

Town of Vernon Times

www.townofvernon.com

Spring 2021

FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

Randy Watson, Supervisor

Hello Town of Vernon Residents,

This is the start of my sixth year serving the residents of Vernon and I am happy to say, with good partnership of the Town Board, the Town has successfully passed budgets without any tax increase during my entire time as Supervisor.

I would like to commend the Town of Vernon Highway Department on doing an amazing job of keeping our roads in excellent condition. Highway Superintendent Tim Murphy has obtained sand from a new provider and it has proven to make our roads cleaner and safer.

Thank you to the Vernon Center Water Project residents for your support and patience. I would like everyone to know that the project is still progressing.

Last but not least, I am very proud to be a part of the Town of Vernon, not just as a Town Supervisor but as a resident. Our town is not just a town, but an amazing community. This year has proven to be a challenging year like no other, but seeing OUR Community staying strong and helping one another is why I'm proud to call Vernon my home.

I can be reached at 315 829-2985 with any comments or concerns you may have.

Hope you and your families stay safe, happy and healthy! We will persevere!



Randy Watson
Supervisor, Town of Vernon



TOWN OF VERNON DIRECTORY

SUPERVISOR, BUDGET OFFICER

RANDY WATSON..... (315) 829-2985

TOWN COUNCIL PERSONS

DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR, EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

GENE BENNATI..... (315) 363-0060

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STEVE ADAMKOWSKI..... (315) 790-8008

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

MYRON J. THURSTON..... (315) 527-6888

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JOHN PETERS

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS

Town Justices

ROBERT SUTTMEIER..... (315) 829-4481

Court Clerk

SANDRA SCHELL..... (315) 829-4481

Town Bookkeeper

WENDY COSTON..... (315) 829-2985

Town Historian

JANICE BUNEO..... (315) 363-9928

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

JENNIFER CHAMPNEY..... (315) 829-2422

Deputy Town Clerk

JULIE MCELROY..... (315) 829-2422

Dog Control Officer

CLAYTON CONOVER..... (315) 245-0787

Building Inspector

REAY WALKER..... (315) 829-2434

Codes Officer and Fire Inspector

JODY THIEME..... (315) 829-2434

Codes Office Clerk

HEATHER MAIR..... (315) 829-2434

Assessors Chairman

DUANE MUNGER..... (315) 829-2587

Assessors

FRANK LAGUZZA..... (315) 829-2587

TIMOTHY WAGNER..... (315) 829-2587

Assessors Clerk

JENNIFER TYCZINSKI..... (315) 829-2587

Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals

BRIAN DAM..... (315) 829-2434

Superintendent of Highways

TIMOTHY MURPHY..... (315) 829-2742

County Legislators

2ND DISTRICT..... KEITH SCHIEBEL

SHERRILL-KENWOOD FREE LIBRARY



*Perhaps no place in any community is as totally democratic as the town library.
The only entrance requirement is interest. -Lady Bird Johnson 1st Lady.*

543 Sherrill Road Sherrill, NY 13461 · Phone: 315-363-5980 · Fax: 315-363-4133

www.sherrillkenwoodlibrary.org



Oh what a year 2020 was and 2021 continues to be! Our library like all residents, businesses and organizations in the Town of Vernon have been greatly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

We were saddened to close our doors for a short period of time. We reopened on a curbside basis. Our building is now accessible to all. We presently are unable to host the numerous programs we normally do. We remain optimistic that in the not so distant future we can resume some of our programs and full service.

Despite the pandemic we remain a positive essential fixture of our community. How do we achieve this? In addition to our faxing and photocopying services we offer access to our broad collection of printed, audio and electronic books, dvds, magazines and newspapers. Our public computers, printers and wi fi internet access are used daily. These resources are used for a wide range of needs from assisting students with school work, scheduling appointments and online retail orders, filing taxes, employment applications, printing shipping labels, renewing drivers licenses, accessing email and more. We are pleased to provide these services and our staff is willing to assist if needed.

We are grateful for the financial support we receive from Oneida County, Town of Vernon and the City of Sherrill. Repercussions of the pandemic forced Oneida County and the City of Sherrill to reduce their financial support by 50 % in July of 2020. This reduction in funding continues in 2021. A portion of the funding from the City of Sherrill is provided by the Town of Vernon. Our 2021 budget is reduced from our 2020 budget. We like many have been forced to make difficult decisions to adjust to our budget shortfall such as reducing our hours, staff and materials expenditures.

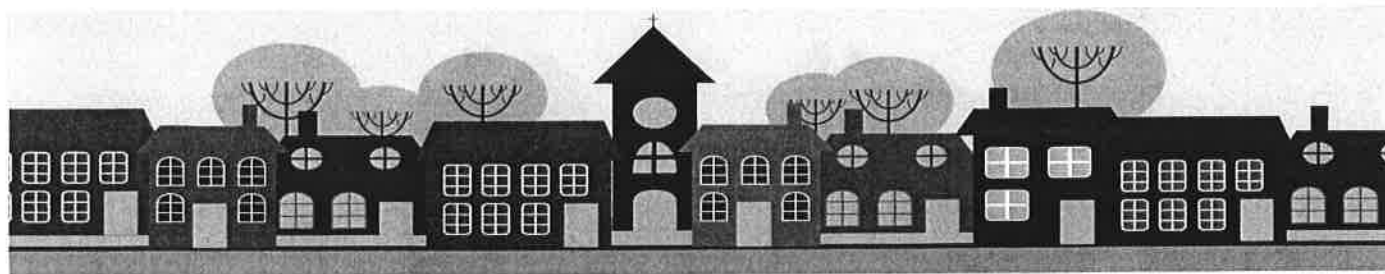
At the present time **no** residents of the Town of Vernon are assessed a special library tax to support our library. The majority of libraries in New York State **are** financed from designated library taxes from municipalities or school districts. Presently our budget is not subject to vote. We are governed by our Library Board of Trustees. Employees are not state, county or city employees and are not part of a paid retirement system.

The support from our patrons, local merchants and organizations in 2020 was incredible. For one example our 5th annual "Spring" for Books event held in July was our most successful to date.



SHERRILL-KENWOOD FREE LIBRARY

(CONTINUED)



We extend a heartfelt thank you to the following who have contributed to us during this most challenging time: Access Federal Credit Union, City of Sherrill, Community Car Wash, Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Evans Insurance Agency, Friends of the Library, Gypsy Girl Wood Fired Pizza & Catering, Kay Real Estate, Kenwood Benevolent Society, Lamb's Construction LLC, National Christian Foundation, Oneida County, Progress Club of Oneida NY, Sherrill Garden Club, Sherrill American Legion Post 230, Sherrill Chiropractic Center, Sherrill Kenwood Community Chest, Sherrill Merchants Association, Sign & Art Etc., Sound Mind Financial, Taste of China, The Cremeria, The KEYS Program, Town of Vernon, VVS Community Rotary Club and the VVS Educational Foundation.

With sincere thanks to the Town of Vernon for publishing this annual newsletter and the quarterly newsletters printed by the City of Sherrill.



Mary Kay Junglen - Library Manager and Library Board of Trustees.

Our hours:



- Monday & Tuesday 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
- Closed Friday - Sunday and all federal holidays. Holiday hours may vary.
- "Curbside Service with a Smile" is available upon request.

Our Board of Trustees

- Daryk Macrina - President
- Lauren MacDonald - Vice President
- Treasurer - Tracy Killian
- Sara Getman - Secretary
- Mary Lou Sayles - Trustee
- Katie Falkenmeyer - Trustee
- Kristen Vanvalkenburg - Trustee
- Ellen Lerner - Trustee
- Tracy Chieco - Trustee
- Rachel Sayles - Trustee

Our Board Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month with the exception of July & August at 5:00 PM



The Power To Imagine

We are a member of the Mid York Library System serving 43 libraries in Oneida, Madison and Herkimer Counties. One library card serves all 43 libraries. The system has an extensive collection of electronic resources that can be accessed 24 / 7.

The Day By Day NY Family Literacy Calendar found on the Mid York and our web page is a wonderful resource for families of young children.





SHERRILL-KENWOOD FREE LIBRARY (CONTINUED)

Our Regularly Scheduled Programs

At the present time we are unable to host programs. Please check our website for updates. We intend to resume:

- Toddler Tuesday
- Wednesday Mah Jongg
- Art Classes
- Special events such as pysanky egg decorating, book folding, author visits, speakers, tie dye nights, messy art, campfire tales & s'mores and more.
- Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale usually held in September may be held at a date to be announced.



We will celebrate & more to follow:



National Library Week
April 4 - 10



The New York State Summer Reading Program theme is Tails and Tales.



Banned Book Week
September 19 -25



Fire Prevention Week
Oct 3 -9



We honor our Veterans
the month of November.

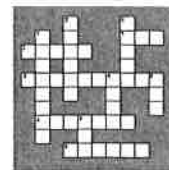
6th Annual "Spring" for Books



Our very successful event of adding 100 books to our collection returns at a date to be announced. We will have the books available for purchase to be donated back to the library. This is a wonderful way to remember or honor someone special in your life.

SHERRILL-KENWOOD FREE LIBRARY
(CONTINUED)**Town of Vernon Crossword Puzzle Contest**

Enter our 1st contest. Entrees will be accepted Feb 1st - March 30th. More information can be found on our website .

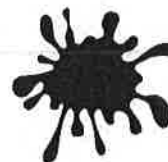


Book Club is
for...



...you!

Our lively book discussions began in 2005. We meet on the 1st Wednesday at 4:00 PM in the months of February, April, June, October & December. All are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. The library supplies extra copies of all books.

Our Community Art Wall

We are pleased to welcome local artists to share their talent with the community. Displays change monthly. We currently have several months available for 2021. Please contact us if you are interested.

New York State Empire Park Pass

The Friends of the Library have donated a park pass which grants day admission (not camping privileges) to any of New York State 180 parks. Explore a new park in 2021.



Clear Path
FOR VETERANS
SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY HOME™

We were honored to partner with American Legion Sherrill Post 230 and Hood Dairy of Oneida in collecting goods for 300 Thanksgiving meal kits for local veterans.



The response was tremendous. We hope to continue this in 2021. Details will follow at a later date.

SHERRILL-KENWOOD FREE LIBRARY
(CONTINUED)

We are pleased to work with students in the VVS district in our letter writing / card making efforts to thank members of American Legion Sherrill Post 230 and other local veterans thanking them for their service.

We are presently serving as a collection point for the food pantry of Holy Family Church in Vernon which serves the entire VVS district. We accept non-perishable goods only.



How can you help your library?

If you are interested in making a monetary donation this can be done in several ways. We are a designated 501c3 tax exempt non- profit educational institution. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Many people choose to make **donations In Honor Of or In Memory Of** family, friends, or others whom they wish to acknowledge in a special way. Donations have been made to celebrate anniversaries, birthdays, graduations or the birth of a child or grandchild. These donations may be made with cash, check or credit card using our online Paypal account.

Making donations through Bequests. Making a gift of a charitable bequest in your will or in a living trust are welcomed.

General unrestricted donations are appreciated and are expended in the area of greatest needs determined by the Library Manger and Board of Trustees.

We also have an Amazon Smile & Amazon Charity Lists account. When shopping on Amazon a percentage of your purchases are returned to the library.



amazon smile
charity lists





ONEIDA CASTLE NEWS

The Village of Oneida Castle, like all municipalities, has been adapting to the changes necessary due to the Covid pandemic. We are trying to abide by both the state and county regulations for meetings in order to keep ourselves and our residents safe. Some of our meetings have been public meetings in the hall with masks and social distancing, while others have been virtual. Please check the Dispatch, our bulletin board or our website, oneidacastleny.com to hear about our monthly meetings which take place the first Monday of every month.

Our sewer project is moving forward with the bids published on February 2, 2021. The opening of bids will be held on March 4, 2021 at 11:00pm in the village hall. If all goes as planned, digging will begin in the spring and construction will occur over the summer months. This project will require the removal of many trees and the village is looking into grants to replace them.

Our Village Board has been working on a tree inventory to determine which trees are hazardous and which can be saved. This inventory is necessary to apply for funding. The Board has been working with the Oneida Soil and Water conservation Department, Grants Gateway and a certified arborist to become eligible for NYS grant money. We have several trees that are 150-200 years old and the village will need funding to replace them.

In other news, mulch has been purchased and installed in the playground. This should make it a cleaner and safer place to play once nice weather comes again.

A big thank you to the Green Thumb Garden Club of Oneida Castle for all the work they do in our village park and our Veteran Memorial Park. Thanks for their generous efforts to beautify our village. Please take a moment to sit and honor those that have served and sacrificed for our country.

CITY OF SHERRILL RECREATION NEWS

The City of Sherrill is hopeful it can once again host concerts in 2021, we do not know what the set up will look like, but we are in the planning stages. Same goes for the fireworks weekend, we do not know at this time what will be allowed regarding mass gatherings. Nothing is official yet but it's unlikely we will be able to host fireworks weekend in July, so we are looking at dates in late summer/fall. Once we have a better understanding this information will be distributed in future newsletters, the City of Sherrill website, Facebook, and email blast. Due to budget constraints funding for concerts and fireworks was cut from the 2021 budget, so if anyone is interested in contributing towards these events to see them happen please contact City Manager Brandon Lovett at blovett@sherrillny.org or 315-363-2440.



The Sherrill-Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department invites you to support them at their annual Golf Tournament. Your generous donations will be used to support the Fire Department's Capital Fund and Scholarship Fund.

The Annual Sherrill Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department Charity Golf Tournament will be played Sunday June 7, 2020. This year they are excited to move the event to the Oneida Community Golf Course. Please download registration and sponsorship forms at <https://sherrillny.org/departments/fire/>

Codes Office News & Updates



If possible, please call ahead and schedule a time to meet with one of our Code Enforcement Officers. They are not always in the office during business hours due to fire inspections, building inspections, other appointments, etc.

Our office hours are
Monday thru Friday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

All of the following require building permits through our office:

- New homes including double wides
- Garages, Sheds and Carports
- New septic systems or changes to existing septic systems
- Remodeling interior or exterior, additions
- Decks, porches (including enclosed)
- Above ground, in ground pools and hot tubs/Jacuzzis
- Fences, ramps
- Chimneys, wood stoves, or outdoor wood/gas burning devices

Building permit applications and Fee Schedule are available on our website: www.townofvernon.com, it will be on the left side. Click on 'Forms and Downloads' and look for 'Building and Zoning Permit Application'

Address Identification

Minutes Matter!!

It is difficult for Emergency Responders to locate you when address numbers are not properly posted on homes or businesses. This can increase the response time and possibly effect the outcome of a situation.

Below is a list to help with the placing of address numbers:

- Address Identification should be legible and placed as to be visible from the road.
- Numbers should contrast from their background.
- Numbers should be Arabic numbers or Alphabetic letters
- Each character should not be less than 4 in. height by ½ inch width.
- If house/building cannot be seen from road a pole, monument or other means should be used to place address closer to the road.

*** Reflective numbers can be purchased from some local Fire Departments and most stores ***

Fire Escape Planning and Practice Prepare Residents to Quickly and Safely Exit During Home Fires

* Fire escape planning can mean the difference between life and death in the event of a home fire. Everyone in a household must know what to do and where to go in case of a fire.

* Each household should develop a fire escape plan; however, only one in four Americans surveyed by the National Fire Protection Association have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

* The plan should describe at least two different ways each household member can escape from every room.

* The plan should designate an outside meeting place for household members to meet after they escape.

* The plan should include arrangements for household members with disabilities, infants and young children, and older adults who cannot escape on their own. The plan should identify a household member to help each of these individuals in the event of an emergency.

* Escape routes designated in the plan should be kept clear and doors and windows should open easily. Security bars on windows and doors should have emergency release devices to allow them to be opened immediately.

* Practice drills to practice the escape plan should be held every six months and include all household members.

SOMETHING NEW AT THE WALKING TRAIL BEHIND THE TOWN OF VERNON OFFICE BUILDING!!

In recent years it has become a trend to memorialize loved ones through planting of trees. The Town is excited to announce a Tree Memorial Park Program where anyone interested in memorializing a family, friend or loved one may purchase a tree to be planted at the Town of Vernon Memorial Park. This is a fabulous way to give a living tribute for decades to come.

The forms will be available at the Town Office Building to select what type and size of tree you would like planted. All trees will be planted during the proper season to optimize survival and growth. Each tree that is planted will include a ground plaque commemorating the person/persons for that tree.



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dear Town of Vernon Residents,

My name is Timothy Murphy and I am the new Highway Superintendent. I would like to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to everyone who elected me. I have worked in the Highway Department for 20 years and am excited about taking on the responsibility and challenges of Highway Superintendent. I would also like to thank all of the residents for your cooperation and patience during this winter season! Below you will find a friendly reminder of information to take note of and a list of Annual Events and other Highway News.

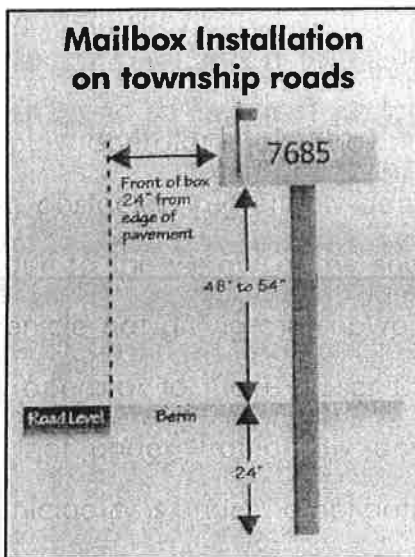
SNOWPLOW DRIVERS ASK FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

During the snowplowing season, highway crews ask for the cooperation and understanding from motorists. By the nature of the task, snowplowing operations take place during poor visibility and drivers tend to follow plows too closely. The process of clearing the roads of snow often require plows to backup, usually at intersections, where they must turn the corner, dump the load of snow and back up before continuing. All too often vehicles fill the space where the plow must back into.

Please remember to give the snowplow plenty of space, especially at intersections.

Another major consideration is the center of the road. The center must be cleared of snow, which necessitates the front left part of the plow crossing the center line and into oncoming traffic. When you encounter an oncoming snowplow you should slow down and move over as far as is practical to give the snowplow room to clear the center of the roadway.

Please note per New York State VTL Article 1219 prohibits plowing, shoveling or blowing snow into or across the roadway. This action causes a dangerous winter hazard resulting in accidents and severe vehicle damage.



The final topic involving snowplowing is mailboxes and other roadside objects; such as parked vehicles. These can add to the difficulty of a snowplow operator's job. Snowplow drivers do their best to avoid these obstacles, regrettably damage to a mailbox can occur simply due to the weight of the snow or as the result of an oncoming vehicle not giving the snowplow enough room, requiring the plow operator to move closer to the side of road. Please take note that under Traffic Law and Commissioner's Regulations the municipality is under no obligation to fix or replace a damaged mailbox. However, if the Town of Vernon plow directly

hits and damages a mailbox, the Town will replace the mailbox with a standard issue black metal box and a single 4x4 post. The Town is not responsible for replacing designer boxes, posts or any style of newspaper box. Please see the attached diagram showing proper installation procedures for mailboxes.

In closing of this topic, I urge all motorists to remember there is a high level of demand during the winter season as our dedicated employees continue to try and keep our roads as safe as possible. We need you to do your part and be careful and alert but mostly SLOW DOWN!

ANNUAL EVENTS

BRUSH PICK UP

- First full week of May is brush and weeds pick up. Once you have placed all of your material roadside call the highway garage (315)829-2742 and give your address. This will make scheduling of pickup more efficient for all. The Village of Vernon, City of Sherrill and Village of Oneida Castle have their own designated brush removal systems.
- We do have a site available at the highway garage at 4322 Churton Road for town residents to bring small limbs, leaves and grass clippings during warm weather.

WHITE GOODS DAY

- Sometime in the Fall - As soon as we have a date set we will advertise in your local paper and on our website www.townofvernon.com. (Usually early October) There will be an up to date list on hand at the Town of Vernon Clerks office as to what will be accepted.



Have a Safe & Happy Spring

Thank you,
Timothy Murphy
Town of Vernon Highway Superintendent



ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Keith Schiebel ♦ 4830 Day Road ♦ Vernon, NY 13476

Phone: 315.335.0887 ♦ Email: kschiebel@ocgov.net

TOWN OF VERNON NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2021 KEITH SCHIEBEL -- ONEIDA COUNTY LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 1

A year unlike no other! All of us have been affected and impacted by this pandemic – closed businesses, closed schools, loss of loved ones, loss of employment, no ball games, no fairs, no visits to grandparents, restricted church services, restricted gatherings, quarantines, face masks, and the list goes on and on. Life as we once knew it has changed, and most would agree not for the better.

Now one year later, few of us could have anticipated or envisioned what has happened over the past twelve months. From stay-at-home a couple weeks and “flatten the curve”, to remote work, remote learning, and “essential” only, most would agree we have been through the most unsettling and tumultuous time of our lives.

As effects of the COVID virus became more evident, Oneida County became the lead agency in response to this health crisis, first issuing a County State of Emergency on March 13, 2020 and subsequently renewing every week since. With little known at the time about the virus, the County took unprecedented actions to protect the public by mandating closures while providing “PPE” or personal protective equipment, mostly in the form of face masks and hand sanitizer. Public alerts became routine and cancellations of annual events and activities the norm.

In response to the looming financial crisis, the County took action to strip more than \$7 million from the 2020 County budget. Business closures, travel restrictions and cancellations of events led to reduced County revenues generated from sales tax. Several County positions were re-aligned to assist with COVID response, such as County contact tracers. The all-hands-on-deck approach focused on needs to address the health crisis. Still today, at the writing of this correspondence, vaccines are underway, businesses and activities are re-opening, and schools are returning to in-person learning. While not “out-of-the-woods” yet, slowly we are returning to a familiar way of life; but undeniably, a changed one.

On a positive note, our Board of Legislators recognizes the burden taxes place on our residents and for the fifth consecutive year adopted a County budget that includes no increase in property taxes. Simultaneously we have reduced County spending while maintaining mandated and essential services. We remain hopeful that some of the 2020 expenditures incurred by the County in response to the pandemic will be reimbursed by the State and help to stabilize the County’s finances.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve you as your County representative and assist our team of elected village, town, and city government officials. We have a tremendous team of dedicated, local government officials that work tirelessly on your behalf. They too have shared in navigating the financial dilemmas caused by the County’s response to the pandemic. Thank you to our Mayors, Supervisors, and Board members who serve in this capacity on our behalf.

In closing, as we all look forward to a renewed 2021, if you have an issue, question, or concern about our County services, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at Kschiebel@ocgov.net, call or text at 315-335-0887, or attend a local municipality meeting. Thank you for being part of our community.

