

Town of Canandaigua News

January 2018

www.townofcanandaigua.org



Townwide Drainage Review Underway

In response to residents' comments about storm-event drainage problems which were experienced by many in 2017, the Town Board appointed a three-member citizens' committee in October to report the options which may be available to address these concerns.

Chuck Oyler, the Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Board, Richard Krebs, and Kathy Page were appointed to the Drainage Advisory Committee.

The committee has already compiled a database of more than 30 specific addresses and properties which have been identified for review and drainage mitigation. In addition, the committee provides an avenue for residents to report additional drainage-problem locations.

The existing drainage facilities such as culverts, swales and stormwater management retention areas are under

review, as well as funding sources for the completion of drainage-improvement projects.

Chaired by Mr. Oyler, who has experience working with similar groups and public-works projects associated with drainage concerns, the committee meets with the Town's professional Development Office and engineering staff. The public is invited to attend or to report drainage concerns via mail or e-mail. Minutes of the monthly meetings are posted on the Town website.

For more information, visit the Drainage Advisory Committee website page, www.townofcanandaigua.org, then select "Boards & Committees," then select "Drainage Advisory Committee."

To report drainage issues or concerns, contact Code Enforcement Officer Chris Jensen, P.E., via e-mail at cjensen@townofcanandaigua.org.

2018–2019 Transfer Station Permits Now Available At the Town Clerk's Office

The 2018–2019 Transfer Station Permits are now available at the Town Clerk's office.

Each household is permitted up to two (2) permits. Residents are required to provide their vehicle registration(s) to obtain a permit.

The Town Clerk's office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and every Wednesday until 7:00 p.m.

For information, contact Town Clerk Jean Chrisman at (585) 394-1120, ext. 2225; or via e-mail at jchrisman@townofcanandaigua.org.

Outgoing Deputy Supervisor and Staff Retirees Recognized

Outgoing Town Board member Keith Cutri and retiring staff members Barbara Henry and Jeffrey Winner were recognized at a reception held prior to December's Town Board meeting.

Mr. Cutri served on the Town Board from 2014 to 2017 and as Deputy Town Supervisor last year. He provided oversight on the creation of the Citizens' Implementation Committee, the creation and appointment of the first Town Manager, and countless natural resource protection projects including updates to the Town Code to further protect Canandaigua Lake.

Barbara Henry began working for the Town as a part-time receptionist in 2002. She became a part-time Deputy Town Clerk in 2007 and full-time Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics in 2014.

Jeffrey Winner, who joined the Town



From left: Outgoing Town Board Member Keith Cutri and staff retirees Barbara Henry and Jeffrey Winner with Supervisor Greg Westbrook at December's recognition ceremony.

staff in 1989, spent his entire 28-year career in service at Onanda Park. He also has overseen a number of build-

ing and recreational improvements in the Town including the addition at Blue Heron, Outhouse and Miller parks.

Property Owners to Receive Change of Assessment Notices in February

From Assessor Christopher Lyon

Change of assessment notices will be mailed to property owners in February as Canandaigua conducts its 2018 town-wide reassessment. The previous revaluation of property occurred in 2014.



The purpose of revaluation is to bring property assessments in line with actual real estate prices. In particular, for residential property, an assessment should be comparable with sales of similar homes within the prior two to three years—that is, homes of similar size, style, age and location. The value of your home should be in line with recent comparable sale prices.

A reassessment does not necessarily increase taxes. It rebalances the values of all the property in the Town to avoid having a property owner pay too much

as compared to a property of similar design/style/location/appeal.

Canandaigua is a very attractive location in which to live. This has increased the sale prices of new and existing homes to higher levels than those which were determined in the last town-wide reassessment four years ago. The higher-price trend is not restricted to one type or location of property, but has impacted properties throughout the Town.

Assessments are just part of the equation regarding the property tax. The other important factors are the tax levy and the tax rate.

In Canandaigua, the Town Board adopts an annual budget. After subtracting all other sources of revenue—such as State aid, sales tax, user fees, etc.—the balance becomes the tax levy, or the total amount to be collected from property taxes. The Town Board

then sets the tax rate to generate the required funds.

The 2018 tax rate is \$0.91 for every \$1,000 of assessed value of your property. For a home with a currently assessed value of \$275,000, the annual Town property tax would be about \$250 per year.

Change of assessment notices will be mailed to property owners next month to provide time for those interested to schedule an informal meeting with the Town Assessor to discuss the new assessment prior to Board of Assessment Review on May 22, 2018. It is helpful for property owners to bring to this meeting any pertinent information about their property, as well as recent area sales or listings of similar properties.

For more information, contact Town Assessor Christopher Lyon, (585) 394-1120, ext. 2237.

Town and County Tax Payment Information

From Town Clerk Jean Chrisman

The 2018 Town/County tax bills were mailed on December 29, 2017.

If you do not receive your tax bill by

Friday, January 12, use

this link (<http://egov.basgov.com/canandaigua/>) to obtain a copy of the tax bill; or call my office and we will be happy to e-mail a copy to you.



Here are some tips to help you pay your tax bill:

If you are using an online banking service to pay your bills, please read your agreement as the bank may not mail your payment to the Town for up to seven days after withdrawing the money from your account. This could cause your tax payment to arrive after the penalty fee period ending January 31.

Your tax payment must be made for the exact amount. Any checks written for a wrong amount or which are not signed will be returned.

For payments made by mail, the United States Postal Service postmark

(not a postage meter mark) is used as the payment date (RPTL §925). If there is no postmark, the date the payment is received will be used as the payment date. You will need to make sure your envelope is postmarked January 31 or earlier to avoid paying a penalty fee.

Property owners can pay their tax bills online using a credit or debit card. If using this method of payment, there will be a processing fee of \$3.95 or 2.45% for the transaction (i.e., if your tax bill is \$159 or less, the convenience fee will be \$3.95. If your tax bill is \$160 or greater, the convenience fee will be 2.45% of the amount paid).

Property owners can pay their tax bill in full at any Canandaigua National Bank branch office during the month of January 2018.

The Town Clerk/Receiver of Taxes office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and every Wednesday until 7:00 p.m. Questions can be directed to Jean Chrisman, Town Clerk/Receiver of Taxes by calling (585) 394-1120 x-2225 or via e-mail at jchrisman@townofcanandaigua.org.

Development of Miller Park

The development of the 23-acre Miller Park, which is located at the corner of County Road 32 and Route 21 South, is underway.

The parking lot has been completed and the gazebo is in place at the highest point in the park. The trail was mowed earlier this year, with more work to be done in the spring.

The central area of the park will eventually be filled with two to three acres of wild flowers. This spring, crews will plow the ground and sow the seeds.

Thirty-four types of trees were planted, mulched and staked last fall. There are 86 trees in the park, all native species. Additionally, the area near Bliss Road is being developed for bird watching. Blueberry, raspberry, bayberry, holly, witch hazel, dogwood and crab apples have been planted in that section of the park. In the spring, boulders, benches and a few trees will be added.

We look forward to completion and encourage residents to stop by and see our new Town park.



Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Capital of Canandaigua Lake

By Kevin Olvany

Watershed Manager,
Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council

With extreme storms becoming more frequent, the ability of the land around Canandaigua Lake to be able to slow and filter runoff from heavy rains is critical to the long-term health of the lake and reducing the impacts of flooding.

High-quality land areas such as stream buffers, wetlands, floodplains and forests can provide an amazing amount of benefits to the Town and its residents by protecting water quality and reducing downstream flooding. We call these critical land areas the community's Natural Capital because of the wide array of benefits these areas provide. The Town of Canandaigua, in partnership with the Watershed Council and others, has made protecting and enhancing our Natural Capital a high priority in order to adapt to these more intense weather events.

Extreme Storm Events

Numerous researchers at the federal, state and academic levels have documented that more extreme rain events are occurring on a more frequent basis.

A study led by Dartmouth College found a 53 percent increase in precipitation events of two inches or greater and The Third National Climate Assessment report has estimated a 71 percent increase in the amount of precipitation that falls in the heaviest one percent of daily precipitation events. Our local experiences over the last decade correlate very well with these scientific assessments.

Our Natural Capital

Land areas such as wetlands, forested areas, stream buffers and floodplains are considered to have a high Natural Capital value because they help temporarily store and treat stormwater runoff throughout our Town during storm



events. These high Natural Capital areas provide a diversity of benefits to our entire community, such as:

- > Protect Canandaigua Lake as a high-quality drinking water supply for 70,000 people and as a major regional recreation and tourism destination
- > Reduce flooding and related damages to both Town roads and private residences
- > High lake quality helps to maintain high real estate values that reduce the overall tax rates

Several studies have estimated that our region has lost over 50 percent of our original wetland acreage to land development and agriculture. Land development and agriculture are vital to the overall health of our community and need to be promoted. However, with the increasing frequency of extreme storm events, we also need to find ways to restore the Natural Capital that we have

lost over the years in order to protect Canandaigua Lake and build our resiliency to extreme storm events.

Recognizing the importance of Natural Capital to the Town's future, the Town is partnering with the Watershed Council, landowners and the City of Canandaigua to restore wetland systems in multiple locations along Sucker Brook to help reduce the impacts of flooding and pollutant loading.

The Town has also completed projects with landowners near Deuel Road to improve water quality and protect the road from washing out. The Town played a critical role in building a two-acre stormwater wetland above the Primary/Elementary School to stop the flooding of 17 classrooms during major storm events.

The Town has several work groups which continue to identify high priority areas that will further build our Natural Capital in order to adapt to this new normal of extreme weather.

Survey Seeks Comments on Canandaigua's Open Spaces

Share your thoughts by completing a brief survey which will help the Town's Open Space and Conservation Master Plan Team in the development of strategies to protect natural resources, scenic views and critical open space as part of the Town's *Open Space, Conservation and Scenic Views Master Plan*. Town residents who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for a **\$50 Wegmans gift card**. The survey is available online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CanandaiguaOpenSpacePublicSurvey>

Highway Facility Milestone—Town Fleet Indoors on December 29th

The Town Highway Facility project reached a milestone when the fleet of snowplows moved indoors on Friday, December 29, 2017—three days ahead of schedule (and just in time with our recent cold snap).

Consideration of the new facility began in January 2015 when the Public Works Committee was formed to identify facility improvements. The committee includes Highway Superintendent Jim Fletcher, Town Board Member Terry Fennelly, and Town resident Al Kraus.

The committee determined that the existing highway garage, built in 1971, was not suitable for renovation.

The new structure—built at a cost of \$5.9 million with some of the work performed by Town employees to reduce expenses—will improve energy efficiency and security, ensure readi-



ness in an emergency, and prepare for future needs. The structure also enables the Parks and Water departments to consolidate their equipment into one

location. Groundbreaking was held on May 18, 2017. The construction permit was issued in July. Remaining work includes completion of the offices.

Welcome to New Town Hall Staff Members

Two new employees have joined the Town Hall staff.

Colletta ("Cat") Francese is the Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics. A native of Shortsville, N.Y., Cat lives in Bristol, N.Y., with her husband Mark and three sons. Previously, she owned her own landscaping company and is a member of the Bristol Volunteer Fire Department.

Kaitlynn McCumiskey manages the Highway and Water department offices in which she assists residents and the superintendent. Kaitlynn grew up in Bristol and received an Associates in Art degree from Portland (Oregon) Community College in 2011. She



Colletta Francese



Kaitlynn McCumiskey

worked in the field of early childhood education. She and her husband recently moved back to the Finger Lakes region to be closer to family. They reside in Canadice, N.Y.



**5440 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424**

Phone

(585) 394-1120

Fax

(585) 394-9476

E-mail

info@townofcanandaigua.org

Town Board

Supervisor Greg Westbrook

Gary Davis

Linda Dworaczyk

Terry Fennelly

Kevin Reynolds

Town Manager

Doug Finch

Town Assessor

Christopher Lyon, IAO

Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

Chris Jensen, P.E., MCP, CFM

Director of Parks and Recreation

Dennis Brewer

Highway and Water Superintendent

James M. Fletcher

Town Clerk

Jean Chrisman

Town Historian

Ray Henry

Town Meeting Dates

February 2018

1—Environmental Conservation Board, 4:30 p.m.

1—Agricultural Advisory Committee, 6:00 p.m.

6—Citizens' Implementation Committee, 9:00 a.m.

12—Town Board, 6:00 p.m.

13—Planning Board, 6:30 p.m.

14—Complete Streets Committee, 10:30 a.m.

19—Town Hall Closed, Observance of President's Day

20—Citizens' Implementation Committee, 9:00 a.m.

20—Zoning Board of Appeals, 6:00 p.m.

27—Planning Board, 6:30 p.m.

For a complete 2018 calendar visit
www.townofcanandaigua.org

Join Us! Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in serving the Town of Canandaigua?

The Town is seeking residents to fill available positions on the following volunteer groups:

Cultural and Historic Preservation

Project Team: This is a new team which has been formed by the Citizens' Implementation Committee. A number of volunteers are needed.

Special Events Committee: Two vacancies are available.

Contact Sarah Reynolds in the Town Manager's Office at sreynolds@townofcanandaigua.org if you're interested.