

Town of Jay News

Summer Edition 2024

Supervisor

Matt Stanley

Deputy Supervisor

Thomas McDonald

Town Board

Thomas McDonald

Olivia Dwyer

Knut Sauer

Steve Forbes

Town Clerk

Carol Greenley-

Hackel

Highway

Superintendent

Chris Sorrell

Water/Sewer

Operator

Paul Mintz

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From The Supervisor's Office

The sun and heat are here for us to enjoy another great summer in the Town of Jay. There are so many things moving forward by so many different people as you will see in this edition of the Town of Jay News. The Town of Jay Highway, Water/Wastewater, and Parks Departments are able to do more with expanded staff and resources. Our boards and task forces are busy shaping the future for our great community. Your elected and appointed officials are working hard to keep information up to date and efficient to create a great day each and every day in our amazing town.

The Community Center ADA upgrades are nearing completion and should be finished by the end of the summer. The lift is fully installed to the second floor which will open opportunities for expanded activities for our retired population. The ramp and stairs will lead to automatic doors at the touch of a button. We are very excited to finally have accessibility to the entire building.

The NY Main Street Technical Assistance Grant is winding down. In-site Architecture was on Main Street con-



ducting interviews with property owners in late April. They will be finalizing a report in the next few weeks focusing on Main Street Facade guidelines and recommendations. It will also include reuse studies for 2 of the buildings on Main Street. The next step will be to apply for a NY Main Street District grant to help make these recommendations a reality for these buildings. Once we demonstrate we have property owners invested in revitalization, we will apply for a NY Forward grant to continue the work. This work is currently targeted at property owners. In a parallel effort, we are working with the Essex County IDA to possibly apply for a CDBG Micro-enterprise grant to help new and established businesses in the Town of Jay.

The bids are in for the required
Continued on page 7

From The Town Clerk- Carol Greenley-Hackel

Happy Summer!

We are so excited to finally be able to get outside and enjoy the warmer temperatures and sunshine!

With spring, comes fishing and we invite you to come in and pick up your fishing license and 2024 Regulations Guide Book.

In March, we held the Annual Missing Children's Basketball Tournament. This year was record setting with an overwhelming amount of support and participation. It's a heartwarming experience to see our town alive with activity, especially for such a worthwhile cause!

With help from Paul Benway, from our Parks Department, I was able to get out and fill the Town of Jay planters with some amazing and colorful blooms. I hope

you've had a chance to see them. Also as a new addition, some of the empty tree cages on Main Street in Au Sable Forks have been filled with sunflowers and tomato plants.

The Town Clerk's Office will be shifting to our summer schedule soon. Beginning in June, the office will be closed every other Friday. Town Clerk services will be available Monday thru Thursday as usual. This will be updated in the near future to include some additional vacation hours, so please stay tuned for more detailed information.

In closing, we hope that you take some time to get outside in this amazing area that we are so fortunate to call "home" and spend some time doing whatever makes your heart happy!

Carol and Tamber

Comprehensive Plan Special Board- Chairman Wally Walters

The Town of Jay was awarded a DEC Smart Growth Grant in the amount of \$66,690 for our Comprehensive Plan Update. This grant will help fund a consultant for this project. While applying for this grant, the Town Board agreed to fund up the balance with occupancy tax, therefore not passing any cost onto the taxpayers.

While the state recommends updating this guidance document every 7-10 years, our last update to the town's comprehensive plan was in 1997. Once we hire the con-

sultant, a public kickoff meeting will be held and a public survey will be conducted to involve Jay residents and businesses in guiding the update. This will be your chance to help shape the future of the town.

Our Comprehensive Plan Special Board meets on the third Monday of each month, from 5:00 - 6:30 pm at the Community Center. These meetings are open to the public.

-Wally Walters

Water & Wastewater Department- Paul Mintz

The Town of Jay Water Department is hard at work, ensuring all users have abundant, clean, and refreshing water in the hot months ahead of us. We've had the opportunity to tackle several long-term deficiencies in the first half of the year, including the replacement or repair of multiple system components like flowmeters, valves, and the pressure-tank system in the Rt. 86 Pump Station (see picture). With these repairs, we're able to collect better, more detailed data about WHERE our water is going, and make operational changes that affect HOW it gets there. For example, by using a newly installed "throttle" valve in the Rt. 86 Pump Station, we're able to reduce the output of the pumps, limiting the suction they impose on the rest of the system, and resulting in a significantly reduced "surge" as water from the storage tank rushes toward town to satisfy what used to be a sudden and abrupt demand for water.

Our Wastewater Department (same guys...usually just in taller boots) have also kept busy with repairs to lift-station pumps, blowers at the Wastewater Treatment Facility



(WWTF), and septic tanks in town. New property owners in Au Sable Forks might not be aware that every building in the sewer district has its own (or shared) septic tank, and that the Town maintains and pumps them on a 5-year schedule. Instead of going to a leach-field, the septic tanks' effluent (i.e. the wastewater that flows out of it) is collected in our mains and "pushed" to the WWTF via several pump stations. Our treatment plant is an incredible resource, and it's YOURS—please do your best to help us maintain its longevity by only flushing anything that comes from you, and/or toilet paper/bath tissue. Flushable wipes and flushable cat litter are horrible for plumbing systems—please do NOT flush them!

DID YOU KNOW that the infrastructure for our water/wastewater systems in the Town of Jay includes three treatment plants, three water storage tanks, nine pump stations, 21 miles of underground mains, 24 pumps, 140 fire hydrants, 226 septic tanks, and 614 water shut-offs? I sure didn't when I signed up! When we're not busy repairing old problems, we're regularly engaged in routine and preventive maintenance to hopefully avoid new ones.

Have a healthy and safe summer, and please don't hesitate to reach out to our department with any questions or concerns!

Paul Mintz
Superintendent of Water/Wastewater
Town of Jay

Tax Collector- Lori Ducharme

The 2024 tax season ended on 4/30/24. All unpaid taxes have been returned to the Essex County Treasurer and are no longer payable at the town. Please contact that office to ascertain the exact amount due and pay them directly. Their phone number is 518-873-3310. If you have any other questions, please reach out to my office and I

will try to return telephone calls & respond to email inquiries in a timely manner, answering your questions to the best of my ability.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer & I look forward to serving the tax payers of our town again next year.

-Lori

Historian—Sharron Hewston

Hi Folks,

It doesn't seem possible that we are mid June 2024 already. I've been very busy with assisting with genealogy researching. It is very rewarding to connect descendants with their ancestors. I've been penning the Life & Times of James "Jim" Howell's. His photo is seen here. Mr. Howell was born a man of color, but living here among us where are lives are sheltered, we never noticed. Nor would that have mattered to us! He was one of us, friends to everyone. He had the perpetual smile and his bigger than life personality. Jim was witty and smart. He was a great story teller. He loved the world of music, where he not only played the piano, but he played the organ at local events too. Jim was also a member of Vic's Combo Band. They were very popular in the surrounding area. If you were lucky to attend a church service and Jim Howell sang the gospel music, you were lucky! He had the voice of an angel. Oh yes, and he taught me how to play chess.

I've created a local history Facebook site, which I also use for current events too. You can find my site under: Au Sable Forks, New York 12912. My site currently has 2.6k fol-

lowers. If you have a memory of Jim Howell, then please feel free to share it there under his story, I'd appreciate that.

On this local history site, I tell stories about any one of our 3 hamlets, including Wilmington, Black Brook and Clintonville. The most important pieces of history start out with "From My Desk To you FB Family & Friends..."

If you'd like to visit the Museum, please call me at 518-647-5929. I'd be happy to work around your schedule. There is much on display and much to learn. I continue to catalog and photograph items donated, for which I am eternally grateful.

Well Folks, be safe and enjoy your summer. That is my plan and I'm sticking to it.

Sharron



Climate Smart Taskforce- Knut Sauer

The Town of Jay is a NYSERDA <https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/cec> designated Clean Energy Community (CEC). The NYSERDA CEC program includes many different climate smart initiatives and activities of different sizes and scope. Many of these initiatives are low to zero cost and include public outreach, education, and community campaigns. Upon completion of various initiatives, the town receives points and can earn grants which can be used for energy efficiency and climate smart projects, such as converting light fixtures in municipal buildings to LED, insulating steam pipes to prevent heat loss, installing air source heat pumps, etc. The town has completed several initiatives which earned it a free energy audit of the Community Center and \$30,000 so far in grants to be used for energy efficiency improvements.

The Town of Jay is also participating in the New York State Climate Smart Communities program <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/> with a goal to achieve bronze certification in 2025. Bronze Certification is important as it enables the town to score higher when applying for major grants, and it also qualifies for significant number of points with the NYSERDA CEC program, helping to qualify for additional grants to be used for energy efficiency upgrades.

Recent improvements include LED light upgrades at the highway garage, and what a huge difference it made, not only improving lighting per se, but a much more positive ambience in the garage. We replaced some old heat pumps in the highway offices and are currently working on LED light upgrades at the Community Center and having the steam pipes insulated there as well. We are soliciting quotes to install heat pumps in the Senior room/center, which not only will improve comfort in that room,

which is also used for board and committee meetings, but will qualify the Community Center as a cooling center during heat waves.

We do need help as we are currently running a few community campaigns; community solar, heat pumps including heat pump operated hot water heaters, and electric vehicles (EV). Links to these campaign documents can be found at <https://www.townofjayny.gov/documents-forms/>. These campaigns educate residents on the benefits of community solar, heat pumps, and EV's. Please help by letting us know via email knutsauer@frontiernet.net, if you have either installed heat pumps after July 21, 2023, subscribed to community solar after August 4, 2023, or purchased an electric vehicle since March 8, 2024. Successful achievement by the end of the summer, of installations, subscription, and EV purchases will help the town qualify for up to an additional \$75,000 in grants this fall.

We have talked about an Energy Fair for some time, and now have scheduled a Community Sustainability and Energy Fair for September 14th. The fair will be held jointly with the Town of Keene at a location to be determined shortly. It will be a fun, child-friendly event, with entertainment and food.

Our committee is growing, as are our efforts, but we always are looking for more help, and if you are interested in getting involved with the committee and our activities, please reach out to me at knutsauer@frontiernet.net.

Best, Knut

Sole Assessor- Timothy Gay, JR.

Again this year 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, discuss the assessment process, and explain how values are developed.

My primary job as the Assessor for the Town of Jay is to provide the town with an equitable Assessment Roll. To achieve this, it is crucial to have as accurate data as

possible on every parcel.

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. 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

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 Voyent 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 Voyent 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

Planning Board- Chair Melinda Beuf

2024 has been a slow year so far for the Planning Board; only two applications for subdivision so far. With the awarding of a grant to the Town of Jay in support of hiring a consultant to prepare an updated Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Board will start to prepare to provide support and input to the development of the new plan.

As always our meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month. Any Public Hearings will be advertised at least ten days prior to the hearing. Cancellations of the meeting will be posted in the Jay Community News. All are welcome.

-Melinda Beuf

From the Supervisor's Office

Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Disinfection and Phosphorus Removal upgrade. This project came in slightly higher than the 2022 estimate of \$1.6 Million at \$1.73 with \$1 Million DEC Grant to help offset the cost. This project is being completed in partnership with the Town of Black Brook. We are applying for additional grant money to continue to Phase 2 for the Lagoon Upgrades.

We are still working hard to acquire additional funding for projects. The 2024 NYS Consolidated Funding Applications are due this summer. We are working with Essex County Community Resources to apply for a WQIP grant for \$600,000 for a new salt shed

at the highway garage. The North Country Rural Development Coalition, formerly the Pride of Ticonderoga, is applying for a CDBG Home Rehabilitation grant. Later in the year, the Essex County IDA is looking at a CDBG Microenterprise grant for small businesses.

I am very excited with the direction the Town of Jay is headed. As we continue forward this fall with our Comprehensive Plan Update, I look forward to your input as we work together to make the Town of Jay the community we want.

Enjoy your Summer,
Matt.

Highway Department—Chris Sorrell

Summer is quickly approaching and our department has been busy raking/grading the roads, sweeping the sand, clearing trees/brush, clearing/replacing culverts and doing contracted maintenance work on the county roads to generate revenue. The rain/wind storms have created extra work, but we are doing our best to address these areas of need along with fulfilling requests from our residents and other departments. We have also been fitting in our required trainings as well.

We plan on paving on Bartlett Road, Jay Mountain Road, Cross Street, and AuSable Drive with the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding this summer.

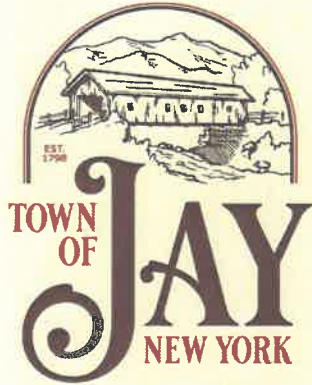
We have received our new equipment: 2024 Case Wheel Loader with hydraulic 11' broom, 2024 International Tandem and a 2024 Ford 350 Single Cab pick-up truck. We appreciate the board working with us to cre-



ate a plan to continue to replace equipment going forward.

I encourage the public to contact my Clerk, Jessie McDonald, at the office (518) 647-2204 Ext. 125 and/or myself at Ext. 126 or cell (518) -225-4599 with any concerns or questions and I will try my best to address them. Information can also be found on the town website at www.townofjay.com.

-Chris Sorrell



11 School Lane
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912
Phone: 518-647-2204
Fax: 518-647-5692



2024 JEMS SUMMER EVENTS

- THURSDAY NIGHT ACOUSTIC JAMS—7PM
- FAMILY MOVIE “STAR WARS” - JUNE 15 @ 7PM
- CONTRA DANCE—WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 @ 7PM
- ALICE’S FAULT SUMMER CONCERT—JUNE 29 @ 7PM
- HIGH ON THE HOG SUMMER CONCERT—JULY 6 @ 7PM
- CONTRA DANCE—JULY 17 @ 7PM
- CONTRA DANCE—AUGUST 7 @ 7PM
- DAMAGED GOODS SUMMER CONCERT—AUGUST 17 @ 7PM
- JAY DAY—AUGUST 24 @ 10AM

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

Upper Jay Art Center

The June Jam—Sun, June 9th 2PM-6PM
Hotdish (theater) - June 18-20, 25-28 7PM-9PM
Hotdish (theater) - June 21 7:30PM-9:30PM
Dance Party—August 10 7PM-10PM