

Town of Rhinebeck Highway Department

Newsletter

Kathy Kinsella, Superintendent

Spring 2010

Bob Wyant, Foreman

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Signs of spring: Some people look for the lengthening of the days, others for the first crocus. Here at the Highway Department, we know spring has arrived by the opening of the blacktop plants!

This winter was a hard on our roads. In fact, the last several years have seen a pattern of repeated freeze thaw cycles that result in heaving, cracking and potholes. We are at work addressing these conditions. If there is a location or condition that you know needs attention, please let me know.

As of this writing, we are also still cleaning up after being hit by back to back storms that resulted in many trees and branches falling and power outages for most of our town. We were lucky though, and did not suffer as much damage as many neighboring communities did. The Highway Department crew worked long and hard to clear roads and we appreciate the acknowledgement that many of our residents have expressed.

I provide an annual summary of the Department's activities of the preceding year to town board, each January. If you would like to read 2009's summary, please go to <http://rhinebeck-ny.gov/town-highway-department039s-2009-year-end-summary>. I hope you find it informative and I welcome any comments or questions that you may have.

Thank you for your on-going support of the Highway Department and have a happy spring.

Kathy Kinsella

CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION ACT

Known as Leandra's Law, it is now a felony to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs with children under the age of 16 in the vehicle. The law is part of stricter DWI laws known as the Child Passenger Protection Act, and signed into law November 2009.

Those convicted under Leandra's Law could face up to four years in prison and significantly more time if the child is injured or killed.

New York is one of the first states to make it a felony to drive drunk with a child in the car.

DISASTER RESOURCES

The Dutchess County Chapter of the American Red Cross has a wealth of information on emergency preparedness and where to get help in the event of an actual emergency. For information visit: www.dutchessredcross.org

The Red Cross also provides hands on assistance, 24 hours a day, to those displaced due to an emergency. If you know someone who needs help, please call 845-471-0200.

Central Hudson's power outage information and restoration timetable can be found at www.centralhudson.com and then click on Storm Central.



WELCOME FRANK FAUBLE

The Town of Rhinebeck Highway Department welcomes Frank Fauble to our crew. Frank is a native of Ulster County and comes to us with almost 25 years of experience related to highway department work. Frank worked for more than 15 years with Ulster County Resource Recovery and has significant experience excavating, working with various road surface materials, and operating specialized equipment. Frank is also a volunteer firefighter with EMT expertise. We are pleased that Frank has joined us.

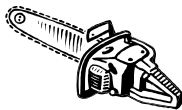
CHAINSAW USE

Winter's weather often leaves damaged or downed trees on one's property. Many homeowners take on the task of spring clean-up themselves, and may use a chainsaw in that process. Chainsaws are effective tools; however, they can also be dangerous. It is important to use extreme caution when operating this powerful piece of equipment.

Know your chainsaw. Read the owners manual and follow instructions. Be familiar with safety features and always inspect your chainsaw before using it. Keep your chainsaw well maintained. Keeping the teeth sharp makes for an easier job so that the saw and you don't have to work so hard.

Think Safety. Fuel your chainsaw at least 10 feet from ignition sources and 10 feet from fuel containers. Always start your chainsaw on level ground. Make sure your footing is secure. Avoid cutting overhead. Stay away from power lines. Wear proper protective gear, including head and face protection, gloves, chaps, boots and gloves. Do not forget hearing protection.

Chainsaws may seem simple to use, but they can be deadly. Please make sure you are properly trained before attempting to use one. If you would like a copy of the State of New York Department of Health pamphlet "**Chainsaw Safety for Homeowners**" please call me at 845-876-62623 or e-mail me at rhinebeckroads@hvc.rr.com. Be informed; be safe.



DID YOU KNOW?

80% of 648 people killed by lightning in recent years have been men. Physical attributes have been ruled out as a reason, leading scientists to conclude that behavior results in higher risk. In 2009, men have been killed by lightning while fishing, playing baseball, and mowing the lawn during electrical storms.

Source: Popular Science as reported in The Week October 9, 2009

TOWN WEBSITE

Remember to check out the Highway Department page on Rhinebeck's website at:
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

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