

Mayor's Message for December 2017

The holiday season is upon us, and I hope that everyone is able to take some time to spend it with family and friends over these next few weeks.

This is a very busy time in the Village. Our Police, Fire/EMS, Highway, and Village staff are working hard to provide residents and visitors with a safe enjoyable holiday season.

The Travel Market Report has just named Rhinebeck on of the "Ten Most Christmassy Towns in the US." (<https://goo.gl/3RjQNH>)

Do you know who to contact in an emergency or after hours?

First try the direct line to the department. If you do not get someone, then please reach out to one of our officials, depending on the issue you are reporting:

Water - 845-876-7331	Bryan Alix – 845-242-8469
Waste Water - 845-876-2150	Peter Rathjen – 845-443-5688
Highway - 845-876-5001	Mike Wolff – 845-756-5001

If none of those are reachable call:

DPW Supervisor John Fenton	845-264-5247
Mayor Gary Bassett	845-235-3968

I always enjoy touting this past month's achievements of the Village Staff:

Brian Baccomo received his Plant Grade 2A operator's certification for wastewater treatment plants. This is a significant step towards becoming a plant operator, which requires 3A certification.

Danielle Rector got excellent scores on the civil service exams and is now our 30 hour/week Police Clerk.

Scott Minn was appointed to the position of Motor Equipment Operator/Mechanic. This is a trial position for 90 days as we evaluate a plan for the Highway Department to handle all regular service and maintenance of village vehicles. Currently the Village spends in excess of \$10,000/year on regular maintenance. Performing this task in house will save us money.

Pat Coon, our Village Clerk, organized and hosted a Defensive driving course at Village Hall on November 4th. Completing this course can lead to a 10% reduction on your auto insurance, making it well worth the fee. 24 people took the course and many suggested this should be a yearly event.

Trustee Rossi and I wrote up and submitted a grant request for 2 Level Two charging stations for electric vehicles. Each unit has dual charging ports, combined four electric vehicles can be charged at the same time. They are to be installed in the Village Hall Municipal parking lot. Dutchess County is supporting our request, and the Chamber of Commerce has made a recommendation in support of the grant. When they are installed, they will be available to anyone with an Electric Vehicle to use at no charge for the first two years they are in service. After the initial two years, the Village board can decide if there will be a fee for charging.

Trustee Neuneker reports that the Short-term Vacation Committee is hard at work on proposed amendments to the Village code regarding the definitions and length of stay for short-term vacation rentals less than 30 days. A final draft should be ready soon. They recently met to discuss a few outstanding issues before drafting a version of the code for the Village Board of Trustees. After that, we will be holding workshops to outline the proposed code changes and hear from residents.

The fall tree planting on November 4th was a great success. Under the leadership of Meg Crawford head of the tree committee and Trustee Ric Lewit, 18 trees were planted along Astor drive and Montgomery. We had 21 volunteers and, indeed, many hands made for light work! Thanks to everyone who showed up, including Tree committee members, Community Gardeners, students, and other Village residents. I had a great time and learned a lot too, and am already looking forward to spring planting in April.

In January, we will be starting our 2018-2019 budget cycle. I will be hosting open meetings for any Village resident who wants to come and have input on ways we can better serve you, or on budget priorities. You will start seeing notices of these meetings shortly after the holidays.

The summer farmers market had a very successful 23rd year. Now that winter is here, the indoor market can be found on alternate Sundays at Rhinebeck Town Hall. If the market is a regular stop on your Sunday, please continue to come during the winter months. Many of our vendors have excellent offerings.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me, I can always be reached at MayorBassett@VillageofRhinebeckny.gov. or come to see me during open hours from 1pm to 2pm daily.

Happy Holidays to everyone!
Gary Bassett
Mayor, Village of Rhinebeck