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Minoa News

Serving the People of Minoa for over 13 years

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John H. Champagne
Eric S. Christensen

Clerk-Treasurer

Lisa L. DeVona

Minoa News

Editor

William F. Brazill

The Minoa News
will be published
on a continuing basis.

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

Village Office

240 N. Main St.
Mon.-Fri.
8:30- 4:30
656-3100
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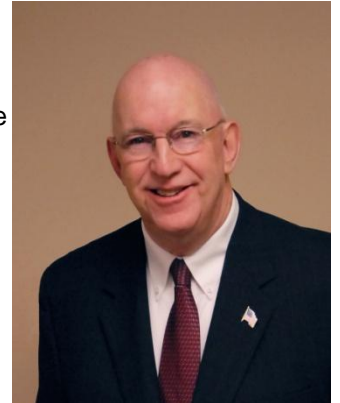
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News from the Mayor

If you haven't heard already I will not be seeking another term as your Mayor. Four years ago I wanted to continue to serve so I could see some projects that were underway come to fruition. I also wanted to continue with my involvement in the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) where I was later honored by my colleagues statewide by being elected President of that organization representing all the cities and villages in New York State; the first village Mayor in Onondaga County to hold that title in the 104 year history of the organization. A tremendous honor, not only for me personally, also for my staff and our community as well. NYCOM is where we go to school to learn and stay current on all the mandates, job requirements, training as well as a great place to network and problem solve. All my department heads, DPW Superintendent Tom Petterelli, Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, Steve Giarrusso and Clerk/Treasurer Lisa DeVona all actively participate in NYCOM. The entire Village Board gives their personal time to also participate in NYCOM training, collectively we've been recognized as one of the best and most involved villages in the state, why, because it's been a team effort. That is a direct reflection on you the citizens of Minoa, who have picked and supported the leadership of this village; there have been only three Mayors in the last 36 years which allows for the continuity and completion of long term goals which have to be spread over time to make them achievable for a small municipality.



To have served on the village Board for 26 years, 12 years as Mayor and to be President of NYCOM, I'm humbled and truly honored for the faith and trust in my leadership ability this wonderful Minoa community and my colleagues in NYCOM community have bestowed on me. The memories are many, I'm proud to say that this year marks my 44th consecutive year of community service to the greater Minoa community which started with MKAA (Minoa Kirkville Athletic Association), now ESM Youth Sports. A neighbor by the name of Dick Martin, former President and co-founder of the MKAA organization recruited me shortly after we moved to Minoa. A few months later another neighbor moved in, his name, John Regan, who at the time was Captain of our then volunteer ambulance department talked me into becoming a volunteer in the Minoa Fire Department (yes, the same John Regan who later became Mayor).

Therein lies another story, John and Mayor at the time, Don Crossett, let's say, strongly encouraged me to run for the Village Board in 1988. I lost that year, however two years later, now Mayor Regan convinced me to run again, the rest they say is history. Serving in a political office has never been an ambition of mine, however serving the community in MKAA, holding leadership positions including President, my years as a volunteer fireman and EMT in the Minoa Volunteer Fire Department, co-founder and advisor along with Dave Van Mater of the Minoa Junior Fire Department gave me the community background needed to be effective as an elected official. Mayor Regan later appointed me Deputy Mayor, a position I served for eight years. John included me in everything he was involved in so I would be prepared to fill in for him in his absence and it was his hope that I would someday become Mayor as well. I owe a lot to Mayor Regan for giving me that experience, for believing in me, and convincing me to run for Mayor, an experience I'll cherish for a lifetime.

Continued on next page

Continued Mayor's Message.

The most important part of being Mayor is having a great team and preparing them to handle their department responsibilities, enabling and empowering them to do their jobs within the management system we have to give the best possible service to our community. I'm very proud of all our employees who come to work every day to serve you, our residents. I'm also very proud of the partnerships that have been formed during my tenure, SUNY ESF, under the leadership of then President Neal Murphy, together we created one of the first public/private partnerships in the state, before it was recognized as a good practice by the state, which has given us the opportunity to use testing equipment and expertise of the SUNY ESF staff and students that we could not otherwise afford to further develop our Cleanwater Educational Research Facility, (CERF). That partnership along with the commitment of East Syracuse Minoa School Superintendent Dr. Donna DeSiato to create a K-12 environmental program which has included student involvement at Minoa and Woodland Elementary schools food separation program, a high school internship program which provides us with ESM student interns, that commitment along with support of environmental science teachers John and Pam Herrington has created the only Waste Water Treatment Plant, Cleanwater Educational, Research Facility in the northeast.

I, as Mayor Regan did, appointed a Deputy Mayor (Bill Brazill). For the last 12 years I've included Bill in everything that I do on a daily basis as Mayor Regan did with me, introduced him to all my contacts, local, state and federal. Being a Mayor in local government today is very complex, time consuming and the responsibility to meet all the requirements from the state and federal level is incredible. My hope is that you will look to Bill as you did me 12 years ago as the most qualified person, a man raised in the village since he was 8 years old, has been involved in many community organizations as he's grown into the leadership position he's now in and has the leadership qualities to be the next Mayor of the Village of Minoa.

In closing "it's not about me, it's about us". My team started almost 51 years ago with my marriage to my wife Phyllis, without her unwavering support all these years I would not have been able to do the things I've done. Together as a community we've made Minoa a great place to live and raise a family. Again, I must give a huge thanks to my staff, the Village Board, the greater Minoa community for making a small town farm boy from the North Country a better person for having the privilege to have worked for you and with you.

God bless and Farewell

Richard J. Donovan, Mayor

A Word from the Department of Public Works



Please do not park on/or block sidewalks in the Village during the winter months.

When plowing out driveways and sidewalks make sure the snow is not placed in the roadway or on the sidewalks.

Failure to comply will be subject to violation notices and/or tickets.

NO PARKING OVERNIGHT

No vehicle shall be parked on any streets or highway in the Village
Or any village owned parking lots between the hours of
1:00 am and 7:00 am

November 1st through April 15th

**Parking tickets will be issued with a \$50.00 fine
and your vehicle will be towed away at the owner's expense.**

A Word from your Trustees



William F. Brazill
Deputy Mayor

I have decided to be a candidate for Mayor of Minoa this year. Mayor Dick Donovan has decided to retire at the end of his term. I have served 12 years as Mayor Donovan's Deputy Mayor. I have been fortunate to work with such a great person, leader and mentor. He is someone I respect and was honored to serve along side of for 12 years. I have the experience, knowledge and leadership qualities to keep Minoa moving forward. With your support I look forward to serving our community in this new and exciting role.

In 2015 we continued our growth as a village. Our Annual Cruisin' in Minoa at Lewis Park was another great success. The Firemen's Field Days, Memorial Day Parade and our 3rd Annual Festival in the Park along with the Teal Ribbon Run were all a great success.

I would like to give a special thanks to everyone who helped with the Festival especially my brother J.Brazill who organized and was able to get over eleven bands to play that day free of charge. I would also like to thank Dave Muraco of Parkway Liquor for his generous donation and Greg Rinaldi of Superior Seal for his help and donation for that spectacular fireworks display.

I'm really excited for the New Year. We will continue to make the Village of Minoa a great place to live and raise a family. Watch for exciting details of all of our events this year. Come out and enjoy your Village.

I welcome your input and comments and encourage attendance at our Board meetings which are held on the first and third Monday of each month. I can be reached by email at wbrazill@villageofminoa.com

As always, I will continue to be fiscally responsible and always look for more efficient ways to run our government. The Village Board and I look forward to accomplishing even more in 2016, as we **Keep Minoa Moving Forward**.



John M. Abbott
Trustee

Well another year has come and gone, welcome to the start of 2016. I have enjoyed working with the Village the last 4 years and hope that I get the support from the residents so I may continue on with my duties as a Village Trustee, Fire Commissioner, Police Commissioner and the Ambulance Committee, as I will run for Village Trustee on March 15th. Please remember to come out and vote.

Mayor Donovan will not be seeking re-election this year, I would like to thank Dick for all his hard work in the last 12 years and wish him well in his retirement. I would also like to congratulate Pat Flannery as the new President of the Minoa Fire Department.

As the Fire Commissioner for the Village I take great pride in all the Volunteers that we have within our Fire Department. We had another successful Field Days and look forward to having another one this year. Thanks so much to the public for their support throughout the year with their donations, and raffles during the Field Days. The Village has taken over the Pole Barn in hopes that maybe in the future it could be used by our Community to hold their own events.

Thanks again and let's have a great 2016!

A Word from your Trustees



John H. Champagne
Trustee

I am very honored for the opportunity you have given me to serve as your Village Trustee. This past year we have been able to complete some of the projects we started at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Village Wastewater Treatment Plant received a Grant of 49,000 dollars from Onondaga County that was used to upgrade Ripplebrook pump station with a new energy efficient pump and state of the art computer operations system. This upgrade will now give this Pump Station 3 energy efficient pumps that will now be able to handle the flows for years to come and be very cost effective. The upgrade to the computer system at this pump station will now give us the capabilities to remotely monitor the entire operation system and also give it the ability to make remote repairs along with system changes without having to be at the pump station. In 2015 The Village of Minoa's Wastewater Treatment Plant and CERF in its constant strive to be energy efficient and sustainable received a very prestigious award from Sustainable Upstate New York (SUN).

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) grant project is in its last phase before its expected completion this spring of 2016. These plant upgrades will help us towards our goal of sustainability. We are continuing to work with the ESM Students as well as ESF College students on different project to help us reach our goal of understanding our environment and also becoming sustainable at the treatment plant.

The Village of Minoa would like to introduce Eric Cushing to our staff. He has been learning the complex operations of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and also taking part in the Research Projects that are currently being done at (CERF) Cleanwater Educational and Research Facility.

I would like to remind the hundreds of Village residents who attend our village Easter egg hunt and all of our wonderful volunteers that help make it a huge success that Easter comes early this year and the villages annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday March, 26th 2016. Registration will start at 10:00am at Lewis park rain, snow or shine we are looking forward to seeing everyone there again this year.

My Village of Minoa responsibilities include: Wastewater Treatment Plant and Cleanwater Education and Research Facility (CERF), Security Camera Systems, Critical Response Committee, Communications, Website, Celebrations - Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Party, Emergency Disaster Preparedness Planner for my Departments.

I would welcome any suggestions or comments you think well help our community. I can be reached at jchampagne@villageofminoa.com.



Eric S. Christensen
Trustee

It's hard to believe that 2015 is now behind us, it certainly has brought a lot of challenges for the entire country and for our Village of Minoa. Some of my Village of Minoa responsibilities as your village trustee include Celebrations along with Deputy Mayor Brazill and fellow Trustee's Abbott and Champagne. I am also the board liaison to the Department of Public Works which includes garbage pickup, disposal and recycling and also the Village Historical Association. The Historical is always looking for photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper articles, or any other interesting things or documents pertaining to history of Minoa. We need the help of Village residents to preserve our history for the next generation.

I would like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers who help out at last year's Teal Ribbon 5K Run/Walk for Ovarian Cancer and also especially Tracy Callahan and my wife Marlene Christensen and all of participants. I would like to let the village residents know that the event raised \$65,000.00.

2016 promises to be another year full of challenges, but also full of opportunities that will make our village an even better place to live and raise our families. I look forward again for the Village holding its fourth annual Fall Festival this coming September 24th. And once again the village will be hosting the 8th Annual Teal Ribbon 5K Run / 3K Walk for Ovarian Cancer also on September 24th. So if you're interested in either volunteer or running in it please contact me I can be reached by email at echristensen@villageofminoa.com.

As always I welcome any suggestions or comments from the residents of the Village of Minoa. Once again my goal as your village trustee is to continue to find ways to save our village money without compromising service to the residents and to preserve the integrity of our village.

Village Budget

The village budgeting process begins on February 8th and continues until adoption of the budget no later than May 1st. This is a very lengthy process involving submission of budget estimates by departments, preparation of the tentative budget, presentation to the Village Board, public hearing and then finally, adoption of the budget.

Special budget meetings will be held in the Municipal Building on the following dates:

Monday, February 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. (if needed)

Village Election

Remember to **Vote** on March 15, 2016
Minoa Municipal Building
Noon – 9:00 pm

Mayor Donovan's Retirement Party

You are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate the retirement of Richard J. Donovan, Mayor of Minoa, in recognition of his forty-four years of dedicated community service.

***Saturday, April 2, 2016
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm***

***Minoa Municipal Building
240 N Main Street
Minoa NY 13116***

Given by the Village of Minoa and the Donovan Family

St. Mary's Old Cemetery
By Barbara S. Rivette
Manlius Town Historian

St. Mary's original cemetery at the southwest corner of Kirkville and Schepps Corners Roads is the oldest existing Catholic cemetery in Onondaga County. It served the parish of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church which was organized in the 1830s by the German-speaking settlers who settled in the north part of the Town of Manlius. A few of the tombstones are still evident to passersby and the ground is maintained by St. Mary's church of Minoa.

Visiting priests who spoke German or in some cases French served this congregation which built a hemlock frame church in 1838 on "Silver Street" known today as Kirkville Road. It was the custom to use the ground near a church as a burial ground, and that appears to be what happened here.

Formal records of the creation of the burial ground are lacking, as is usually the case, although a church history, compiled in 1901, has detailed information about the expansion of the church (it took eight years to obtain pews to replace the benches), building the rectory and the maintenance of the parochial school.

"From the beginning" the cemetery was consecrated for burials, according to the 1901 record; but the low swampy ground was always difficult to deal with and one parish member remembered the graves would fill with water before the casket was put in.

Families attending St. Mary's were mostly farmers. Tombstones were costly and usually had to be paid for in actual cash rather than using the barter system that sustained so many of these early settlements. Usually only about half the burials in these early church graveyards received formal tombstones.

The tombstones that are still standing reflect the names and life-style of the community. The more elaborate ones contain religious scenes such as a crucifix, candles and mourners which were much more expensive than those with just names and dates.

While the German-speaking rural population firmly maintained its customs, the railroad, beginning in 1839, was bringing new businesses and homes into a location south of the church. In 1867, St. Mary's, recognizing the changes and the difficulties of the old burial ground, bought land for a "new cemetery" on a "little knoll" in the growing community of Manlius Station, later named Minoa.

The first burial ground continued to be used into the 1900's by the older families in the church. In 1870 Adam Buck gave a strip of land, 16.5 feet wide, so that there could be a lane around the south and west sides of the cemetery. In June 1870, Father Herillan Wibbe planted double row of trees, mostly elms, along the lane.

Apparently the cemetery, even though still in use, did not have much maintenance. In June 1900, thirty men cleared the underbrush and laid four inch tile "to remove the standing water in the church cellar and graveyard." Work on the grounds continued until All Saints Day, on November 1st, bringing in three feet (600 loads) of fill to level the graves and land around the church building. New grass was planted.

St. Mary's All Saints Day observance in 1900 was probably typical of the annual ceremony. After Vespers there was a procession of about 250 people to the old and new cemeteries, led by 114 men, then the priests and choir, with the women of the parish last. The Rosary was said in German, graves sprinkled with holy water and at the new cemetery there was a sermon in English.

St. Mary's original church building continued to be used until it burned in 1881. It was replaced with a new wooden frame building designed by noted Syracuse Architect Archimedes Russell. This is the church building that was moved across the fields into the village of Minoa in 1922 and then burned in 1940, to be replaced by the present St. Mary's church building.

In recent years, the old cemetery has had several burials just inside the front foundation of the old church.

Old St. Mary's Cemetery continues to remind passersby of an earlier time. In 1999, Karin and Kristy Rapp, while working for the Town of Manlius, made a scaled diagram of the burial ground with its tombstones that were in place and whatever was readable on the stones. As age and weather continue to wear down the markers that are left, the diagram is an invaluable record of the early settlers who were faithful to their religious heritage.

Only members of the parish could be buried in the cemetery and the records are part of St. Mary's archives now with the Syracuse Roman Catholic Diocese, East Onondaga Street in Syracuse.

I am indebted to Tom Schepp, who grew up in St. Mary's parish and has been long interested in history, for supplying many details about the cemetery.

CONSENSUS CNY

What is Consensus CNY? This is year and a half study where a nineteen member committee made up of private citizens and a member from each level of local government. The purpose of the study is to look at local government from the county down to the village level and make recommendations, the results of which could go anywhere from leave everything as is to a single metro government.

I encourage all of you to read the report and make constructive comments about the study. This is part of a long process, where it goes and the form of our local government in the future will be guided by your comments. The report can be viewed through a link on the front page of our village web site or directly at www.consensusny.com

Mayor Richard J. Donovan

Calendar of Events

February 2016



- 2/14/16 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 6:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/01/16 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/01/16 Sewer Billing
- 2/04/16 *Golden Age Meeting @ 11:00 am – Municipal Building
- 2/10/16 Justice Court – 5:30 pm Doors Open 5:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/11/16 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 2/15/16 Presidents' Day Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed**
- 2/16/16 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/17/16 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Minoa Methodist Church
- 2/18/16 Budget Workshop Meeting -6:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/25/16 Budget Workshop Meeting -6:00 pm – Municipal Building



March 2016

- 3/01/16 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 6:00 pm -Municipal Building
- 3/01/16 Sewer Penalty Billing
- 3/03/16 *Golden Age Club Meeting @ 11:00 am – Municipal Building
- 3/03/16 Budget Workshop Meeting -6:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/07/16 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/10/16 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 3/15/16 VILLAGE ELECTION DAY – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**
- 3/16/16 Justice Court – 5:30 pm/Doors Open 5:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/16/16 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Minoa Methodist Church
- 3/21/16 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/25/16 Good Friday 1/2 Day for Village Employees**
- 3/26/16 Village Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00 am – Lewis Park – Ages 10 & Under**



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