

Spafford Area Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, No. M9/10 (Issue 155)

September/October 2007

The Churchill House Borodino Four Corners



Photograph from SAHS Archives, ca 1920

The Borodino Hotel was built by Ira Ryder in 1823 at Borodino Four Corners on the southeast side of the Skaneateles Homer road (Rt 41). Listed on the 1850 census was an Oscar F. Burdick, proprietor of Borodino Hotel. Also in the census was Mrs. Burdick, the sister of Mrs. Burdick, Mr. Porter P. Cole partner of Mr. Burdick, 8 boarders, 2 clerks, 2 tailors, 2 carpenters, a seamstress and 1 servant. J. C. Tinkman is listed as the proprietor of Borodino Hotel on an 1860 map. Next, on a 1874 map a J. Hoffman is the proprietor of Borodino Hotel. Anson and Jennie Churchill purchased the Borodino Hotel in 1885 and renamed it the "Churchill House". Our photograph shows us a long two story building with an upstairs balcony, maybe painted white with dark trim. It was reported to have seven bedrooms and a ballroom upstairs. Downstairs there was a public living room, public dining room, kitchen, huge pantry, two bedrooms, a poolroom and a tavern. It was located next to the hardware store/post office in this time period. A large barn was in the back of the hotel for the horses and equipment. Mr. Churchill would meet the steamboat at Borodino Landing with his surrey and bring his guests up to the hotel. The Churchills owned the tavern/hotel for 36 years. They sold it in 1921 to a man named Whitman. The Churchill House stood empty for many years and from what I can gather, the last owner, a Mr. Reg Nodine, tore it down in the late 1940's.

Elizabeth Rogalia

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

The Stars Over Skaneateles Lake Dinner/Dance was a lovely event and successful fundraiser for Borodino Hall. The Pine Grove B&B is a special place to spend a summer evening. The music of Dr. Paul, delicious food, wine tasting and a silent auction made Stars a truly wonderful event. A very heartfelt thank you to our very dedicated Special Event Chairperson, Anne McElroy and her husband, Charles – for opening their home for Stars. The small army of volunteers who worked so hard to meet our fundraising goals this year is to be commended – Sandra Weigel, Mary Bean, Lauri Clark and all who stepped forward to help them. Thank you to our silent auction donors: Mid-Lakes Navigation, Sherwood Inn, Ted Lavery, Vistas Unlimited (Tours and Events Planning), the Spafford Area Garden Enthusiasts, Orchard Vali, Dickman's Greenhouses, Pine Grove B&B and especially Sandra Weigel.



Stars Over Skaneateles Lake Dinner/Dance

Renovations to Borodino Hall continue to progress – with the assistance of grants and support from the Allyn Foundation, the CNY Community Foundation and a bequest from a long-time SAHS member, Dr. Barbara Rennick and generous gifts from the Marsellus family, Ted Lavery and many other generous contributors. Over the past several months much of the interior has undergone a significant transformation. The bulky old heating ducts that hung from the first floor ceiling, a decrepit furnace, old oil tanks and worn bathroom fixtures have been removed and a new, efficient furnace and hot water heating system has been installed. A new handicapped accessible exterior door is in place and plumbing and electrical work is in progress. NYS Historic Preservation has approved specifications for all this work being done.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL (Continued)

A campaign to raise an additional \$25,000 is now underway. The funds will be used to complete finish work on the first floor including the meeting room and office, to improve drainage away from the building and to finish some exterior repairs. **If you have not given a special donation in 2007 to help complete this important work to the Hall, please consider doing so before the end of this calendar year. All donations to Borodino Hall renovation are tax deductible – and help bring us closer to a fully functional community center. Send your contribution to SAHS, PO Box 250, Marietta, NY 13110.**

Many Society members have noted the improvements to the structure immediately to the south of Borodino Hall being done by SAHS Board member Frank Moran. This building is one of the most notable in the area and is approximately as old as Borodino Hall. It once served as a stagecoach stop between Cortland and Skaneateles. Mr. Moran's repairs ensure that this building will survive for future generations. The stagecoach stop complements our historic register Hall very well. SAGE garden club civic chairperson, Johanna Frittelli, has been working hard with Tricia Tucker to landscape between the two buildings. Among the plantings are heirloom peonies from Ms. Tuckers historic home and a nostalgic old variety of irises (saved from the old Borodino Corners IGA store).

Planning for the 2nd Annual Holiday House Tour, the final fundraiser of 2007 is now underway. Last year this event was extremely well received – and raised important funds for Borodino Hall renovations. Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 8, 2007, 3 – 8 pm. You will not want to miss this event – it is one of the most well received SAHS has ever done. Open to the public will be several unique and festively decorated homes. Live music will again be featured at Borodino Hall and the homes. Borodino Hall is our community center and all festivities at the hall will be at no charge. Purchasing tickets to tour the beautifully decorated homes will support Borodino Hall renovations. The SAGE garden club will place beautiful wreaths, swags and floral designs throughout the featured buildings. Crafts, baked goods, wreaths, decorations and ornaments will be available for sale at Borodino Hall. These items are all great for gift giving! Come out, visit with your neighbors, see the progress at the Hall, listen to some great music and enjoy the sights and sounds of the holiday season. See you there!
Joyce Barnett

PAST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Engineering & Construction of the Erie Canal System in NY State

On August 8, 2007 Samuel Clemence spoke on the above topic. As a Civil and Environmental Engineer at Syracuse University, he provided us with a fascinating overview of the problems and solutions in constructing this age old project that has been so much a part of our local heritage. (Available on dvd)


Dr. Mary Walker Lecture

On September 12, 2007, Theresa Constantine gave an outstanding lecture by assuming the persona of Dr. Mary Walker, the Second Woman to graduate from Syracuse Medical School. Her presentation was a delight to witness and was greatly appreciated by those who attended. (Available on dvd)

Philip B. Clark

2nd Annual
HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR
BENEFIT SPAFFORD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SAT, DEC 8, 2007, 3:00 – 8:00 PM



Unique private homes and a historic register building festively and artfully decorated.
Refreshments, live music, sale of wreaths, decorations
crafts and baked goods

\$20 TICKETS – ON DAY OF TOUR,
\$15 Advance sale tickets by December 1, pick-up tickets at Borodino Hall on day of tour
For additional info: call 315-636-9511.

A "TIME-LINE" IN HISTORY by Elizabeth Rogalia



A Picture Post Card of Borodino Town Hall mailed on November 9, 1911 (SAHS Archives)

I wrote the first **"Borodino (Grange) Hall Time Line"** for our June 2004 Newsletter. As part of my on-going research, I have found additional historical events held at the hall, plus we have made contributions to its recent history. I'm sure (hopeful) as I continue my research that I will discover more interesting events which will continue to illustrate what an important role the hall has played in our town's history. I stated in the first time-line the early years are somewhat of a mystery. Documentation has lead us to believe the structure was built c. 1833. Our historic building is approximately 164 years old. Here is what I have compiled, so far:

- 1829- The First Religious Society of Borodino incorporates.
- 1833- Trustees of the First Religious Society of Borodino purchase land on lot #88 from Messer and Eliza Ann Barker and Mary Bittle.
- 1836- The hamlet of Borodino consists of one church, two taverns, two stores and about twenty dwellings.
- 1849- Frederick Douglas came and lectured at the only church at the four corners of Borodino at the time.
- 1852- The date inscribed on the bell in the belfry.
- 1860- The building is listed as a church on Sweets' map.
- 1868- First Religious Society trustees sold the church to a stock company made up of prominent local men. A dedication party for the new community gathering place was held on July 3, 1868.
- 1870- The annual Town Board meeting was held at the Hall for the first time.
- 1871- Borodino Dramatic Society presented a play on May 18th and 19th, "Uncle Tom's Cabin".
- 1874- Listed on a County Map as a Town Hall.
- 1880- A political meeting was arranged for Borodino Hall, but too many people attended, so the meeting was held at a nearby grove.
- 1886- The 75th Annual Town Board meeting was held at the Hall.
- 1889- #448 Grange minutes book states this "Grange was in existence in January 1889"
- 1890- Borodino Grange #448 March Programme meeting subject was "How would it effect England if the US were to adopt "free trade". Discussion led by Frank Colton.

- 1900- #448 Grange records show this Grange disbanded by September 1900.
- 1901- A store was in operation in the Hall, due to a fire at Legg's business block at Borodino four corners.
- 1912- #1272 Borodino Grange was organized and the tradition of the Harvest Festival was started.
- 1913- The Grange meeting date of the third Saturday of the month was chosen and continues to this day.
- 1914- A musical comedy play "At the Village Post Office" was presented and performed by local talent.
- 1919- Borodino Grange #1272 purchased Borodino Hall. The stage drop curtain was painted with a rural scene by John Anderson of Borodino.
- 1926- A community library was maintained in cooperation with Borodino Rose Hill Home Bureau.
- 1927- Electricity was installed.
- 1930's 4H Groups held square dances and put on programs and plays, for example "Our Aunt From California" a County play contest entry.
- 1933- Grange orchestra was formed and continued for about two years.
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- 1953- A well was drilled and water was piped into the hall.
- 1954- The kitchen sink and bathrooms were installed.
- 1955- New oil furnace [still struggling as of 2007] was purchased.
- 1957- Grange members caned 80 chairs in cooperation with Borodino Methodist Church.
- 1967- A variety show is produced by a cast of characters from Borodino and Amber church members.
- 1997- From 1912 Eighty-five years of Grange educational business meetings, family activities and a variety of community services and get togethers.
- 1997- Spafford Area Historical Society purchases Borodino (Grange) Hall.
 Society celebrates their 10th Anniversary with a party which includes a cake contest, slide show, music by "Wat" Randall and Chris Fesko and a skit by the "Side Hill Players".
- 1998- An all Volunteer restoration plan begins to reclaim this community treasure from the ravages of time.
- 2005- Applications were written and compiled by Elizabeth Rogalia and Marge Myers for acceptance as a property of "Historical and Architectural Significance".
- 2006- Our Borodino Hall was accepted and listed on the "New York State Register of Historic Places" and on the "National Register of Historic Places."
 Borodino Grange #1272 members purchased and coordinated the installation of the Town of Spafford's first State Historic Marker. On June 3rd the Grange, the Town of Spafford and SAHS Members held a sign dedication ceremony at Borodino Hall.
- 2007- Major restoration work begins; foundation repairs, handicapped accessible entry and bathrooms, electrical and new heating system projects are scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.

I hope you enjoyed reading the TIME-LINE as much as I enjoyed the research. *Elizabeth Rogalia, 2007*

-SOURCES-

SAHS Archives, Town of Spafford records, Clippings from Syracuse Newspapers and the Skaneateles Press, Histories of #448 and #1272 Borodino Granges compiled by Mae Harter, Horace Ireland and Ruth Vinzant. "History of Spafford" by Captain George Knapp Collins, 1902.

Spafford Area Historical Society
 P O Box 250 Marietta NY 13110

Borodino Hall Restoration Project

Restoration Phase 1, Complete? Just about !!
We are quickly nearing the end of phase one of the restoration plan

We have a new **Handicapped Entrance**, a new working **Hot Water Heating System**, a new **Floor** in the back annex with **Wastewater Plumbing**, and the new **Handicapped Bathrooms** are framed in and ready for finishing. In the new few weeks drywall will be installed, along with the bathroom fixtures, accessories, and fresh paint. Once our mason and electrician complete their work, it'll be lights, camera, action and we'll be ready to swing open the door... (... after a bit of concentrated effort in the clean up department) to the **Borodino Community Center**.

But, don't think that we're stopping there. Plans are in the works for continued restoration work on the building, including lighting upgrades, an office, a new kitchen, and vertical transportation to the second floor, just to name a few items on the agenda.

Thank-you to all those who have assisted so far and please keep those donations coming.

Vic Sayko Restoration Chairman.

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... **Coming Next Year** ...

Archeology in Spafford

Andrea Kozub, an Archeologist and resident of Spafford, will bring us up to date on the things that Archeologists are looking for when we go digging in our back yard....

NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2007 - 7:30 PM

At the Spafford Town Hall, NYS Route 174

Society of Friends in Spafford & Skaneateles in the 19th century

.....

Ted Lavery will join with **Dr. Jules Burgevin**, a Quaker and retired Professor of Sociology at Clarkson and Ithaca Colleges, to present a program about the impact of these families on the history of our communities in the 1800's.

SPAFFORD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Joyce Barnett, President
315-685-0125
- Elizabeth Rogalia, Past President
315-685-7122
- Ted Lavery, Vice President
315-673-4735
- Cheryl Maier, Treasurer
315-636-9504
- Sandra Weigel, Recording Secretary
315-636-9511
- Mary Bean, Chairman of the Board
Corresponding Secretary
315-636-7169
- Victor Sayko, Restoration Chair
315-673-4636 (work)
- Johanna Frittelli, Membership Chair
315-673-4996
- Lauri Clark, Trustee
315-636-8300
- Mary Lou Osborne, Trustee
Grange Representative
315-673-3816
- Anne McElroy, Trustee
315-673-2558
- Frank Moran, Trustee
315-673-3916
- Peter Payntar, Trustee
315-685-9077

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "SAHS"
Spafford Area Historical Society
Mark: DUES or DONATION
P. O. Box 250
Marietta, NY 13110-0250

-Individual.....\$ 10.00
-Senior (60 or more)..6.00
-Youth (18 or less)....6.00
-Family.....20.00
-Patron.....50.00
-Sustaining.....100.00
-**Donation**.....\$ _____ ----->

- School Program
- Building Restoration
- Archival Records
- Summer Cultural
- General Fund

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name

Address

City.....

State/Zip.....

Telephone.....

Please indicate if you prefer your donation be used to support a specific program. Thank you.

Reminder: Dues paid year appears on your address label

Includes Town of Spafford Newsletter

-ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED-

Spafford Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 250
Marietta, NY 13110

Spafford Area Historical Society

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 9
MARIETTA, NY
13110

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This and back issues of the SAHS Newsletter can be found at:
<http://borodinobullett.com/SAHS/newsletter.htm>



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Town Clerk Lisa Valletta

Highway Superintendent Carl Wiers

Town Councilors: Bill Vinzant - - Richard Fesko - - Ken Lieberman - - Merrill Clark

Town of Spafford

Newsletter #13

October 2007

***** Pg 2 of 4 *****

Tax Exemptions

All applications for property or school tax exemptions must be filed by March 1st. Some applications need to be renewed. The Basic STAR exemption does not need to be renewed; the Enhanced STAR (or Senior STAR) exemption needs to be renewed annually; unless you've filed an Income Verification with the Assessor. The forms and instructions for exemptions are available in the Town Clerk's office or on the Internet at www.orps.state.ny.us. Click on the link for "Forms, Publications, and Procedures", then "Forms & Instructions". You can select the forms by number or scroll through the list under "Exemptions". Once you've completed the form, make a copy for your own record and submit the original to the Assessor. Record the date of submittal on your copy.

Public Notices

The Town of Spafford uses the Skaneateles Press/Marcellus Observer as our official newspaper. All public notices are published in these papers. We additionally send the notices to the Cortland Standard, the Skaneateles Pennysaver and the Tully Pennywise. And of course, notices can be found on our website: www.townofspafford.com.

If you would like to subscribe to the Skaneateles Press/Marcellus Observer, or any of the Eagle Newspapers community weekly newspapers/specialty publications; you can call the circulation department at 434-8889 ext. 342.

Transfer Station

- **Last Metal Day of 2007!** October 20th will be our last Metal Day in 2007. Any item at least 50% metal that cannot be recycled may be brought to the Spafford Transfer Station for disposal. If you are looking to dispose of a unit that contains Freon, there is an additional fee of \$10 to allow for proper disposal. A valid Transfer Station permit is required.
- **Large Item/Household Days** Our next Household Day is November 3rd. Don't miss it, or you'll have to wait until January 5, 2008.
- The Town Board has negotiated with Appleton Disposal, the company that services our Transfer Station. We have a larger compactor on site which should eliminate the overflow we see so often. The Town Board is looking to improve the cardboard container as well.

New Local Law

At the September 13, 2007 Town Board meeting, the Town Board adopted a local law requiring submission to the building department of an additional survey following the construction of a foundation for any structure that requires an area variance. If you have questions regarding this new law, please call the Building Department, 673-9557.

Historic Marker

Barbara Shoemaker, our Town Historian, has received a grant to purchase an historic marker for the bell in Spafford. The inscription will read: Steeple Bell, Installed circa 1874, Spafford Union Meeting House, 1838-1976. We look forward to the installation of this marker.

Flag of Honor

A U.S. flag has been flown over the Capitol in honor of the Town of Spafford veterans. The flag and a certificate commemorating the flag have been received. The certificate is on display at the Town Hall.



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Newsletter #13
October 2007

***** Pg 1 of 4 *****

SPAFFORD FOOD PANTRY BREAKFASTS begin Saturday, Oct. 6 and continue through Saturday Nov.23. We serve from 8-11 a.m. and proceeds support the Spafford Food Pantry. SPECIAL BREAKFAST on October 13 the proceeds will go to the Tanya Wright Children's Trust Fund. If you can't make the breakfast but would like to make a donation for the children, you can do so by making a check out to Tanya Wright Children's Trust Fund. Please mail the check to Rose Clark, 743 Route 41 Homer, N.Y. 13077.

The Spafford Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers on the third Friday of the month from 1:30 -6:30 p.m. Also, we will soon be working on the holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you would like to help please call Debbie @607-749-7780 Donna @ 607-749-4249 or Rose @ 607-749-2753.

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SPAFFORD LADIES AUXILIARY is conducting a 50/50 raffle for Roberta Steven, a Town of Scott resident who was hospitalized in May. Roberta is in need of assistance with medical bills. If you would like to purchase a 50/50 raffle ticket, or if you would like to make a monetary donation, call Rose Clark @607-749-2753.

The annual Hunter's Day Meal is on Saturday, November 17th. We will begin serving at 4 a.m. and continue serving until about 3 p.m.

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Neighborhood Gathering at Lourdes Camp

There will be an opportunity for Spafford town residents to have lunch and visit on October 21 from noon to 1:30 at the Lodge at Lourdes Camp. Candidates for Spafford Town Board and others will be present. Please come! You are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Hosted by the Democratic Committee.

Get Together at Town Hall

From 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. on October 21 you're invited to join the Town of Spafford Republican Committee for refreshments in the Community Room at the Spafford Town Hall. Candidates for this year's election will be there for questions and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

* * * * *

Revaluation

Most of you are aware the Town of Spafford will be conducting a town-wide revaluation. It has not yet been completed. Fitts Appraisal Services will soon be going out to view each property. The new value will affect the 2008-2009 school tax and the 2009 property tax.

If you want the appraiser to view your property more closely, or you want the appraiser to inspect the inside of your home during the appraisal, please call 673-4144 with your name, property address, and a contact number. We will pass the request and information on to the appraiser.

Once the appraisals are complete, a notice of the new value will be sent to you at the address we have on file for your property. You will then have an opportunity to speak with Fitts Appraisal Service regarding your new assessment value. If you are dissatisfied with the results, you will be able to speak with the Town of Spafford Assessor, and if you desire, you may appeal to the Grievance Board. Grievance Day will be in late May 2008.



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Town of Spafford
Newsletter #13
October 2007

***** Pg 3 of 4 *****

2008 Town Budget

Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Spafford, Onondaga County, State of New York for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2008 has been completed. A copy has been filed in the office of the Town Clerk at 1984 Route 174, Skaneateles, NY and is available for inspection by any interested person during normal office hours.

Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Spafford will hold a public hearing for review of the 2008 Preliminary Budget at the Spafford Town Hall, 1984 Route 174 on the 8th day of November, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Any person, either for or against any item or items contained therein may be heard.

Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law, that the following are the proposed salaries for the Town Officers of the Town of Spafford, to wit: Town Supervisor - \$5,770; Town Justice - \$4,500; Town Clerk - \$11,950; Tax Collector - \$3,000; Council members (4) - \$1,450.00 (each); Highway Superintendent - \$45,200.

Flu & Pneumonia Clinic

There will be a clinic at the Borodino Fire House on Saturday, October 20th from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. for flu and pneumonia vaccines. Please call 673-3735 to register for the clinic. If you signed one of the sheets on Primary Day or at the Town Clerk’s office, you have already registered.

There is no age restriction for clients. Seniors must bring their Medicare Cards to the clinic. Immunization for those covered by Medicare Part B will be billed at no cost to Medicare. Those not covered by Medicare will be charged a fee of \$30 for the flu vaccine; \$45 for the pneumonia vaccine. Any one belonging to a Medicare HMO must pay for the vaccine at the clinic and will receive an insurance form to submit to the HMO or other insurance carrier.

Community Meeting Room Activity

The Community Meeting Room at the Town Hall is available by request to any group, organization, or individual; first come, first served. Please call the Town Clerk’s office to reserve the room: 673-4144. To assist in planning, here are the recurring monthly meetings:

DAYTIME

THURSDAYS: 1ST & 3RD – Seniors of Spafford 1 – 3 p.m.

EVENINGS

MONDAYS: 1st – Town Court; 2nd – Zoning Board of Appeals; 3rd – Town Court

TUESDAYS: 1st – SAHS executive board

WEDNESDAYS: 1st – Spafford Garden Club; 2nd – SAHS; LAST – Parks & Rec Committee

THURSDAYS: 1st – SAGE (& Town Board in office space); 2nd Town Board

Please be aware that Town business will have priority, which means although we try not to disrupt the schedule, if a Town officer or board needs to hold a special meeting, a reservation may need to be cancelled.

Use of the room does come with some responsibility: all trash should be in the baskets (additional bags are available if needed); spills should be cleaned up; furniture should be returned to its previous arrangement; lights are to be turned off; and doors are to be locked. Cleaning supplies (vacuum, paper towels, trash bags, etc.) are on site. If you have any difficulties; please leave a note or call and leave a message on the answering machine, 673-4144. This will allow us to address the problem.



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Newsletter #13
October 2007

***** Pg 4 of 4 *****

Election Day

Election Day is November 6th. We have two polling sites in the Town; residents in District #1 vote at the Town Hall, residents in District #2 vote at the Spafford Fire House. The line separating the districts is as follows: beginning at Skaneateles Lake along Richard Road to Nunnery Road, left onto Nunnery Road to Dave Hull Road, right onto Dave Hull Road to Route 41, left onto Willow Hill Road to Becker Road, right onto Becker Road to Stanton Road, left onto Stanton Road to Churchill Road, left onto Churchill Road ending at the Causeway. If you are unsure of your voting district, contact the Onondaga County Board of Elections, 435-3312.

Wood Stoves, Pellet Stoves, Etc.

Installation of any solid fuel burning stove: wood, pellet, corn, coal, etc. requires a building permit. This is for your safety; it ensures proper installation of the stove to reduce the chance of fire. A checklist of requirements for installation is available from the Building Department. If you have questions, please call the Spafford Building Dept. at 673-9557 or Life Safety's Cortland office at 1-800-852-1741.

Town Assessor

Town of Spafford Assessor Robert Brown is retiring this year, effective December 31. Thank you to Bob for his many years of service to the Town of Spafford.

Contact Information

Please keep in mind, the offices are open part-time.

Town website: www.townofspafford.com

Email – Town Clerk: spaffordtown@windstream.net

(Messages for the Town Supervisor and Town Board may be sent to the Town Clerk for distribution)

Email – Building Department: spaffordbuilding@windstream.net

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Town Clerk's Office: 315-673-4144

(Messages for Town Officers may be left with the Town Clerk)

Building Department: 315-673-9557

Highway Department: 315-673-3906

Town Justice/Court Clerk: 315-673-0710

Dog Control Officer: 607-749-2729