



Town of Jay News

Summer Edition 2023

From The Supervisor's Office

Supervisor
Matt Stanley

Deputy Supervisor
Thomas McDonald

Town Board
Thomas McDonald
Adam Coolidge
Knut Sauer
Steve Forbes

Town Clerk
Carol Greenley-
Hackel

DPW Director
Kevin Lincoln



This summer is flying by and the rain has not slowed down the Town of Jay. We feel bad for the surrounding areas that have had to deal with massive flooding, but this time Mother Nature has given us a break. We have been extremely productive applying for grants, working on projects, and planning economic development.

GRANTS

We have been working with Essex County Community Resources to apply for the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) Smart Growth Community Planning Grant to help fund updating our 1997 Comprehensive Plan. This grant program will fund 90% of the cost to hire a consultant, at an approximate cost of \$90,000, to assist in updating our current plan. The NYS DOS recommends updating the comprehensive plan every 7-10, and our current plan has some data that is close to 25-30 years old.

We have been working with the Pride of Ticonderoga to help us apply for a New York Main Street Technical Assistance Grant through the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (NYS HCR). This grant program will fund 95% of the cost up to \$20,000 to fund hiring a consultant to help with the technical planning. This grant will directly improve our community's capacity or readiness to administer a future New York Main Street building renovation program. This is the first step in rebuilding our main

street in Au Sable Forks.

I also have been working with the Cloudsplitter Foundation to learn about other opportunities and grant programs that can help alleviate the tax burden on our residents. If we want to make our town better, we must make improvements, enhancements and continue with the general upkeep of our current infrastructure. We will need to pay for these improvements, but if I can do a little leg work and find financial assistance, we will all benefit.

PROJECTS

The Town of Jay has been working with the Town of Black Brook to upgrade our Wastewater Treatment Plant to include phosphorus removal and UV disinfection which was part of a DEC consent order. This project is currently in the Engineering Phase which we are waiting on approval from the DEC on the submission of an engineering plan produced by MJ Engineering. Once we get approval from the DEC, construction is scheduled to begin by this fall. We are

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From The Town Clerk– Carol Greenley–Hackel

Greetings from the Town Clerk's Office. I hope this finds you enjoying the warmer temperatures and the long days of summer.

Here in the Town Clerk's Office, we have relaxed into the hazy, lazy days of summer and are enjoying a summer schedule where the office is closed every other Friday. To catch up with the rotation cycle, the office will be closed Friday, July 28th and every other Friday throughout the summer.

As a result of the launching of the new and improved Town of Jay website (townofjayny.gov), the Town Clerk's page has undergone a major overhaul with many new forms that can be filled out prior to requesting a copy of any vital records. Also find a worksheet and "what to bring" sheet to streamline the Marriage License

process. Also there, a Dog License Application that can be filled out and mailed in with payment (fee schedule included), which will hopefully make licensing your pup a little more convenient.

I will be headed out on vacation from July 28th thru August 2nd, but Deputy Clerk, Tamber McCabe, will be filling in on some of those days so that you can still access services if need be while I'm gone. Check my Facebook page for her availability in the upcoming days.

In closing, I hope that you all are enjoying your summer and getting to spend some quality time doing what you love most!

Carol

Office of the Assessor—Timothy Gay

Finally, summer is here!

This spring many of us saw significant increases in our assessments, this was due to increases in the real estate market. Although, Grievance Day has come and gone, this does not mean that you cannot schedule an appointment with me to discuss your assessment. I am always happy to sit with people and discuss the assessment process and explain how values are developed.

The foundation of the process is inventory data. As Assessor for the Town of Jay, my job is to provide the town with an equitable Assessment Roll. This is achieved

by having as accurate data on every parcel as possible. Summer is the slowest time of year for the assessor, therefore the best time to discuss your information or schedule a site visit to assure your information is accurate. So, if you would like to review your data, schedule a site visit, or just like to sit and chat about the assessment process, summer is a great time to do this.

Please contact me to schedule a time.

Kind regards,
Timothy D. Gay Jr.
Sole Assessor

JAY DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday August 19 from 10 AM - 4 PM

45+ Vendors

- Food, Beer, Refreshments, Baked Goods
- Lumberjack Can Crushing Contest
- Pie the Town Supervisor
- Pie Baking Contest
- Live Music
- Kids Craft Tables
- Magician
- Sack Races



Where to find us

Jay Village Green, Jay NY
SmartSiteDesigns.com/rotary



Dog Control—Donna Tatro

Hello Everyone,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Donna Tatro, Dog Control Officer for Town of Jay. I've been in this position for just over one year now. My job is to ensure dogs have their rabies vaccinations and are currently licensed with the town. I also respond to dog complaint calls, such as excessive barking, unleashed dogs, complaints of dangerous dogs or bites/property damage, or any other dog related complaint that poses a threat to public safety.

The Town of Jay does have a leash law. Please

make sure your dogs are always leashed when walking or in a defined perimeter of your outside space.

I am encouraging all dog owners to make sure your dog's vaccinations and licenses are up to date as I intend to start checking dogs within the Town of Jay to make sure everyone is on the same page. I will issue citations for anyone not current and after 3 citations, I will issue court appearance tickets. Dog licenses can be obtained through the Town of Jay Town Clerk.

Thank you,
Donna

NOTIFICATION SERVICE

VOYENT ALERT!

GET THE INFORMATION YOU NEED, WHEN YOU NEED IT

The Town of Jay is pleased to announce it has chosen the Voient Alert! service to keep you informed during times of crisis and for day-to-day notices. Register now to receive important notifications that matter to you. The service is free, easy to use and totally anonymous.

REGISTER NOW!

MOBILE APP USERS

Download and install the Voient Alert! app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.

Register online to receive email, voice or text-based alerts at: register.voyent-alert.us

Senior Meal Program

Our Senior Center is open every Monday and Wednesday, starting at 9:00am.

Come visit with friends, participate in activities ranging from movies to puzzles, then enjoy a warm, home cooked meal at Noon.

\$3.50 or donation for Lunch for individuals 60+
\$6.00 for Lunch for Individuals under 60

Sponsored by ACAP and Funded by Essex County Office for the Aging

Climate Smart Task Force—Knut Sauer

The Climate Smart Communities Task Force was launched earlier this year and meets monthly. The goal of the task force is to help guide the Town of Jay in making climate smart decisions and improvements, including supporting residents who are interested in making climate smart decision and upgrades as well. Being part of NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program the Town of Jay can benefit from the new "clean energy economy" by benefiting from guidance, support, and grants to implement projects and initiatives, which not only helps protect our environment but also saves us money in the long run. The task force works very closely with the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), who is our regions NYSERDA representatives, and have associate members on our task force. While the Town of Jay had implemented a few actions prior to the launch of the task force, such as LED Streetlights, adopting a Unified Solar Permit, and Energy Code Training, we recently passed a Municipal Benchmarking resolution and are launching Advanced Reporting of our larger municipal building's en-

ergy usage. With these initiatives completed the Town of Jay has earned Clean Energy Community Status and qualify for a \$5,000 Designation grant we can use towards other initiatives. We have also been awarded a grant for Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers from the DEC, and together with funding through the NYSEG Make Ready Program, we hope to have EV chargers installed in Upper Jay and Jay by the end of this year. As we continue completing actions/projects we will continue to qualify for grants, many that could be rather large in scale. The task force will be launching two Community Campaigns shortly, Community Solar and Mini Split Heat Pumps (for AC and heating), which if we achieve a minimum number of participants will earn further grants. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to the Town Supervisor's office, or any of the task force members; Tyler Eaton, Wally Walters, Lana Gokey, Jennifer Perry, Katie Culpepper, John Culpepper , or myself—Knut Sauer.

Planning Board– Melinda Beuf

The Town of Jay Planning Board is a five member board fully staffed by volunteer community members appointed by the Town of Jay Board. The Planning Board meets every second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. The Planning Board is charged with reviewing applications per the Town's subdivision regulations and the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The subdivision regulations, comprehensive plan and the application forms are all available

on the Town of Jay Planning Board website page (<https://townofjayny.gov/planning-board/>). Applications must be received at least ten days prior to a regular meeting. Most applications must have a public hearing before approval. Everyone is invited to the public hearings and the regular meetings.

Sincerely,
Melinda

Parks Committee– Olivia Dwyer

Happy summer! From Fourth of July festivities to youth leagues to concerts and picnics, town parks offer many ways to enjoy summer. I hope you've been out to visit your favorite spot or try a new activity.

This spring, community volunteers helped prepare town parks for summer. In April, 25 volunteers weeded and raked at the Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay. The Adirondack Mountain Coffee Cafe supplied donuts and coffee, and Sugar House Creamery shared cheese and salami to keep workers going. Douglas Memorial Park in Jay was the focus in May, when 30 volunteers weeded and mulched beds. The Rotary Club of Au Sable Valley served ice cream sundaes, a big hit! Many thanks to the Town of Jay Highway Department for removing yard debris, supplying tools, and transporting mulch for our volunteer days. In June, 30 students from Au Sable Valley Elementary School helped clean up picnic areas in The Grove.

As summer gets busy, there's always more to do taking care of town parks. Paul Benway leads town employees in these efforts. On any given day, you may see him hanging planters in the Upper Jay Post Office park, moving chairs out to the Jay Village Green, repairing cracks in the tennis courts at Douglas Memorial Park, preparing the sports fields in The Grove, and so much more. Paul also handles

all the mowing—no easy feat during this rainy summer. The Town of Jay invested in a truck and trailer this year, which saves time and money for parks operations, and Paul has put them to good use maintaining the parks.

The Town of Jay Parks Committee is a mix of volunteers, elected officials, and town employees that work together to care for spaces where residents and visitors can enjoy nature and the outdoors. For many years, Lynn Edmonds has been an essential volunteer on this committee. She led the effort to install a shelter at the Children's Park & Playground in Jay, and worked with the Town Board to update and add playground equipment. Her tireless attention to detail has helped with poison ivy removal from Henry's Trail, a popular walk for children in Au Sable Forks. Lynn stepped down from the committee in June. We're grateful for her years of dedication, and we wish her the best in retirement.

The committee also welcomes a new member: Sharron Hewston, Town of Jay Historian. Sharron has long been involved with the beautification of Au Sable Forks and caring for our veteran's monument. She brings a great deal of community knowledge and valuable experience to the Parks Committee, and we're so glad she's joined the committee.

Enjoy summer, and see you outside!

Highway Department—DPW Director Kevin Lincoln

The Highway staff has been busy with and is continuing to work on sweeping roads and hauling sand to screen and stock in preparation for this upcoming winter season. We have also been working with the

DEC and APA on permits for both of the Town of Jay sand pits. We welcomed to our team two new full-time employees, Trevor Karl and Alex Nelson, as well as Nick Nelson for the summer.

From the Supervisor's Office

also planning on applying for more grants to help continue with Phase II of this project, the lagoon upgrade. Our lagoons are nearing the end of their expected life, and we would like to replace them before we need to do an emergency repair, which could be much costlier.

The Community Center will be undergoing renovations to replace the ramp, doors and other improvements to make the building more ADA compliant. The project is currently awaiting a contract from an engineer to begin the work. This project will be fully funded by an almost \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which was successfully secured for us by Essex County Community Resources.

We completed a few projects during the first half of the year. The Town of Jay website has been redesigned by ROOST and is now live. You can view the site at www.TownofJayNY.gov. We will be adding more content to the site in the near future. An audit by the Office of the State Comptroller was completed this spring. There were 13 items that we needed to address, some of which were completed before or during the audit, and a few that we are working on correcting. If you would like to see the complete report along with our corrective action plan, you can visit: <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/audits/2023/pdf/jay-town-2023-22.pdf>

We have a few projects that are underway or starting soon in the Town of Jay. The Ausable River Association has begun work at site 2 in Upper Jay. They will be working to improve the flow, habitat and river bank along Route 9N across from the Ice Jam Inn. My office is also working to get vacation rentals to register with the Essex County Treasurer's office. It is a requirement to file a registration application for any facility or structure which is occupied or designated for transient occupancy which provides lodging on an overnight basis for dwelling, lodging or sleeping purposes, to operate within Essex County.

ECONOMIC

This spring, we created an Economic Development Committee with the mission to create sus-

DEVELOPMENT

tainable economic growth in the Town of Jay. Our goals for this year are to work on updating the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, Main Street Revitalization in Au Sable Forks, gather information about the impact of Short Term Rentals, and to discuss the creation of a Visitor Center in Au Sable Forks. As of this newsletter, we have applied for the above mentioned grants to help with updating the Comprehensive Plan and begin planning for main street revitalization. My office has begun researching all of the Vacation Rentals or Short Term Rentals (STRs) in the Town of Jay. Our goal of this initiative is to remind the STRs in our town that they are required by an Essex County Local Law to register with Essex County Treasurer as a lodging property for the collection and dispersal of Occupancy Tax. A part of the extra 2% tax that was added just a few years ago goes to the Community Tourism Enhancement Fund (CTEF). All 18 towns in Essex County get an equal base amount of the CTEF funds, and in addition, each town gets a portion of what is collected in that town. If we can make sure the Town of Jay gets what is collected in the Town of Jay, this could offset some of the cost for enhancements to our town. Finally, I have been encouraging ROOST, Essex County and our Town Board for the need for a Visitor Center on Main Street in Au Sable Forks. I feel our Main Street is the gateway to Essex County and the High Peaks from the North. I feel investing in our Main Street will encourage growth with occupied commercial spaces and refurbished living spaces above. If we can get people to stop in Au Sable Forks, I feel we can help the businesses in the Town of Jay prosper by educating the tourists who already travel through our town. As you can see, I could go on and on about all that is happening in the Town of Jay. If you would like to know more about what is taking place, you can continue to look for my weekly updates in the Jay Community News, on Facebook, or on our website. I still post Monthly Updates around town as well. You can also join us on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm for our Regular Monthly Town Board meeting, or view recordings of our previous meeting from links on our website.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Matt.



TOWN OF
JAY
NEW YORK

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Town of Jay News

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Winter Edition 2023

2023 JEMS SUMMER CONCERTS @ 6pm

July 1st– December Wind

July 8th– Jamie Savage

July 15th– Too Tall String Band

July 22nd– Jeffrey Wanzer Dupra

July 29th– Last Call

August 5th– Carl Rubino

August 12th– Dodridge Moore, Grey Wolf,

The One Man Band

August 19th– Alice’s Fault

August 26th– Moonshine Hollow

September 2nd– Irons in the Fire

**Jay Entertainment and Music Society, Amos and Julia Ward
Theater, PO Box 150 Jay NY 12941**

Upper Jay Art Center

July 9th 3:00PM—July 10th 6:00PM

The July Jam– Open Mic

July 29th—7:00PM—10:00PM

Dance Party

August 11th—7:00PM—9:30PM

UJAC Summer Benefit