

Summer Issue  
2010  
Volume 7, Issue 2

# Minoa News

Serving the People of Minoa

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## Minoa News

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William F. Brazill

The Minoa News  
will be published  
on a continuing basis.

Materials may be  
submitted to:

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Attn: Bill Brazill

Or they may be  
E-Mailed to:

[wbrazill@villageofminoa.com](mailto:wbrazill@villageofminoa.com)

The Village of Minoa  
Board meets regularly  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday of each month  
at the Minoa Municipal  
Building @ 7:00 pm..

## Village Office

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Mon.-Fri.  
8:30- 4:30  
656-3100  
Fax  
656-0825

[www.villageofminoa.com](http://www.villageofminoa.com)

## News from the Mayor

Welcome to the summer addition of our Village newsletter! I delayed this issue in the hope that I could inform you of the financial direction of our Village. For those of you that think we have too much government, you are absolutely correct; the Federal Government is trillions in debt, New York State is billions in debt and now Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse are both millions in debt. That leaves the little guys, towns and villages, who play by state and federal rules, to present a balanced budget on time and control our spending to stay within our budget. That leads to the question; do we have too much government? I feel that the best services for the dollars spent are at the local level. If your local government does what the law dictates, how do large governments get to keep spending above their ability and then they are able to transfer or shift the tax burden to the local level?



**Sales Tax:** If you've been watching the news on this issue, here is the latest example of what I'm talking about; Onondaga County, along with the City of Syracuse, have both managed to cut our Village sales tax revenue in half. The bad news is that on average this cut represents approximately \$220,000 that we won't have to help pay for the services we provide you, the taxpayer, who every day spends the money that generates the sales tax revenue. The good news is that we have planned for an anticipated cut in this year's budget and by cutting everything we possibly could, without cutting staff and reducing services, we presented a balanced budget. We continue to install energy saving technology wherever we can. We've applied for and received grants to help us continue to support the services we have and yes, we are growing as a village. In 2004 I told you folks that if we invested in ourselves (Municipal Building), others would invest in our village. Our beautiful, practical and multifunctional building has been a huge success, as well as shaped a new and vibrant Main Street. This has created a positive environment that has developers looking to invest in our community, the newest of which is Trappers II. Even in one of the toughest economies we've seen in years, I continue to talk to people who want to locate in our village. My hope is that we can maintain a stable tax rate throughout the upcoming tough financial years ahead of us. We will do that as a team, working every creative angle to become as efficient and productive as possible. We will continue to look to shared services and even consolidate services if it makes sense. What our county, state and federal governments don't realize when they promote this concept is that we at the town and village level have been doing this for years.

As your Mayor and the President of the Onondaga County Mayors Association, I spent many hours in meetings with County and City Legislators and with the help of my mayoral colleagues from around the County, put on a four hour PowerPoint presentation to the County Legislature. The presentation showed that our villages were able to provide services for a smaller dollar amount compared to other larger governments. The original proposal called for the elimination of sales tax revenue to towns, villages and school districts. The hard work by the Mayors, as well as the efforts led by our County Legislator, Kevin Holmquist, proved successful in getting sales tax funds to at least 50% of what we currently receive and the contract is for ten years at a guaranteed \$220,400.00 per year. This allows for the Village of Minoa to budget accordingly moving forward. I heard numerous comments throughout the meetings that they did not realize that so many services were provided with so few employees and so few dollars. Yet, in the end, a tax shift was enacted to help plug the holes in the County budget at a large cost to villages.

**Continued on next page.**

### **Continued Mayor's Message.**

On the other hand, the State of New York has been and still is a financial nightmare. I just returned from a meeting with the New York Conference of Mayors in Albany, in which we had many meetings with State Officials and Governor Patterson, the net result of those meetings was that they have no idea when there will be a State budget in place. This not only affects our State Aid, but our economy in general.

The good news is that we haven't and we won't wait for big government to get their act together. Again, we are proactive and doing everything we can to keep our tax rate stable and below is one example.

**Waste Water Treatment Facility:** I mentioned earlier about being creative and working as a team, and the following is a prime example. We have partnered with SUNY ESF, the ESM School District and others to help us build an anaerobic digester to convert human waste to energy. We are also looking to use the food waste from the ESM High School to lessen their waste disposal costs and further improve our ability to produce energy. Once the project is in full operation, we feel it will make our DPW and Waste Water operations sustainable; the savings of the cost of electricity to the village is projected to be approximately \$60,000 upon completion and implementation of the digester. This digester will be built through a co-operative effort of our partners and grants so it will be done at little or no cost to village residents. In conjunction with that project, we are using our constructed wetlands, which are all gravity fed and no energy used, to remove solids from our wastewater. In a recent breakthrough, under the operation of Steve Giarrusso WWTF Supervisor, we have been able to remove difficult pharmaceutical substances from our wastewater. There is much research still to be done in this area, but with the help of our partners and former City of Syracuse Mayor, Matt Driscoll, who is now the head of the New York State Environmental Finance Corporation, we will continue to make progress in this endeavor which will help the environment throughout our community and potentially the world. The combination of both technologies, along with our conventional plant, will further reduce waste material and create energy to help us save more money. We are also working with Superintendent Dr. Donna DeSiato and her staff at ESM School District to develop a K-12 educational program that will teach our young people about our innovations and how they can help us to protect our environment.

We have had people here observing our facility from as far away as China due to the way the facility has been constructed. We have the ability to run experiments in any given area of the plant without disrupting the functionality of the plant. My hope moving forward is that we can become a research facility for environmental studies that will create outside funding to offset some of our expenses from the continued flow of unfunded mandates. Because of the creative possibilities of the plant, we are potentially looking to rename the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) to possibly one of my ideas of Clean Water Educational and Research Facility.

In conjunction with this project, our DPW, under the direction of Superintendent Tom Petterelli, has ordered the CNG (compressed natural gas) compacting trash truck. I have talked about this unit before; however, the paperwork for the grant money has just been approved and the truck has been ordered. This means our fuel costs, at today's prices, will be cut approximately in half and the vehicle will have zero emissions. This is great for the environment and the health of the men that work behind the truck on a regular basis. Our hope, as we progress with the anaerobic digester project, is that we may also be able to produce and convert enough methane gas to provide compressed natural gas to fuel the truck.

With all of the above going on, your Village of Minoa Board has worked diligently with department heads, and we were able to pass a balanced budget without increasing the tax rate for the new fiscal year that begins in June. Given the fiscal environment we are dealing with today, this was no small task. I'm proud of all of our employees and Board members who have put in such a great effort to continue to make every dollar you invest in this village go as far as it can.

On behalf of me, the Village Board and the staff, please have an enjoyable, safe and fun filled summer.

## ***A Word from the Department of Public Works***



Trash and yard waste and miscellaneous debris should be in compliance with the curbside collection policy. Just a reminder, trash and yard waste are better left in piles near the road instead of rows. **Do not put yard waste in plastic or garbage bags and do not place in the roadway.**

Please do not bring outside construction and/or side job debris into the Village for pick up.

**Neighbors should call the Codes Enforcement Officer at (315) 656-3100 or the DPW at (315) 656-7574 to report any violators.**

Remember, do not place trash or debris outside for pick-up until after noon the day before your scheduled pick-up day!

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS CONCERNING BASKETBALL HOOPS**

**Portable basketball hoops that are in the roadway are illegal and will be ticketed accordingly. If you have a basketball hoop in the Village right-of-way that overhangs the street, you do so at your own risk. Trucks and construction equipment of any types are high enough to damage the backboard and/or the vehicle itself. Any damage to the basketball hoop or vehicle is the responsibility of the homeowner.**



### **“Thank You” Letter-to-the-Editor NALC “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive**

I want to thank the Minoa residents, businesses, and postal employees who pitched-in to make the May 8, 2010, National Association of Letter Carriers “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive an overwhelming success. It is gratifying to see the community and the Minoa Postal Team work together to re-stock the shelves of Heaven’s Pantry and feed the needy.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. We recognize the world and the mailing business is changing, but what hasn’t changed is our commitment to the community.

The over 900 lbs. of food donations that we collected on May 8<sup>th</sup> say a lot about the community’s generosity and reflects your confidence in our ability to deliver in kind. The success of the “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive on May 8<sup>th</sup> is yet another example of the spirit, tradition, and commitment to service that our employees provide Minoa, and this nation, each and every day of the year.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Almonte  
Postmaster  
Minoa, NY 13116-9998

# *Minoa Days Festival*

## *At Lewis Park*

*Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>*  
*10:30 am - 5:00 pm*

### **Village-Wide Garage Sales**

**The Central New York Shetland Sheepdog Club (CNYSSC) will be holding a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test and Rally test throughout the day.**

**You are invited to bring your Classic Car and join us for a gathering at Lewis Park**

**Minoa Free Library Book Sale - Municipal Building 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

#### **Games**

**Bottle Pickup, Ring Toss and Wak-a-Rat**

**Caterpillar Crawl**

**Bouncy Boxing**

**Face Painting**

#### **Food and Beverages**

**BBQ Chicken, Salt Potatoes  
and Fried Dough**

#### **United Methodist Church**

**Strawberry Shortcake, Bake Sale & Pulled Pork**

**Minoa Fire and  
Ambulance Equipment Display**

**Town of Manlius Police  
Exhibit**

**Classic Car Gathering**

## Looking for something fun to do with your dog at Minoa Days???

The Central New York Shetland Sheepdog Club (CNYSSC) will be holding a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test and Rally test in conjunction with Minoa Days – **Saturday July 10, 2010**. All breeds AND Mixed breeds are welcome. Mixed breeds are now able to be registered with the American Kennel Club so **you** can participate in any performance event too! (CGC, Rally, Obedience, Agility and more!) You must have your dog registered prior to this event. Go to [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) for more information.



CGC is a way to show that your dog is well behaved. A few of the tests are to show simply that others can be near you and to your pet, or allow others to groom him/her, or that there is no fear if something startles them close by (like an umbrella opening, or something dropping on the ground, etc.). There are 10 tests your dog will be put through. If your dog passes, CNYSSC will give you a congratulatory rosette and AKC can provide you with a certificate for framing.

Rally is a combination of obedience and agility. You and your dog follow a pre-designed course of controlled walking, about turns, lying down, etc. You are competing for highest scores against the others in your class, but your dog alone can qualify without worrying about the competition. Every dog can be a winner!

Entries will be limited for the CGC test to the first 25 dogs. Pre-entry will be available on day of show entries, if it hasn't filled. Rally entries will be taken at the show that morning. Either way, come out to watch the fun! For more information, contact Laurie Danboise 656-8781, ask the village office for a brochure, or go to [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) for a description of each of the tests. Practice!!! Be ready to show your family and friends what a WELL-BEHAVED "Fido" you have!!

### ***The Greiner Hotel is now just a Memory.***

The hotel was built in the late 1800's. It had many owners and names since it opened but older Minoans will always remember it as the "Greiner Hotel" or the "Village Inn". In the early 50's an itinerant artist drove through the village of Minoa and stopped at the hotel. He offered to paint scenes in the bar for room and board and a small amount of money. On the wall of the bar he painted a scene of the Erie Canal with the packet boat pulled by mules. Years later as they were redoing the bar the painting was painted over and paneled.

He painted the face boards covering the metal beam with the picture of a moving train. In the early 70's a new owner, probably to reduce noise and to save on the cost of heat, installed a drop ceiling covering the entire barroom including the painting.

The new owners, Greg Rinaldi and Aaron Wood, tore down the old hotel to make room for their new restaurant, Trappers II. Bernard Gallery and Tom Greiner who both worked in the hotel wanted to look at it one more time before it was razed.

They wondered, "Is the train scene still visible under the drop ceiling?" They were determined to know. They met with the new owner, Greg Rinaldi and toured the building. The second floor with its ten rooms and one bath looked the same. In earlier years railroad men used the rooms. In the bar some of the panels on the drop ceiling were off and they could again see the beautiful train scene and mentioned it to Mr. Rinaldi.

They were both pleased to hear, "I'm taking off the face boards covering the metal beam that include the painting and will hang it in a prominent place in Trappers II as a way for Minoans to remember the old Greiner Hotel."

The hotel is now just a memory but the beautiful scene of the passing train, hidden for years, is again visible for all Minoans, thanks to Greg who tore the building down but wanted its memory to live on.

## ***Minoa Welcomes our New Business***

### ***Trappers II is now open in Minoa!***

Located at 101 North Main St. (next to the Post Office).

Trappers II welcomes everyone to stop by and enjoy a good time in Minoa. Plenty of seating is available inside and an outdoor patio. Bocce ball and volleyball leagues are now starting. Their bocce ball courts and volleyball courts are open to the public when league play is not in action.

Trappers II Hours are: Monday – Thursday: 11:30 am – 10:00 pm  
Friday: 11:30 am – 12:00 am  
Saturday: 12:00 pm – 11:30 pm  
Sunday: 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm



**TRAPPERS II Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: From L to R Deputy Mayor Bill Brazill, Trustee Ron Cronk, Owner Greg Rinaldi, Owner Aaron Wood, Mayor Dick Donovan, Town Supervisor Ed Theobald and Trustee Eric Christensen.**

## ***A Word from Codes Enforcement***

The Village of Minoa does not issue permits for “open burning”. “Open burning” is defined to be the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber (**FC, Chapter 2 Definitions, Section 202 General Definitions**).

The Environmental Conservation Law of New York State prohibits the burning of garbage (defined as food-related animal and vegetable waste) or of household rubbish [**ECL Part 215: Open Fires, ¶ 215.2 Prohibitions, (a) & (d)**]. Further, the Code of the Village of Minoa prohibits the burning outdoors at any time or place of garbage, rubbish or trash or any other waste or discarded matter (**VofM §132-10**). Please note that “rubbish” is defined to be combustible and noncombustible waste materials, including residue from the burning of coal, wood, coke or other combustible material, paper, rags, cartons, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass crockery, dust and discarded refrigerators, and heating, cooking or incinerator-type appliances (**FC, Chapter 2 Definitions, Section 202 General Definitions**)

**The outdoor burning of materials, other than rubbish, is considered a “recreational fire”. Such fires shall be contained in an enclosed pit, commercial fire pit, etc. A recreational fire shall -**

- ❑ Not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material (**FC, Chapter 3 Precautions Against Fire, Section 307 Open Burning And Recreational Fires, ¶ 307.4.2 Recreation fires**).
- ❑ Not be offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emission (**FC, Chapter 3 Precautions Against Fire, Section 307 Open Burning And Recreational Fires, ¶ 307.3 Prohibited open burning**).

We ask you to be a good neighbor and abide by these regulations.

If you have any questions, please call Richard Greene at (952-1493).

## ***Message from the Village Clerk/Treasurer***

Village Taxes are due by July 1, 2010 without penalty and there is a secure drop box available located in the hallway outside of the Village Office for your convenience when the office is closed.

The payment and penalty schedule is as follows:

<b>PENALTY SCHEDULE</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
June 1 – July 1, 2010	No Penalty
July 2 – August 2, 2010	5%
August 3 – August 16, 2010	6%
August 17 – August 31, 2010	6% + \$1.00
September 1 – September 30, 2010	7% + \$1.00
October 1 – November 1, 2010	8% + \$1.00
November 2 – November 23, 2010	14.45% + \$1.00 Payable to ONONDAGA COUNTY CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER



**Suzanne M. Snider**  
Clerk / Treasurer

I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to visit our website at <http://www.villageofminoa.com> to review Board Meeting minutes, Calendar of Events, and utilize the forms available online. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call me at (315) 656-3100 or by email at [ssnider@villageofminoa.com](mailto:ssnider@villageofminoa.com)

Have a safe and happy summer!

## **Calendar of Events**

### **June 2010**

- 6/01/10 Village Tax Bills Levied
- 6/02/10 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 6/03/10 \*Golden Age Club Meeting @ 11:00 am – Municipal Building
- 6/03/10 Minoa Fire Department Field Days – Lewis Park**
- 6/04/10 Minoa Fire Department Field Days – Lewis Park**
- 6/05/10 Minoa Fire Department Field Days – Lewis Park**
- 6/06/10 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 6:30 pm – Municipal Bldg
- 6/07/10 Village Board Meeting – 7:30 pm – Municipal Building – 240 N Main St
- 6/10/10 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 6/15/10 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 6/16/10 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 6/21/10 Village Board Meeting – 7:30 pm – Municipal Building – 240 N Main St

### **July 2010**

- 7/01/10 Village Tax Bills due without penalty
- 7/01/10 \*Golden Age Meeting @ 11:00 am – Municipal Building
- 7/05/10 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed**
- 7/08/10 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 7/10/10 Minoa Days Festival at Lewis Park**
- 7/12/10 Concert at Lewis Park – “T.J. Sacco & the Electric Rodeo” – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- 7/12/10 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 7/14/10 Justice Court – 5:00 pm / Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 7/26/10 Concert at Lewis Park – “The Nines” – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**
- 7/20/10 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 7/30/10 Village Board Meeting/Abstract Meeting – 12:00 Noon – Municipal Building

### **August 2010**

- 8/01/10 Sewer Billing
- 8/02/10 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 5:30 – 8:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 8/05/10 Onondaga Co. Health Dept. Rabies Clinic – DPW Garage – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- 8/05/10 \*Golden Age Meeting @ 11:00 am – Municipal Building
- 8/11/10 Justice Court – 5:00 pm / Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 8/13/10 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 8/16/10 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 8/17/10 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am and 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 8/23/10 Movie at Lewis Park – at Dusk- “Avatar”**
- 8/31/10 Village Board Meeting/Abstract Meeting – 12:00 Noon – Municipal Building
- 8/31/10 Sewer Bills Due Without Penalty

\* Golden Age meets every Thursday

**Summer Office Hours**  
**June 28, 2010 – September 3, 2010**  
**Monday thru Thursday**  
**8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**  
**Friday**  
**8:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

