

eye on North Salem

A Publication for North Salem Readers

April 2011

NORTH SALEM'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

An interview with John White, chairman of the committee

What is a comprehensive plan and why does North Salem need one? A comprehensive plan is an outline at the macro level - a "vision" for the town meant to stand for a decade or so. It forms the basis for the town board to amend our local zoning, write new legislation to protect our natural resources and formulate long-range plans like financing for capital improvements. It also provides recommendations and guidelines for the town's boards, departments and committees. Our current plan is twenty years old. It's long overdue.

How was the current Plan developed? It began with a committee of eleven, then we involved members of the town boards -- planning, zoning, CAC; then some of the boards worked on individual projects -- historic preservation, recreation, open space; then we consulted with departments -- building, highway; then we reached out to the schools, community organizations, emergency services. It mushroomed, and when we prepared a flow chart there were over 100 names associated with the work that went into this plan.

And the general public? Were they involved? We held over xxx public meetings and conducted a town-wide survey. We want to thank all the residents that took the time to answer the xx-pages of detailed questions, over xx% of the residents. We heard loud and clear that people want North Salem to keep its rural character. All the results of the survey can be viewed on the town website, northsalemny.org/boards/compplan.

What's the status of the Plan and when will it be finished? For about one year we aggressively worked on this project and brought it to the town board for their initial consideration. The town then worked with the County to consider the ramifications of the new Fair and Affordable Housing Settlement. This winter we prepared the State Environmental Review scoping document and we are now reviewing the first draft of the

Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Plan has been circulated to a variety of interested State and County agencies and local public agencies and we are awaiting their comments. The town board will hold a public hearing and we hope to have it finished and adopted by this fall.

Are there any surprises? Not really. The 2010 census data is coming in now and to no one's surprise our population changed only slightly since 2000, from xx to yy. However, we have a more diverse population than the last census. As far as zoning is concerned, we have recommended a change in one pocket of residential zoning south of the Titicus River and some flexible zoning along Fields Lane. We have recommendations on transportation improvements, better recreation opportunities, more protection of historic properties, open space and sensitive environmental features like steep slopes.

Anything new? Yes, a few items. We are suggesting a town-wide "dark sky" policy to cut down on excess lighting. We're not suggesting a new law but rather individual contributions -- put lights on timers and sensors, direct lights downward and not across neighbor's yards or roadways. Good neighbors enjoying good neighbors. There's also a new section on Energy Conservation and Going Green.

Your personal wish? That we not litter our town with unnecessary, temporary signage, especially during our beautiful October. Pound Ridge and Somers did it by enacting new laws. Wouldn't it be great if we did it without government intervention?

What's left? Unfortunately, we have not commenced work on the Capital Improvement section. Personally, I hope this will be given priority as soon as we complete the SEQRA review.

continued on page 3

See inside for our new
Community Directory
Remove and Save!

POST OFFICE ALERT

Very soon the North Salem Post Office will be shifting its carrier route deliveries to Somers, that's right, Somers. What will this mean to the future of our post office? For now they tell us, "no change...." See more on page 3.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ruth Keeper Memorial Library Fair -- Cocktail Preview Party, Friday, May 6, 6:30-8:30pm; **Book Sale, Family Fair and Pet Parade**, Saturday, May 7, 10:00am-4:00pm. **Bike Ride around the Titicus**, Saturday, 8:00-10:00am. Blow-out sale, Sunday, May 8. Plus Bake Sale, Plant Sale and so much more. See details at the Library or visit keelerlibrary.org.

Improvement Society Black Gold Day -- Saturday, May 14. Sign up for well-composted cow manure for your garden! See details on their website: northsaalemimprovementsociety.info.

Memorial Day Parade, May 30, 2011, 10:00 am, Oak Ridge Road to WECS (the old Purdys High School) on Route 22.

Each year North Salem says goodbye to many friends, neighbors and relatives -- Thelma Penny, Ray Cole (former fire commissioner and Croton Falls postmaster), Quentin W. Parnell, Robert Sparkes, Patricia Crenson, and Ellen Hyman Browne, to name a few. Herb Geller has written about two more below. We will miss them all.

Angelika von Burchard

Angelika von Burchard died on February 20, 2011. Born abroad, she was proud to be an American citizen. She was married to Jack Rocca who predeceased her in 1992..

Angelika's personal life reads like a story in the novel "Out of Africa." She was born in Berlin in 1938. Her mother died when she was two and she was raised by her grandmother who owned a sisal plantation in Mozambique. She attended school there and later went to the University of Natal in South Africa. After college she followed her passion for travel and became a stewardess for Trek Airways and later for Lufthansa.

She returned to Germany while working for Lufthansa and later returned to her beloved Africa and became head of the Flight Staff and Training for Luxavia Airlines. Angelika told me she remembered the time of Apartheid in South Africa and said white people were told to carry a gun and have frequent target practice in case of a black-white civil war.

She moved to New York City in 1977 to join her brother Hagen and his family and that's where she met Jack. Angelika was a Democratic district leader for for 19 years. We will miss her dearly

Margaret C. "Peg" Weber

Peg Weber died in June 2010, a long-time resident of Bloomerside. She was born in Yonkers on May 2, 1923, the daughter of the late Edwin and Jane Fell Conroy. She attended school in Yonkers and later attended Katherine Gibbs Business School in Manhattan. She was married to Morris H. Weber, who predeceased her 1990.

Peg worked as a secretary for NBC Television for many years before moving on to Readers Digest, also as a secretary. She worked there for 16 years and retired in the 1980s. She was an active member of the North Salem Senior Citizens, a communicant of St. Joseph's Church of Croton Falls and a member of the parishes' Senior Citizens Club.

Peg is survived by her son, Gary of North Salem and his wife, Joanne; a brother, Thomas Conroy, and two sisters, Sarah "Sally" Morin and Mary Ann Barbieri, both of North Salem. Her other son, Jeffrey, died in 2008. She also leaves a daughter-in-law, Mary Jane Weber, and four grandchildren, Jennifer, Christopher, Timothy and Danielle and two great grandchildren, Devin and Kendall.

Peg was also a Democratic district leader and will be missed dearly.

Comprehensive Plan, cont.

Any final comments? It's been déjà-vu for me. I was on the town board when the '85 Plan was adopted. I really enjoyed working with so many residents on this current Plan – some lived here all their lives, some came to North Salem for our schools, some came here because at the time this was the only affordable place to settle, some are new arrivals who are so impressed with the remarkable character of our Town. We really have a gem of a Town and our goal is to make sure it stays that way for future generations and that we all can stay here for as long as we desire.

Library needs your help!
Town Board cuts \$14,000
from budget

People turn to the library
for help. Now the Library
needs yours.

Post office update: According to several reports, North Salem PO carrier routes will be shifted to Somers. No change is expected to the box and window service, for now. Both Croton Falls and Purdys are reported to be on a list of closings. We have been trying to verify this information. Maybe we need to all call our representatives:

Nan Hayworth US Representative	hayworth.house.gov	(202) 225-5441 or local (845) 291-4100
Kirsten Gillibrand US Senator	senator@gillibrand.senate.gov	(202) 224-4451 or local (845) 875-4585
Chuck Schumer US Senator	senator@schumer.senate.gov	(202) 224-6542 or local (914) 734-1532
Steve Katz NY State Assembly	katzs@assembly.state.ny.us	(845) 279-5301
Greg Ball NY State Senate	gball@nystate.gov	(845) 279-3773

Save the date: Kitchen Tour, Friday, September 23, 2011

**This year our annual Kitchen Tour will be longer and may include an optional lunch!
If you would like to nominate a kitchen, please contact Pat Stepanovic at 485-1111**

The nominating committee of the North Salem Democratic Club puts forth the following slate of officers for the next fiscal year:

president: Pat Carey
 vice president: Laurie Goodman
 treasurer: Pat Nicholas
 secretary: Pat Stepanovic
 member-at-large: Nancy Stamm
 member-at-large: Cynthia Curtis
 member-at-large: Bob McGee
 member-at-large: Andy Pelosi

All are invited to attend the annual meeting and cocktail party and rally round the Dems for this important election year.

Only members in good standing may vote on the slate of officers. Please mail in your dues or bring with you to the meeting. Thanks!

Dues are \$25, family
 \$15, individual
 \$10, youth or senior
 Please send checks to

North Salem Democratic Club
 PO Box 525, North Salem, New York 10560

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Dues: _____

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 15, 2011, 4:00 pm

At the home of Harriette Tax

50 Cotswold Drive, Purdys

There will be a brief annual meeting with election of officers.

Please see details and a membership form on page three.

R.S.V.P. 669-5013

School Budget Voting Information

Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 7:00 am to 9:00 pm

NSSD at PQ Elementary School, 173 June Road

KLSD at Increase Miller School, Route 138

Want to stay in touch and know what's doing in Town?

visit our website at

northsaledemocrats.info

Volunteers needed

New representatives for our local Democratic Committee

For a complete list of reps visit our website at northsaledemocrats.info

If interested, please contact Andy Pelosi at (number)

Time to consider candidates for local elections !

A publication of

North Salem Democratic Club
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