

# TOWN OF THURMAN RESIDENTS' GUIDE

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## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

### **The Town Supervisor**

**Lawrence "Red" Pitkin** was appointed Thurman town supervisor in December 2008, and was elected for a new term in 2009. His duties include representing Thurman at meetings of the Warren County Board of Supervisors and relaying to town residents information about county issues that are of concern to them. He presides over the Town Council at its meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and welcomes input from residents at that time to help solve problems. He has found Thurman a great place to live, filled with people who look out for their neighbors. Red hopes during his tenure in office to update procedures in the way the town conducts business and increase community participation on town committees. He feels that all of us pulling together will get Thurman through difficult times.

Red welcomes questions and can be reached through the town secretary during town business hours at 518-623-9649 or at home, 518-623-3150, before 9 p.m. He says, "If you have a question, ask."

### **Town Council Members**

**Charles E. Bills** was first elected in 2005, and began serving in January, 2006. As council liaison to the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee and Cemetery Committee he welcomes any questions or comments in helping the town grow in an ordered way, but keeping it a residential community in which residents can afford to live. He may be reached at 623-2725.

**Albert Vasak** was appointed to the Thurman Town Board in July 2009, and elected the following November on the Republican and Independent (always valued) parties. The term of councilman is for four years, and he feels that he may be of service to the town for that time. Al says, "I feel the board is made up of people with varying interests and ideas, that have the best interest of the town in mind, and I may be able to help in mediating some of those interests, ideas and pursuits. I may be able to change public policy, or influence the social fabric with new independent values, creativity, responsibility and honesty. Hopefully we will be able to solve some issues that are most essential to our town." Al's background includes negotiating salary contracts, various terms of working conditions, medical insurance and retirement. He has been a volunteer fireman in Thurman, serving the department as secretary. Residents may contact Al at 518-623-9669 during the day (he is home most of the time, but please leave a message if he is out.) He appreciates your help.

**Leon J. Galusha** was re-elected to a second three-year term on the Town Council; his term will expire in December 31, 2010. Leon welcomes questions or concerns. His goal is to maintain good values in the town and move forward. He may be reached at home 623-2380.

### **Jim Ligon**

Jim Ligon was elected to the Town Council for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2011. He serves as Deputy Supervisor. Asked about

his duties and the goals he holds for his term in office, Jim stated, "New York State Town Board member's duties are statutory. I don't assume any higher powers." He cited Town Laws 60 and 63, describing the powers of town board members, and explained that one of his priorities is to make sure that these laws are observed in our town government. Regarding his term in office, Jim says, "I promised the folks I'd do these things, and that in itself is a handful. There is a lot more that can be done, but it takes a whole bunch of people working together to get the ideas crystallized and programs in motion. That's where YOU come in." He would like to see our board adhere closely to the above laws governing towns and have property assessment fairly equalized. He wishes to have the board exercise more influence in the Supervisor's votes on the County Board of Supervisors, particularly in the area of spending. He wants the board to take a united position against uncontrolled spending in the Warrensburg School District. Overall, he would like to see the town move forward with a friendlier atmosphere and all people working together. He urges residents to contact him to find out how they can help. You may contact Jim Friday through Sunday at (518) 623-9961, Monday through Thursday at (518) 312-1363 and by email, jimligon@together.net, anytime.

### **Town Highway Superintendent**

**Patrick S. Wood** has been employed by the Town Highway Department since 1995. His fifth three-year term as Highway Superintendent expires in December 31, 2010. You may contact him by phone during working hours at 623-9614, or at home (495 Mud Street, Athol, NY 12810) at 623-5059 in the evening. Feel free to leave a message on the answering machine. Pat's job is to maintain all town highways and bridges. Other duties include budgeting personnel, payroll, the purchase, maintenance and inventory of equipment, remove of snow and ice, trees and brush, maintenance of cemeteries, signage, drainage, record-keeping and all duties described in Article 140 of the Highway Law. Pat would like to make improvements to paved roads that have fallen into disrepair, and get more of the gravel roads blacktopped. He feels the shoulders and slopes of our roads need to be brushed back and opened up, providing better visibility for drivers. Pat urges those with concerns about our roads to contact him at once, reminding us, "It does no good to complain to your neighbor. If I am unaware of any problem someone may have, I can't very well try to solve it."

### **Town Justice**

**Filomena Riviello** became Town Justice in January 2009, and her term extends through December 2012. She presides over town court, which convenes at the Town Hall, 311 Athol Road, Athol. Court will be held the first and third Tuesdays of every month (except legal holidays), starting at 2:00 p.m. and/or by prior appointment. Court office hours are every Monday from 3-6 p.m. Court Phone number is 623-9660. Fax number is 623-9678. Mailing address is: Thurman Town Court, PO Box 134, Athol, NY 12810. A drop box for the court is located in the vestibule of the Town Hall. Calling the Judge or Court Clerk at home to discuss any court business is strictly prohibited (excluding law enforcement officials).

### **Town Assessors**

*The Assessors' Office is housed in the Harris House. The assessors may be*

telephoned at (518) 623-4593 or 623-2013, FAX at 623-9730, or emailed at [assessor@hughes.net](mailto:assessor@hughes.net). They receive mail at PO Box 29, Athol, NY 12810, or you may stop by from 9-12 Tuesdays and Thursdays, or 9-11 on Wednesdays.

**Thomas J. Birdsall (Chairman)** has many years of service in the assessors' office and currently serves as chairman. He helps maintain an inventory of all property in the town and keeps the information up-to-date. He reminds us that assessors do not "raise" or "lower" anyone's taxes. The various branches of government town, county, schools, etc., are the ones who levy taxes. The assessors as a group determine the current value of taxable real property in Thurman. His goal in this position is to assure equity of assessments. You may reach him in the evenings at home, 623-2185.

**Susan M. Baker** first became an assessor in 2001 and assists Birdsall. She had previously served as Town Clerk for six years and on the Youth Commission for many years.

**Edward Binder** has served as an assessor for 9 years prior to this term, and his current term expires on Dec 31, 2009. His duty is to assess properties in Thurman on an equitable level and maintain office procedures and a computer roll. He will work for a fair and equitable assessment for everyone in the Town of Thurman, and feels it is important to remind taxpayers that assessors do not establish the tax levels, but simply try to ensure that each property owner pays a fair share of taxes as determined by the school district, the town and county budgets.

#### ***Notes About Special Tax Relief Programs***

The assessors would like Thurman property owners to be aware of the following helpful programs:

#### **Basic STAR (School Tax Relief) Program**

Everyone who has a legal residence in New York State has the right to apply for the Basic STAR exemption, which applies only to school (September) taxes. This does not require renewal each year but the person is supposed to notify the assessor if he/she moves.

#### **Enhanced (Senior) STAR**

This program is for any resident who has acquired the age of 65 and whose adjusted gross income is less than \$73,000 (updated 1-2009). The income cutoff point changes each year with the cost of living. This STAR requires a renewal each year, since eligibility is based on income.

#### **Aged/Low Income**

This is for persons who have reached 65 years and has an income component. Aged/Low Income deduction is in two parts. For the county, the maximum income is \$23,000 for the County portion of the land tax, while the town portion of the land tax allows an income up to \$17,725. These are sliding scales with a maximum exemption of 50%. This also requires renewal each year and proof of income.

#### **Veterans**

Veterans' who served during a period of war may be eligible for an exemption from

the County and Town portion of land taxes on their primary residence.

***All applications for both STAR Programs and Veterans and Aged/Low Income must be submitted by March 1 of the current year. Inquire at the assessors' office for the proper forms.***

### **Town Clerk**

**Cynthia Hyde** became our new Town Clerk in 2008. Her job entails issuing of many kinds of licenses—dog licenses, marriage licenses, En-Con licenses and burning permits. She also issues birth and death certificates and transcripts. In addition to a host of other duties, she takes notes at all of the Town Council meetings and types up the minutes of all actions taken by the council. Effective December 2009 she is also 100% responsible for processing claims for audit. Her goal in the position of Town Clerk is to continue to meet the needs of the people of Thurman in a friendly manner. Her hours at the Town Hall are: Monday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To reach Cynthia phone, 623-4588 write to the Thurman Town Clerk, PO Box 29, Athol, NY 12810, or email her at [townclerk1@hughes.net](mailto:townclerk1@hughes.net).

### **Tax Collector**

Robin Croissant was appointed in December 2009 to complete the unexpired term of office of Eileen Baker. Her duties include mailing tax bills to homeowners and financial institutes, collecting the amount of the tax bill, receipts to customers, banks and the county. Payment must be the exact amount or it will be returned . The office hours will be at the top of each tax bill and the penalties are also listed on each tax bill. Payments can be made at the Thurman Town Hall, 311 Athol Road, Athol, N.Y., 12810. Correspondence can be sent to P. O. Box 29, Athol, N.Y., 12810, in care of the tax collector. The phone number is 518-623-4050.

**APPOINTED**  
**Town Secretary**

**Nancy Beadnell**, who served as town clerk for decades, has always enjoyed working with the people of Thurman. In her role as secretary to the supervisor, she issues handicap parking permits for persons with disabilities and helps residents access public programs they may be eligible to participate in. She is a Notary, and also handles bookings for the Town Hall, the pavilion at Veterans' Memorial Field and the Youth Building. Nancy is ready to take calls for the Town Supervisor and other elected officials at 623-9649 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. If you happen to call while she is out or away from her desk, please leave a message on her answering machine, and she'll be sure to return your call as soon as possible. Email her any time at [thurman1@hughesnet.com](mailto:thurman1@hughesnet.com) .

**Deputy Town Clerk(s)**

**Paula Hubert** and **Ben Cormack** serve as Deputy Town Clerk and are able to perform most of Cynthia Hyde's duties, with the exception of issuing hunting licenses.

**Animal Control Officer**

**Dexter Baker** is the animal control officer, enforcing the animal control laws set by the Town of Thurman. Thurman has a leash law, requiring animals to remain on their own property unless properly leashed or in the owner's direct control. Lost or found pets, or animals causing a nuisance should be brought to the attention of the Animal Control Officer. If you have a problem concerning an animal, please call Dexter 518-232-3912 and leave message.

**Beautification Committee**

This group was formed in 1991 to help prepare the town for its bicentennial celebration. Its first project was to begin placing "Welcome" signs at the entrances to town. In 1992, the Town Board officially recognized the group as a standing town committee, and began providing a small budget for town beautification. Each year volunteers plant flowers at the welcome signs, the Town Hall, the Harris House and various corners around town, and also put up seasonal decorations. They seek to involve townspeople in beautification of our community by sponsoring the annual lawn contest, by doing one or two annual projects with the summer recreation youth, and through its "Adopt-a-Sign" Project. The committee has no formal structure and schedules few meetings, but welcomes anyone who has an interest in helping to beautify Thurman, no matter how limited their time may be. Those interested may call Myra Vopleus at 623-2633 or Perky Granger at 623-9305, or email [ThurmanInfo@aol.com](mailto:ThurmanInfo@aol.com).

## **Cemetery Board**

### **Cemetery Committee**

**Evelyn Wood is chairperson of the Cemetery Committee, replacing Robin D. Croissant** who chaired it over eight years. This committee has undertaken the task of documenting and updating all the Town cemetery records. Under this committee's administration, many improvements have been made to the Town's cemeteries. Evelyn wants to be sure that every Thurman resident receives in death the respect that they had in life. She would like to see the cemeteries kept up and beautified, and plans to apply for grants to host a workshop in cleaning and repair of grave markers. You may contact her at 623-2505, or [EvelynWood30@gmail.com](mailto:EvelynWood30@gmail.com).

### **Codes Enforcement Officer**

**The Codes Enforcement Officer** has the job of maintaining the fulfillment of legal requirements of codes presently in place in Thurman. This office has a second-year term that expires at the end of each calendar year. His or her job entails issuing citations upon receipt of complaints about violations and following up with the court system if necessary. He/she may be contacted by calling the Town Hall between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Residents should know that the present town law stipulates that the Codes Enforcement Officer may act *only* upon residents' written and signed complaints relayed to him or by the Town Council.

### **Historian**

**Robin D. Croissant** is passionate about the preservation of Thurman history, and has served as Town Historian for many years. She enjoys finding information for people looking for answers, and likes keeping the history of the town alive. She feels it is important to develop information on the lesser-known settlers of the town. To contact Robin, drop a note at the Town Hall address, email [musicloverbuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:musicloverbuddy@yahoo.com) or phone her at home, 623-4102. She does not keep regular office hours, but is happy to set up appointments. If you are unable to catch her in the office, stop by the Town Hall and leave a message at the Town Secretary Office or send mail to "Historian, Town of Thurman, P.O. Box 29, Athol, NY 12810.

### **Planning Board**

The Thurman Town Planning Board serves as a resource to the Town Council. With no authority to enact or enforce any codes, it acts upon requests from the Council. They sometimes research issues and submit reports to the council to use as they will.

Past projects of the Board include a five-year study and proposal of a town septic ordinance (passed) and a three-year effort in creating a Town Wide Plan (passed). The Planning Board created a brochure describing goals, vision and a town plan presented this to the Council in 2006. They have recommended that all mobile home predating 1979 may be moved into town unless it meets HUD regulations (not acted

upon), subdivision recommendations (passed with revisions), regulation of outdoor wood-burning units (no decision), storm water run-off regulation (no action at this time), and a policy regarding exercise of eminent domain (town voted to consider use only when public safety is at stake.)

The planning board needs a minimum of five appointed members, but eagerly welcomes as many more of the public as wish to offer suggestions.

Anyone wishing to ask questions or raise issues should call the Planning Board chairman, Derrick Conine, at 623-5070 or speak with members of the Town Council.

### **Thurman Youth Commission**

The Thurman Youth Commission is established and charged with responsibility for the coordination of all youth programming, equipment, personnel and playground area within the municipality to ensure that all youth are served with the best possible programs.

The **GOALS** and **DUTIES** of the Commission are:

1. To assess the needs and priorities of the youth of this community and develop programs to meet these needs.
2. To analyze the existing youth programs, determine the gaps in service and design programming to avoid duplication and to enlist the participation of youth who are normally not attracted to existing programs.
3. To organize and administer programming and assure that responsible leaders who are capable of relating to youths are employed for the smooth operation of the program.
4. To continually reassess programming to assure that is, in fact, meeting the needs for which it was originally designed and approved.
5. To inform the public of the existence and goals and duties of the Youth Commission, so as to enlist maximum participation and support for youth programming.
6. To encourage the active participation of young people through the appointment of a youth member to the Youth Commission.
7. To maintain a direct line of communication between the Commission and the Municipal Board.
8. To search out all possible funding sources in the interest to further developing youth programming (Grants, donations, government funding, etc).
9. To participate in the Warren County Comprehensive Youth Service Plan to ensure coordination with other youth service providers and to maximize utilization of available resources. The Youth Commission meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month except for July at 7:30 PM at the Thurman Town Hall, and the public is encouraged to attend with their thoughts, concerns, and ideas on how we can utilize our Youth Commission to better serve the youth of this town. The commission welcomes new members and asks those willing to give up a few hours of time to help organize programs, activities and fundraisers, and to occasionally help chaperone weekend evening trips. Contact: Myrna Keeler, Chairperson, 623-2249.

The Youth Commission sponsors many activities for youth of all ages, as you will see from the following list of programs.

**MOMMIE & ME:**

Free

Pre-birth to pre-kindergarten

Thurman Youth Center

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. twice a month

Follows the school calendar

For further information, contact: Jennifer Rogers, 623-5024.

**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM:**

Free

Kindergarten to 13

6 week program (Starts 1<sup>st</sup> Monday after July 4<sup>th</sup>)

9 a.m. to 12 Noon (Monday thru Friday)

For more information, contact: Myrna Keeler (623-2249), Tina Parker (623-3953) or Ida Ovitt (623-9152).

**WEEKEND TRIPS:**

Friday or Saturday nights

7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Thurman and Warrensburg Students

Follow the school calendar

For further information/cost, contact: Myrna Keeler (623-2249)

**OTHER:**

We would like very much to get our Nature Club, Basketball Club, and Soccer Club back up and running again....If you are interested, contact any Youth Commission member.

**YOUTH CENTER:**

Our new Youth Center is completed. We are in need of parents to help donate a few hours of their time to help chaperone the times the Thurman Youth Center will be open.

For further information, contact: Myrna Keeler (623-2249)

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Watch for our notices in the Thurman column of the Adirondack Journal for times/dates on the following events, or refer to the calendar of town events on this Website:

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**HALLOWEEN PARTY**

**THURMAN CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SLEDDING/ICE SKATING**

### **Thurman Board of Assessment Review**

The Board of Assessment Review consists of five members from the town who volunteer for the position and are appointed by the Town Board. Anyone interested should write a letter of interest to the Thurman Town Clerk. The board undergoes some training by the county so they recognize their duties and the immediate law. The persons selected should know about building and be familiar with the town. Their function is to hear objections by the citizens about their assessments. There are only four reasons a citizen is able to grieve an assessment. These are: Unequal Assessment, Excessive Assessment, Unlawful Assessment and Misclassification. The Board Members are to assume the assessment is correct, and it is up to the citizen to gather enough information to show it is incorrect. Reasons like, "Taxes are too high", or "I can't pay the taxes" are not sufficient reasons. If the Board of Assessment Review turns down a person's request he or she then has the right to go before an arbitrator and try to get satisfaction. If this is turned down they can then proceed to legal action in the Superior court. Usually it is recommended the person meet with the assessor before any of this happens to try to reach an agreement. If this doesn't work, then the above process can be followed.

### **Thurman Occupancy Tax Committee**

The Thurman Occupancy Tax Committee (OT Committee) was formed to oversee use of the Warren County Occupancy Tax dollars allotted to the Town of Thurman. Revenues from the OT must be used for the express purpose of promoting tourism. Toward this end the committee may fund some town improvements related to tourism (e.g. signage to Veterans' Memorial Field), some activities (e.g. concerts). The committee also reviews grant applications from organizations or individual businesses requesting financial support for activities that will bring tourists to town and help put "heads in beds" in Warren County. This committee holds quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October. Any group or business wishing to apply for a grant should review the OT FAQ pages, Application Form and Final Report Form. These are available online at [www.Thurman-NY.com](http://www.Thurman-NY.com), may or may be picked up at the supervisor's office. Applications will be reviewed and voted on at the quarterly meetings, and committee-approved grants must then be approved by the town board. Applicants are urged to apply early (to insure grant money is still available), and before money is actually needed; six months prior to the event is recommended. (Greater lead time allows the possibility of more free publicity through such avenues as the Warren County Tourism Website, I Love NY Website, and others.)

## **FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY**

***Be sure to prominently display your correct house number so that it can easily be seen from the road by emergency personnel.***

### **Thurman Fire Company, Inc.**

The Thurman Volunteer Fire Company was organized by a group of local volunteers, who built the firehouse in 1955. It has been a growing organization within the community since then, helping to prevent loss of life and property during fire and other hazardous conditions. The organization also works toward public safety awareness and holds monthly drills. The fire company meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the firehouse, 368 Athol Road, Athol. The meetings are open to the public. The group welcomes new members. Those interested in helping this organization so vital to Thurman safety are urged to contact Charles Wallace, or may obtain an application from any member of the company. Applications are approved by the membership and successful applicants must complete a basic firefighting course within one year. To report a fire, dial 911.

### **Thurman Emergency Medical Services, Inc.**

Begun in 1988 with just seven members, the Thurman EMS has grown in numbers and qualifications. Among the members there are now emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and critical care technicians. All members have CPR training. Members have completed work on a new home for the squad at 572 High Street. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to help. Those interested should stop by the new building when the group meets, at 6 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. To report a medical emergency, dial 911.

### **Burning Permits**

Burning permits are required for all persons wishing to burn leaves, brush, cardboard, and household paper or cardboard. Obtain a free permit from the Town Clerk or, if she is unavailable, the Town Secretary. Each day prior to burning brush call Barb Baker at 623-2464. Those with burning permits should be aware that on occasion all burning bans are put in effect due to dangerously dry conditions. Under those circumstances it is illegal to burn with or without a permit. It is the citizen's responsibility to pay attention to announcements of burning bans in local media. Permits are good for one year.

### **Handicapped Parking Permits**

Handicapped Parking Permits are available at no cost at the Town Secretary's office, only to those bringing a note from a physician. The secretary can issue temporary (6 months) or permanent permits.

### **Garbage Removal**

Town personnel pick up residents' garbage at the curb once a week. Recyclable items should be separated from the trash (see "Recycling" below), and the trash placed in clear plastic bags for pick up. In many parts of town domestic and wild animals tear bags open and strew garbage on the roadside, creating unsightly litter, so placing bags in tightly closed cans on the day of pickup is advisable. If you need to know the pickup day on your road, call the town hall.

### **Recycling**

Warren County has extensive guidelines and requirements for recycling. Complete information about what is acceptable and how to prepare items to be recycled are published in the Verizon telephone book on the second and third pages from the end of the yellow section. Take time to familiarize yourself with this information so you can do your part to help the effort. In Thurman recycling takes place on each Wednesday except the fifth Wednesday of any month. A different type of recyclable is picked up at the curb each week. On the first Wednesday, glass; on the second Wednesday, steel ("tin") cans; on the third Wednesday, plastic, and the fourth Wednesday, aluminum foil and cans. There is no day for newspaper or cardboard. They—and all your other recyclables—may be disposed of at the recycling center at the former town dump on Irving Baker Road. The hours are Saturdays from 8 to 5 and Sundays from 12 to 5, and, May through October 1, 9 to 5. There is no charge to drop off recyclables. You may also dispose of appliances, tires, furniture, and construction and demolition (C&D) waste at this location, for a small fee. The fee schedule may be obtained at the town hall, and any questions you have can be answered there.

### **Booking the Town Hall or Recreation Field**

To obtain permission to host an event or meeting at the town hall or recreation field and pavilion, please contact the town secretary at 623-9649 so the date may be reserved on the master calendar. Charges may apply for private parties, but town not-for-profit organizations may use the hall and field at no charge. Check with the secretary for details.

### **SPECIAL HELP**

*Thurman has several programs in place to help residents with special needs.*

### **Senior Citizens' Bus**

A bus is available one day each week to pick up Thurman senior citizens at their homes and transport them to the Glens Falls area to do their errands and shopping. There is no charge for this service, but you must prearrange by calling Laura Cameron.

### **Thurman Town Hall Food Pantry**

Thurman residents faced with a food shortage in the home may stop in at the supervisor's office and talk to the secretary to obtain goods from the food pantry to help tide them over difficult times. You will be asked the number of residents in your household. You may also phone 623-9649.

### **Meals on Wheels**

Anyone wishing to arrange for delivery of hot noontime meal to a senior citizen please call the town hall to inquire about whom to contact, or the Warren County Office for the Aging, 761-6347.

### **Gleaning**

This is a free food distribution program for Thurman residents needing a little help. Food needs to be picked up at the Town Hall between 11 and 12 on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The occasional variation from this schedule is noted in

the *Adirondack Journal*. For more information or to offer to help, call George Chonko.

### **Extra Helpings**

This program enables families to obtain certain foods at special prices by prepaying. Those interested should contact Becky Desourdy at 623-4254. A check must be paid early in the month, with delivery to the town hall taking place around the last Tuesday of the month. Those participating must arrange for pick up of their order.

## **CHURCHES**

### **Thurman Baptist Church**

The Thurman Baptist Church has been a strong presence in the Thurman Community since the late 1800s. Located at 380 South Johnsbury Road at the north end of town, the church welcomes all at Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m., Sunday Evening services at 6:00 p.m. and a prayer meeting on Thursdays at 7 p.m. In addition, the church has a youth group, "Senior Saints" activities for those aged 50 and over, "Young Adults" activities for those 18—49, Vacation Bible School for all ages, Missions Conferences, and a nursing home ministry. Pastor Bob Herrmann welcomes your interest.

### **Kenyontown United Methodist Church**

This church is located at 304 Valley Road, across from its intersection with Garnet Lake Road South. Services include: Sunday School, 10:15 Sunday a.m.; Sunday worship service, 11:00 a.m.; Bible Study, 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Fellowship dinners are held, with everyone bringing a dish to share. Along with home mission projects, the church also supports a missionary couple in Poland. The group would like to invite any and all to come and join in the worship of God and study His word. As a full gospel church, they are grateful to be here in this community.

### **Christ Community Church**

Ground was broken for this church 383 Athol Road in 1960, when several local families rolled up their sleeves and went to work to create a church at the Athol end of town after the Athol Methodist Episcopal Church that stood beside the Harris House was taken down. The bell from that church tolls at Christ Community Church today. The church welcomes those of all faiths. Sunday worship is at 11:00 a.m. The church also offers Sunday School and has a nursing home ministry. For information call Pastor William Lucia.

## **NEWS**

The newspaper that carries the most local news is *The Adirondack Journal*, and it usually arrives in Saturday's mail, free. If you have personal news to submit or information about an upcoming community event, call the Thurman correspondent, Evelyn Russell **about two weeks prior to the desired publication date** of your news. Evie would appreciate your call before between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Your diligence in submitting items keeps the Thurman column of the *Journal* alive and keeps the community abreast of your news. Understand, however, that the paper does not always print all items submitted by Evie. *The Glens Falls Post Star* is the other area paper, and delivery is available in Thurman. Call the *Post Star* for details.

## **SOCIAL AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR ADULTS**

### **Chamber of Commerce**

We have no chamber of commerce, but inquiries addressed to "Thurman/Athol Chamber of Commerce" are delivered to the Town Hall and are responded to by volunteers. Information about many local businesses is posted on the Thurman town website, [www.Thurman-NY.com](http://www.Thurman-NY.com). Thurman businesspeople wishing to list information should log on to the site, follow links to the business listings and click the link that allows them to submit an application. Problems? Email [ThurmanInfo@aol.com](mailto:ThurmanInfo@aol.com).

### **S.A.F.E.**

S.A.F.E., also known as Southern Adirondack Four-wheeling Enthusiasts, is a family organization that enjoys the safe and exciting sport of four-wheel ATVing. Trails in town are for members only because they are privately managed and patrolled. No government funds support this endeavor and only for the generosity of the many landowners in town do we exist. Membership is open to all age eighteen and above, and every machine needs to be registered and insured. Members have to adhere to machine and travel safety, speed of machine, and respect of land and natural resources. Each spring we conduct property appreciation clean-up and inspection. We routinely patrol the back lots of seasonal homes and property and report to owners of any problems. Yearly we add new trails, bridges (with the help of DEC) and maintain our trails. The club takes camping trips to other trail systems in and about our state. Presently our fees are \$25.00 for single and \$45.00 for family membership plus initiation fee of \$10.00. Our trails are open to members from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>. We meet on the second Friday of the month at 7PM in the Thurman Town Hall starting in March, and work days are the third Saturday of each month during the season. For more information call President Jim Wilcox, 518-692-9854, or Steve Baker, 623-9471, or write to S.A.F.E., PO Box 94, Athol, NY 12810-0094.

### **Sugarloaf Senior Citizens**

This club seeks to provide to senior citizens a social outlet and informative day trips. They meet at the town hall on the third Wednesday of each month for a covered dish supper at 7 p.m. Dues are \$10 per year. Those wanting more information should call Myrtle (Mrs. Elmer) Buyce.

### **Thurman Connection Snowmobile Club, Inc.**

This club was established in 1996 to provide a safe and enjoyable winter fun for the whole family. The group hosts club rides, a winter family cookout in January, and the Blizzard Blast every March at 1000 Acres Ranch Resort. The club also donates to the Cancer Society's annual Maple Sugar Party and helps with the Youth Commission's Easter Egg Hunt, Valentines for Vets and games at Old Home Day. Membership is open to anyone interested in exploring the 100 miles of scenic trails through the Adirondacks. New members are always welcome, and dues are \$25 per year. All that is required is that all sleds must be insured and registered. Meetings are every last Friday of the month at the Thurman town hall. The group maintains a "snow phone" to let snowmobilers inquire about trail conditions during the winter. The number to dial is: 623-2323. For more information about the club:

PO Box 135  
Athol, NY 12810-0135  
Snow phone: 518-623- 2323  
www.thurmanconnection.snowclubs.com

### **The John Thurman Historical Society (JTHS)**

JTHS was originally formed in 1967, adopting as its major function the task of discovering and collecting any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area, disseminating historical information and arousing interest in the past. After more than a decade of community service, the society entered a period of dormancy that ended with its reorganization in 1996. In February of 2001 the reorganized group received a provisional charter from the New York State Education Department, and received its IRS tax-exempt status in 2001. This group produces a quarterly publication of stories about local history and occasionally produces a larger work, such as the poetry collection of 2000. In addition to the Fiddlers' Jamboree and Tour Thurman, held each September, we host educational programs at most of our monthly meetings (the first Tuesday of each month except November, January and February at 7 p.m. in the town hall). Contact Joan (Mrs. Vern) Harris or email ThurmanInfo@aol.com.

### **Thurman Station Association, Inc.**

The association was originally established in response to a 1999 request from the Warren County Office of Planning and Community Development and Thurman Supervisor John Haskell to provide public feedback to the Saratoga Associates as they studied how to maximize the benefits to Thurman of the county's railroad as it extends its run through our town. In 2001 it became a not-for-profit corporation with the stated goal of overseeing the operation of a train station and utilizing it to increase tourism in the Thurman/Warrensburg area, striving to ensure that the station complements the rural, historical and residential character of the town and enhances the quality of life here. The Board of Directors meets as needed. For more information contact Perky Granger, agent@thurmanstation.com, or John Haskell at 623-9649.

### **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**

This group meets at the town hall every Thursday, year 'round, at 5:30 to help members achieve weight loss in a fun and healthy way. Annual dues to the national organization are \$26 and an additional \$5 is collected by the local chapter. Members participate in contests as they strive to meet their personal goals. The group meets Thursday afternoons at the Thurman Town Hall from 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Call Jane Day (696 - 2766) for more information.

### **Crafts and Quilting**

From time to time the Thurman column of the *Adirondack Journal* will publicize opportunities for those wishing to join a craft or quilting group.

## ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUTH

### **4-H**

4-H is a social and educational program for youth led by volunteers working with staff at Cornell Cooperative Extension in Warrensburg. Boys and girls from age 6 to adult complete projects appropriate to their age and interests, ranging from such traditional topics as foods and nutrition, sewing, and animal raising to such areas as rocketry, heritage crafts, public speaking and government. One 4-H club currently exists in Thurman, The Trekin' Llamas, led by Irv West. He occasionally has openings for members wishing to work with his llamas. They also visit other llama farms and do lots of nature-oriented activities. There is no charge to members. To learn about forming additional clubs, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension, 623-3291.

### **Adirondack Girl Scouts**

The local representative for Girl Scouts is Lisa Baker, who can be reached at lrb57@webtv.net. Lisa works with Brownies and Cadets, one afternoon a week at the Warrensburg Elementary School. Her scouts are involved with the annual cookie sale, events to raise money for the American Cancer Society and helping with the town's Food Pantry. They welcome opportunities to help with other community projects. Girl Scouting is open to youth age five through high school  
*Also see "Youth Commission" listing under "Appointees" and other youth activities offered by churches.*

## SPECIAL TOWN EVENTS COMMITTEES

### **Christmas Basket Committee**

This committee was formed in 1981 to provide a warm seasonal remembrance to those fifty or so folks in our community who will spend the holidays alone. The committee asks townspeople for donations of home cooked foods such as breads, muffins, cookies, candy or fudge. To each basket they add a little fruit and a small gift. Additional help is appreciated when it comes time to bake, and pack and deliver the baskets in mid-December. Those who would like to help may call Helen (Mrs. Craig) Baker or Evie Russell.

### **Election Day Dinner Committee**

Thurman traditionally has hosted an Election Day Dinner, organized to benefit a not-for-profit organization. In recent years no group has taken on this task. If your group is interested, please call the town secretary.

### **Maple Sugar Party Committee**

Every spring after the sap flows, folks from all around the region look forward to the annual Thurman Sugar Party. The tradition began almost half a century ago, with residents donating homemade salads and casseroles to create a fantastic all-you-can-eat buffet supper, topped off with old-fashioned Jack Wax made from locally produced maple syrup. Local musicians donate their talents to entertain those ticket holders waiting to dine. Proceeds are donated to the American Cancer Society. Those who can provide a dish or help with phone calling, serving or clean-up for this worthwhile event are asked to call Helen (Mrs. Craig) Baker, 623-2909. Watch the

*Adirondack Journal* for date and details.

### **Town Wide Sale Committee**

The Town Wide Sale is held in May or June of each year. It was begun in 1995 to provide an opportunity for local residents to hold yard sales that would be well-attended. The theory was that shoppers would travel considerable distances to a small town if lots of sales were being held on the same weekend. Each year nearly 100 Thurman families sell, and nearly 1,000 shoppers come to buy. Sellers register with the committee to hold a sale and donate \$3 to help with the cost of signs and extensive publicity. The committee urges residents wishing to hold a sale to register their sales (watch the Thurman column of the *Adirondack Journal* for details) Before the sale sellers need to come to the town hall to pick up their signs and make their \$3 donations. Extra signs are provided to help direct shoppers to your sale. The Town Wide Sale Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with table-sitting and directional sign posting. To help this project or to learn more, call Evie Russell 623-2580 (days), or email Perky Granger at [ThurmanInfo@aol.com](mailto:ThurmanInfo@aol.com).

### **NOTES ABOUT UPDATES**

*The online Residents' Guide is updated annually or as need dictates. If you know of material that should be updated, please contact Perky Granger, 623-9305, or [ThurmanInfo@aol.com](mailto:ThurmanInfo@aol.com), or else leave a message at town hall. It would be very helpful if organizations, departments and committees each would appoint a contact person to supply updates each year in November or December. Let's keep the Guide current so it better serves Thurman's residents.*