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Town of Volney—

## Delinquent dog owners could end up in court

by Meg Wickman

Volney dog owners who fail to renew their pets' licenses may find themselves in court. Dog Control Officer Jerry Hourihan completed the town's dog enumeration last year, but some owners are failing to renew their licenses.

At the Thursday, March 13 Town of Volney meeting, town councilors announced that, beginning April 1, if a dog's license is delinquent, Hourihan will send a certified letter containing a court-appearance summons to the dog's owner.

The owner will be required to pay the

\$25 court cost and \$2.52 postage in addition to the cost of the license.

A court summons will not be the dog owner's first reminder, however. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets sends notices of renewal the first of the month in which a dog was originally licensed. The owner has until the end of the month to renew the dog's license. If not renewed by the end of the month, the town clerk's office makes a courtesy call to remind the owner that the license is past due.

Renewals of licenses may be mailed to the town clerk with proof of a rabies shot and proof that the dog has been spayed or neutered. State licensing fees are \$2.50 for

a spayed or neutered dog and \$10.50 for an unspayed or unneutered animal.

All dogs owned or harbored in New York for longer than 30 days must be licensed. There are only a few exceptions to this law, including dogs under six months of age not running at large and dogs confined to the premises of a hospital or research institution.

Prior to the regular meeting March 13, a public hearing was held on a proposed local law requiring anyone putting on a fireworks display to obtain a permit from the town. Code Enforcement Officer Dan Rusaw explained that the law would "give

## Fulton superintendent urges voters to be part of

It is critical in this first year of the small city budget vote in Fulton, that all voters in the district take part in the process and be as informed as possible, said Michael Egan, superintendent for the Fulton City School District. The vote on the district's budget is scheduled for May 6.

In years past, the Board of Education would adopt a preliminary budget, hold a budget hearing and approve a final budget. Beginning this year:

All registered citizens may vote. There is a new format for the budget which breaks down items according to administrative, program and capital categories. The salaries for the superintendent and certain administrators must be published.

Tuesday, April 15, is the budget hearing. A printed copy of the budget that will be voted on will be available Monday, April 28, and the budget vote is Tuesday, May 6. Voters will also elect two new members to the board of education when they vote.

If the original budget is defeated, the

Board of Education may: re-submit the original budget for a re-vote; adopt a contingent budget; modify the original budget and submit it for a re-vote; or submit one or more special propositions to the voters.

If the budget is defeated a second time, the board may not initiate a third vote.

If the board adopts a contingent budget, it is required to: budget to maintain educational programs, preserve property, and assure the health and safety of students and staff; provide for salary increases as stipulated by the Taylor Law; budget interscholastic athletics coaches' salaries if a donation to fund all other costs is available in advance; and raise additional taxes if the funds originally allocated for contingent expenses are inadequate.

In the Fulton district, 98.9 percent of the school district expenses must be provided whether the budget vote passes or fails. The public vote will have the greatest impact on "non-contingent" items which represent about 1 percent of the total budget.

Those non-contingent items include: after school clubs and interscholastic teams (including transportation); capital projects; student field trips; cost of use of school buildings by outside groups; non-contingent equipment; school study councils and memberships; non-essential maintenance; trans-

## Montanaro Woods Subdivision

### Only asked to plan, engineer

The engineer who reviewed a plan for a subdivision in the Town of Schroepel drainage problems said he was simply asked to review a plan prepared by someone else and not asked to complete any other studies of the area.

Several months ago, the Schroepel Town Board voted to bypass its own engineering firm, C & S Engineers of East Syracuse, and hired L.J.R. Engineering of Cicero to review a plan prepared to correct a long-standing drainage problem in the Montanaro Woods subdivision. The substitute engineer's report came in a letter dated Feb. 13, leaving one couple in the affected area "outraged" by the findings of Larry Roscini Jr., the principal of L.J.R.

In his letter, Roscini wrote, "We did not see any existing drainage or septic system problems within the subdivision." However, David and Suzanne Hanford of Twins Drive say they have been living with a serious problem for over a dozen years, and were "insulted" by Roscini's statement.

According to Roscini, he was hired to review a grading plan prepared by Nick Ianuzi, a local surveyor. "I looked at it (grading plan) primarily to see if there would be any benefit to the drainage in the subdivision by implementation of that plan," Roscini said. He determined "that particular plan wasn't going to help anything."

Residents in the subdivision have been experiencing drainage problems for 13 years, according to one of the plaintiffs in a class-action suit filed against the homebuilder, Simiele Homes. They won an out-of-court settlement, but the problem was never corrected, according to the Hanfords.

Despite the protests of the plaintiffs in the suit, the Schroepel Town Board authorized Roscini to complete the standard planning board site-plan review.

"I wasn't asked to determine what the problems were or what would help them," Roscini stated. "All I was asked to do was look at this plan and (determine) if there was going to be any benefit to the subdivision. That's what I did."

When asked who hired him, Roscini responded that it was a strange situation. "I believe the home builder hired me. I believe; I'm not entirely positive." Roscini declined to comment when asked who paid for his services.

As reported in the Feb. 27 issue of *The Valley News*, the Hanfords said they did not believe Roscini had ever visited the area. Roscini claims he did inspect the site—not once, but twice. He could not provide dates for the inspections, but believed it was some time in January or early February.

"We walked along in the backyards and along the roads," Roscini said. He noted he



### Hibernians raise the Irish flag

The Ancient Order of the Hibernians along with the Fulton VFW held a small ceremony Sunday, March 16, to raise the Irish flag. As the flag was being raised, the Irish National Anthem was being played. Attendance at the ceremony included President of the Women's Auxiliary Ellie McCann, Financial Secretary AOH Tom Larkin, VFW members Bob Pooler and Irwin Allen, Commander VFW Burdette Beeles, and Charter Member of AOH Robert Callen.

—Valley News photo by Kelly LeVee



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