

'Christmas in the Park' new concept for Gouverneur C of C

In a new twist to Christmas season promotions here, Gouverneur chamber officials are planning a day of outdoor winter fun in the village park. The event—appropriately dubbed "Christmas in the Park"—is slated for Saturday, December 15.

A main focus of the chamber's Christmas present to the community will be a snow sculpturing contest. Eldon Conklin and Mike Cloonan, who are spearheading the project, are hoping that a number of Gouverneur area business, church, civic and school groups will sign up to take part and try their hands at fashioning a statue or design out of snow and ice.

The creations will be divided into four categories by type of entrant (business, school group, service organization—adult or youth, and an open division). There will be cash prizes for entries judged first, second or third in each of the four categories.

The start of construction is set for 10 a.m. that day. Judging will close the contest at about 2 p.m.

In the event snow cover is thin in early December, organizers intend to make arrangements with several large local companies who will be encouraged to stockpile snow next month from plowing operations in their parking lots. In a pinch the material can be trucked to

the park site. It is also hoped that the sculptors will have access to water—via nearby fire hydrants—in order to ice down their creations. Organizers intend to approach fire department officials with that request in the next week.

—And while the snow artisans are busy with their projects that day, there'll be a number of other activities for other local folks to join in. Among the activities being discussed by the chamber committee are snowshoe races, a snow ball tournament (winter softball), tug of war contests, children's games such as three legged races and a visit from the jolly old "gent himself, who'll likely have sweet treats for the

kids. Christmas music will also fill the park that day, piped around through the public address system donated to the village park by the chamber several years ago.

It is also hoped that one of the local groups will make available hot refreshments for sale in the park that day to take the chill away from participants and spectators.

For information about this new event or to sign up to join in some of the fun, contact either Eldon Conklin at 287-2020 or Mike Cloonan at 287-4012.



BRADY WOOD, Gouverneur goalie, top center, is carried on his teammates' shoulders just after he stopped Ogdensburg's chance to tie the score in a second-round, sudden death shootout to determine the Section 10 champion. It was so dark, spectators on the sidelines could barely see, yet Brady stopped a direct kick, setting up Ben Hassett, who scored the deciding goal. See inside for stories. Tribune Photo Clarence Evans

Rec. Committee will plan fund-raisers without HUD funds

By Lisa L. Reape
Members of the Greater Gouverneur Recreational Committee have applied for a tax exempt status with New York state as their next step before beginning fund-raising for the proposed multi-use recreation facility.

Dr. Robert Sidel, who two weeks ago approached the Gouverneur Village Board about making a commitment to release funds for the project, said the committee will not wait for upfront funds from the village to continuing working on plans for the proposed facility.

Dr. Sidel, committee president, had asked the board to consider turning over a portion of the approximately \$155,000 of HUD Urban Development Action Grant repayment funds the village has available towards a recreation facility. Dr. Sidel had suggested the funds would be needed by the group to show local residents they were serious in their intent to see the proposed facility built.

Now he has revised that assessment, saying the group will begin planning the

needed fund-raisers without the village showing the color of its money.

"I'd like to see us raise a minimum of \$100,000—but \$150,000 would be nice," Dr. Sidel said.

At the request of the village board following the October meeting, Village Administrator Scott Hudson, representing the village, and Dr. Sidel, representing the committee, sat down with the village attorney to discuss "possible ways of obtaining village financing for a portion of the project," Mr. Hudson said. "A presentation will be made to the village board at their next meeting (Nov. 19) for one possible scenario by which the village could commit monies to the project."

"There's a rough outline which will be presented to the board—there's all some fine tuning to be done to be in accordance with the laws of the state of New York," Mr. Hudson said. "If this is the process selected, obviously both parties should be in agreement."

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GOVERNEUR MAYOR LAURA SLATE was happy to be the first to donate to the Henry J. Curtis Chapter 161, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) "Forget-Me-Not" drive, which will continue throughout this week in the Gouverneur area. Buster Sullivan, adjutant treasurer of the local chapter, said proceeds from the fund drive will benefit VA Hospital patients in Syracuse and local community service efforts. Tribune Photo

Sports Consignment Sale

Winter Sports Equipment Consignment Sale
A winter sports equipment consignment sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10 at the First Presbyterian Church, 22 Church St., Gouverneur. Fifteen percent of the proceeds will be used for the Rural Rehab Ministry, and will be reflected in the prices.
Serviceable items for the sale will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, and also from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the church. Unsold items must be picked up during the week of Nov. 12-16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For more information, call 287-3560 or 287-4492.

31% tax hike getting public scrutiny

By Lisa L. Reape
Residents of the Town of Gouverneur will have an opportunity to express their views on a proposed 31 percent tax hike in next year's budget at a public hearing at the town hall.

In all, three public hearings are scheduled tonight: the first at 7 p.m. will be to hear comments on the proposed \$11,539 Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad contract; the second, at 7:15, will be to hear comments on the proposed \$11,850 Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department contract; and the third, at 7:30, on the proposed \$145,544 town budget.

Town Supervisor Donald Peck has pledged to review the budget item by item at tonight's hearing to explain the town board's reasoning and to answer any questions the public may pose.

To help prepare local residents for tonight's public hearings, the Tribune Press takes a closer look at the proposed town budget.

THE BIG PICTURE

The proposed 1991 budget contains total appropriations of \$445,584, up from \$339,273 in the current budget. Anticipated revenues dip slightly in the proposed budget, to \$247,835, down from \$271,245, while the unexpended balance will be cut in half, to \$52,300, down from \$104,600 in the current budget. All of which leaves the amount to be raised by taxes at \$528,779, up from \$399,128.

Although the total taxable valuation in the town rose in 1990 to \$10,819,619, up from \$10,665,353 in 1989, the tax levy to be considered would mean a 31 percent increase in the outside town portion, from the current \$9.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value, to \$12.44 per thousand

Two years ago the outside town tax rate was \$70.22 per thousand. (Taxpayers last year saw a tax cut.)

Inside the village, the proposed tax increase would not be as greatly felt. The proposed tax rate would be \$24.25 per thousand, up from \$22.37 in the current budget, which compares favorably with the \$23.61 per thousand tax rate from 1987's budget.

WHERE THE \$ GOES

General Fund Appropriations

Proposed appropriations include increases in the town justice office. The two town justices would each receive a \$1,000 raise, to \$5,000 for Mr. Sibley and \$4,000 for Mr. Mashaw, as well as a \$1,000 increase for each of their court clerks, to \$3,000 for Mrs. Sibley and \$2,000 for Mrs. Mashaw. Mr. Peck said the increases are warranted because the town justices and their clerks are doing more work, as can be seen by the increase in revenues the department shows. Meanwhile, the total budget for the department would remain the same.

The town assessor also would receive an increase, from \$10,500 to \$12,000. Mr. Peck noted the town is in the third year of a three-year reassessment, requiring the assessor to do more work, thus justifying the increase.

The town clerk would receive a \$10 per week raise, while the deputy clerk would receive a \$221 annual increase based on about 887 hours work.

The town supervisor and town councilman would see no increase.

The proposed budget does include a \$12,000 item to repair the middle portion of the town barn roof, accounting for a

major portion of the increase in the buildings allotment, from \$21,140 to \$43,200. Another \$1,000 of that amount would be earmarked for fuel.

General Fund Revenues

The town anticipates an increase in payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) from \$35,000 to \$47,800. But that increase is offset by a \$30,000 decrease in state aid, from \$55,000 to \$25,000 in the 1991 budget. Total estimated revenues for 1991 equal \$134,775, compared to \$125,375 in the current budget.

Part-Town outside village appropriations

The town proposes a decrease in the appropriation for the Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department from \$104,400 to \$102,500, as requested.

One of the items in the 1991 budget is a proposal to make the code enforcement officer a fulltime position, with a salary of \$15,000 plus fringe benefits. The part-time position currently pays \$5,400 plus benefits, while the tentative budget presented to the town board proposed an increase in salary to \$7,800.

Supervisor Peck said the full-time job and proposed making the code enforcement officer a fulltime position because of a number of complaints from town residents that it is too long to receive the necessary town permits to do any construction. The board felt the case was justified making the position fulltime.

Mr. Peck said he thought the code enforcement officer probably should be a fulltime position, but just in case necessary in agreement it should be this year.

He said that item would mean a difference of about \$5 per thousand in the tax

rate, and also indicated he wanted to hear from the taxpayers on whether they supported the move.

Since unveiling the proposed town budget, the town and the Village of Gouverneur have discussed the possibility of sharing a fulltime code enforcement officer sometime in the future, but no agreement has been reached.

General Fund Revenues outside village

The town anticipates a decrease in per capita state aid in the 1991 budget to \$16,000, down from \$25,200 in the current budget.

Highway Appropriations (townwide)

Highway item #1, construction, would see a decrease of \$5,000, as the town's equipment is newer and should require less for an accounting, Mr. Peck said.

Highway item #6, brush and snow removal, would see an increase from \$44,000 to \$13,000, which reflects an increase in the hourly wage of six highway department workers of \$1 per hour to \$4 for 26 weeks' work. Employee benefits for those highway employees also will increase from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Total highway department appropriations for items 3 and 4 would increase from \$124,750 to \$125,500.

Highway appropriations outside

The town proposes to increase the appropriation for maintenance from \$175,000 in the current budget to \$230,000 in the 1991 budget, the village operating system workers' wages. The total appropriation would be \$221,000 in the 1991 budget, up from \$197,500.

Mr. Peck indicated the highway repair

budget as another area where cuts could be made to lower the tax rate.

While he said cutting the amount spent on repairing roads would hurt the town in future state aid, he said he felt the town could trim its road repair budget to \$175,000, which would save an estimated \$34,000 in the tax rate. Lowering the road repair budget to \$15,000 would save even more, but would mean the town would lose an additional \$100,000 in state aid.

Mr. Peck noted the town actually had another \$20,000 in unexpended CHRF money in the current budget, bringing the total to \$24,000 spent on fixing local roads.

Again, he said he is looking for input from local taxpayers on what they want the town to do.

As proposed, the total highway appropriations outside the village would increase from \$279,450 to \$311,610, which includes employee salaries and benefits outlined in the highway workers' contract.

Fire Protection

Finally, the proposed town budget includes a 15 percent increase in the town fire protection budget, up from \$9,478 to \$10,899, as proposed by the Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department, a figure that would remain constant for the next two years.

Local residents can learn more about the proposed town budget at tonight's public hearing. More than a copy of the budget document is available for review.

Local taxpayers on what they want at the town hall, or residents may purchase copies for \$5 each.

Veterans Day parade

NEW Post 6338 and American Legion Post 65 will sponsor the annual Veterans Day Parade and program at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 11 in the Village Park. Any organization wishing to participate should call the NFW at 287-4022 to be included.

Community Chorus to rehearse

Gouverneur Community Chorus will meet at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11 at the First Presbyterian Church, 22 Church St. Anyone who enjoys singing or playing an instrument is invited to join the group.

Village Office to be closed

The Gouverneur Village Offices and Department of Veterans Affairs will be closed on Monday, Nov. 12 in observance of Veterans Day.