

Message from the President

by Florence Braunius,
NYRWA President



Today is absolutely beautiful. Temperature is 71°, there are no black flies, no mosquitoes, no snow, no ice on the lake, just perfect and the date is April 8, 2010! Yesterday we reached 80°. Now is this climate change, global warming, or the end of the ice age? Regardless of what label you decide upon, most of us are truly enjoying this unusual weather. Hopefully when you are reading this issue, this weather will be the norm.

Looking ahead to what is in store for the summer season; our village is looking forward to the return of our seasonal residents and the visitors that are a vital part of our economy. We continue to see small growth of seasonal homes in our village. The Village of Speculator is within the Town of Lake Pleasant and the only municipal sewer service is within the village. The water system serves 5 residential properties outside the village limits, the remaining 400 connections are within the village limits. Both systems have undergone improvements and the sewer system has been extended. We still have room to grow within the village boundaries with our sewer system, but we, as most communities, cannot afford any additional debt. So the economics of the situation indicates we need to have more customers to make this affordable, and preferably customers from outside the village boundary, so we can benefit from user fees that have no village debt attached. Anyone who has been in this situation knows how difficult this becomes, because now we have to put on yet another hat. This hat says “Sales Person” whoops “Sales Associate”. How else are people who do not have the advantage of municipal water and sewer service going to know the benefits? For the residents within the village who long to have sewer service, it is an easily promoted benefit, but when you reach out to a community that has never had an affiliation with municipal service other than highway maintenance, solid waste collection & recycling, and fire protection it becomes very, very difficult.

A few things to be aware of before you go knocking on doors. First of all, know that you are providing quality service at an affordable cost. Is the level of service you are providing a benefit for your customers? If you are struggling to maintain services, struggling to meet permit requirements on a monthly basis, it makes it hard to sell this service to people. Secondly, look beyond the end of your nose. As I write, our economic climate is hopefully at its lowest point, but recovery will come and when it does, if your community has taken a progressive approach, then this will be a huge plus for potential growth. Public health is a

primary ingredient as well. Do people have difficulty with potable water from a private well? Road salt contamination is a big issue in the Adirondacks, and connecting to a municipal supply can resolve the problems affiliated with a high chloride concentration in your private well. Less than adequate leach fields are a problem as well and lack of space can inhibit expanding an existing home.

I could go on for a few more paragraphs promoting the benefits of being connected to a municipal system, but I hope that everyone who is reading this knows they could be writing the same. The village was not successful in its latest attempt to expand, but I sincerely hope that other systems can stand on their level of service quality and history, and be successful in selling the benefits of our municipal water and wastewater systems.

I hope you are all keeping your barbeque grills fired up, your boats in the water, the cooler filled, and for all of you that have a hammock in your back yard, be sure to get your turn!

Enjoy! 💧