



The City Scene

Winter 2010

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Need to talk, don't know who to call?

The RAP, Regional Action Phone, is free and confidential. Call 343-1212 or 1-800-359-5727 anytime, day or night.

City Information:

Police/Fire: 911

City Hall Address:
One Batavia City Centre
Batavia, NY 14020

City's Website:
www.batavianewyork.com

City Hall Hours:
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

A Message from City Council President Marianne Clattenburg

I first would like to thank my colleagues for their support and I commit to them and the citizens of Batavia that I will work hard to see that this council continues the work begun by the previous council. Over the past several years the City has taken significant steps to recover from financial difficulties and preserve quality services for our community. Those steps, though difficult, have yielded positive results.

Less than 4 years ago this city was faced with a 2.5 million dollar deficit. After many difficult decisions made by council and hard work by our city workforce, the last financial statement reported a positive fund balance for the first time in five years. City Council made the commitment to financial recovery while striving to achieve the best quality services at the most cost efficient means. Through conservative budgeting, the City has shown significant improvements in reversing the downward spiral. Similar to prior years, the continuation of conservative budgeting will be especially important considering the current state of the economy where revenues have leveled off and state aid is declining. The task before us is formidable.



In moving forward the City needs to focus more on planning. It will be my recommendation that this council works together to develop a strategic plan for the future. We must set our priorities and develop policies to address the most urgent needs of the city. Maintaining and improving the City's aging infrastructure, equipment and facilities can only be achieved through better planning in identifying what capital improvements are necessary and how to fund them. Neighborhood and downtown improvements must be done with research and planning on how to best use our resources to make the most difference. Lastly, economic development planning will be most critical in bringing jobs to the City and improving our tax base.

The mission statement for the city of Batavia reads as follows: "A vibrant, affordable community where our citizens choose to live, work and play, and businesses can flourish in a friendly and safe environment." I know that every person on this council, with our city manager, is committed to the goals of that statement. Together we will work to bring about a positive future for our city and its citizens.

Thank you.

The City Manager Message

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. With the beginning of the New Year comes the submission of the next proposed budget to City Council. Changes in the economy and ultimately the New York State budget have painted a different picture for Batavia as we move forward. The 2010/11 proposed City of Batavia budget (submitted to City Council on January 7th) is a continuation of prior years' joint efforts by all departments to maintain and provide quality services to our residents at the most cost efficient means. With the current state of influx at all levels of government, staff has more than ever been committed to doing as much as we can with the resources available to us.

The proposed budget includes many initiatives to better plan for the future, such as the development of a 10 year Capital Improvement Plan and a Water & Sewer Rate Study. These two initiatives will assist the City in achieving stable rates over the long run, in addition to performing the necessary infrastructure improvements to best prepare us for the upcoming years during difficult economic times. I encourage everyone to take time to read the budget message for further details on these plans. A copy of the budget message and the proposed budget is available on our City website www.batavianewyork.com.

As we begin the budget process for 2010-2011 we have many challenges ahead of us, but also many opportunities to advance the City forward and prepare for the future.

Kindest Regards,
Jason Molino

In Community News....

WANTED: COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS

The City Clerk's Office is always accepting applications for volunteers for the boards and committees of the City of Batavia. Vacancies arise all the time for various reasons and it's helpful to have a pool of applicants available to quickly fill an open position. If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, get your application in today! Applications are available in the downloadable forms section of the City's website, www.batavianewyork.com. Send your completed application to the City Clerk's Office, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia, NY 14020.



Community Boards:

- Board Assessment Review
- Cable TV Advisory Board
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Mail Operating Committee
- Neighborhood Improvement Committee
- Planning and Development Committee
- Youth Board
- Plumbing Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Batavia residents respond to 10 Burning Questions on the Fire Department's Behalf

The Fire Department has recently joined with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in participating in Liberty's "BeFireSmart Fire Safety Pledge Program." The program will be giving away ten \$10,000.00 in grants to Fire Depts. across the U S that display a commitment to Fire Safety. Six of these grants are available to communities with populations of 10,000 to 100,000. The successful completion of the quiz will be credited to the City of Batavia Fire Dept. The 10 communities with the most completed quizzes will each earn one of the grants.

Liberty Mutual is currently tallying the quizzes and will be posting the winners on their website at http://www.befiresmart.com/fire_safety_pledge_winners.aspx during the month of January. Stay tuned to find out if City of Batavia will be named one of its winners!



Winter TIPS

Now that winter has arrived it is a good time to review snow plowing and snow removal operations throughout the city.

- ◆ The first priority of the Bureau of Maintenance staff is to salt and plow the city roads starting with the most heavily traveled streets, then moving on to the side streets. After clearing the roadways the plows will begin to clear snow in the city owned parking lots always attempting to have them finished prior to the start of the workday and before retail stores and professional offices are open for business. If after a significant snowfall event (greater than six-inches), once the streets and parking lots are clear the staff will begin to plow the priority sidewalks surrounding the schools if needed to ensure the safety of students walking to school along with other sidewalks in the city if time permits. When the snow plowing operation is complete the staff will then begin to remove snow piles in parking lots, cul-de-sacs and parkways by loading and hauling truckloads of snow to a predetermined location to melt when temperatures permit.
- ◆ Any snow cleared from your driveway by you or a hired contractor should not be placed in the roadway or on sidewalks.
- ◆ As a reminder.... Clearing snow from sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owner. The city will assist only when staff is available and we aren't fighting the next snowstorm. Please keep your sidewalks clear of ice and snow and if possible help a relative or neighbor who may not be able to shovel.



City's 1st City Government Shadow Day Was a Success!!

On November 17th 2009, the City of Batavia hosted its first program allowing to high school students to shadow a City Official for a day. The four students above (from left to right), Paul Teresi, Katie Engle, Kwantisha Klotzbach, and Eli Dawson all enjoyed their shadow experiences. "It was the best experience of my life" says Kwantisha, an aspiring firewoman, who spent her day with the Fire Department along with Eli. Paul got a ringside seat with the City Manager, which allowed him to learn more about the future of the City and visit the various departments. He enthusiastically expressed his interest in government or law and reported that he was very impressed with the City Manager and his many responsibilities. Katie, who began the day wanting to form the second brother-sister team in probation, divided her time between a ride-along with Sgt. Dave Kleinbach followed by an in-depth tour of the Detective Bureau with Det. Pat Corona. "I had thought of being a probation officer. Now I want to go toward being a detective," she said excitedly at the day's end. When asked how the first Government Day participants felt about the program, they unanimously replied, "we wish it could have been longer!" The City looks forward to the next annual Youth Government Shadow Day. Please contact the Youth Bureau at 345-6420 if you are interested in participating in next year's program.



The Bulletin Board

*Do You Think
You Can Dance???*

Calling all youth ages 10-16 who are ready to show what they got!

Join us for a Hip-Hop workshop led by Erin Martin and Janea Raines, both of Divine Dance Studio, in Batavia. Each class will teach a new routine. Previous dance experience helpful, but not required.

When: February 6, February 20
Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Where: Youth Connection Saturdays program

Batavia Middle School

Cost: FREE!!!!

Please contact Janea Raines at jraines@batavianewyork.com or (585)-345-6314 with any questions and/or to register.

ATTENTION City of Batavia Home-owners

The City of Batavia is applying for grant funding to help **single family, owner occupied** low to moderate income households undertake critical home improvements. Funding for, but not limited to:

- Roofs
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Heating

If you would like to be considered for this funding, please contact the City of Batavia at #345-6333 and complete an application by February 12, 2010.

A Reminder to Property Owners

March 1st is the last day to file any exemption application or exemption renewal in the City of Batavia. Anyone who will turn 65 during the calendar year of 2010 is eligible to apply for the enhanced STAR exemption. The income limit to qualify for the enhanced STAR is \$74,700 based on your 2008 income.

Anyone who served in the military service during a non-conflict period may qualify for the Cold War Veterans Exemption. Further information on the veteran's exemptions is available at the County Veterans Service Office at 2 Bank St. in Batavia, or by calling 585-343-8216.

If you have questions on any other exemptions, please call 585-345-6301 or visit the Bureau of Assessment at City Hall, One Batavia City Centre on Main St.

Special Waste Collections Information

There will be a **Residential Electronic Waste Collection** on Saturday, April 17th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Genesee Community College as part of GCC's Eco-Fest.

GLOW will hold a **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** on Saturday, May 15th.

Youth Bureau's Calendar of Upcoming Events:

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Youth Connection/Open Gym Program at Batavia Middle School

Jan 9th, 23rd, Feb. 6th, 20th, 27th, Mar. 6th, 13th, 27th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Dance Clinic at Youth Connection Program at Batavia Middle School

Jan. 23rd, Feb. 6th, 20th - 2:00-3:30 - Ages 10-16

Activity Night for Batavia Middle School Students at Batavia Middle School

January 22 - 7:00 pm and March 12 - 7:00 pm

Albany Youth Leadership Event

February 8, 9

Genesee County Youth Conference at Genesee Community College

(for 7th and 8th graders in the county) - March 16- 8:30-2:00 p.m.

Youth Recognition Banquet

Bohn's Restaurant - March 23- 5:30 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Nominations Due for Youth Recognition Program - February 3rd.

DON'T MISS THE CITY OF BATAVIA'S CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL EARTH DAY!!



This event will take place on **April 24th, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon**, in Austin Park (located behind the Police Station).

The day will include:

- FREE GIVEAWAYS
- HYBRID CAR PRESENTATION
- EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS
- EARTH-SAVING SERVICE PROJECT

Please contact Janea Raines, (585)-345-6314 or JRaines@batavianewyork.com to find out how YOU can get involved!

ACCOLADES for EXCELLENCE

On December 16, 2009 Detective Charles Dudek received an award from the Veterans Association for his tireless dedication and commitment to our nations veterans for investigations he has worked on at the US Department of Veteran Affairs in Batavia. Detective Dudek is a 27 year veteran of the Batavia Police Department. Thanks to his hard work and dedication , Detective Dudek has cleared many incidents quickly and efficiently that involved veterans at the Batavia Facility. He has worked closely with the Veterans Association Police to resolve difficult and complex cases.



Detective Chuck Dudek, (left) receives award from the Veterans Association of Batavia.

Many years ago, Detective Dudek was involved in a case where a subject was disarmed of a knife after stalking an employee at the VA Hospital Emergency Room. On November 7th 2009 Detective Dudek and Detective Sergeant Patrick Corona were called upon to investigate the unattended death of a veteran who died after a fall, while off the hospital grounds. The young veteran had been staying at the Batavia Veterans Association Hospital for treatment when he died. Confronted with one of the most difficult cases imaginable, Detective Dudek under the supervision of Detective Sergeant Patrick Corona was able to trace the steps of the veteran, prior to his death and determine the circumstances that led to his demise. Detective Dudek coordinated his effort with the Veterans Association Police and the Monroe County Medical Examiner’s Office. Detective Dudek also acted as the liaison contact between the police department and the victim’s family.

Through his training, experience and professionalism, Detective Dudek has gained the respect of the Veterans Association and the law enforcement community. His dedicated service is a tremendous benefit to the police department and the City of Batavia. It is with great pride that the police department recognizes the dedicated service of Detective Dudek and the relationships and respect he has formed with other law enforcement agencies. Congratulations to Detective Dudek and to Detective Sergeant Patrick Corona.

Council Members Contact information is available at www.batavianewyork.com or by calling 345-6330.

CITY OF BATAVIA PHONE NUMBERS AREA CODE (585)

BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL

Marianne Clattenburg	Council President
Tim Buckley	Councilperson-at-Large President Pro Tem
Frank Ferrando	Councilperson-at-Large
Bill Cox	First Ward
Patti Pacino	Second Ward
Sam Barone	Third Ward
Bob Bialkowski	Fourth Ward
Kathy Briggs	Fifth Ward
Rose Mary Christian	Sixth Ward

City Council Meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m., except during July and August. Council meets once during these months, and Meetings are held in the Council Board Room, on the Second Floor of Batavia City Centre.

City Council Meetings are televised on Channel 19 on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

City of Batavia.....	345-6300
City Clerk.....	345-6305
Inspection Bureau.....	345-6345
City Manager.....	345-6330
Fire Department.....	345-6375
Police Department.....	345-6444
Public Works/Engineering.....	345-6325
Maintenance Bureau.....	345-6400
Water/Wastewater Bureau.....	345-6315
Assessment Bureau.....	345-6301
Youth Bureau.....	345-6420
Personnel Bureau.....	345-6340
Finance Office.....	345-6313

BUSINESS FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Batavia Development Corporation oversees two small business loan / grant programs for businesses within the City of Batavia. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at # 343-7440 for more information and an application.