

## New Appointments for Tioga County Historical Society

The Tioga County Historical Society Board of Directors has appointed Theresa Wells to the position of Historical Society Director and two new Board members, Ms. Andrea Melione and Mr. John Wicklund to fill unexpired board positions.

Ms. Wells has been working for the Historical Society for one year and will replace the present volunteer director. Ms. Wells has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cornell University and has approximately 20 years of experience working in public and Academic libraries, with 10 years of supervisory experience during her career at Cornell University. She is a Tioga County resident living in Waverly and has an interest in local history, museums, and American Indian studies.

New board members include Andrea Melione and John Wicklund. Ms. Melione is presently working on her Master's Degree at Binghamton University. Her degree is in Public Administration with a special interest in management theory and community service. She brings a wide variety of talents, experience and interests to the board. Ms. Melione works for the ArtTrader Magazine as content editor, lead

graphic designer and art instructor. She is also a board member and webmaster for the Fine Art Society of the Southern Tier. She recently commented that she is delighted to be a part of the Tioga County Historical Society.

Mr. Wicklund has degrees in Physics and Electrical Engineering and has worked in the defense industry for 43 years. He brings to the board many years experience in Community Service including publicity for Tioga County Relay for Life, which he has been involved with since 2005. He is a board and committee member at the Open Door Mission, work for Meals on Wheels, CROP Walk, Southern Tier Celebrates for First Night in Binghamton, Spiedie Fest, Science Fair Judge, United Way Youth Art Show, Kopernik Youth Program and has coached youth baseball and soccer, and served as scout leader. Mr. Wicklund's hobbies include walking and artwork/cartooning and he has designed books and posters for publication.

The Tioga County Historical Society Board welcomes Ms. Wells, Ms. Melione, and Mr. Wicklund and looks forward to the future.

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## The Town of Owego: 2010 in Review

By Donald Castellucci Jr., Town of Owego Supervisor

Hickories Park had another prosperous year. Many events were held to attract residents of all ages as well as residents from surrounding counties and travelers. Concerts in the Park, fireworks, dog shows, car shows, fishing tournaments and athletic events were only a few of the happenings held at the park this year. Hickories Park is one of the true treasures in the Town.

As I look to next year, I believe the Natural Gas issue will come to the forefront. Many decisions will have to be made. It is not a matter of if, but when the drilling will begin. I believe the DEC has done a very good job of listening to the concerns on both sides of the issue and will come up with a document and permitting process that will work for residents, property owners and business owners. The Town has been proactive on this issue and will continue to be in the future. The Board recently adopted a new local law that allows the highway superintendent the ability temporarily post roads when they are materially injured by the operation of overweight vehicles. We are also in the process of creating a road use agreement to be entered into with potential natural gas companies operating in the Town. This is just the beginning of the many efforts being undertaken to protect the Town's infrastructure.

The State has mandated another cost to local government by passing down the dog license operations to Town Government. We have been proactive in dealing with this

change and you should not see any change in the process for licensing your dogs. We have been taking a dog census to update our records and to make sure all dogs are properly licensed. If you have any questions about the new law or licensing, please contact the Town Clerk's Office for details. (687-0123 ext. 2)

Lastly, local municipal budgets are going to continue to get worse before they get better. We have strived to keep our costs down through budget cuts and reduction in employees. These measures will only go so far. You cannot continue to balance a budget on the back of those two measures. With the economy showing no signs of improvement over the next year, the revenues the Town depends on, mortgage tax, sales tax and state municipal aid continue to decline. Fuel prices are on the rise again and they will continue to rise as demand goes up when the economy improves. Keeping the budget numbers at zero or a reasonable rate of increase will be the biggest challenge the Board faces next year. Be assured we are driven to meet this challenge. (Next month look for my column "Why The Proposed Tax Cap Is Wrong For Local Government")

I look forward to my second year as Town Supervisor and the challenges ahead. I will work to continue to make the Town of Owego a great place to live and bring up a family. My best wishes for Blessed, happy and healthy 2011.

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.....Laurie, Lisa & Jody



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