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Town of Virgil News

VOLUME VII ISSUE I

FALL 2021

Virgil Youth Commission Ski & Ride Club

The Virgil Youth Commission is planning on having an informational meeting about the 2022 Ski and Ride Club. The Meeting will be held on Nov. 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Virgil Town Hall. The program is open to all students in grades 3-6 who live in the Town of Virgil.

The program is being run by Tami Hanson and she is planning on having a zoom link available for those who do not feel they can be at the meeting in person. Please contact the Virgil Town clerk for more information on how to get in touch with Tami. Please note that Nov. 2nd is also elections day.



2022 GP Adaptive Sports

We are ready to kick off the new 2022 Greek Peak Adaptive Snowsports Season. Coaches we will have our opening meeting and informational session on Saturday November 6th. We will have two sessions one at 10 AM and one at 12:30PM. This year the meeting will take place in the Hope Lake Lodge in the Adirondack room.

Public Hearing Nov. 11

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held on November 11, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Virgil Town Hall, 1176 Church Street, Cortland NY 13045, to consider proposed Local Law #3 of 2021 - A law amending the Town of Virgil Zoning Law. Zoning Law Article V, Section 501 would be amended to add a new zoning district: MF – Multi Family. Article V would be amended to add a new section 591: Multi-Family. The proposed local law would also rezone the unused school lot of 4.6 acres to allow for conversion into multi-family housing. A copy of the proposed Law #3 of 2021 can be viewed on the Town of Virgil's website on the page titled "A Local Law Amending the Town of Virgil's Zoning Law." or it can be obtained from the Virgil Town Clerk's office. All interested persons will be heard. .

Gridley Hollow By Marha Powell

The name Gridley Hollow may not be familiar to all, but it was once a thriving community. Named for Reuben Gridley, a pioneer of the area. The creek, Gridley Creek, also named for Reuben, flowed from near the four corners of Virgil to the Tioughnioga River.

Joseph Chaplin built the first state road that passed from the Tioughnioga River at Messengerville over Snider Hill and back down to go through center Virgil. The road over Snider Hill was steep and difficult. It was known as a horse killer. Reuben was

instrumental in getting a second road built through the gorge, from Messengerville to the four corners. This new road on the flat helped with the development of the area. It is what we now refer to as Route 392. Reuben ran one of the many mills along the Creek. The first mill was built in 1819 and the area grew and thrived into the 1850s. Shops, saw mills, grist mills, cider mills, wagon shops, a pottery, distillery, forge, post office, church and inn were busy. Life was good in Gridley Hollow. Reuben moved to Michigan in 1834 and

sometime after the area became known as East Virgil.

Heavy rains and flooding are common in the Virgil area. On Friday, April 26, 1855, such an event occurred. It started with light rain. The rains became steady and heavier. Finally Gridley Creek was a torrent. The many mills, dams and bridges on the Creek were one by one destroyed. Many homes, barns and shops were also destroyed. Very little remained of the once thriving community. Today an historic marker notes the area.

Coming Soon to Virgil Text My Gov

The Virgil Town Board has approved "Text My Gov" for one year for the Town of Virgil. "Text My Gov" is a simple way for citizens to communicate with the town using a mobile phone's regular messaging service. The service allows anyone to quickly find links, documents or to receive text answers to questions. There is no download or app required. The smart texting technology works around the clock providing assistance any time day or night 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will be able to connect to the town from anywhere, using text messaging saving you time and money. We will be launching this service in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for this exciting new use of modern technology. Pass on the word to your fiends and neighbors. Feel free to call or Text Alane Van Donsel with any questions. 607-749-0038



Message From The Codes Office

The Virgil Codes office would like to send out a message to all Virgil residents. Please make sure you check with the codes office before starting any projects., especially roofing projects., This will save you time, money and aggravation down the road. Some projects require permits and some do not, but it is much better to find out ahead of time before diving into a project and finding out later that a permit was required. Our Codes office is here to work with you. Please call Adam Brown and or Kevin McMahon at 607-835-6174 Ext. 3 anytime. If no one answers please leave a message and one of our officers will call you back shortly. Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.



“The Virgil Historical Society publication “Virgil Stories” was a huge success that a second volume is being printed as you read this.”



“These are not everyday events. That day showed great partnership between all the agencies involved. efficient manner.”

Virgil Historical Publication Virgil Stories Volume II

The Virgil Historical Society publication “Virgil Stories” was such a huge success that a second volume is being printed as you read this. They will be on sale soon for \$25.00 each (shipping will be an extra charge.)

There are still few copies of Volume I available in the Virgil Town Clerk’s office. They are selling for \$20.00 each.

Contact the Virgil Town Clerk at 607-835-6174 ext. 2, if you wish to reserve a copy of either



October 26 2021 Not an Ordinary Day

On October 26th 2021 the Virgil Supervisor had to declare a State of Emergency due to flooding roads though out the town of Virgil. Many roads were deemed dangerous and unpassable. Our highway department was very busy clearing out debris from the creeks and rivers in an attempt to slow the flooding. To make matters worse there was a fuel delivery truck roll over on Route 392. At approximately 10:16 AM the Virgil Fire Department along with the Dryden Ambulance and CCSD were dispatched due to the accident. When the volunteer fire department arrived they found the truck had several puncture holes due to the crash and product was spilling out. Cortland County Hazmat/Cortland City Fire was requested upon arrival. The driver had self-extricated and was with a bystander. Dryden Ambulance arrived shortly after and provided care and transport.



At 10:24. Virgil Fire personnel deployed a portable pond to catch as much of the leaking fuel as possible. In addition, absorbent booms, pads, speedy dry were deployed to contain as much of the spilling fuel. It was estimated that the truck was carrying 2500 gallons of fuel oil at the time of the crash. City Fire 262 arrived at 10:29 to assist. Cortland City Fire Hazmat was able to pump off the initial catch basin into 55-gallon drums and brought additional speedy dry, booms and pads to try and prevent as much runoff into the wetland/creek along that portion of Route 392.

NYS DEC spill response was requested as additional manpower. Supplies was requested from Dryden, Cortlandville and Harford, State DOT, Virgil Highway, Lapeer Highway, Dryden Highway. Approximately two 10-wheelers of sand was brought in by the local Town highway crews. Sand was brought in to create containment berm along with pads and booming efforts.

Vacuum trucks for cleanup were brought in by the DEC to clean up the spilled fuel. Upon their arrival at approximately 11:54 Cortland Hazmat / Firefighters drilled holes into the tank to allow for the vacuum truck to remove remaining product from the delivery truck. By around 1pm the tow crews from Moreys and CNY began the removal of the truck after the fuel had been pumped out.

It was discovered that fuel had made its way into the swamp and the DEC and cleanup contractors began the process of trying to contain it. Cortland Fire and Virgil Fire personnel went down to Daisy Hollow and West Meeting House roads to deploy hard booms to try and catch and contain as much fuel as possible.

The scene was turned over to the DEC, NYSDOT and clean up contractors around 2:45 pm. Route 392 was reopened at approximately 5:20 pm.

These are not everyday events. That day showed great partnership between all the agencies involved. This incident could have been much worse without every agency working together from local, state, and private agencies in a timely and efficient manner.

Thanks to all who assisted, Cortland Fire Hazmat and Swift Water Team, Dryden Fire, Dryden Ambulance, Harford Fire, Cortlandville Fire, Lapeer Highway, Dryden Highway, Virgil Highway, Cortland County Sheriff’s Office, NYS DEC Spill Response, NYSP Commercial Vehicle, NYS DOT Commercial Vehicle, CNY Towing, Moreys Towing, Cortland County 911, TR Environmental, and the bystander who stopped to help initially, and anyone else who may have been forgotten. It truly was a team effort.

Written By Fire Chief Adam Brown

2022 Town Budget Hearing Scheduled: Nov. 11th

The Town Board has been working hard on completing the Town’s 2022 budget. They held a series of workshops that were open to the public. Thank you to all who attended the budget workshops.

The budget determines the tax levy for the coming year. The board has done an amazing job at keeping the towns portion of the budget low. Town Taxes will be going down by a slight percent next year. There are copies of the proposed budget available for preview in the Town Clerks office and online at www.VirgilNY.org. A public budget hearing will be held on Nov. 11th at 6:30 PM. The board will listen to input from you at the hearing. After the public hearing the board will then vote the final budget.

Election Day: Tuesday November 2nd

Election Day is just around the corner. Polls will be open at the Virgil Town Hall on November 2nd 2021 from 6:00 AM– 9:00 PM. There are several local positions up for election this year, these include: State Supreme Court Justice 6th District (14 year term), County Coroner (4 year term), Town Supervisor (2 year term), Town Clerk/Collector (2 year term), Town Justice (4 year term), Two Town Council Members (4 year term) and Superintendent of Highways (4 year term). There are also five propositions on the ballot this year. A Sample Ballot is available on the front page of the Virgil Town Website at www.VirgilNY.org and on the Cortland County Board of Elections website.



This month's spotlight: The Military Tract

By Val Ross

After the Revolutionary War, 2 million acres of unsettled territory in upstate New York were marked off as a reward to compensate war soldiers from New York state. This area encompassed all or part of what is now Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, Tompkins, and Wayne Counties. The state legislature passed a General Act on May 10, 1784 "to encourage the settlement of the waste and unappropriated lands within this state." Initially, soldiers were promised 100 acres, but this was not enough of a draw to encourage needed enlistees. Therefore, they increased the land amount to 600 acres and drew up townships of 100 lots of 600 acres each. The map above shows how they did it: with a ruler. Lots were drawn randomly in 1791 (though one guesses there was some bribery and favoritism for the best plots) and assigned to veterans. We recall that the very first State Road went through Virgil around 1794, so we can understand that the 600 acre plot of land awarded to veterans in the Virgil area and surroundings in 1791 was largely wilderness territory that was difficult to access. Many had no interest in pioneering, and sold their plots outright. Others labored up the Tioughnioga River or cut paths through the forest to find their land. New York State gave a deadline of 1799 for an owner to settle on his claim. If there was no evidence that the owner had made improvements and settled on the land by 1799, it was forfeited back to the state of New York.

Towns were given classical names, supposedly by a Columbia classics scholar named Robert Harpur, a clerk in the office of the New York Surveyor General, Simeon DeWitt. We are well aware of all of the Greek and Roman references in our towns, but it's interesting to list them all and remember for whom they were named. The town that has grown the largest is Cicero (31,632 people) and the one that stayed the smallest is Fabius (352).

- **Lysander** (pop 21,800)—Spartan Admiral who defeated the Athenians at the Hellespont
- **Hannibal** (555)—Carthaginian general often said to be the greatest military tactician ever
- **Cato** (2537)—Roman soldier, statesman, historian
- **Brutus** (4464)—statesman, orator, assassin of Julius Caesar
- **Camilius** (24,167)—soldier and statesman in Rome
- **Cicero** (31,632)—lawyer, scholar, philosopher, orator in Rome
- **Manlius** (4704)—Roman consul, fought for months in a small garrison in Rome

- **Aurelius** (2792)—Roman emperor, philosopher
- **Marcellus** (6210)—Roman consul, military leader who conquered Syracuse
- **Pompey**(7080)—Roman general and statesman
- **Romulus** (4310)—legendary first King of Rome, suckled by a wolf
- **Scipio**(1713)—Roman general and consul, defeated Hannibal
- **Sempronius** (895)—member of noble house of Rome
- **Tully** (2738)—an alternate name for Cicero. Marcus Tullius Cicero.
- **Fabius** (352)—Roman statesman and general, engaged in guerilla warfare by attacking enemy supply lines.
- **Ovid** (602)—Roman poet
- **Milton** (1403)—English poet and intellectual in the 1600s
- **Locke** (1951)—English philosopher in the 1600s
- **Homer** (3291)—Greek poet, wrote the Iliad and Odyssey
- **Solon** (1079)—Greek statesman and poet
- **Hector** (4854)—Trojan prince in mythology
- **Ulysses** (4900)—Roman name for Odysseus, hero of Greek literature
- **Dryden** (14,435)—English poet and playwright in 1600s
- **Virgil** (2401)—Roman poet (Publius Vergilius Maro)
- **Cincinnatus** (1056)—Roman statesman and military leader
- **Junius** (1471)—semi-legendary founder of Roman republic
- **Galen** (4290)—Greek physician & philosopher
- **Sterling** (3040)—Scottish-American Revolutionary War hero who allowed Washington and his troops to escape from the Battle of Long Island

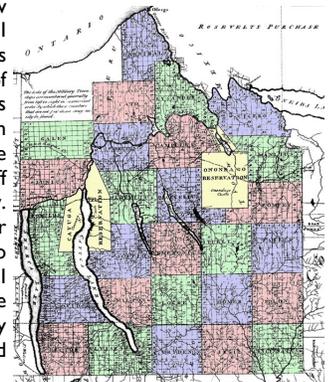
Each town consisted of 100 lots, with 6 being reserved for church, school, and other public works. There were 2,090 New York men entitled to these lots. Enlisted privates and NCOs were granted 600 acres. Officers were granted more land, up to 2000 acres. Owners had to either pay 48 shillings to New York State for a

required survey, or they could forfeit 50 acres back to the state.

This is noted on old survey maps as "Survey 50 acres of a Great Lot." Many Revolutionary War soldiers also took advantage of another 100-acre plot of land in other states granted by the Continental Congress. If they took both offers, they were required to forfeit back 100 acres of the southeast corner of their New York plot to the state. This is noted on old survey maps as "the State's 100 acres." Towns were in legal existence on the date of the first town meeting during which officers were elected. For Virgil, this was 1792.

The original mark-off of territory to be granted to war veterans included Indian lands. Many years were spent in "negotiations" with the Onondaga and Cayuga tribes, and an eventual "agreement" was reached on Reservation territory in 1789. I put those terms in quotes because I am sure we are all aware there was unfairness, deceit, force, and treachery involved with taking the Indian lands. That would be another essay, I'm sure.

I often think about the man who was awarded the 600 acres on part of which my log cabin now sits. What were his thoughts when he poled laboriously up the Tioughnioga to look at it? I am guessing his heart sank when he saw the steep cliffs and waterfalls and dug his shovel into soil that has more rocks than dirt. Maybe that was counterbalanced by having river-edge property and proximity to the new State Road, abundant deer, turkey, and bear, and a ready supply of lumber. You can look up the original owners of the 600 acre plots in "The Balloting Book and Other Documents Relating to Military Bounty Lands in the State of New York." The old maps have the boundaries of the original plots. Virgil is township #24. My house sits on lot 39, originally awarded to William Warren. He was a corporal in the 2nd New York Regiment. I don't see his name in any of the early writings about the Town of Virgil, so he probably sold off his land early. Maybe he never did come up to inspect it, but I like to think he did, with a copy of Virgil's Aeneid in hand.





Town of Virgil

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We're here to serve you. Visit our website at:

www.Virgilny.org

Virgil Town Supervisor: John Kaminski
Deputy Supervisor: Jereme Stiles
Town Council Members: Eric Snow, Gary Pelton, Matt Denniston
The Town Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 P.M.

- Town Clerk/Collector: Alane Van Donsel
- Town's Bookkeeper: Colin Cahill
- Town Justice: Mack Cook
- Highway Superintendent: Britt Morse
- Animal Control Officer: Lindsay Anderson
- Town Assessor: Brian Fitts
- Town Attorney: Patrick M. Snyder, Esq.
- Code Enforcement: Kevin McMahon
- Zoning Officer: Adam Brown
- County Legislator: Sandy Price
- Town Historian: Marsha Powell

Next Virgil Historical Society Meeting

Meetings are held the third Thursday of September, November, March, and May at 7PM at the Virgil Town Hall, 1176 Church St, Virgil NY. The next meeting will be on November 18, 2021. Please bring a mask when attending the meeting.

Speaker: Marsha Powell, Virgil Town Historian, will present the story of a notorious Virgil scandal. At first, the thought was some horrible accident. Soon it was determined to be murder. Follow the evidence as the person responsible was tried and convicted, but the case did not end there. It was even appealed to the US Supreme Court.

Now Open: Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program

– Applications due November 22

The Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant Program provides funding to help small specialty crop producers, food processors, manufacturers, distributors and farmers markets recover costs incurred responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including for measures to protect workers. This program is authorized and funded under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116—260). The minimum funding request amount is \$1,500. The maximum funding request amount is \$20,000. No cost sharing or matching funds are required. Grants will cover activities associated with:

Workplace Safety: Implementing workplace safety measures to protect against COVID-19

Market Pivots: Implementing market pivots to protect against COVID-19

Retrofitting Facilities: Retrofitting facilities for worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19

Transportation: Providing additional transportation options to maintain social distancing and worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19

Worker Housing: Providing worker housing that protects against COVID-19

Medical: Providing health services to protect workers against COVID-19

<https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda>

VUM Church News

The Virgil United Methodist Vacation Bible School was held under the direction of Pastor Steph and Gayle Kryger. This summer the fun week-long event was held "in Person". All wore masks, two large tents were ordered to allow for social distancing & we maintained a scanning station at the drop off area. The Bible School was held June 28, 29, 30, & July 1 & 2.

The Youth Group meets once a month for a message, music and a meal at the church. All ages are welcome & the whole family can participate.

New this year Pastor Steph is setting up a new program called Adopt-A-Senior designed to help seniors with their computer skills, puzzling, reading or just plain relaxing with other seniors.

If you would like more information contact the Church, plan to visit us Sunday at 9:30AM or call Gayle Kryger 607-229-2671.