

Mayor, Seeks Reelection, Proud Of Administration

BY BETSY BAKER
Mayor Ruth Garner says she "thinks 'Potsdam,' not 'Republican or Democrat'" when planning for the village.

Garner, a Democrat seeking her second term as mayor, characterizes her role in village government as that of "an idea person."

"I read a lot, pamphlets, magazines, books, to find out what other communities are doing," Garner continued. "I also get information from the mayors' conferences and from other conferences. I take this job very seriously."

Garner says the most outstanding achievement of her administration is "decision-making," in four major areas.

First, Garner cites the "degree of success" achieved in the Potsdam Urban Renewal project during her administration.

"For two years before, nothing was done," she said. "Many things would have been completed already if we had not had to spend so much time unraveling the problems we inherited."

Among those problems, according to Garner, was the more than \$400,000 in disallowed urban renewal costs par-pointed by a 1975 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) audit of the urban renewal agency.

While that indebtedness has already been reduced by some \$325,000, Garner said that the village has not yet been informed by HUD exactly what liabilities remain, or how much money will be coming back to the village.

"There will be some money coming back," Garner said. "We feel the financial closeout plan was the best we could put together, and we hope HUD will accept it."

Some \$4 million in urban renewal monies has already been spent in the downtown Market Street area, Garner said. Additional monies, part of the village's share of the urban renewal project, will be spent when contracts for a second site improvement project in the area are let this spring, she noted.

"I intend to see the urban renewal project finished successfully, both financially and physically," Garner said.

"I think if the opposing candidates had attended some meetings of the Urban Renewal Agency they would have a better idea of what the agency does. So far their comments have shown a total lack of information," she concluded.

Water Treatment
Second, Garner cites progress in planning for a new water treatment plant for the village.

"It is most important to give Potsdam

good water," she said. Noting that the present water treatment plant is 50 years old, Garner said, "It's been talked about and kicked around for a long time. I feel we've done something about it."

The village has let the contract for final design of the water treatment plant, according to Garner. She also noted that the village is awaiting word on a combination state and federal grant that would provide partial funding for the project.

Relief Route
The decision to proceed with the Potsdam Relief Route was also an important one, Garner feels.

While the Relief Route is "definitely not" a campaign issue, according to Garner, she feels that its completion will bring benefits to the downtown area of the village.

A fourth important achievement of her administration is the housing rehabilitation program presently underway, Garner says.

"We started small with the rehab project," Garner said, "maybe later we can expand it to make it village-wide."

The village has received its line of credit for \$500,000 in federal Small Cities funds, according to Garner, some of which is earmarked for the rehab program. The village is presently

seeking a three-year Small Cities grant of \$1.9 million, she said.

Federal Community Development funds could also be used to aid downtown businesses, according to Garner.

"We can't underwrite businesses," she said, "but CD funds could be used to help a business rehab a building."

"The funds could also be used to provide support such as paving, curbing and sidewalks for a new business, she noted.

Other funds may be available if the downtown Market Street area is designated as a historic district by the National Historical Register, according to Garner. If the area is accepted by the Register, the village will go to HUD for section 312 loans for businesses in the area. Businesses may also be eligible for tax breaks or for direct grants, Garner said.

"We will be pleased to talk to any property owner in that area about it," she noted.

Garner's administration has also been marked by what she calls "careful management."

"This village is in better shape than it ever has been," she said. Under village Administrator Sanford Dewey there have been changes in departments, central purchasing, a \$13,000 savings in insurance costs and streamlining of procedures, according to Garner.

"Mr. Dewey is methodical and precise. This village is very fortunate to have a man of his calibre," Garner said.

Garner also had praise for village employees, saying: "There are some fantastic, dedicated village employees in this community—people whose



RUTH F. GARNER

knowledge and skills we just couldn't do without."

Thus far, Garner says, the village has been able to "hold the line on spending," in the face of increased costs for energy, a salary increase for the village's 60 CSEA employees and other increased costs. Also upcoming, Garner noted, is a new contract for the village's police department employees.

Garner says that she hopes that during this year's campaign "the issues can be discussed from a position of knowledge."

"I'll put this administration up against anybody—I know we've done a good job," she said.

A long-time Potsdam businesswoman, Garner and her husband George operate the Garner Funeral Home at 10 Lawrence Avenue.

They have five children, John, a senior at the University of Vermont medical school; Margaret, a graduate student in public administration at Berkeley; Joan, married to Paul Hatin and a resident of Wallingford, Vt.; Susan, a nurse at Loyola University, Chicago and Marshall, who is employed by the Social Services Department of Orange County, N.Y. and president of the Orange County CSEA. They have five grandchildren.

Campaign Continues

Village Republicans Question Finances, Open Government

EDITOR'S NOTE: Potsdam Republican officials are continuing their campaign activities, with the release this week of two statements on village finances and open government. In the interests of keeping our readers informed about the pending election, the Courier and Freeman has printed both statements below.

Village Finances
"In the interest of open discussion on village finances several questions seem appropriate."

"1. In March 1976 the Potsdam Village Democratic Committee circulated an election paper in which they stated that 'We do not believe that Potsdam should return to one-party control...and that there are just too many unanswered questions about Village finances.' After stating that the federal auditors had disallowed over \$400,000 in urban renewal expenditures and that the tax rate might have to increase by \$25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to pay for these disallowed payments, they asked the question: 'What is this finally going to cost us?'"

"Perhaps now is the time that this Democrat Administration should

prepare an accurate position paper of where the Village stands. How much of that \$400,000 still remains unsubstantiated? How large an increase in the tax rate is necessary to cover disallowed payments? How many dollars have been repaid? By whom? Republicans believe that the Democrat administration owes the public a full accounting on this issue."

"2. If it is true that a \$10,000 increase in the Village budget requires approximately an extra dollar on the tax rate, it seems that current spendings will require a minimum increase in the tax rate of eleven dollars. If anti-recession funds received this year are cut off after May 31, will we have to raise \$118,000 in taxes to absorb this revenue shortfall?"

"3. Will contingency funds of \$29,000 be adequate to avoid a budget deficit this year?"

"4. Why do the following accounts show overspending?
Village Lawyer, minus \$2,600; Civic Center Employees, minus 1,020; Unallocated Insurance & Postage, minus 4,800; Traffic Control, minus 867; Snow Removal, minus 3,700; Celebrations, minus 95; and On-street Parking, minus

78."

"At the current rate of spending other accounts seem to indicate deficits at the end of May:
Police Personnel Account, minus \$13,000; Street Maintenance, minus 7,300; Street Maintenance Payroll, minus 4,900; Street Cleaning, minus 1,150; and Research, minus 11,000.

"Should we transfer funds on a monthly basis to cover these overspendings? If we use our contingency funds to cover these amounts at the end of January, what monies will we use to cover excess spending for February, March, April and May?"

"5. How many dollars did the Village have in April 1977 in reserves for capital equipment, equipment repair, and water and sewage funds? How much was allocated to these funds in the past two years? How exactly did we spend money on? How much remains in these funds?"

"What positions are we seeking to fill in Village employment? Have we hired a public accountant to assist the Village Administrator? At what salary? Are we seeking persons to be a Village Clerk and a Water Plant Operator? Have these positions been advertised

locally to Village residents?"

Republican candidates are asking these questions in the spirit of open discussion on Village finances and open government so that the people of Potsdam can hear all parties on the issues."

Open Government
"An examination of the public record of Village Board meetings seems to indicate that one-party village government tends to produce action before adequate discussion, action before the public knows what is on the agenda, a reliance on conducting business during special sessions and in executive sessions which exclude open and frank discussion before the public."

"Whenever the one-party Village Board occasionally displayed contrasting viewpoints, there appeared to be disagreement over the role of government. For example, one rare instance of disagreement flared up over an appointment of a person to the one-party board. A number of the board, following the belief that government should be government of the people, by the people, and for the people, argued that he had nothing against the person

to be appointed. The only thing wrong was that she was from the same party. Trustee Schulze felt that there was a principle of government involved here called 'the two-party system.' It's been designed to keep each party from going too far...The purpose of the two party system is to give the other party some opposition, but a loyal opposition; it's there to give other ideas, to share the blame when something is done wrong, and it's there to keep representation of one hundred per cent of the people on the Board and not just the majority. Republicans agree with Ted Schulze on this matter. We believe in government by the people...and not in the faulty view of 'government to the people.' In fact, when Republicans had a similar opportunity to appoint a representative of the people, we appointed a Democrat to insure that all the people in the village had someone on the board who would listen to them."

"Reading on in the public record an interested reader finds another one of the rare occasions when someone disagreed. Again, Trustee Schulze tried to table a resolution so that the public would have a chance to study the issue and be heard by the board. Mr. Schulze

pointed out that there was "no notice to the public that a vote would be taken on this issue." In fact, the news services had not received a copy of the agenda until that afternoon. It's difficult for the public to be involved when they have no warning of what's happening. Nevertheless, the resolution to go ahead without a full hearing before the Village Board passed, 4 to 1."

"On another rare occasion which displayed a difference there was an interesting disagreement over the propriety of increasing the salary of Trustees 160 per cent and the Mayor's salary by 140 per cent. One trustee noted that such raises seem "inconsistent with attempts to keep Village expenses at a minimum" and that the raises seem "to be unnecessarily high." Another trustee responded that "if the Board ever is to get a raise, it has to be made by a group that will profit by it."

"Republicans wonder whether or not anyone else's salary went up by that amount. Certainly few taxpayers can claim that inflation in their salaries. Taxpayers would rather spend their own money while government officials apparently would rather spend someone else's."



GUEST SKATER—Darcel Rumrill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rumrill, Potsdam, will be appearing in the ice show presented by the St. Lawrence Figure Skating Club in Canton on March 2 and 3. She is a member of the Skating Club of Lake Placid, and is presently training under Cynthia Driano of Denver, Colo.

Barn Cats Often Get Raw Deal

Over the past years we have had the misfortune to witness many "barn cats" in miserable condition: infected eyes, ears infested with mites, malnourished, flea-infested bodies and some sick and left to die in a corner where they managed to crawl.

Most farms keep cats to control rats and mice. But unlike other working animals on the farm most of these cats

constitute cruel and inhumane treatment. It is another example of mankind taking advantage of another animal with whom we share the earth.

Barn cats deserve, at least, the minimum standards for care such as regular feedings, vaccinations, neutering, and medical attention when necessary.

Of course, we are also aware of a few farms where cats do receive proper care and we applaud these people who take pride in the proper treatment of their animals.

For more information concerning our lower cost neuter spay program call Florence Helbig 265-3687.

We wish to thank all those people who have sent us the Purina dry dog and cat food weight circles and other cash refund coupons. Please continue to mail them to Mrs. J. Arais, Colton, N.Y., 13625.

OUR ANIMAL SHELTER



do not receive adequate care.

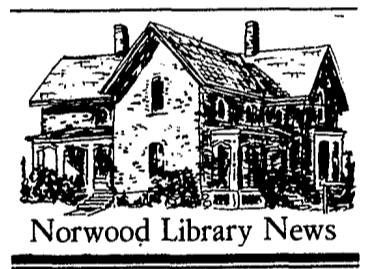
They are seldom fed, due to a popular misconception that they can adequately provide for themselves. They are almost never neutered, but allowed to breed freely contributing to the overpopulation problem and all the cruelty and suffering that goes with it. In a word, they are simply used.

All of these problems involved in this traditional form of cheap rodent control

Emergency Services Seminar In Canton

CANTON—A seminar on the delivery of emergency medical services and rescue operations will be given at Canton ATC on Saturday, March 10, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Classroom Laboratory Building, Room CL-102.

Participation in the session by volunteer firemen and rescue personnel is necessary to assist the Firemen's Association of the State of New York in formulating policies and programs which will best serve their respective communities.



Norwood Library News

The revolving collection of stereo recordings has been replaced with new discs and includes the following for our patrons' enjoyment.

"Pack Up Your Sorrows," The Bergerfolks; "My Favorite Hymns," Leontyne Price; "Applause," with the original cast, Fairport Convention; "There Goes Rhymin' Simon," Paul Simon; "Concert at the White House," Pablo Casals; "Scheherazade," Rimsky-Korsakov; "Puccini and Verdi Favorites," Eileen Farrell; "The Barber of Seville" (highlights), Rossini; "Little Wildrose and other Andrew Lang Fairy Tales," "Self Portrait," Bob Dylan; "Lincoln Treasury," "Poetry of Browning," Ed Begley; "Favorite American Poems," "Trip in a Motor," Tchaikovsky; "Horses," Patti Smith; "When You Hear Lou, You've Heard It All," Lou Rawls; "Just One of Those Things," Stephen Grappelli Listen and Learn French; "A Rock Opera, Jesus Christ Superstar; "Leaves of Grass," Walt Whitman.

New adult fiction includes: "The Night of Four Hundred Rabbits," Peters; "The Tuesday Blade," Ottum; "Grave Mistake," Marsh; "The Seventh Station," McInery; "A Suicide's Wife," Madden; "A Stench of Poppies," Drummond; "Cast a Wistful Eye," Stephens; "The Judas Goat," Parker; "A Rage Against Heaven," Stewart; "A Journey to Cuzco," Myers; "Kilgaren," Holland; "Meadowsweet," Butler; "An Air of Glory," Neilan; "Rose, Rose, Where Are You?," Ellerback; "Crocodile On The Sandbank," Peters; "Watch In The Morning," MacDonald; "The Coller," Markstein.

Adult non-fiction: "Chief Counsel," Dash; "The Strength Of The Hills," Thane; "The Comic Encyclopedia," Esar; "A Fine and Pleasant Misery," McManus; "How To Be Your Own Lawyer," Kantrowitz; "Paper Cutting," Hawkesworth; "Salesman Surgeon," Mac Kay; "The New World of Crewel," Perrone; "Access: The Guide to a Better Life For Disabled Americans," Bruck; "Golden Clan," Corry.

Junior titles: "The Witch Herself," Naylor; "The Rocking Horse Secret," Godden; "Charlie and the Sweet Glass Elevator," Dahl.



34TH PINT—Shown above is R.W. Raymond Stafford of What Cheer Lodge, Norwood, as he donated his 34th pint of blood at a clinic held recently in the civic center in Potsdam. He is being attended by Syracuse Red Cross nurse Ann Richter. Local Masonic lodges sponsored the clinic.

Hearing On Firewood Sales In Potsdam

At the requests of Assemblyman David O.B. Martin and the State Department of Agriculture and Markets has added Potsdam to the list of sites for "informational hearings" scheduled during February and March to acquaint the public with the department's proposed new regulations for the sale of firewood.

The Potsdam hearing is to be held at 1 p.m. on March 2 in the auditorium of Snell Hall on the Clarkson College campus.

"The proposed rules and regulations would require that all wood sold at retail for use as fuel be sold by volume unless exempted by the department, would define full cord and face cord and impose other restrictions on advertising of wood fuel, and would require all sellers of nonpackaged wood to present the buyer with a delivery ticket or invoice

containing certain information the department deems important," Martin explained.

"So many of my constituents make regular or occasional sales or purchases of wood fuel that I considered it necessary that a second informational hearing be held in the 12th Assembly District and I am pleased that A&M has agreed to my request."

"I urge the public to attend the hearing convenient to them so that A&M will have the benefit of the views of people most directly affected by the proposed rule changes before any attempt is made to put them into effect."

The agency's Rules and Regulations are based on the concept that agency interpretations of law be set forth in writing and available for public inspection, that uniform and fair procedures should be established for all persons dealing with the agency, and that plain language should be used in every instance. While the regulations are a legal document, the agency also views them as a bridge of communication to the general public.

Public hearings on the initial draft of the revised Rules and Regulations were held in late July and early August, 1978. Following these hearings, the agency made substantial revisions to insure that the regulations could be read and used by the average citizen.

Additional hearings were then held the following December. A thorough and constructive review of the document was also conducted with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Persons wishing to inspect the Rules and Regulations can do so at the Adirondack Park Agency headquarters in Ray Brook, or at the regional offices in Lake George and Old Forge. Copies will be available upon request as soon as they are printed.

Youth Club Disco Lessons

The newly-formed Potsdam Youth Club is sponsoring a series of disco dances with lessons, given by Dee's Dance Studio of Watertown, to be held on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Potsdam High School Cafeteria. The program will run for four weeks, starting on Feb. 27 and ending on March 20.

Tickets will be sold at the door of the cafeteria. Entertainment will be provided by the dance studio, local disc jockeys, including David Squires, Con Elliott, Bob LaRue, and Jim Kingston, and high school D.J.'s, including Carl Stone and Chris Lorence.

APA Adopts Rules, Regs

The Adirondack Park Agency formally adopted its revised Rules and Regulations at its February meeting held Feb. 22, at the Lake George Town Center.

The revisions, to be filed with the Secretary of State, replace the previous Rules and Regulations, and take effect April 1.

Committee Named

An executive committee for a Potsdam Youth Club has been formed, with officers slated to be announced sometime soon.

Members of the executive committee are: Carl Stone, Tressa Irwin, Jeff Loo, Mark Penell, Julie Belon, Jackie Swingle, and Tanya Glasser.