

OCTOBER 2007

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HILTON

VILLAGE NEWS



Centennial Park

*More than just a name...
A 100 year commemorative
of Hilton's growth and prosperity
for present and future generations*

It all began with an idea over lunch. Hilton's Mayor, Larry Gursslin, met with a few friends to kick around ideas to celebrate the 100 year birthday, or "Centennial", of the Village of Hilton. The intent was to do something really big and really special; a lasting reminder of the first 100 years of the Hilton Village. Bill Bernbeck, a Village resident, suggested the idea of a community park gazebo to be located in the south lawn of the Community Center on West Avenue. He noted the many gazebos in other small villages and felt that this would be a fitting way to remember Hilton's Centennial. A committee was formed. Members included Gordon Bascom, Bernadine Bernbeck, Larry Gursslin, Tony Hann, Bill Hawley,

Nita Ingham, Bill Shirtz, Alberta Manchester, Peter Urgola, Al Verkest, Don Wasielewski, Betty Yokobosky and Dick Long with Bill Bernbeck as the Chairman. And so the project was born. Financing was done solely through fund raising activities sponsored by the committee, and private donations. In 1984, after much hard work and generous donations of time, talent and materials

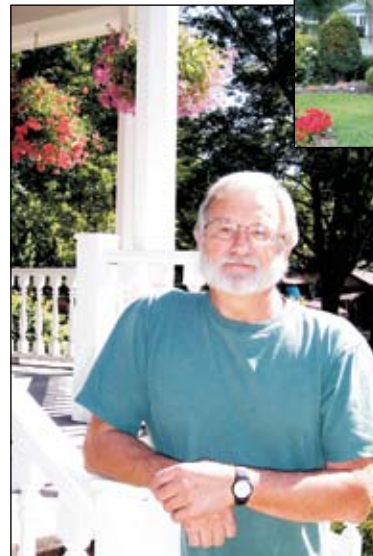
from many of Hilton's own businesses and residents, the 1^{1/2} year all-volunteer project was finally a reality, ready to be celebrated.

At noon on October 6, 1984 several hundred people gathered for the dedication ceremony of the Gazebo.

In his address at the dedication ceremony, Chairman Bill Bernbeck stated that Centennial Park, under the supervision of Village Administration, was to provide a useful and lasting gathering place, made available to community persons and

organizations to promote various cultural and social activities. It was to provide an aesthetic, attractive and useful reminder of our area's growth and prosperity over the past 100 years, and was to be a focal point of the community to demonstrate the pride we all have for our Village and was a gift for future generations, wishing them continued prosperity and happiness.

Now, some 23 years later, one can truly see the success the Centennial Committee has accomplished. The next time you have the privilege of being in the Park, hopefully you will remember it'



Bill Bernbeck, Chairman of the Centennial Park Committee, leans on his vision, now a 23 year old reality, the Hilton Centennial Gazebo.

purpose; that Centennial Park is more than just a name, It is a lasting reminder of 100 years of community growth and prosperity. It is a legacy of pride that will stand to serve current and future generations for many years to come. A special Thank you to Bill Bernbeck and all of the members of the Centennial Committee; well done!



VILLAGE SIGN ORDINANCE COMPLETELY REVISED, UPDATED AND IMPROVED.

It took many meetings, over a six month period, but in the end, "It was worth all the effort". That was the sentiment of Chairperson and Village Trustee Walt Horylev. "What a committee of seven!", exclaimed Walt. **Rick Bjornholm**, Chairman of the Zoning Board, **Rick Furnal**, Owner of the Big M, **Mark Hedberg**, Chairman of the Planning Board, **Mary Horowitz**, Member Service Specialist at the Summit FCU, **Walt Horylev**, Vice-Mayor, **Mike Lissow**, Code Enforcement Officer and **Dave McCracken**, private citizen made up the committee. The intent was to completely revise the sign ordinance, updating the language and making it a more resident and business friendly zoning law. The committee was assisted in their work by Village staff member **Debbie Buongiorne**, who served as recording secretary and meeting facilitator. The fine tuning of the committee's efforts involved over 15 hours of further discussion, using the help of the Village Attorney, **Larry Schwind**, and the Village Clerk-Treasurer, **Janet Surridge**, who reformatted the work and made sure everything was legally correct.

The committee looked at the sign ordinances from six other villages and one supplied by the New York State Planning Federation, looking for hints on where our ordinance could be improved. Individual members of the committee were given different parts of the old law to update with a

suggestion of how to improve them; these homework assignments were debated and modified at subsequent meetings until a consensus was obtained. Each segment was then incorporated into the overall proposal.

Having two business people on the committee really helped, as they provided input from their perspective; this kept the committee moving in a direction where it could treat business fairly yet impose appropriate control over signage. The committee had also been instructed to be concerned about public safety, protecting property values, creating a more attractive economic and business climate and enhancing the aesthetics of the community.

The first version of the new law was pre-tested in a public hearing held in May, where comments from

business people, especially regarding A-frame signs, caused the committee to make a few changes. This approach was especially helpful as it gave the committee an appreciation of where further work was needed, making the public hearing for the final proposal more likely to pass without any controversy.

At the July 3rd meeting of the Village Board, **Local Law #5 , Creating a New Sign Law for the Village of Hilton**, was passed. Walt exclaimed, "I am very pleased with the work of the sign revision committee; they were fun to work with and they did a terrific job!" Any person desiring to learn about the new sign law can obtain information at the **Village Office** in the Community Center at **59 Henry Street**, or can visit the Village's website at www.hiltonny.org.



OLD HOJACK LANE

*A History and A Future
in Hilton*

In the heart of the Village, just west of Lake Avenue, lies Old Hojack Lane. The fairly new stretch of roadway lies over the site of what used to be known as the RW&O Railroad.

The once very active railroad was largely responsible for the prosperity and growth of the Village of Hilton. Over the past 40 years, since the railroad's dormancy, the former property of Penn Central Corp.,

now largely owned by the Village of Hilton, has had many improvements and major transformations. It now serves to bring a renewed kind of prosperity to the Village of Hilton.

The railroad came to Hilton in the early 1900's, engineered by the Old Hojack Train. By 1967, through years of modernization, the railroad became obsolete. In 1981 a committee was formed to study the then abandoned railroad property and determine its possible future use and benefits to the Village of Hilton. The committee's recommendation was to purchase the property, with the initial intent of using it as a recreational trail way, and a long range goal of adding a storm sewer and roadway from Lake Avenue to School Lane. In 1982 the Village

purchased the property from East Avenue to Lake Avenue. In 1988 more property was purchased from Lake Avenue, west to the village line.



*Present day Old Hojack Lane
at Lake Avenue*

Finally in 1992, the property east of East Avenue to the village line was added, completing the transactions between the Village and Penn Central Corporation with a small section of land purchased from RG&E. Aside from two small parcels of the land that the Village later sold to the Hilton Baptist Church and to St. Leo's

Church, the entire property within village limits was now owned by the Village.

Ownership of the new properties brought the Village exciting new possibilities and much added work. Penn Central had previously removed the train tracks and ties but the land still had to be surveyed and cleared of brush and trees. In the fall and winter of 1993

the first section of storm sewer was installed, adding a much needed backup for a system that was already at capacity, and unable to accommodate future growth. Between the years of 1998 through 2003 additional improvements were made to the area including the newly constructed roadway first from Lake Avenue to Henry Street. Later from Henry Street to School Lane, including connecting Hale Haven to Hojack Lane. Then from School Lane to Lacy Lane. And finally completing the road from Lacy Lane to Collamer Road. Along with the new road, the Village crews were busy constructing a new water main, gutters, electricity, street lighting, sidewalks and planting and beautifying the area by grading, seeding and the planting of trees.

The result; beautiful and functional Old Hojack Lane.

Funding for the new roadway and added improvements came through a \$50,000 Community Development Grant from the Monroe County

HUD program. Additional funds came from the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program in

Continued...



*Present day photo of the same area,
Pictured below, looking towards Old
Hojack Lane, taken from the current
Summit FCU, ATM drive-thru.*

*Early 1900's photo in Hilton, of the
Old Hojack Train on the RW&O Railroad,
slightly south of the current
Railroad Avenue Depot,
looking west towards
Lake Avenue.*



Old Hojack Lane Continued...

the form of approximately \$27,000 in 2000 and another \$20,000 in 2001.

In the year 2000 the Village annexed 18.1 acres of property north of the former Hojack Rail Line and west of the Merton Williams School. This property is zoned "Light Industrial" and will hopefully bring additional economic development to the community. The purchase of this property, in addition to a partnership with the Town of Parma, allowed construction of Old Hojack Lane to continue west to Collamer road.

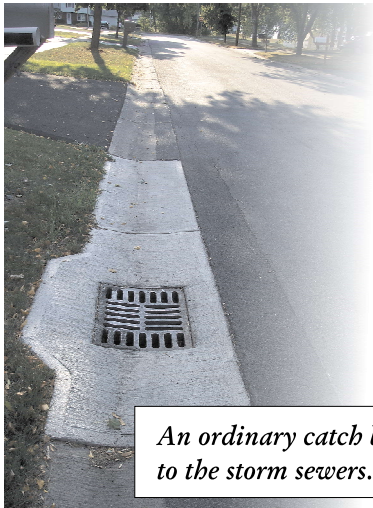
Many community wide benefits have come from the purchase and

construction of Old Hojack Lane. Currently the land opens the door for potential business growth, increasing community services and future jobs within the village. Improvements have been seen in traffic patterns, with a lessening of vehicles on older, narrow village streets. It has improved transportation for heavy delivery trucks back and forth to the schools and various businesses along the route. It has opened an improved means of fire protection for area businesses and homes, and will now be home to the future Hilton Fire Department in 2008-09. It also is a

great asset to the Hilton school transportation system. Hojack Lane has also improved access to many of the homes and businesses on and surrounding the streets of Old Hojack Lane and also provides easy access around the village during major events such as the Apple Fest and the Fire Department Carnival.

Many more possibilities lie in store for Old Hojack Lane. As the Hilton community continues to develop and improve, Old Hojack Lane will continue to serve as an important part of the future prosperity of the Hilton Village. ■

VILLAGE Environmental ISSUES



An ordinary catch basin to the storm sewers.

Along the side of the road, in the gutter, lies what is called a catch basin, which in turn leads to a storm drain. Catch basins were designed to swiftly carry excess rain waters and melting snow off of village streets, through the storm drains, and dump them directly into Salmon Creek. There is no chemical treatment or filtering of these waters flowing into the creek.

Many people who live in the Village are unaware that storm drains are untreated and consequently drain chlorinated pool water, dirty car oil, various chemicals and other toxic or hazardous

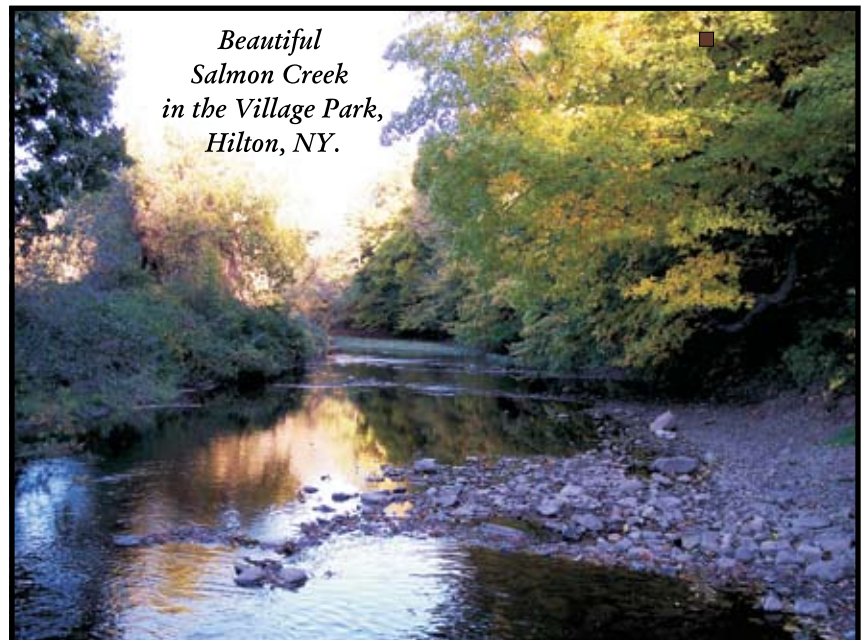
substances into the basins believing that they will be harmless. This is not true.

Salmon Creek is named so because of the beautiful Salmon fish that live in its waters. Please consider the fish and other living creatures and the surrounding environment that is directly affected by the storm sewer waters. With a large population of people in the

Village, and many pools to drain, and much waste to be discarded, remember that the catch basins are not the proper place of disposal.

Taking good care of our environment is our responsibility and together we can make a difference for the health and beauty of the future of Hilton's Salmon Creek and all of the areas that the creek affects. ■

Beautiful Salmon Creek in the Village Park, Hilton, NY.



VILLAGE MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC PROGRAM INFORMATION

RG&E will begin another **Voice Your Choice (VYC)** campaign in October. The Village would like to give our electric customers some advance information:

★ Customers that want to continue enrollment in the Hilton Municipal Electric program **DO NOT** have to contact RG&E or the Village Office. The office staff will automatically renew your enrollment with the same price option you chose for 2007 (fixed or variable rate). However, if you want to change your price option for 2008, you must contact the Village Office.

★ The Village Board will not be publishing a fixed rate quote until November 1st. RG&E will publish a fixed rate on October 1st.

★ We urge new customers to sign up **prior to 3:00pm** on **December 7th**, to give RG&E enough time to switch your account by the January meter reading date. Any enrollments received after December 7th may not be activated until the February meter read date. **The very last day for new customers to join our electric program is December 27th at 3:00pm.**

**2007 Year to Date
Average Customer
Savings**
over RG&E electric prices:
Variable Rate savings of 1.5%
Fixed Rate savings of 5.9%

New for 2008

As the Village Board analyzed the financial report for our fiscal year ending May 31, 2007, it became evident that we have accumulated a large sum of uncollectible revenue, due to the fact that several customers disconnected their service and moved away, without leaving a forwarding address or paying their final bill. Since the majority of these customers were tenants and not the property owner, the Village Board adopted a new enrollment policy. The policy states "Any new customer who applies for enrollment in the Municipal Electric Utility must be the owner of the property for which service is requested. The Village Board reserves the right to refuse service to any applicant who does not have a good credit standing with RG&E or for whom we feel may be a credit risk."

We ask everyone who participates in our program to please be considerate of others and pay your final bill. If you don't, it has negative consequences on the savings we're trying to achieve for all of our customers.

Please be aware that we have set an enrollment maximum for 2008. If we are successful and obtain our goal, enrollment may become limited to a first come first serve basis. Village residents and business owners shall have the first priority.



DAVID GOODRICH 2007 Citizen of the Year



Photo courtesy of Westside News Inc.

The Hilton Village Board has chosen David Goodrich as 2007 Citizen of the Year. Mr. Goodrich has been actively involved in the community, volunteering in such organizations as the Rotary, the VFW and the Salvation Army. He is also actively involved in his church and is a past member of the school board and also past president. Mr. Goodrich was recognized at a formal presentation on June 23 at the Lakeview Community Church. He was presented with a plaque for his years of community service. The presentation was attended by his wife, family and friends. Congratulations David!

The Village Board would like to thank

Rick Davis
and his company

**Repair N Remodel,
LLC**

For an **EXCELLENT** job re-roofing the Centennial Gazebo. Rick donated the labor for the job and had all of the materials also donated.

Consider supporting Rick in your next improvement project

Call Rick Davis at **585-637-7381**

Or e-mail him at

repair@rochester.rr.com

BUSINESS NEWS



Pontillo's present location.

PONTILLO'S BUILDS A NEW PIZZERIA.



new construction.

Pontillo's Pizzeria, presently located at 8 Canning Street, is in the process of relocating and expanding its services to offer a dine-in area. The new pizzeria is currently under construction at 38 East Avenue.

NEW HILTON CHILDCARE

The Village would like to welcome

Hilton Community Childcare

a new day-care facility, located within the Community Center at 59 Henry Street.

Enrollment inquiries can be made between the hours of 6 AM through 6 PM

by calling **392-5060**



NEW HILTON PHARMACY

The Village would also like to welcome the Hilton Pharmacy, located at 32 Main Street. Along with their pharmaceutical services, the Pharmacy also carries unique gifts and offers coffee, smoothies and iced cremes in their Coffee Corner. For prescriptions and information please call **392-7979**.



WHAT'S NEW IN HILTON

PREPARING FOR A NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT LAKE AVENUE AND MAIN STREET.

RG&E worker and Village resident, Don Green, marks the RG&E underground utilities to prepare for the new traffic signal, soon to be installed at the corner of Lake Avenue and Main Street.

VILLAGE PURCHASES STREET LIGHTING SYSTEM

In an effort to save Village taxpayers up to \$50,000 annually, Village officials have been negotiating with RG&E, over the past three years, to purchase the street lighting system within the corporate limits of the Village of Hilton. According to Tom Tilebein, Superintendent of Public Works, "It has been a very complicated and lengthy process, but the end result should be a substantial savings to our residents".

The goal in purchasing the entire street lighting system is to eliminate the associated fees for the lighting equipment and facilities, set by New York State tariff regulations. Fees for energy, as well as existing RG&E utility poles that continue to service individual streetlights will still be subject to the appropriate tariffs.

The purchase of the system was finalized on September 19, 2007. The Village is now required to install service point disconnects, or fuses, in order to create a point of separation between the two systems and identify areas for future maintenance responsibilities. Power & Construction Group Inc. has been given notice to proceed, for the previously awarded contract, to install the separation work. All street lighting serviced by overhead wires shall have fuse kits installed at each light. This work will not impact any residential properties. However, all underground systems



If you have an RG&E transformer pad located near the lot line in front of your home, it is very likely that construction, involving excavation, will be necessary to install the required equipment.

that are serviced by RG&E transformer pads will require excavation and installation of new wiring. If you have an RG&E transformer pad located near the lot line in front of your home, it is very likely that construction, involving

excavation, will be necessary to install the required equipment. All utilities are located in easements and should be free of planting areas, trees, shrubs and all other forms of landscaping. The homeowner should clear these areas in order to salvage plants at risk due to the construction. Please note that all work will be performed between the transformer pad and the sidewalk wherever possible. The restoration phase of the project includes only topsoil and grass seed. Landscaped areas will not be replaced. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the impact of construction at your home, please feel free to contact Tom Tilebein at 392-4144 ext. 105.

The Village has taken out a bond to pay for the costs associated with the purchase and construction of the project. The annual \$50,000 savings associated with the purchase of the lighting system will provide the funds necessary to repay the bond. The bond will be fully paid in 7 years and the Village will then be able to put the savings into a capital improvement fund for the street lighting system.

Your patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated during the construction phase of this project, as well as our transition into another maintenance responsibility for our Public Works staff.



Fall 2007 to Spring 2008 Refuse & Recycling *Holiday Schedule*



Holiday

Columbus Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving

Christmas
New Year's 2008
Martin Luther King Day
President's Day
Good Friday

All Departments Closed

Monday, Oct. 8
Monday, Nov. 12
Thursday, Nov. 22
Friday, Nov. 23
Tuesday, Dec. 25
Tuesday, Jan. 1
Monday, Jan. 21
Monday, Feb. 18
Friday, March 21

Resume

Refuse & Recycling

Tuesday, Oct. 9
Tuesday, Nov. 13
Wednesday, Nov. 21

Refuse not affected

Wednesday, Dec. 26
Wednesday, Jan. 2
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Tuesday, Feb. 19

Refuse not affected

Save the Date!

Christmas Tree Lighting

December 1, 2007

7:00 PM

at the Village
Community Center

Join in the festivities of the Christmas season with friends and family; joyfully singing carols while the Village Christmas tree is lit. After, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a delicious Christmas cookie, while waiting for a visit with Santa...and it's all

FREE!

Look for more information in November

Make it a Favorite Family Tradition



Village of Hilton
59 Henry Street
Hilton, NY 14468

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HILTON, NY
14468
PERMIT NO. 3

Hilton Postal Customer
Hilton NY 14468

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

With this newsletter, I wish to announce that Mary Lissow is our new editor. Mary brings experience in computer graphics, graphic arts and in her writing, with a strong home town perspective. Married to Mike, they have five children, Jacob, Rachel, Ali, Ben and Matthew. Please welcome Mary and feel free to comment on future articles you may wish to see published, by calling the Village office at 392-4144.



Since the last issue of the newsletter, a major topic of concern has arisen that involves the possibility of having a new Community Recreation Center and Library. This proposal was presented to the Parma Town

Board in July by DeWolf engineers. The Hilton Village Board has passed a non-binding resolution to support any possible relocation of the Library to a land area located here in the village. We also support keeping the current recreational programs such as the senior citizen lunches and activities, as much as possible, at the existing Community Center. While both the Library and Recreation are town funded, we realize the importance of having them located in the village.

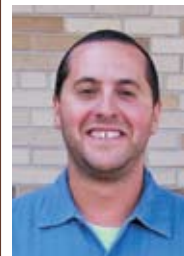
As Mayor, I have charged our Planning Board with the task of reviewing possible future locations for the library in hopes of supporting the library board, and it's director Sally Snow. As more information becomes available, we will be sharing it with all concerned parties, especially the Parma Town Board as we assist them in their efforts to study the growing needs of our community.

Respectfully

Larry Gurslin.

The Village of Hilton
Department of Public Works

would like to
WELCOME
two new employees.



Russell Zurick has been hired as a laborer. Russell is a life long resident of Hilton. He and his wife Mary have one son Adam, and are expecting their second child.



Jim Liese has been hired as a mechanical equipment operator and assistant to the Village mechanic. Jim is a retired Air Force Staff Sergeant with experience in aircraft mechanics. Jim resides in Parma with his wife Sara. They have one daughter, Greta and two grandchildren, Roen and Simone.