



# The Chairman's Corner

by

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## WEIGHTS & MEASURES

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On Monday, March 4, Stockport resident and longtime local business owner Jim Vasilow stepped into the position of Columbia County Director of Weights & Measures. It's a county function that many may never have heard of, yet one which impacts everyone's lives one way or another, oftentimes on a daily basis.

Purchase gasoline? How about pre-packaged food? Milk?

These things and a whole lot more fall under the purview of the Director of Weights & Measures, responsible for administering and enforcing the provisions of the New York State Agriculture and Market Law that may include services designed to aid and protect consumers.

The director, by statute, is responsible for safely keeping the municipal standards as prescribed, and charge and maintain a complete record of work performed, while exercising all the powers of a peace officer and having access to all places of business, buildings or premises to inspect, test and ascertain if weights and measures weighing and measuring devices and systems and accessories are correct and being used correctly.

To Director Vasilow, president of Vasilow's Confectionary in Hudson, the concept of weights and measures falls well within his day-to-day work experience, beginning when he took a semester off from college in New Paltz to help his dad and company owner at the old V&O Press and proceeded to stay for 21 years. Along the way, he discovered, "I wasn't much of a salesman, but one of the things we sold was precision instruments. Over the course of the years, I became very familiar with measuring devices of all sorts. I learned how to calibrate them. I taught buyers how to use them if they were unfamiliar, and I knew how to repair them."

Later on, Director Vasilow became the quality control manager, including being in charge of the ISO program, at Saturn Industries in Greenport, where micro-precision is the name of the game. It was a position that further developed his appreciation for the necessity of accurate measurements.

As an example of some of what might arise during the course of carrying out his daily duties, the Director of Weights & Measures engages in such activities as visiting stores, markets, warehouses, gas stations and other establishments to test and verify the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices; using standard weights and measures determines the accuracy of scales, meters, rules and other measuring devices; using calibrated containers tests fluid measuring devices such as service station gasoline pumps, and fuel oil tanks, and seals those pumps, metering devices and scales when found to be accurate within the allowable tolerances.

"I'm looking forward to what this job entails – every day is going to be a different day, a different site," Director Vasilow said. "Best of all, it's the kind of stuff I've done all of my adult life. As a happy Columbia County resident, born and raised, I'm looking forward to serving Columbia County."