

A VIEW OF THE FALLS

Office of the Mayor - Richard B. Milne

December 31, 2009

Dear Friends;

As we enter a New Year and new decade, the village staff wish all a very Happy New Year. On January 9th, the Village will launch its newly updated web site. This new web site was fully created (in house) and we are extremely excited about it. The web site address will still be (www.villageofhoneoyefalls.org) and there will only be a brief disruption of service when the new site is launched.

2010 will bring with it the many concerns of rising health care costs, increased unfunded mandates, a dwindling grant opportunity base and less financial support from the State of New York. Because of this, the village trustees and staff will be discussing ways to continue to move forward with less funding available, this is obviously not easy to do. We may need to look at the possibility of certain services being cut back, equipment/property purchases and upgrades held up or eliminated but only time will tell.

Unfortunately, there are many "unknowns" as the government at the State level continues to bicker over their budget and funding support cuts in many areas are considered. It's important to understand that approximately 37% of the Village's budget is funded by state sales tax revenue sharing and only about 15% of our budget is made up by Village property tax revenue. The balance is made up by our municipal contracts and EMS billing. The point of this information is that as the state considers pushing more costs and mandates on local municipalities (in addition to out of control health care costs), this will greatly affect what we can afford to do from a service stand-point or what we do with our future tax rate. Certainly 2010 will be a difficult year.

2010 may be difficult, but there are also glimmers of positive influences as well. I believe we are beginning to see positive opportunities for Honeoye Falls. I'm beginning to be contacted more often from developers and businesses that may want to expand to the area. However, with this comes potential change; busier streets, more development and more buildings. Some would see development as positive, others as negative. This is a balance that needs to be weighed, a comparison of the past and the future, a comparison of a wonderful history that we need to preserve when and where possible and a new history that we develop for our children and grand-children.

As difficult as the economy has been, as bleak as the future may look to some, I would rather take the "glass half full" approach. We can not sit back and rest on our laurels. We as a community have to be active and involved together. We need to work together to make 2010 a positive year and create our new history and determine what we want and what we need. The Village of Honeoye Falls continues to be a place that people want to move to, that people enjoy traveling through. I hope that our future will include Honeoye Falls being a destination, not just to pass through, but to stop and enjoy the history, enjoy shops, lunch or dinner and then also a desire to return to visit again. Be involved, it really does "take a community".

Sincere Regards,
Richard B. Milne
Mayor, Village of Honeoye Falls