

# Town of Rhinebeck Highway Department

Newsletter

Kathy Kinsella, Superintendent

Winter 2010

Bob Wyant, Foreman

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2010 from all of us at the Highway Department.

2009 was a busy year for us. In addition to our on-going maintenance and repair work like filling potholes, maintaining drainage basins and pipes, replacing and maintaining road signage and guiderail, clearing traffic or visual obstructions, snow plowing and ice control, road sweeping, roadside mowing, and equipment maintenance, we also completed several major projects like the resurfacing of Pells Road, Enterprise Road and Long Dock Road. We also re-pointed and sealed Miller Road Bridge and have begun the reconstruction of Hogs Bridge.

As were we all, the Highway Department faced economic challenges as we tried to do our part keeping expenses down and being cost efficient. We held off on large equipment replacement, deferring those purchases to a more stable economic climate. Work we did in 2009 qualified for over \$91,700 from New York State's Capitol Reimbursement Program. We were also able to bring in more than \$8,200 of new funds through the divestment of equipment, our scrap metal program and the various applications that we process.

We look forward to a productive 2010 and to continuing to serve you. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns or comments that you have. Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Kathy Kinsella*

## **NEW CHILD SAFETY SEAT LAW**

New York State law now requires that seven year olds ride in a child restraint system if they are less than 100 pounds or are less than 4 feet 9 inches tall. Previously, the law only required restraints through age six. New York has joined 46 other states that require restraints through age seven. Please make sure children in your vehicle are properly restrained.



## **POWER OUTAGE INFO**

Central Hudson now offers information on regional power interruptions due to storms and other emergencies on its website.

If you have computer access during a storm, you can check an interactive map for information on outage locations, number of effected customers and estimated times of restoration. The service, referred to as Storm Central, can be found at [www.centralhudson.com](http://www.centralhudson.com) and then link onto Outages.

In addition to the map, the website also offers information regarding coping with outages and storm readiness. Outages can be directly reported on the site.

This information is also available by phone at 452-2700 and following a series of prompts.

## **TOWN WEBSITE**

Remember to check out the Highway Department page on Rhinebeck's website at: [www.rhinebeck-ny.gov](http://www.rhinebeck-ny.gov)

Back issues of the Highway Department newsletter are available on request.  
Please call 845-876-6263 or e-mail [rhinebeckroads@hvc.rr.com](mailto:rhinebeckroads@hvc.rr.com)

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

## **GERRY RUSSELL RETIRES**

Our Highway Department already misses Gerry Russell, who retired in December. Gerry had been with the department for 21 years and was a valued town employee and friend. We wish him well.

Following is the text of the Town Board's November 23, 2009 resolution, acknowledging Gerry's exemplary service:

*Gerry Russell  
Retirement*

*Whereas, the Town of Rhinebeck Highway Superintendent has requested that the Town Board pass this resolution; and*

*Whereas, the Town wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Gerald Russell, Highway Department MEO on the occasion of his retirement; and*

*Whereas, Gerry has been employed by the Town for over twenty years; and*

*Whereas, Gerry has been an exemplary employee and an asset to the Highway Department; and*

*Whereas, Gerry has shown great leadership among his peers; and*

*Whereas, Gerry has been a dependable, reliable, and highly motivated team member; and*

*Whereas, Gerry will be sorely missed by his colleagues at all levels of town government; therefore be it*

*RESOLVED, that the Town of Rhinebeck expresses its deepest gratitude and admiration for Gerald Russell; and be it further*

*RESOLVED, that the Town wishes Gerry all the best in his retirement.*

*Passed Unanimously November 23, 2009*

## **WINTER SAFETY TIPS**

Traveling this winter? Keep the right gear in your vehicle. Make sure you have: an ice scraper, shovel, sand or kitty litter for traction, flares or warning glow sticks, a flashlight, jumper cables, a battery operated radio, first aid supplies, a blanket, extra gloves and anything else you may need to accommodate those traveling with you like medication, baby or pet supplies, non-perishable food, etc... Remember to check travel advisories and weather reports BEFORE you travel and take your cell phone with you.

Make sure your vehicle is weather ready. Are the fluid levels topped? Have you checked your brakes, battery, hoses and belts? Are your wipers working well? You might want to consider installing winter blades which are heavier than traditional blades. Check the inflation and tread of your tires. Are your tires adequately rated for snow?

While driving, please slow down and increase your distance between vehicles. Keep in mind that bridges deserve extra caution, as they may freeze before the rest of the roadway. If a road looks wet, it may be a black ice situation. Increase and decrease acceleration gradually. Avoid sudden stops and starts. Do not use cruise control on snowy or icy roads.

Please remember that State law requires that you use your headlights when your windshield wipers are on. Use your low beams in blowing, or snowy conditions. Please be courteous. Remove ice and snow from your entire vehicle, including its roof. Above all, don't drink and drive, and buckle up. Have a fun, wonderful, and safe winter.

