

# ROCHESTER



# REPORTER

*Published by the Rochester Town Board to Keep Citizens Informed and Involved*

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**MEETINGS & EVENTS**

5/07 (M) Code Task Force, 6pm TH

5/08 (Tu) Zoning Board of Appeals, 7pm TH

5/10 (Th) Environmental Commission Meeting, 7pm TH

5/12 (Sat) Rochester Annual Historic Day, starting 10 am, Main St., Accord

5/15 (Tu) RVSD School Budget voting day, 6am to 9 pm, RV High School Gymnasium

5/15 (Tu) Planning Board, 7pm TH

5/16 (W) Youth Commission Board, 9:30am CC

5/16 (W) Fire Commissioner Board Meeting, 7:30pm AcF

5/21 (M) Historic Preservation Commission, 4pm TH

5/21 (M) Code Task Force, 6pm TH

5/22 (Tu) Tax Grievance Day

5/28 (M) Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day

5/30 (W) Town Board Audit/ Workshop Meeting, 4:30pm TH

5/31 (Th) Code Task Force, 6pm TH

6/06 (W) Fire Commissioner Board Meeting, 7:30pm AcF

6/07 (Th) Public Hearing: Cell Towers, 7pm TH

6/07 (Th) Town Board, 7pm TH

TH=Town Hall  
CC=Community Center  
AcF=Accord Firehouse

## Proposed School Budget Presented

Representatives of the Rondout Valley School District presented the 2007/08 proposed budget to the residents during the Town Board meeting of May 3.

Voting on the budget is set for Tuesday, May 15 from 6am to 9pm in the high school gym. Proof of residency in the district must be presented. Voting by absentee ballot is also allowed. An application for an Absentee Ballot can be downloaded from the Town website, or obtained from the RSVD administrative office.

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## Chance to Meet School Board Candidates

A "Meet the Candidates" night will be held on Tuesday, May 8th at 6:00pm at the Middle School lecture hall. The candidates running for School Board are :

1. Imre Beke, Jr.
2. Christopher Kelder
3. Pamela Longley
4. William Oliva
5. Patrick Sweeney
6. Kim Wozencraft

## Development Moratorium Extended 3 Months

At its May meeting, and following a public hearing on the topic, the Town Board approved a final three month extension to the moratorium on large scale development and sub-divisions larger than four parcels.

The moratorium was originally approved in Feb. 2006 to be in effect for one year,

but with the provision for two 3-month extensions. The first extension, approved last February, expires this May. Although the revision to the Town's Comprehensive Plan has been approved, the changes to the Town building and zoning codes necessitated by that revision have

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FEMA HELP AVAILABLE

If your business or residence was damaged as a result of the recent flooding, you may be eligible for financial assistance from FEMA. To apply, you must submit an assessment form. This form is available on the Town website. More information is available at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## Tax Grievance Day

May 22, 2007 is Tax Grievance Day. Appointments to meet with the Board of Assessment Review will be scheduled on that day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

To make an appointment, you must call the Tax Assessor and submit a written application on or before May 22. It is not required to meet with the Board in person but

everyone must submit a written application. Applications and instructions are available at the Assessor's office and at [www.orps.state.ny.us](http://www.orps.state.ny.us).

The Tentative Assessment Roll is available for review at the Assessor's office during regular business hours with additional hours on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am until 1 pm and Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 9pm.

## Rochester History Day — May 12

The Town's annual history day will be held this year on Saturday, May 12, starting on Main St., Accord at 10 AM. Admission if free. There will be several new attractions at

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**(Moratorium, from page 1)**  
not yet been finalized by the Code Task Force or approved by the Board. Thus a second moratorium extension to August 2007 was needed.

Two town-wide meetings were held in late April to present drafts of the new zoning districts and provisions and to receive feedback and suggestions from residents. The Task Force drafts are currently being revised based on this input, and newly revised documents are expected over the coming weeks.

The most recent drafts of the proposed new zoning districts and provisions (including a map) are available from the Town Clerk and on the town website: [www.townofrochester.net](http://www.townofrochester.net).

**(History Day, from page 1)**  
this year's celebration.

Would you like to see blacksmiths at work, or learn how to raise bees, or find out the value of your favorite family treasure, or discover some missing information about your family tree, or enjoy a cup of delicious Swiss cappuccino and homemade brownies?

If the answer to any of this is "yes," you need to attend the Annual History Day on Saturday, May 12, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by Friends of Historic Rochester. Activities will be located at the Museum, 12 Main Street, Accord, and at the Fire Hall, also located on Main Street.

A new feature this year at the Museum is the Front Porch Café, serving Swiss coffees, cappuccino and es-

**(School Budget, from page 1)**

Highlights of the proposed budget are:

- Total = \$56,793,478
  - Increase over 2006/07 = \$3,201,572 (5.97%)
  - Tax levy increase = 3.67% (estimated)
  - Fund balance used to reduce tax levy = \$1,880,000
- Approval of the proposed budget will:
- Maintain existing educational programs

- Maintain small class sizes
- Add 1 reading specialist to the high school
- Add 1 clerical position for data reporting to the State
- Reduce 2 teachers & 1 assistant at Rosendale and Kerhonkson elementary schools due to lower enrollments
- Reduce 1 music teacher due to lower enrollments
- Reflect need for 2 less places for alternative edu-

- cation at Ulster BOCES
- For Special Education: create 2 positions at the high school; create 4 teaching assistant positions at elementary level; create 2 part-time positions for a physical therapist and assistant.

For more information, refer to the RVSD website (<http://www.rondout.k12.ny.us/>) or the town website.

## Results of Earth Day 2007

Thanks to the efforts of many, many volunteers and the coordination of the Youth Dept., the town had a very successful Earth Day(s) cleanup on April 21 & 28.

Not deterred by ticks, poison ivy or yucky-yuck, participants cleaned 43 town roads, gathering up 60 tires, 1 air conditioner, 2 tons of metal and 3 tons of miscellaneous debris. A big THANK YOU to all those who volunteered this year, be it picking up trash, driving collection trucks or just distributing the orange plastic bags. THANKS!!!

presso, as well as fine teas and brownies. This new feature is being presented by Hans Lupold.

Also at the museum, antique cars and machinery will be on display. At noon-time, lunch of hot dogs, chips and soda will be available at the Fire Hall.

One of the main attractions of the day will be Accord's "Road Show" for appraisal of antiques and collectibles at \$5.00 per item.

In addition, several heritage crafts will be demonstrated. These include blacksmithing by farrier Rick Gray and by Jon Nedor, who will be making wrought iron items. Bee-keeping will be demonstrated by Chris Harp; candle dipping by Rosalou Novi; and quilting, large and small, by several expert

seamstresses.

Attractions at the Museum are the many photographs, documents and files about local history and historic properties in the Rochester.

A genealogist will be available to assist in research for specific families using the extensive resources of the Eleanor Rosakranse Genealogical Collection and a computer databank on local families.

Available for sale will be items on local history, plus books of all kinds and LP records from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Parking behind the Museum is free. A brochure indicating the location of each feature of History Day 2007 will be available to all visitors at the Museum. For more information please call 845-626-7104 or 687-9998.

## Other News About Town

### Cell Tower Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held on June 7, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Accord Fire Hall on a proposed lease of Town lands to Homeland Towers LLC for construction, maintenance and marketing of two cell towers to provide internet and cell service to residents and emergency communications capacity.

### Fire Prevention Code

The Town Board approved Local Law #2 of 2007, deleting present Chapter 78 of the Town Code on Building Construction and adopting Chapter 111 in its place to include Fire Safety & Property Maintenance Inspections. Details are available on the Town website.

### Summer Concert Series

Three free public concerts are being planned for this summer. These town-funded concerts will be held in the Town park pavilion on the evenings of July 7 & 28, and August 11. A variety of music genres and artists will be featured. Details are still being finalized and will be announced in the near future.

**List Your Business (It's Free!)** Place information about your local business on the Town's website. If you have your own website, a direct link to it will be offered. Go to [www.townofrochester.net](http://www.townofrochester.net) and click on the **Business Directory** link for more information and to sign up.