this rough path with us for three years and feels our pain each time the year is extended.

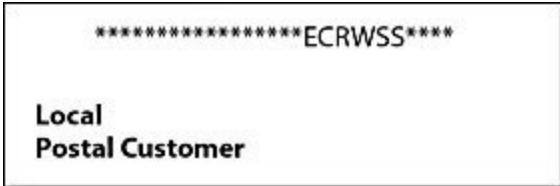
The PEDTF voted in March 2011 to draw up a resolution and write letters to NYDOT

officials: Carl Ford, Joseph Flint and George Doucette, also Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Patty Richie and Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney. The Town and Village of Parish agreed to participate in this campaign.

How can you help? PEDTF member Paul Baxter has also drawn up a petition supporting the reconstruction to take place at the earliest possible date. YOU as Parish residents will help by signing this petition. These will be available at local merchants, at the town/village offices and members of the PEDTF should be carrying one. Thank you in advance for being a part of this movement.

Chamber of Commerce
Town of Parish
2938 East Main Street
Parish, NY 13131

<http://www.townofparish-ny.us/>



Town E-Newsletters

Sign Up for Future
"Parish Community News"
and submit articles to
Mary Lou Guindon, editor
townnewsletter@parish-ny.us

PARISH PAINTS THE TOWN PURPLE! by Janet Clerkin

The Parish area Relay For Life committee will celebrate "Paint the Town Purple Day" Saturday, April 30, with a variety of fundraisers and refreshments at the corner of Rtes. 69 and 69A. The "Paint the Town Purple" event will be from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Purple is the signature color of Relay For Life and signifies support for the fight against cancer. Businesses are invited to get involved by decorating their storefronts and windows with purple ribbons, lights and other decorations. A prize will be awarded to the most creative business decorations by the Parish Relay For Life organizing committee.

To enter, business owners can fill out the form in this newsletter, or call relay chairpersons Mary Faulkner at 298-6019 or Sharon Amyotte at 387-5688 for more information.

"Paint the Town Purple activities are designed to involve the community in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life," said Margaret DeNeve, event coordinator for the American Cancer Society. "Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's major community fundraising effort to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays, by helping people stay well and get well, finding cures, and fighting back against cancer."

The Parish area Relay for Life will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, June 10, at the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Middle School. Hundreds of people will take turns walking the track to raise money for the fight against cancer. The event ends at 6 a.m. Saturday, June 11.

The overnight celebration features individuals and teams enjoying music, theme laps, special activities for children, and taking turns walking the track. At nightfall, participants take part in a touching luminary ceremony to honor cancer survivors and pay tribute to those lost to the disease.

Teams are currently being formed and can be signed up on the web site at www.relayforlife.org/parishNY. There will be a team captains meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, April 11, at the APW Middle School cafeteria. All team captains and those interested in forming a team are encouraged to attend.

For information on volunteering or local business sponsorship, or to find out how to build a team, call Mary Faulkner or Sharon Amyotte, or visit www.relayforlife.org/parishNY. Donations can be made online as well

Alumni Banquet—June 4

It's that time of year! The 2011 Parish/Alumni Banquet will be held at the APW High School, 639 County Route 22, Parish on Sat. evening, June 4, beginning with a social hour at 5 p.m. During this time you may take a guided tour of the school. The West Amboy Community Church will return, preparing their delicious home-made dishes; serving at 6 p.m. There will be the memory filled slide shown continuously on the multiple TV screens.

This year honoring the 75th year class- "1936"; the 50th year class- "1961" and the 25th year class- "1986." All graduation years are invited to join in the reminiscing; the years ending with 1's and 6's will be recognized as honor years.

This will be another evening of great fun; with a 50/50 raffle, the NY Basket drawing (many, many of the popular NY products) benefitting the APW Alumni Assoc. Let's have even more fun, why not bring along a door prize. Big or small; gift certificates or new goods. The more we have the more chances you'll have to win!

The Class of 1936 and the Class of 1961 and the Class of 1986 will pay \$10 per person; and all other graduates and friends will be \$12.00 per person or two for \$20. If you are unable to attend, but would like to receive a program, please send \$5 to treasurer to cover costs.

Please make a reservation for the Alumni Banquet dinner by May 24. Contact Sharon DeNio House, class of 1970 at 625.7641 or email shouse352@aol.com or mail to: 33 Easy Street, Parish, NY 13131.

Keep the APW data base current; if you move, please inform us of your new address!!!

APWEF Golf Tourney—June 5

The APW Educational Foundation will host their first "APWEF Golf Tournament" on Sunday afternoon, June 5 with a 1 p.m. tee off at the Northshore Golf Course; 8062 Maple Flats Road; Cleveland NY.

Captain and Crew, 18 holes of golf with a cart; followed by a southern style BBQ dinner and another opportunity to catch up with classmates. This will be an afternoon of golf, delicious food and great company for only \$55 per person or \$100 a couple. All this while supporting a worthwhile organization that benefits APW students and programs.

Teams of four must sign up together. So get your foursome together and sign up today. Reservations must be complete by May 30th.

Checks made payable to the "APW Educational Foundation" and mailed to: APW Educational Foundation, PO Box 192, Parish, NY 13131

Prizes and raffles will be available. For more information you may contact, Pat Darrow 663-7289 or email pdarrow@apw.cnyric.org