

**TOWN OF ROMULUS**

P.O. Box 177  
Willard, New York 14588

Phone: 607-869-9326 Fax: 607-869-5763

Summer Office Hours: As of June 1, 2006

Monday thru Friday:

7:30 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

Winter Office Hours: As of September 6, 2005

Monday thru Friday:

7:30 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.

\*If you need an after hours appointment, please contact us and we will try to accommodate you.

Other Services Available for Everyone:

Photo Copies, Faxes, Notarizing, Tourism Brochures, Hunting & Fishing Licenses, Marriage Licenses, Water Testing, Transfer Stations Tags and Recycling Bins.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Willard, New York  
14588  
Permit No. 1

POSTAL CUSTOMERS

Email us:  
[Romulus@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Romulus@rochester.rr.com)

Romulus Historical Society Membership/Donation Form

General Membership is annually from January 1st through December 31st:

Please check boxes that apply

Individual \$5.00 Family \$7.00 Institutional \$10.00 Lifetime \$100.00

\*\*\*\*\*

Special Donations: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Amount \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Endowed Gift: Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Restricted: \_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership/Donator: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Please make checks payable to: **Romulus Historical Society**

\*\* Please return completed form and funds to:

James Wyckoff, Treasurer  
2714 East Hayts Corners Road  
Ovid, New York 14521  
Telephone: 607-869-2574

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_



Town of Romulus

Review of Romulus

Volume 1, Issue 8

October 26, 2005

**TOWN POSITIONS**

- Supervisor: David Kaiser
- Supervisor's Secretary/  
Bookkeeper:  
Angel Lawrence
- Main Office Clerk:  
Mary Farnsworth
- Councilman:  
Robert Gerlach  
Barbara McCall  
Ralph Walborn, Jr.
- Town Clerk/Registrar:  
Terry Smith
- Planning Board:  
Dave Hayes  
Barry Roach  
Maryjane Thomas  
Daniel Brodnicki  
Phyllis Motill  
Thomas Bouchard
- Zoning Board:  
Joella Rand  
Richard Worrell  
Helen Mittermeyer  
Richard Bloss  
Fred Swain
- Code Enforcement Officer:  
Lee Hoaglan
- Highway Superintendent  
James Williamson
- Justice: Kathleen Greule
- Court Clerk: Terri Sandifur
- Assessor: Anne Morgan
- Tax Collector: Betty Wyckoff
- Dog Control: Aaron Covert
- Water/Sewer: Jack Holley
- Fire Dept. Chiefs:  
Romulus—Jim Hinman  
Ovid—Bill Palmer
- Town Attorney: James Gabriel
- Historian: Sarah Dawley
- Deputy Town Clerk/Registrars:  
Angel Lawrence  
Mary Farnsworth

Email: [Romulus@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Romulus@rochester.rr.com)



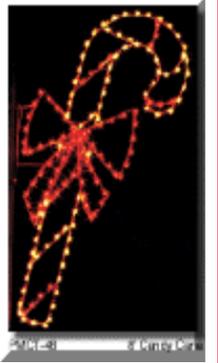
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WILLARD

**ROMULUS IN LIGHTS  
Holiday Pole Lights**



ROMULUS



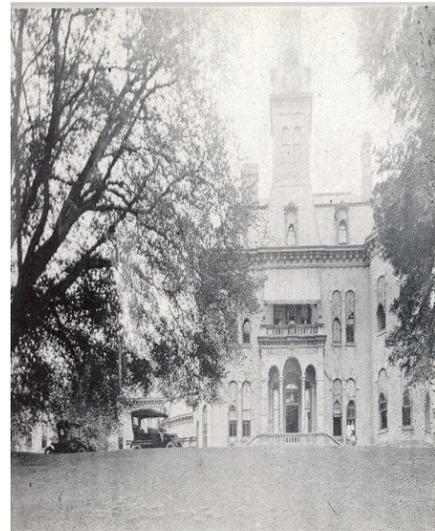
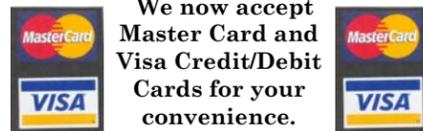
HAYTS  
CORNERS

In the past couple of years the street lights that keep our streets safer have all been replaced with a more efficient and cost effective bulb. The money we have saved by doing this is enough to cover the cost of the electric to operate the holiday lights. These lights will have an electric eye so they will only come on from dusk till dawn.. The board determined it wouldn't be necessary to leave the lights on during daylight hours and felt it wouldn't be worth the expense. The Holiday Lights that you see displayed above our being purchased out of the contract money the Town of Romulus receives from the Town of Varick for operating and maintaining their water/sewer districts. This revenue was unanticipated and therefore was not included in the budget.

The Town of Varick should be commended on their willingness to consolidate services. The Town of Varick has been able to save a substantially large amount of money for their taxpayers by contracting the full time staff of the Town of Romulus. Therefore lowering costs for the Town of Varick residents and on the other end, the Town of Romulus is able to provide amenities to their residents that we wouldn't be able to afford otherwise. We see this as a win-win situation for both towns.

We would like to thank Don Russo who is with the New York State Electric and Gas Company out of Geneva. He was kind enough to work with us to determine which poles we would be permitted to hang lights from. He also worked with the Ithaca office to obtain authorization from them, as our hamlets are in two separate NYSEG districts. We can't thank the electric company enough for their generosity and assistance in aiding our town with their services.

You will see Mike and Larry Westervelt around the hamlets preparing the poles for our newest additions to the Town of Romulus. We would also like to thank them for the expeditious manner in which they began to work on this project, so we can have these lights installed for the holiday season .



### ROMULUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Romulus Historical Society is selling historical sites post cards like the one shown above. The picture above was once known as the Willard New York State Hospital. Of course, this picture does not do the post cards justice, as they are much nicer. The post cards being offered for sale are pictures of:

1. Lake View House & Canning Factory which was located in Willard
2. Lehigh Valley Depot & Seeley's Hotel which was located in Hayts Corners
3. Romulus Hotel which was located in the Hamlet of Romulus
4. Main Street Romulus
5. Romulus Train Station
6. NYS Hospital in Willard

Post cards can be purchased at the Romulus Town Hall in Willard. They are \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. All proceeds will be put towards the Romulus Historical Society.

Every Tuesday night starting at 6:45 p.m. at the Romulus Volunteer Fire House on Cayuga Street in Romulus

Every Thursday night starting at 6:45 p.m. at the Ovid VFW.



### TOWN BLOCK PARTY A SUCCESS!!

The Romulus Town Block Party was held this year and we are happy to report that it was a great success!! We had 8 basketball teams for our tournament. The tournament was split in two categories; teenagers and adults. The teenagers received new basketballs for their prizes and the adults received sports bags. It was decided we would try to make the block party an annual event. Next year we are planning this event for the 19th of August, 2006, so as to not conflict with the many other events that were scheduled this past year for the same day.

At our most recent board meeting we invited all the basketball champions to our town meeting. Two plaques were presented; teenager champions and adult champions. Each champion's name and the year of the tournament was placed on the plaques. You will find these displayed in the Assembly Hall at the Romulus Town Hall. There is room for five more years of champions on each plaque. Look in April 2006 newsletter for a sign up sheet and prepare to take the next title. So come spring, brush up on your skills and get your team ready for action.

We can't begin to thank all the participants and those who volunteered their time and skills to this wonderful event. Without all these generous people this would not have been such a success!! To those who attended our first block party, thank you for making the time to come out and meet your neighbors. We hope to see you again next year and many more of our neighbors and friends!

We thought it would be nice to share some of the photos from this event:



More photos can be seen at the town hall in the Town of Romulus photo album. We now have more "Romulus Rocks" T-shirts in different sizes for the cost of \$5.00 each

### ROMULUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM Bringing the Old Back along with the New



This picture compliments of Neil Chaffee...thank you Neil

Thank you Willard Drug Treatment Facility for yet another success story

The Romulus Historical Society recently celebrated its first anniversary. In our first year we have applied for our charter, found a home for our museum and started collecting and recording donations and items loaned to the society for display in the museum. The museum is located on the grounds of the Willard Drug Treatment Center and faces the Main Street in the Hamlet of Willard. It was built in 1878 as a railroad depot for the trains that ran through the grounds of the hospital. It became known as the Rowley House when it housed male employees and in later years was used as the residence of the chief stationary engineer's family and was called the engineer's house.

Being vacant for over fifteen years, the house fell in disrepair. The Historical Society, along with parolees of the Drug Treatment Center, under the supervision of the vocational instructors, are in the process of repairing and painting the museum. We are looking forward to the grand opening next summer.

To have a viable society, we need members who are willing to donate a little of their time to complete the many tasks that are involved in maintaining a museum. WE need members who will man the museum, help catalogue donations and many other small tasks.

The membership dues are yearly and are \$5.00 for individuals, \$10.00 for family and \$100.00 for a lifetime membership.

We would like residents of the Town of Romulus to search your attics, basements and garages to see if you have any items that represent life in the township that can be donated or loaned to the museum. In the future we will be printing a newsletter that will be sent to members so they will be aware of planned activities. We want the Romulus Historical Society to be successful and urge all residents of the township to join.

Please complete the form on the other side of this for membership or stop by the Romulus Town Offices in Willard for further information.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Mr. Neil Sherman, owner of the Advantage Group, Inc. worked with the Small Cities Office to establish a loan. The New York State Governor's Small Cities Office offered a grant to the Town of Romulus providing Mr. Sherman was granted this Community Development Block Grant. Upon the Governor's Office approval the Town of Romulus would be allowed to loan the proceeds to our residents looking to establish a small business or improve an existing business. The main purpose for the Town of Romulus entering into this challenge was to have the ability to loan money to our residents to try to rebuild business in the Town of Romulus, more pointedly for economic development. Over the past several years Romulus, as well as many other small towns have been hit hard with the loss of so many businesses, which provided so much employment. It is our goal to rebuild! We have recently received verbal authorization from the Governor's Office and are awaiting written documentation stating we can begin to implement our plan to redevelop and put the money collected into circulation. This is not to say we can immediately start loaning these funds. A loan advisory board must be established, regulations must be outlined and we have to work with Bill Bordeau on the many steps that must be addressed before we can begin to accept applications. Mr. Bordeau is the Deputy Director of Development and Planning for Seneca County and has been a very helpful source of information to the town since entering into an agreement with the state and Mr. Sherman. We will keep you informed as this develops.

### SUPERVISOR'S SUMMARY

As you read through the several additions of the newsletter, I'm sure you can see this is a very active town. There are many areas that are operating very well and other areas that could use a bit of improvement. In addition to everything that you have read so far, we have also been working on two very crucial areas of interest to our residents. The budget for 2006 and the movement towards opening the water intakes on the previously known as Seneca Army Depot.

The 2006 budget was indeed a challenge for the board members, staff and myself. With the increasing costs of fuel which we need for heating, operation of our vehicles and equipment and of course the increase of costs from other entities that are also feeling the hit of the high cost of fuel, this was a tough budget to prepare. The contracts that the town has with the other entities (explained earlier in this addition) and with the new development that has come into our town, has really assisted us in trying to meet all needs for the budget.

The employees all received a 3% increase, as we know they will be feeling these heating increases in their personal budgets as well. The board members, tax collector, zoning officer and myself did not take an increase in our wages. The dog control officer and the dog kennel operator were granted the cost of rabies vaccination shots for themselves in lieu of a pay raise. We felt without the staff, we wouldn't have the ability to earn the revenues that we have been able to bring into the town. We felt they have certainly earned these raises. Some may have been looking for more of an increase because of different circumstances, however we asked all employees to be patient and understand that we do not know where the fuel costs increases will climb to, nor do we know where the Seneca County budget will end up with the mandatory demand to construct a new jail and the costs involved with that.

We also wanted to pass savings onto our residents because we know they too will be feeling the same pinches in their personal budgets. We asked everyone to pull the belts a bit tighter and cut where we really didn't need to spend money. It was important to pass savings onto our taxpayers because with the county taxes going up, perhaps if we could off set the increases with a decrease from the town taxes than our residents would not feel the pinch as much. Our taxpayers with the offset maybe able to afford the rising costs of fuel. Therefore, the remainder of the increased tax base, cutting down on budget line items and the revenues received from the contracts allowed us to lower the town taxes by .14 cents per thousand. We don't anticipate a decrease like this for next year, but rather we are hoping that we can maintain this rate for as long as possible in future years to come.

With the money the town was paid by the Community Development Block Grant from the Governor's Small Cities Office, we will be using this to start our sidewalk district in the Hamlet of Romulus. In using this for that purpose there will be no tax dollars used to start this program. We are still working out the details and costs involved. We hope to have these figures by early spring.

One of the first questions I asked myself was should we take the CDBG funds and the Varick contract funds and just lower taxes more? With more thought, the staff, board and myself saw a compromise. The town team will see a 3% increase in wages, the taxpayers will see a .14 cent decrease per thousand in their tax rate, why not give back to the communities with the remainder. The opportunity to do something good for the communities is here and we may not have a chance again. So the decision to hold back some of the revenue to start the sidewalks and install holiday lights was made. Our town has over the past few years slowly watched our areas become more depressed. The new school zone has finally come through and it would make sense to install new sidewalks through the hamlet of Romulus so our students can walk to school along safe sidewalks rather than along the shoulder of our highways.

Over last winter, I made several trips from one end of the county to the other and the one trait of our town that really stood out to me was we are the only town without holiday lights. I really feel the lights can be uplifting and somewhat a feeling of good spirits. In speaking with the board and staff, all seem to agree. So the work to find the best price for holiday lights began.

I feel that we have taken extra efforts to find a way to provide a benefit for everyone that lives in our town and works for our town. In closing with regard to budgets, I would like everyone to be aware of the fact that you can obtain a copy of the budget at any time from the town hall. Attached with the budget is an explanation key that will explain what each line item is and where the funds come from and where they are spent. There is no cost to you as a taxpayer to obtain a copy.

With reference to the ongoing project of trying to open the water intakes on the depot. The newest update I can give you is that the Engineers, O'Brien and Gere have been consulted and are working diligently on the many phases to assure this can happen. We are still in the beginning stages, but I will keep you apprised of the status of this project each time a new development occurs. We will continue to do everything we can as a South County board to see this project through.



### WELCOME TO HAYTS CORNERS ROMULUS AND WILLARD



The Town of Romulus has been working with the Willard Drug Treatment Vocational Department on a project to welcome people into each of our hamlets. The town will cover the cost of materials and the vocational department will be providing the creation and the labor to prepare the welcome to .....flower boxes. They are also working on making a wooden reproduction of the new Town of Romulus town seal to be hung on the outside wall of the town hall. In addition to these items, they are also working on a sign for the entrance to Second Street indicating the direction of the town hall. We are extremely fortunate to have this facility for our neighbors. This facility, year after year has come to our aid and provided us with something nice to put back into our town. We can't thank them enough for their creativity and willingness to always help our town with many items that we wouldn't be able to afford to do without their help. We are hoping to see these items in place by late spring or early summer.

### DROP BOX AT TOWN HALL

To the left of the double doors at the town hall is a drop box for those who can't get here during office hours.

### COPIER SERVICES:

A copier for the public can be found in the main entrance of the Town Hall. This copier is set up as a vending machine. The cost is .20 cents per copy for 8 1/2" x 11" copies.

### NEED RECYCLING BINS??

You can obtain blue recycling bins here at the Romulus Town Hall. Each resident is limited to two bins per household. You can also obtain a list of items that are considered for recycling.

### EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If there is an emergency with the water or any other pertinent information, we will contact the following radio stations:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>AM STATIONS</b> | <b>FM STATIONS</b> |
| WGVA 1240          | WNYR 98.5          |
| WCGR 1550          | WLLW 99.3          |
| WFLR 1570          | WFLR 95.9          |
| WSFW 1110          |                    |
| WAUB 1590          |                    |

Emergency Phone numbers for after regular office hours:

- David Kaiser, Supervisor:  
Home: 607-869-9826  
Cell: 607-351-6844
- Angel Lawrence:  
Home: 607-869-9570  
Cell: 607-275-6891
- Mary Farnsworth:  
Home: 315-585-6064

### HERNON PARK SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Award Amount: \$100.00  
Awards Available: 2  
Type of Award: Essay



Eligibility: Student at South Seneca Central or Romulus Central  
No age or grade requirement

Requirements: You must write a 250 – 750 word essay on the following topic:  
Why do you feel parks and recreational areas are important to our society?

Additional Information: You must submit this to the following address no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006:

Town of Romulus  
Heron Park Committee  
P.O. Box 177  
Willard, New York 14588  
Or email entry to:  
Romulus@rochester.rr.com

Please provide the following information with your submission:

- Your name
- Address
- Phone number
- Which school you attend
- Age
- Grade
- Email address (if you have one)

Recipients of Awards: Will be selected on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 by the Heron Park Committee Members

\*\* Please contact the Heron Park Committee at 607-869-9326, if you would like to become involved with improving and maintaining Heron Park. This has no impact on the selection of the recipient for the above referenced award.

### STOCK UP FOR WINTER

The town hall has many books, puzzles and videos. All proceeds to benefit the Heron Park. Thank you to all who have donated their used books, puzzles and videos.



- Hardcovers.....\$1.00
- Paperbacks.....\$ .50
- Jigsaw puzzles..... \$1.00
- Videos/DVD's.....\$2.00



### COURT'S CORNER Security in the Courtroom and Court Office

Security in the courtroom and office is becoming a necessity rather than a commodity. Due to the frequency in which court personnel are required to deal directly with the public, it is strongly recommended that the following items be incorporated into the court office:

1. A buzzer to deactivate the office door-lock.
2. A public counter, or security window, installed in the office door which service may be provided to individuals having business with the court.
3. A cashier's station with adequate security and an alarm or buzzer to alert a police agency of any disturbance in the office.
4. It is also recommended that a prisoner detention room enabling the court to hold prisoners in a separate location away from the general public.
5. A buzzer or alarm at the judge's bench to alert a police agency of a potential disturbance.

Romulus Town Court personnel has submitted grants requesting a security door for three years and hopefully, this year the grant will be approved.

Kathleen Greule, Justice

### VOTING IS YOUR CHOICE!!

We can't stress the importance of residents becoming registered voters. Your opinions really do count! The more involved a town's residents are, the better their government can operate. The main purpose of local government is to act on YOUR behalf. Your town board members are there to act as your voice and to relay your concerns and opinions.

The residents and local government officials need to work together to make the town you reside in a better place to live. The town has several committees that are always looking for resident participation. We are always very pleased when a resident expresses a desire to get involved with the town and actually becomes part of the team that works towards improving Romulus.

It is past the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming election, however, it is never to late to register. Registration forms can always be obtained here at the town hall. You simply fill out a registration form and drop it in the mail to the Seneca County Board of Elections. They will mail back to you a "Voter Registration Card" which will tell you where the polling location is that you have been designated to vote at. You can not vote unless you are registered.

Who will represent you on the local government level?  
Make your opinion count!!



### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

#### November:

Wednesday 23rd: 7:30 a.m.—Noon  
Thursday 24th: Closed  
Friday 25th: Closed

#### December:

Friday 23rd: 7:30 a.m.—Noon  
Monday 26th: Closed  
Friday 30th: 7:30 a.m.—Noon

#### January:

Monday 2nd: Closed



### WEB PAGE FOR THE TOWN'S FUTURE

Our era seems to be the more and more modern appears the internet has common as putting your The Town of Romulus keep up with the



coming age of technology. It become almost as shoes on each day. has been able to growing modern

features and next year will be no exception. It is our goal to work towards advancing our communications with the public by means of a web page. The web page will contain as much information as possible about the Town of Romulus and the services that are provided. This web page will provide quick access to information, such as being able to obtain the Zoning Law online, applications and forms, current events and upcoming meetings, etc... We would like to eventually get to a point where you would be able to pay your water/sewer bill online, apply for zoning permits, water/sewer hookup applications, etc...It is our hope to have all meeting minutes available, to include Town Board Meetings, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Hernon Park, Community Block Party and any other area of our future for meetings. It is our goal to supply you with as much information as we can and to make it as convenient as possible.

### DOG LICENSING CHANGES

Recently we received notification from New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, informing us of a revision to the Dog Law and which will take effect on January 15th, 2006. It reads as follows, "Dogs needing a rabies booster within the license year should be immunized prior to licensing in order to have a full year of rabies vaccination on a license. They are also giving the town's the option of passing a resolution which would allow the dog owner's that hold a three year rabies to be allowed to license their dogs every three years, rather than annually. This will be addressed at our next town board meeting. Please feel free to call in or write to the Town Board with your opinion. Do you want this to remain annually or would you prefer the convenience of the three year option?"



## CONTRACTS WITH THE TOWN OF ROMULUS

In recent discussions with our residents, it has come to our attention that many people are not aware of the many contracts the Town of Romulus has with other entities and how it all works to assure full time staff and at the same time save our tax payers their hard earned money. With this article we would like to update the public about these contracts.

The Town of Romulus is being contracted by the Town of Varick to provide water/sewer billing and collections, water sample testing, meter readings and assisting with repairs. This contract is for their Seneca Lake Water District #1 and their Varick Sewer District #2. This service is being provided to them for less money than what it had originally cost them to pay Varick staff and all the benefits that go along with employees. We provide this service for a total of \$10,000.00 per year, which provides our town with additional revenue and at the same time saves their taxpayers money based on the savings to them.

The Town of Romulus also has three contracts with the Seneca County Water and Sewer Districts. Seneca County Water District #1 and Seneca County Sewer District #2 is the districts that cover all the areas the previously known as Seneca Army Depot use to service. Our town provides all maintenance work, testing, repairs and replacement of water/sewer lines, billing and collections, filing all required licenses and reports, audits, payrolls, inspections, availability for questions and answers to all the residents and other facilities being serviced by these districts. This includes; Five Points Correctional Facility, Spring Meadows, Lakeshore Landing, Hillside, Towns of Varick and Romulus, the new Seneca County Jail, New York State Police, Sampson State Park, Coast Guard, all the warehouses and offices the Advantage Group uses, the remaining offices being used by the Army and the Seneca Transit Transportation System.

The third Seneca County District we contract with is referred to as Seneca County Sewer District #1, which is located in Willard on the Willard Drug Treatment Facility grounds. This district services the Town of Ovid, Village of Ovid, Hamlet of Willard, Village of Lodi, Town of Varick (along the lake), Sampson State Park, and Lakeshore Landing. The same services as listed above are provided to this district also.

This is not to be confused with the Seneca County Board of Supervisor's roll on the County level. This board consists of all South County towns and villages, with the exception of Covert/Interlaken. The mayor's and supervisor's of these towns and villages make up the board for these three districts. All decisions for these districts are made by these representatives.

A portion of this contract is to pay wages for the administrator, office staff wages, and the water/sewer operator and maintainer's wages. These wages are paid out of Water/Sewer District Funds, NOT Town of Romulus taxpayer dollars. The remainder after wages have been disbursed is \$15,000.00 which is applied toward the Town of Romulus revenues. Therefore, applying more money toward our revenues and lowering the amount we need to collect in taxes. In the end, it is cheaper to hire the Town of Romulus employees to provide this service than it would be to staff their own facilities and purchase all the equipment required to operate these facilities.

Finally, the Town of Romulus has entered into a contract with the New York State Small Cities Grants and received the amount of \$12, 970.00 for administrating the Community Development Block Grant. This entailed all documentation for setting up the loan with the Advantage Group and the responsibility of filing a semi-annual report (every 6 months) with New York State. In addition to these annual revenues that come through our town because of the work provided by our employees, we also have received a one time administrative fee of \$12, 970.00 from the State for the work that the office staff prepared on behalf of the Town of Romulus and continues to provide these services on behalf of the town so that we can re-loan the money to our residents that are looking to obtain loans to establish small businesses to help our town grow.

In closing the Town of Romulus clears \$25,000.00 annually. This amount is deducted from the amount of money needed to collect in taxes. Therefore, saving our taxpayers \$25,000.00 total in taxes every year. Without the Town of Romulus office staff and the water/sewer operators, we would not be in a position to obtain these contracts and provide our residents with this additional savings.

With the cost of living elevating at the rate it has been over the past years, it makes sense to consolidate services whenever we can to provide a lower tax not only to our town, but to other towns as well. We need to work together to make this area a more cost effective and prosperous place to live.

If after reviewing this and you still have questions, please feel free to stop by the town hall at anytime and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. The budgets and trial balances are always available to be reviewed by the public. We hope this helps educate our residents of the many efforts that are being made to try to save them money and still provide full time service.