

# Knox News



Issue 4

Town of Knox Newsletter

February 2018



We would like to thank and congratulate Councilman Dennis Barber for his creativity and contribution in creating the official town seal for the Town of Knox and thank resident Tom Payne's artistic skills for bringing Mr. Barber's vision to life. Read more about Mr. Barber's story behind the seal's creation on Facebook at our "Town of Knox, NY Government Page".

## Letter from the Supervisor

Hello Knox,

As Knox ushers in a new year, let's welcome our newly elected officials: Ken Saddlemire (Councilman), Karl Pritchard (Councilman), Traci Schanz (Clerk), and Tim Francis (Justice) to their new posts and also our re-elected officials: Diane Champion (Tax Collector) and Gary Salisbury (Highway Superintendent). We look forward to working with you to best serve the Town of Knox.

Remember, elected officials are important, but they are only a part of what helps keep Knox going. Volunteers play an invaluable role keeping residents safe and helping make Knox a great place to live. I encourage you to become part of our team. Help save a life as a member of our Volunteer Fire Company or our Ambulance Squad. Mentor a child as part of our Youth Council or our Little League. Make new friends, meet other dedicated volunteers and help make a difference. Knox needs you!

Stay warm and safe this winter. Summer will be here soon!

-Vas

### Knox Needs You!

See Page 5 for Town Employment and Volunteer Opportunities!

### Did You Know?

- Albany County offers assistance to all Hilltown Residents & Veterans Through ACCESS Hilltowns!...page 8
- Be Prepared BEFORE the Storm...page 10
- Albany County Sherriff 911 Registry available to Hilltowners... page 3



Pictured from left to right: **Traci Schanz** (Town Clerk) **Karl Pritchard** (Councilman) **Ken Saddlemire** (Councilman) **Vas Lefkaditis** (Town Supervisor) **Diane Champion** (Tax Collector) **Gary Salisbury** (Highway Superintendent)

### Annual SAP RUN 5K March 17th 10 AM - Knox Town Hall

It's that time of year again for Knox to host the Sap Run 5K race, sponsored by the Helderberg Hilltowns Association. This is one of the earliest races of the season, and it draws runners from all over the Capital District and beyond. It is a hilly and demanding challenge that kicks off the annual Maple season and helps spotlight our beautiful town!



Visit [www.SapRun5K.org](http://www.SapRun5K.org) for information, online registration, course map & photos.

Free Hotdogs & Hot Cocoa!

KNOX YOUTH COUNCIL Hosts

### WINTERFEST 2018



\*February 10th \* 11am-2pm \* Knox Town Park Pavillion\*

#### Cardboard Sled Races:

Make your own sled using only cardboard & duct tape! Race start 12:30p.m.

**Chili Contest:** Open to cooks of all ages! Contact Jean Gagnon at (518) 366-4407.

#### Crafts & Warming Station:

Take a break from the cold and warm up in the Knox Town Hall, free crafts for all ages.

#### Horse Drawn Carriage Rides:

Free Carriage Rides through the Knox Park, courtesy of Knox resident Kurt Johnson of Clay Haven Carriage & Wagon [www.clayhavencarriage.com](http://www.clayhavencarriage.com)



# Knox Youth Council News



KYC = Learning and Fun! - by Maryellen Gillis

The summer of 2017 began with a KYC sponsored annual party in the park. Games, a town wide barbeque, crafts, and contra dancing filled the day and evening. Twelve families took part in an overnight camping experience and awoke in the morning to the smell of bacon and eggs being cooked by Travis Stevens and Dave Poole. A great time was had by all!

A new program was introduced in July of 2017 to the BKW student-athletes. The KYC partnered with the BKW soccer program to bring a week long soccer camp to children from pre-K to high school. Meeting in the evening, the students had the opportunity to learn and practice their soccer skills under the guidance of local coaches and former BKW athletes. The children were then able to put their soccer skills into practice during the fall soccer program, which runs for 4 weeks on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Response was strong to both of these opportunities to run around and have some fun! Future plans include expansion of the camp to include workshops and clinics throughout the year. Our weeklong summer camp in August

was well attended and provided a variety of opportunities for fun and learning. Workshops included woodworking (pictured above), science, art, music, animal care, weaving, games and sports. Teachers Carli Elble, Megan Murphy, Tammy Fisher,



Sandra Quay and Sarah Pasquini provided a week of fun for over 65 children who were registered in the program. Many thanks to volunteers who helped to make the program so successful. The KYC finished out their year with a trip to Kenwood Manor, an assisted living facility in Delmar. The children presented "The Story of Christmas" to the residents, reading and singing beloved Christmas carols. The children decorated cookies and made ornaments with the seniors. Much Christmas cheer was shared that

day.

The KYC would like to express our deepest appreciation to Stewarts and to the Knox Fire Department for their generous contributions this past year. These donations made a number of our programs possible. We thank all who joined us in supporting the matching Holiday Drive in our local Stewarts Shops as a portion of the proceeds from this drive were shared with the children of the Hilltowns.

The KYC is currently seeking presenters for our Discovery Workshop series March 10-11 and 24-25. If you have a talent or interest you would like to share with the children of the Hilltowns, or would like to assist in the presentation of a workshop, please contact **Maryellen Gillis for more information at (518) 872-1899 or [mjillis1023@gmail.com](mailto:mjillis1023@gmail.com)**. We invite all community members to become active in the council and to attend our meetings and events. All are welcome. Please check the Knox Town website for details and meeting dates.

## BKW Little League News

By Doyle Shaver

The BKW Little League would like to thank Maple on the Lake and Albany County Legislator Chris Smith and his wife Amanda for their continued support of the BKW Little League and for hosting a very well attended **Ugly Sweater Holiday fundraiser**. I would also like to thank the following businesses that provided some fantastic raffle prizes: Countryside Mobil, Fox Creek Market, Altamont Parts Store, Stewarts of Altamont, Agway, Helderberg True Value, Paisano's Pizza, Salon 146, Township Tavern, LulaRoe Nicole Erika and Lularoe Rebecca Miller.

The Berne Knox Westerlo Little League offers opportunities to participate in baseball and softball for children between the ages of 5 and 12. In recent years we were over 170 athletes strong and invite young athletes to join in the fun.

Although winter is in full swing, we are happy to announce that Little League registration will be open in January!! Stay tuned to our FB page or our webpage: <http://www.eteamz.com/BKWLittleLeague/> for more information.



# Senior News

## Knox Senior Services

By Charlotte Fuss

- Legal Aid Society is offering free legal counseling for seniors in the Hilltowns. Please call Pat Lightbody (518-872-9400) to set up an appointment with a lawyer. Legal services are offered twice a month starting in March 2018
- Weather permitting The senior shopping bus will continue every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. If you are interested, please call the Department of Transportation 24 hours before pick-up at (518) 437-5161.
- Visiting shut-ins and seniors in nursing homes will still continue.
- The Craftycrafters will meet in the Spring. If interested, please call Pat Lightbody at (518) 872-9400.

For up-to-date information about programs that are or will be available to seniors, call **Knox Senior Services Coordinator Charlotte Fuss at (518) 861-8960**, or email her at [cjfuss@yahoo.com](mailto:cjfuss@yahoo.com)

We encourage all seniors to participate!

All senior programs that are held in the Knox Town Hall are open to all of the Hilltown Seniors

## 911 Registry

**N**eed assistance or know a senior in need of assistance?

The Albany County Sheriffs office provides the services of a **911 Registry** and encourages residents and seniors who need assistance to register. Individuals registered on the 911 registry will be visited by a Sheriff's deputy in the case of power outages, extreme weather, flooding, sever storms, and other disasters in order to check on your well being. If you know a senior or resident who may benefit from this

service and is unaware of its existence please encourage them to register and help keep them safe. Registration form are available on our website [www.knoxny.org](http://www.knoxny.org) or by calling the Town Clerk at 518-872-2551 ext. 1

**Please be advised that the 911 Registry Service is NOT a substitute for dialing 911 in the case of an emergency.** If you need assistance or are faced with an emergency, please dial 911 immediately.

## Hilltown Seniors

By Linda Carman

The Hilltown Seniors is a social club that meets the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 at the Berne Community Center on Helderberg Trail (Route 443) in Berne. For more information call **Linda Carmen at (518) 872-2448.**

## Hilltown Senior Services Meal Program

By Karen Stark

### Lunches Served:

**Mon., Tue. & Fri. 12:00pm**



Senior meal program serves lunches on Mon., Tue. & Fri. at noon at the Helderberg Senior Center on 443 in Berne. The senior center opens at 11 am and stays open until at least 3 pm. After lunch seniors play games, do crafts or just hang out and talk with friends and neighbors. "Seniors" for the purpose of this program are 60 years and older. There is a \$3 suggested contribution toward the cost of the meal, but no one will ever be turned away due to an inability to make a contribution. Transportation may be provided by the Town of Berne's Senior Van. The menus and schedules of activities are listed on the Town website: [www.knoxny.org/knox-seniors](http://www.knoxny.org/knox-seniors). For more information contact **Karen Stark (518) 937-5963**

## Resources for Seniors:

Albany County Department of Aging :  
(518) 447-7177

NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA):  
(844)-697-6321

Albany County Department of Social Services:  
(518) 447-7300

Alzheimer's Assoc. NENY:  
(518) 867-4999

Alzheimer's 24/7 Helpline:  
(800) 272-3900

AARP:  
(518) 434-4194

Community Caregivers  
(518) 456-2898

NY StateWide Senior Action Council  
(800) 333-4374  
[www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)

# Knox Church News

## Knox Reformed Church News *By Sandra Quay*

**Services: Sunday 11:00 am**

2175 Berne Altamont Road  
(518) 872-0432

During 2017 Knox Reformed Church celebrated its **175 years** of being established as a church in Reformed Churches of America. Throughout the year different events were carried out. The biggest event was in October a Homecoming Weekend.

Four former ministers or family member attended as well as our present minister. We had a delicious catered dinner and a program that included a Proclamation from the Town of Knox and a Proclamation from the Albany County Legislators. On Sunday all ministers participated in the worship service. It was truly a rewarding weekend for all.



*In picture from left to right: Pastor Daniel & Mary Carlson, Pastor Mary Van Andel & husband Ben Sikkink, Tim Hull (stood in for his father Rev. Donald Hull), Pastor Tim Van Heest, Pastor Peter & Pat Berry. Missing from picture was a family member for Rev. Kermit Hogenboom.*

## Rock Road Chapel News

**Services: Sunday. 10 am  
Wednesday. 7 pm**

96 Rock Road  
(518) 872-2810

**Free Community Breakfast:** Wednesday 7-9 am

**Community Storehouse:** Wed. 7-9 am & Sat. 9-11 am

Provides Food & Personal Care items for all in need.

<http://www.rockroadchapel.org/>

## Knox Nursery School News *by Cindy Quay*

The school has been in full swing since September 11<sup>th</sup>. We have ten two year olds who meet Tues & Fri. 9-11:15am. Our 18 three year olds meet Mon., Wed. and Thurs. The AM class runs from 9-11:15 and the PM class is from 12-2:15.

Most of September was spent getting the children acclimated to their surroundings, the daily routine and their teachers. Understandably there were tears, especially with the 2s, however, by the third week, no more tears!

The 2s program consists of inside free play, story time, craft time, snack time, outdoor play as the weather permits, and music time. They quickly decided their favorite songs are "Wheels on the Bus" and "Animal Action".

Our 3s follow a similar schedule.

Their craft project is generally associated with a book read during story time. Each Wednesday is "letter day" where we focus on the alphabet. Our journey through the ABCs takes us most of the year.

October was filled with lots of experiences. The 3s took a field trip to the Pick a Pumpkin Pumpkin Patch. A hayride to the fields to pick a pumpkin and an ear of Indian corn was one of several highlights of the adventure.

November was a busy month as well with many Thanksgiving stories and crafts. A favorite Chef visited the two 3 year old classes and helped them transform a plain cupcake into a turkey cupcake using, frosting, candy corn and chocolate chips! Not to be outdone, during a class prior to Thanksgiving, the 2s took turns mixing



ingredients to make pumpkin bread. They each left for the holiday with a small loaf of freshly baked bread.

December is traditionally a busy month for the Nursery School. Ornaments and Christmas crafts are made, stories of the season are read, holiday songs are learned and sung at our Christmas parties.

There are several openings in the PM three year old program. For more information, please call the school at **(518) 872-2015**.

# Library News

By Donna Gwin

## Berne Public Library

The Berne Public Library serves the residents of Knox and Berne. Hours of operation and a calendar of events at the Library are available at [www.bernepubliclibrary.org](http://www.bernepubliclibrary.org)

### 3rd Juried Photo Exhibit at the Berne Public Library.

Sponsored by  
The Friends of the Library  
January 2018

Photo Contest is open to students and adults. The categories for the 2018 contest are:

**Hilltown Charm**

**Pets**

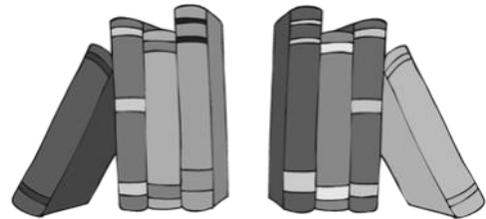
**Self-Portrait (Selfies)**

**Colors & Shapes**

Photos must be submitted at the Berne Library by the end of January 2018 and will be on display throughout the month of February 2018 in the community room of the library. Check the library website for more details.

In March the Friends will sponsor a *book, media, jewelry, and game sale* at the Berne Community and Senior Center. You may drop off your used items on Saturday, March 17 and stop in to purchase new-to-you items March 24 and 25.

Check the library website for more details about these and other events. The Friends meet the first Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Berne Public Library at 7 p.m. We welcome new members, and we appreciate your support at the various community events we have throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Gwin at [bernelbraryfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:bernelbraryfriends@yahoo.com).



## TOWN OPENINGS

THE KNOX TOWN BOARD IS CURRENTLY SEEKING  
INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

- Two (2) Planning Board members
- Two (2) Zoning Board of Appeals members
- Four (4) members of the Conservation Advisory Committee
- One (1) member of the Board of Assessment Review
- Dog Warden (\$6,687.00 a year)
- Park Laborer (\$16.20 per hour)

Interested or need more information

Please call or email Supervisor Vas Lefkaditis at  
[supervisor@knoxny.org](mailto:supervisor@knoxny.org) or 518-872-2551 ext. 8.

### HAVING A GET TOGETHER?

The Knox Town Park and Town Hall are available to Knox Residents for parties, meetings and events. Please call the Town Clerk at (518) 872-2551 to book your next event! Click on the calendar tab on our website [www.knoxny.org](http://www.knoxny.org) for availability

# Knox Fire Company News

By Russ Pokorny

The Knox Fire Company held its annual Turkey Dinner on Sunday November 5. We were able to do some very careful shopping for turkeys and other ingredients, and we had a very good turnout which resulted in raising over \$2,000 that we can use to defray Fire Company expenses.

In our first December meeting, we had two new applicants, which would bring our total membership to 32.

Training is becoming more of an issue for new recruits since state mandates for training time are becoming more and more demanding. Twenty years ago, a new recruit had to train for about 40 hours to be fully certified. Today, over 140 hours are required. There are many courses which our members take regularly to increase our competence, but the initial requirement is now quite daunting for a new recruit.

The new 800 megahertz communication system is now being phased in with the installation of the new communication towers. Over the next few months, new radios will be installed in firehouses and trucks in the Hilltowns. This should result in better communication in emergencies.

During November, the fire company members completed annual physicals to make sure they are capable of performing the demanding tasks which are required of them without posing a risk to their own health or to those who depend on them.

BEFO (Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations) classes have been hosted at the Knox Firehouse during the last several months and were completed in December. Two Knox fighters and firefighters from nearby districts were able to take part in the training.

The Knox Fire Company responded to 68 fire calls during the fiscal year ending November 30, 2017.



*Richie Loucks, Dave Poole, Don Champion, Kevin Sherman, Greg Lemmerman, Bob Stevens, and Chief Bill Vinson, repacking hose on the rescue truck on a Monday work night*

**Officers for the Knox Fire Company**, as elected in December, for the next year are as follows:

## **Civil Officers**

President Dan Sherman  
VP Richie Loucks  
Secretary Russ Pokorny  
Treasurer Clark Conklin  
Membership Sec John Graves  
Board of Dir Member Dave Poole

## **Line Officers**

Chief Bill Vinson  
1<sup>st</sup> Asst Chief Kevin Sherman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Asst Chief Jim Albert  
Captain Tim Hagerott  
Asst Captain Ken Saddlemire  
Fire Police Captain Don Champion

## Women's Auxiliary to the Knox Fire Dept. News

By PatLightbody

The Women's Auxiliary to the Knox Fire Department meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month, except for the months of January and February.

New members are cordially welcome!

For more information about the Auxiliary, please contact President MaryAnn Saddlemire (518) 872-0385 or Vice President, Pat Lightbody at (518) 872-9400.



### *Save the Date!*

Memorial Day Parade and  
Bake Sale

Monday May 28th, 2018

Feast on delicious home  
made goodies and support

The Knox Women's Auxiliary

*We look forward to seeing you !*

## Services for Veterans

Info and Help available for various services and benefits through ACCESS Hilltowns on Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 at the Berne Community Senior Center (Route 443). Walk-Ins Welcome.

Town of Knox supports its Veterans and says "Thank You" by offering the highest available Real Estate Tax Exemption. Contact Tax Assessor, Russ Pokorny @ 518-669-6459

### **Albany County Veterans Service Bureau,**

162 Washington Ave. 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Albany, **447-7710** Open 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday - Friday.

Offering help to veterans and their dependents with: filing claims, obtaining important documents such as medical and personnel records, including Certificates of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214); and accessing benefits and services such as medical care, disability and compensation, pension & education benefits, burial assistance, and VA home loans. If you are a veteran, please give them a call. If you can volunteer for outreach to local veterans, please call Ed Ackroyd at (518)-573-2411

## Helderberg Ambulance News

### **Helderberg Ambulance Call for Volunteers**

The Helderberg Ambulance Squad is soliciting volunteers to serve as either drivers or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)s. Volunteer help is desperately needed to keep this important service active. Voorheesville and Rensselaerville are closing their ambulance squad operations due to a lack of volunteer help.

Helderberg Ambulance responds to several 100 calls in the Berne-Knox area alone.

The time a volunteer devotes to this job is flexible and self-scheduled. Free training is provided.

Drivers receive training specific to driving emergency

medical vehicles and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

**EMTs** receive medical training. Area-assigned Paramedics are also dispatched to all calls to be available to provide advanced medical treatment. If you would like to consider joining this critically valuable effort: squad meetings are held **7 PM on the second Thursday** of each month at the Helderberg Ambulance building located at the intersection of Helderberg Trail (Route 443) and Cole Hill Road in Berne. For more info check out the Helderberg Ambulance Recruitment Pamphlet on the internet at <http://berneny.org/helderberg-ambulance>.

## Knox News

### County Executive Dan McCoy Opens Permanent Hilltowns Office

**A**lban County Executive Daniel P. McCoy has officially opened the Albany County Center for Essential Supportive Services (ACCESS) office in the Community and Senior Services Center in Berne, 1360 Helderberg Trail (Route 443). The office will be open on Tuesdays from 12:30p.m.-2:30p.m. serving as a resource and information center for human services. "Residents of the Hilltowns will now have easy access to resources and can receive assistance with completing forms and applications by interacting face-to-face with our staff" said Albany County Executive Dan McCoy. The ACCESS Hilltowns office will help residents by giving them resources

and information for departments including Veterans, Health, Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center, Department of Social Services, Mental Health, Aging, Children Youth and Families, Probation, and immigration.

"ACCESS Hilltowns will ensure that residents are receiving the assistance they need without having to travel to downtown Albany," continued McCoy. "We are prepared to expand our hours they're based on what the resident response is."

For more information, please contact: Eileen W. Bosworth LCSW-R, Director of Health and Human Services at: (518) 447-4996 or

[eileen.bosworth@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:eileen.bosworth@albanycountyny.gov)

### DOG CONTROL NEWS

The Town of Knox kennel is operational and equipped to house impounded strays. The kennel is designed to save taxpayers money and will serve as a revenue stream. Please check our website for fee schedules and laws related to dog control and licensing in the Town of Knox.

Pet owners are strongly encouraged to vaccinate and license their pets so they will be safe from rabies and so they can be returned home if they get lost!

**questions?** Call Interim Dog Warden Cheryl Baitsholts at **(518) 872-2551, ext. 7 or (518) 728-8082.**

For information on **licensing your dog**, call Town Clerk Traci Schanz at **872-2551, ext. 1.**



#### **Knox Food Pantry**

For more information, please call The Hilltowns Community Resource Center 518-797-5256 .or Knox Reformed Church (518) 872-0432  
☎ [www.knoxreformedchurch.com](http://www.knoxreformedchurch.com)

#### **Rock Road Chapel Community Storehouse**

Call Pastor Martha Davis, (518) 872-2810  
Rock Road Chapel ☎ [www.rockroadchapel.org](http://www.rockroadchapel.org)

#### **Hilltowns Community Resource Center**

15 Co Rd 1, Westerlo, NY 12193 (518) 797-3742

#### **Patroon Land Farm & Farm Stand**

132 Ketcham Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186  
Contact Laura Martin [lauram@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:lauram@regionalfoodbank.net)  
☎ [www.regionalfoodbank.net](http://www.regionalfoodbank.net)

The Farmstand will re open May-June 2018 with fresh produce at a low cost, the proceeds benefit The Regional Food Bank and Patroon Land Farms which grows and distribute over 100,000 pounds of food each year—the healthiest, freshest food available, straight from the Farm to the tables of those in need.



**Feeding the Community**

## More Knox News...

### Archive Room Update

By Tara Murphy

With the help of approved consultants from NYSED the implementation of the recently awarded Archive Grant has been completed. Records were purged, identified, and organized. A new lap top, scanner, and shelving were purchased to facilitate future document storage. An updated records database and



*A NYSED consultant organizing and labeling archived records on new shelving*

policy and procedures manual will be provided to all employees as well as records management personnel of the Knox Fire Department in the form of a shared service in 2018 to bring the project to a close. Thanks to this generous grant, the project was initiated and completed at no cost to the taxpayers of Knox.

### Agricultural Advisory Committee

By Earl Barcomb

Many thanks to Gary Kleppel, who as part of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, organized and hosted a workshop entitled **“Opportunities for Aspiring and Beginning Farmers: Starting a Farm or Farm Business in the Town of Knox”** on December 2nd at the Octagon Barn. New York State Senator George Amedore spoke and we also heard from US Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand. In addition to

hearing from local officials, we had presentations from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Farm Service Agency, NYS Department of Education and Albany County Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning. We had presentations about Agricultural opportunities, agricultural land maps in Knox, farmland protection programs, access to capital and beginning farmer loans, SUNY loan forgiveness, markets and marketing

and thinking outside the box, emerging models of farming.

The Knox Agricultural Advisory Committee is looking for more members and everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Contact Earl Barcomb at (518)944-6936 or [ebarcomb@knoxny.org](mailto:ebarcomb@knoxny.org)



By Nancy Frueh

Visit Knox Historical Society's website, [www.knoxhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.knoxhistoricalsociety.org), for information on:

- Meetings
- Special Programs
- Displays
- Publications
- The Collection
- Historic Trails

The Saddle mire Homestead Museum has no heat and

## Knox Historical Society News

therefore is closed this time of year, but a virtual tour is available online at the Historical Society's website.

You can also read a brief history of the Town of Knox on the home page of their website.



"Pillbox Capital of the World"

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

<i>Individual Member</i>	\$10.00
<i>Family Membership</i>	\$20.00

The regular meetings, many with speakers, are held at the Knox Town Hall (behind the Saddle mire Homestead) at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month (except Election Day)

**Everyone with an interest in the history of Knox is encouraged to attend.**

For more information, contact: Nancy Frueh at [Rabbiteers@hotmail.com](mailto:Rabbiteers@hotmail.com) or Dennis Barber 860-7861 [earnhardt55@netzero.net](mailto:earnhardt55@netzero.net)

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS by Megan Mason

## **BEFORE A WINTER STORM:**

### **Learn the Buzzwords:**

**Freezing Rain** – rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads and walkways

**Hail** – rain that turns to ice while suspended and tossed in the air from violent updrafts in a thunderstorm

**Sleet** – rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching ground

**Winter Weather Advisory** – cold, ice, and snow expected

**Winter Storm Watch** – severe winter weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible within a day or two

**Winter Storm Warning** – severe winter conditions have begun or are about to begin

**Blizzard Warning** – heavy snow and strong winds producing blinding snow and life-threatening wind chills for 3 hours or longer

**Frost/Freeze Warning** – below freezing temperatures expected

### **Be Prepared**

**Calcium Chloride** – good for melting ice on walkways (rock salt can blister concrete and kill plants)

**Sand or Kitty Litter** – to improve traction

**Emergency Heating Equipment and Fuel** - Fireplace, Generator, Heaters, Charcoal (NEVER use indoors because the fumes are deadly!), Extra Wood, and Extra Blankets

## **A CLEAN CHIMNEY!!**

**Preparing Your Fireplace** You will want to make sure that your fireplace is ready to use safely. You can follow these tips to get your fireplace ready for use:

### **Sweep the Chimney:**

You should hire a chimney sweep before you start using your fireplace at the beginning of winter. The National Fire Protection Association suggests that you have your chimney swept once a year to remove dangerous soot and debris.

### **Note Any Abnormalities:**

While your professional chimney sweeper is over, make sure to let him or her know about any odd things you have noticed from your chimney. This could be an odd smell, a new draft or anything of the sort.

**Check for Damages:** You need to check the chimney structure and lining for cracks, loose bricks, deterioration or missing mortar. You also want to take this time to make sure that your chimney is properly and securely attached to your house.

### **Inspect Gasket Material:**

Make sure to take care of the gasket sealing the door, the glass door itself, and the ash dump. If these aren't

working properly, your fire can get too much oxygen, which can create an over-fire condition.

### **Clean the Blower:**

If your fireplace has a blower, make sure it is thoroughly cleaned. Most fireplace blowers don't have a filter, so you have to clean it to prevent buildup.

### **Inspect the Damper:**

The damper is a valve or plate that regulates air flow inside your chimney. You want to make sure that it is working properly before you start using the fireplace.

### **Cap the Chimney:**

Your chimney should be properly capped in order to keep birds, rain, squirrels, leaves and other debris from entering.

### **Check the Alarms:**

It is very important that you make sure you replace the batteries of any smoke or carbon monoxide detectors. Be sure to test your

## **DURING A WINTER STORM:**

**LISTEN** – Get updates from radio and TV weather reports

### **What to wear**

It is much better to wear several layers of loose-fitting, light weight, warm clothing than one layer of heavy clothing

Mittens are warmer than gloves

Most body heat is lost through the top of your head so wear a hat!

Cover your mouth with a scarf or wrap to protect your lungs from cold air

### **Don't overdo it!**

Be careful when shoveling snow or working outside since cold can put strain on the heart and cause a heart attack (**even in children!**)

### **Watch For Signs:**

**Frostbite** – loss of feeling or very pale coloration of fingers, toes, nose, or ear lobes

**Hypothermia** – Shivering a lot, slow speech, stumbling, very tired

### **Power Loss**

If the power goes off, turn off all tools, appliances and electronics to reduce the load on electrical systems once power is restored. It also may protect devices from a power surge that could follow the start-up

**For more information, please contact Megan Mason at (518)-937-5747 or visit [www.knoxny.org](http://www.knoxny.org)**

On behalf of myself and the employees of the Knox Highway Department I would like to take this opportunity to thank Loren Shafer Jr. for his 37 1/2 years of loyal service to the residents of Knox. Loren has recently retired from the Highway Department and will be sorely missed. He has left his fingerprint in every corner of our town from having help build the transfer station and town park to having maintained every inch of Knox's 38+ miles of roadway. Loren was our master welder/fabricator, master equipment operator, a solver of virtually any problem big or small, and perhaps more importantly- a hard working, kind loyal friend to all. We wish him luck in his retirement.

We would also like to extend a welcome to newcomer Brian Travis to the Highway Department as our new full time employee. We look forward to showing him the ropes.

For any highway questions or concerns please call me, Gary Salisbury, at (518)-872-2551 ext. 6

Drive safely!



## Mark Your Calendar!



**Feb. 10 Knox Youth Council Winterfest & Chili Contest**– Knox Town Park (see cover page for event info.)

**Mar. 10-11 KYC Discovery Workshops** Check Town website for more information

**Mar. 17 Sap Run**, 10am at Town Hall (see cover page for event info.)

**Mar. 24-25 KYC Discovery Workshops**- Check Town website for more information

**Mar. 25 Kiwanis Maple Festival**, 9am-1pm

**Apr. 1 Town Wide Clean Up Day** 9am-Noon- Knox Highway Garage (see back page for info.)

**May 28 Memorial Day Parade followed by the Knox Youth Council Ice Cream Social**– Knox Town Park

**Jun. 2 Knox Youth Council Campout in the Park** Check Town website for information & registration

**Jun. 2 History Summit**, 10am at Town Hall

**Jun. 16, 17 Pathways Through History weekend**

**June 2018 Pucker Street Fair** Date TBD, check our website and Facebook page soon for details.



### Stay connected with us!

Check out our FACEBOOK page @

Town of Knox NY Official Government Page

Visit our website: [www.knoxny.org](http://www.knoxny.org), or send an email to:

[Knoxnewsletter@knoxny.org](mailto:Knoxnewsletter@knoxny.org) with any comments or questions.

*We'd love to hear from you!*

WWW.KNOXNY.ORG  
518-872-2551

## Town of Knox Directory

**Knox Town Hall**, PO Box 116, Knox, NY 12107

(518) 872-2551

### Town Supervisor

Vasilios Lefkaditis

(518) 872-2551 ext. 8  
(518) 872-0649 (home)

### Town Council

Dennis Barber

(518) 860-7861

Earl Barcomb

(518) 944-6936

Karl Pritchard

(518) 872-0111

Ken Saddlemire

(518) 859-5068

**Town Clerk**, Tracy Schanz

(518) 872-2551 ext. 1

**Court Clerk**: Deb Liddle

(518) 872-2551 ext. 3

**Highway Department**, Gary Salisbury

(518) 872-2551 ext. 6

**Building, Zoning Dept.**, Dan Sherman, Richard Loucks

(518) 872-2551 ext. 2

**Knox Fire House**, Fire Chief Bill Vinson

(518) 872-0368

**Dog Warden**, Cheryl Baitholtz

(518) 872-2551 ext. 7

**Tax Collector**. Diane Champion

(518) 872-2551 ext. 5

**Tax Assessor**. Russ Pokorny

(518) 872-2551 ext. 4

## Town Hours

### Town Supervisor Hours

- Tuesdays , 3-7pm
- 1st Saturday of the month 9am-12 pm

### Town Clerk Hours

- Tuesday, 5-7pm
- Thursday, 5-7pm
- 1st Saturday of the month, 8am–12 pm

### Town Board Meetings

- 2nd Tuesday of the month, **7:00pm**

### Building and Zoning Hours

- Thursdays, 5-7 pm

### Transfer Station

- Tuesday and Thursday, 4-7pm
- Saturday 8am–5pm



**Town-Wide Clean Up Day**  
*Volunteers Needed! Let's keep Knox beautiful!*  
**Knox Highway Garage 9 AM April 1**  
**Safety vest, garbage bags and instructions will be available!**  
**For more information call Dennis Barber, (518) 860-7861**



Town of Knox  
PO Box 116  
Knox, NY 12107

stamp

Mailing label