

# Town of Jay News

Summer Edition 2025

## 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

## Superintendent

Paul Mintz

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## **From The Supervisor's Office**

As we are just beyond the halfway point of 2025, I want to take a few minutes to update you on the great progress we're making around the Town of Jay. Thanks to the hard work of our staff, board members, community partners, and you, our residents; we continue to move forward on key projects that improve quality of life, infrastructure, and opportunities in every corner of our town.

### **Major Grant Awards Supporting Homes and Local Business**

We've been fortunate to secure two important Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) this year that are already making a big impact.

We were awarded \$300,000 through the CDBG Home Improvement Program, which allows qualified homeowners in the Town of Jay to make essential health and safety repairs that help them stay in their homes. This work is being done in partnership with North Country Rural Development Coalition.

Even more exciting, we were just awarded \$200,000 through the CDBG Microenterprise Program. This will provide funding to help support small businesses and new startups in the Town of Jay. It's a significant boost for local entrepreneurship, and I want to thank everyone who submitted letters of support and shared how this program could benefit their ventures.



### **Infrastructure and Community Projects**

We've been busy on the ground too, with a number of community-focused projects either getting ready to launch, underway, or completed in 2025:

- The long-awaited Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade is under construction. This includes disinfection and phosphorus removal systems, which are crucial for improving environmental standards and public health. We've been working closely with the Town of Black Brook, MJ Engineering, and the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation to get this done.
- At the Jay Village Green, Schumacher Construction upgraded the electric and lighting systems. This includes new underground electrical service and eight decorative lights that will improve safety, enhance community events, and add to the charm of our central gathering space.

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## From The Town Clerk— Carol Greenley-Hackel

As the snow boots get kicked to the back of the closet and the sun graces us a little longer each evening, it's officially time to say: welcome, warmer weather! There's nothing quite like springtime in the Adirondacks; the Au Sable River flowing strong, the mountains shaking off their winter coats, and all of us emerging with fishing poles, garden gloves, and big plans for summer.

Here in the Town of Jay, we've got a few updates to help you make the most of the season:

### Goin' Fishin'?

Fishing licenses are available now at the Town Clerk's Office! NYS residents can reel one in for just \$25, and out-of-state visitors can grab theirs for an additional fee. Whether you're angling in a favorite quiet stream or taking on the big one in the Au Sable, make sure you're legal and ready.

### Community Garden Now Open

Our beloved community garden is ready for planting! Plots are available for just \$20. Choose from a roomy 10x10 space, a smaller 4x6 bed, or a raised bed option perfect for folks who prefer to keep their

knees clean and their backs upright. Come grow with us!

### Missing Children's Basketball Tournament—A Slam Dunk!

March brought us the best kind of madness with our annual Missing Children's Basketball Tournament. We saw record-breaking attendance, sold out our 600 entry fee bracelets by Saturday afternoon, and raised more in donations than ever before. Thanks to your incredible support, we were able to increase our annual donation to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and boost our scholarship awards to graduating Au Sable Valley Central School seniors pursuing higher education. You all make this community shine—thank you!

So take a deep breath, soak in that Adirondack air, and enjoy the season. Whether you're out on the river, planting carrots, or just sitting on your porch watching the mountains green up, we're so lucky to call this beautiful place home.

See you around town,  
Carol & Tamber

## Highway Department—Chris Sorrell

Greetings from the Highway Department!

We've been hard at work across the Town, and I'm pleased to share a few important updates with you.

First, progress continues on the new Salt Shed. Our crew has completed the site preparation for the pad, and construction will continue moving forward. Alongside this project, we're excited to welcome two new pieces of equipment to our fleet—a new tandem dump truck and a new pickup truck, both of which will help improve efficiency and reliability in our daily operations.

Our team has been keeping busy with roadside mowing, culvert opening, raking, and supporting other departments with various tasks as needed. These routine duties are essential to keeping our roads safe and well-maintained.

A big change for the department is the retirement of Robbie, who served the Town of Jay with dedication and pride for 22 years. We thank him sincerely for

his service and wish him all the best in his retirement. His departure creates a vacancy in our team, and we are currently working through the process of filling that position.

We're also pleased to announce that Cody Garren has stepped up to serve as our new Deputy Superintendent. Cody has shown great leadership and commitment to the department, and we look forward to his continued contributions in this new role.

Looking ahead, we're planning for our CHIPS (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) projects this summer. These will include culvert installation, ditching, and paving in areas to be announced soon. As always, we appreciate your patience and cooperation during the road work season.

Thank you for your continued support of the Town of Jay Highway Department!

— Chris Sorrell, Highway Superintendent

## Comprehensive Plan Special Board– Chairman Wally Walters

The update to the town's 1997 Comprehensive Plan is now will underway.

Over 70 people attended an Open House in October, and more than 400 participated in the Community Survey in November and December. In May, over 25 people participated in a visioning workshop which highlighted overarching goals for the town. Based on this community input, we anticipate drafting the plan update itself this fall and presenting it for public review and discussion in 2026.

Three-quarters of our survey respondents have told us they are satisfied living in Jay, and especially appreciate its natural spaces and the sense of community. Looking forward, clear majorities support modest economic growth, and public input on development.

Respondents were concerned about affordable housing, climate change, conservation and renewable energy, as well as inadequate code enforcement, access to government services and aging infrastructure.

Based on community feedback, five working groups have proposed solutions to issues that Town of Jay residents have identified. The Economic Working Group led by Adam DeSantis is evaluating business and workforce recruitment and retention, and Main Street revitalization.

The Planning and Land Use Working Group led by Matt Gillman is examining housing stock, rental properties and oversight of growth.

The Parks and Open Spaces Working Group led by town councilor Olivia Dwyer is considering how improvements and access to Jay's natural and recreational assets can better serve the entire community.

The Human Services Working Group led by Robin Licari is working with county and other organizations to increase accessibility to affordable housing, health care, child and day care services.

The Climate and Infrastructure Working Group which I lead alongside town councilor Knut Sauer has identified needs for transportation and climate action plans, infrastructure enhancements that will be necessary to meet future demands, and is reviewing ways to improve use, reuse and disposal of waste materials.

The visioning workshop suggested four primary goals:

"Managing growth" looks to channel future development toward a vibrant community with a diverse population that is supportive of all age groups.

"Enhancing quality of life" aims to make the most of our town's natural setting and the sense of community for everyone who lives here.

"Creating opportunity" encourages business development and good jobs, with emphasis on youth, young families and our oldest residents.

"Leveraging resources" recognizes the town cannot meet all needs without collaboration with nonprofit organizations, the private sector, neighboring communities, the county and some fiscal support from New York State.

Each of these goals also depends upon developing the town's infrastructure, especially broadband and cellular connectivity and capacity.

Results of the open house, community survey and the visioning workshop are available at our website, <https://planjay.com/>.

This summer we seek more public input, especially from residents who may not have already participated in the process. Comprehensive plan special board members will be at the upcoming Independence and Jay Day events. We encourage you to engage them to ask questions and share your views. Additionally, we

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## Human Services Committee—Robin Licari

The Town of Jay Human Services Committee has been very busy identifying, studying and solving some of the human services issues that Town of Jay residents had identified in surveys and an open house conducted by the Comprehensive Planning Special Board.

We have identified the Community Resource Directory for 2025 published by the Adirondack Daily Enterprise as an excellent resource regarding community services in Essex County and the Town of Jay.

We continue to study the need for affordable housing in the Town. On June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, Habitat for Humanity presenter will be at the Au Sable Free Library to do a presentation. Habitat for Humanity is building a home in Jay and they are looking for families to apply for the home and volunteers to help build this home.

We continue to study possible solutions for blight within the Town. A comprehensive and extensive list of Transfer Stations, Recycling Centers and Waste Disposal Days have been compiled. Essex County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events for 2025 is July 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm at the Town of Elba Highway Garage, Cascade Road in Lake Placid and July 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm at Essex County Dept. of Public Works, 8053 US Route 9, Elizabethtown. There will be a Free Tire Collection Day on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Willsboro Highway Garage, 17 Stoker Lane, Willsboro sponsored by

Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District. We are looking into a grant that would pay for hazardous waste collection day here in the Town of Jay.

We continue to study the need for transportation of Seniors to medical appointments. Two Town of Jay residents and one Black Brook resident have completed the training at Mercy Care of the Adirondacks and will provide transportation for adults over 60 to health care visits. So far, we have had referrals of four residents of the Town of Jay. Apparently, there is a need, and we hope to fill this need with local volunteers who have taken the Mercy Care of the Adirondacks training.

We are also identifying treatment services for substance abuse. There is an AA meeting on Thursdays at 7:00 pm and Saturdays at 10:00 am at the St. James Episcopal Church in Au Sable Forks. People who are struggling with alcohol abuse or substance abuse are welcome to attend. The Au Sable Health Center through UVM offers medication management of substance abuse. New medications to treat opiate abuse have been found to be very beneficial with people being able to resume their normal lives and decrease the number of deaths from overdose of opiates.

Robin Licari

Human Services Committee Chair

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## Planning Board- Vice Chair Matthew Gillman

The Town of Jay would like to extend its sincere thanks to Peter Vincent for his many years of service on the Planning Board. We are grateful for his commitment and dedication to preserving the character and future of Jay.

With Peter's departure, a vacancy has opened on the Planning Board. This board plays a vital role in reviewing development proposals, land use planning, and ensuring responsible growth throughout the Town of Jay. Serving on the Planning Board is a great way to become more involved in your community and help shape the direction of our town.

The Planning Board is also one of the active working groups for the Town of Jay's Comprehensive Plan

Update, with a particular focus on land use and housing issues. Board members are helping to guide long-term strategies that will impact everything from investigating zoning and development to housing availability and affordability.

We encourage residents who are interested in public service, community planning, and thoughtful development to consider applying. If you would like to learn more about the position or submit a letter of interest, please contact the Town Supervisor's Office at your earliest convenience.

- Matthew Gillman, Planning Board Vice Chair

## Climate Smart Taskforce- Knut Sauer

We are proud to announce that the Town of Jay has officially earned Bronze Certification through New York State's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program—one of only a few municipalities in the North Country to achieve this distinction. This milestone reflects the Town's growing commitment to sustainability, resilience, and environmental stewardship, while also lowering energy costs.

The CSC Taskforce, working closely with the Town, has been instrumental in securing several key grants that are now moving into implementation. Two major projects currently in contract and permitting stages include the installation of a solar array on the Town's highway garage and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at Jay Village Green and Upper Jay. These installations are expected to be completed by the end of summer 2025, providing clean energy and supporting the transition to low-emission transportation. The EV charging stations are funded in part by Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

In addition, the Town was awarded over \$200,000 in grant funding to install EV chargers in Au Sable Forks, including a Direct Current Fast Charger (DCFC). The installation is estimated to be completed in the spring of 2026.

The CSC Taskforce also successfully applied for a \$22,000 grant to launch a pilot food scraps composting program. This initiative will include community education on composting practices and, if successful, could pave the way for a larger recycling and transfer station project in 2026.

Looking ahead, the Taskforce and the Town are evaluating additional grant opportunities to support sidewalk improvements, Complete Streets planning, and enhanced

walkability and bikeability throughout the community. A proposal for a second solar array is also under consideration.

Beyond these projects, the CSC Taskforce is playing an integral role in the Town of Jay's Comprehensive Plan update, ensuring that sustainability and climate resilience remain central to the Town's long-term vision.

**Save the Date:** The taskforce and the Town of Jay will host its second annual Sustainability and Energy fair at the Village Green in Jay on September 6th. Building on the great success of our inaugural event last year.

While the NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities high impact action program is currently on hold pending funding, we continue to work on our community campaigns; community solar, heat pumps, and electric vehicles (EV). These campaigns educate residents on the benefits of community solar, heat pumps, and EV's. Please help by letting us know if you have either installed heat pumps after July 21, 2023, subscribed to community solar after August 4, 2023, or purchased an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle since March 8, 2024.

Information on these campaigns, our annual progress report, and other valuable information can be found at <https://www.townofjayny.gov/climate-smart-taskforce/>.

If you are interested in getting involved with the committee and our activities, please reach out to me at [k.sauer@townofjayny.gov](mailto:k.sauer@townofjayny.gov)

Councilor Knut Sauer  
Climate Smart Task Force Chair



## Comprehensive Plan Special Board- Continued from page 3

have another survey this summer. You can fill out Community Survey #2 online (click on QR Code) or pick up in paper form at local events, through Jay Community News and at town libraries through August 15th. We encourage everyone who lives, works, or owns a business in Jay, or who cares about our community, to participate.



Updates and other opportunities are posted regularly on our website, on Jay Community News and on town social media. You can also reach out to us at our website or

[planjay@townofjayny.gov](mailto:planjay@townofjayny.gov).

Our board and its working groups are all volunteers who are trying to improve the town as a great place to live. Each of them deserves our thanks for their participation and contributions.

We welcome others getting more involved too. The board and its working groups each meet monthly. All meetings are open to the public, in-person and online. You can join one of our working groups. Our comprehensive plan effort is committed to openness, public engagement and nonpartisanship.

Wally Walters

Comprehensive Plan Special Board Chair

## Sole Assessor- Timothy Gay, Jr.

As part of our continued effort to keep residents informed and engaged in the assessment process, I'd like to invite you to attend the upcoming Assessment Informational Hearing on Monday, August 12th at 6:00 PM. The hearing will take place in the gymnasium of the Town of Jay Community Center.

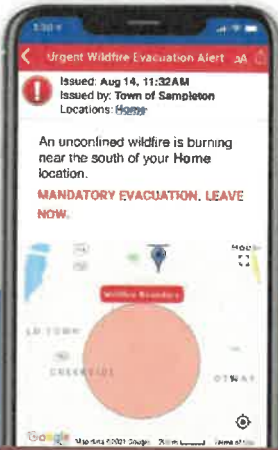
This is an excellent opportunity for property owners to learn more about the assessment process, understand how property values are determined, and ask any questions they may have about their assessments. Whether you're


a longtime homeowner or a new resident, we encourage you to attend and participate in this important discussion.

Transparency, accuracy, and community engagement are essential to the work of the Assessor's Office. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to ensure a fair and equitable assessment process for all Town of Jay residents.


Timothy Gay, Jr

Town of Jay Sole Assessor






**NOTIFICATION SERVICE**



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.

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Register online to receive email, voice or text-based alerts at:

[register.voyent-alert.us](http://register.voyent-alert.us)



## From the Supervisor's Office—continued from page 1

- Over in Upper Jay, we're reimagining the FEMA Buyout property along Route 9N to create a more welcoming entrance into the hamlet. Plans include new EV chargers, a welcome kiosk sign, and improved layout and visibility. The welcome sign was generously created by ROOST and the Rotary Club of AuSable Valley, and the goal is to make this area feel more like a front door to the community instead of a forgotten corner.

- Public Wi-Fi and new security cameras are currently being installed at the Community Center, the Grove Athletic Complex, and Riverside Park to improve both connectivity and safety in our most active public spaces. These upgrades will help residents, visitors, and businesses stay connected and protected.

Our Comprehensive Plan Update continues to build momentum. After a successful Visioning Workshop in May, we've been working with committees and community feedback to chart a path for the town's future. Learn more or get involved at [www.planjay.com](http://www.planjay.com).

We're also moving forward with the creation of a Historic District in Au Sable Forks. Christine Bush of AARCH has been helping lead the process, which will go before the State Review Board in December. Ahead of that, we'll be holding public information sessions in October to help residents learn about what this means and how it will benefit our community.

### Expanding Access and Activity at the Community Center

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the growing use of the Town of Jay Community Center as a welcoming, multi-use public space.

- We've had some very generous donations that have added character and community value. A baby grand piano, donated by Andre d'Avignon, now lives in the Community Center. A pool table, donated by

Vic Putman, has been set up in the Community Day Use Room on the second floor for everyone to enjoy. This is along side the Ping-Pong Table that was purchased by Essex County Office for the Aging.

- We installed new gym curtains, improving both appearance and functionality for events and athletic use.

- The Youth Gymnastics Program by Lindsay Kellet has become a big success, using two rooms on the second floor to bring new life (and a lot of energy!) to the building. This program is a great example of how we can test new ideas that also support business incubation and youth enrichment.

- The Community Day Use Room is now open to the public for informal gatherings, games, meetings, and more—just contact my office if you'd like to reserve the space.

Also worth celebrating: Youth Commission Basketball returned to the Community Center this winter, drawing crowds back into the gym and setting the tone for a more active building year-round. We've still got a lot to do this year, but I'm incredibly proud of how

far we've come. Whether it's through infrastructure improvements, new community programs, or simply making our spaces more welcoming and functional, we're working every day to build a stronger, more vibrant Town of Jay.

Thank you to everyone who continues to lend a hand, share ideas, attend meetings, and care about this town as much as I do. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to what we'll accomplish together in the second half of the year.

Wishing you a safe and joyful summer,  
Matt Stanley



## Water & Wastewater Department- Paul Mintz

Happy summer! Here are a few things the Water/Wastewater Department have been working on, and will continue to work on through the upcoming months.

### FIRE HYDRANTS

Starting this summer, you'll notice some of our fire hydrants getting a well-needed face-lift! The Water Department has recently completed flushing and servicing EVERY active fire hydrant in town. We're currently in the process of repairing those discovered to have critical deficiencies. After we're sure every hydrant will FUNCTION as designed, we'll start focusing on FORM by cleaning and painting. The Town will be adopting the NFPA recommended color scheme for hydrants: yellow barrel, with bonnet and caps color coded for flow (blue, green, orange, or red). This color coding helps our Fire Departments determine which hydrants are best to use, and what flow capacity they can expect when hooking on.



### AU SABLE FORKS COMMUNITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF)

In order to satisfy new treatment requirements and discharge limits established by the NYSDEC, upgrades at the WWTF are currently underway that increase the facility's capacity to remove nutrients (like phosphorus) and pathogens (like E. coli bacteria) from our waste stream. By next spring, these improvements will be up and running to help us protect the

health of the river, its recreational users, and downstream communities.

### COME FUND ME?

During winter training and conferences, Supervisor Stanley learned about several programs and organizations that provide free technical assistance that aim to help municipalities access grants and zero- or low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure. With support from the Town Board, we're currently working

with two of these organizations to explore, and hopefully qualify for, these funding opportunities. Why do we need funding? Recent engineering reports completed for the town by MJ Engineering identified nearly \$21,000,000.00 of improvements and renovations over the next 2-10 years that will either be necessary for, or strongly benefit, the continued, reliable delivery of our services. These improvements are neces-

sitated by various causes, including new requirements by the State (such as water meters), the need to update or replace aging infrastructure (such as our water storage tank in Au Sable Forks, or the lagoon liners at the WWTF), or our own desire to make our systems more resilient to future hazards (such as installing a second, alternate river crossing in Jay, or a high-capacity well in Upper Jay). Without exploring and stretching for ALL funding opportunities, we're setting ourselves up for either high utility costs or the inability to manage future challenges.

Paul Mintz

Superintendent of Water/Wastewater



## Parks & Open Spaces—Olivia Dwyer

### Thank you, spring cleanup volunteers!

In April, more than 30 volunteers came out to The Grove in Au Sable Forks, Douglas Memorial Park in Jay, and the Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay to help prepare our parks and public spaces for summer. We appreciate everyone who helped clear blowdown and weed and mulch flower beds. Thank you to the Adirondack Mountain Coffee Café, Sugar House Creamery, and the Rotary Club of the Au Sable Valley for providing refreshments to volunteers!

### Comprehensive plan working group update

The Town of Jay's comprehensive plan update is a chance for the community to create a shared vision for the town's future and identify action steps to bring this vision to life. Based on community input, the Parks & Open Space committee looking at how to support healthy and fun outdoor recreation experiences for people of all ages and abilities while taking care of the nature that surrounds us. Action steps include creating a recreation master plan; building relationships with private landowners and state and county agencies to coordinate open space use; looking at how to use former FEMA properties; and developing signs and maps to make the outdoors more accessible and enjoyable for residents and visitors. Committee members will be tabling at the Fourth of July celebration and Jay Day—come share your ideas and feedback with us!

### Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant semi-finalist

This spring, the Town of Jay was notified that we

are a semi-finalist for a Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant. This program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides free technical assistance to connect outdoor recreation to Main Street revitalization. Parks & Open Space committee members participated in a semi-finalist interview in April. We expect to hear a final decision this summer. Stay tuned to [townofjayny.gov](http://townofjayny.gov) and the Jay Community News for an update.

### Trash cans coming soon

In recent years, community members have made repeated requests for trash cans in our town parks. In the coming weeks, you will see trash cans at The Grove, the Village Green, and Douglas Memorial Park. Please help us keep our parks beautiful and respect that these trash cans are not for household garbage.

### Thank you, Parks staff!

Look for Paul Benway and Brooke Paries, our town Parks staff, outside this summer. We appreciate all they do to keep our parks clean, safe, and welcoming for our community. Thank you to Carol Greenley-Hackel for helping the Parks staff beautify our parks with flowers this spring.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Parks & Open Spaces committee, please contact Town Councilor Olivia Dwyer at [o.dwyer@townofjayny.gov](mailto:o.dwyer@townofjayny.gov).

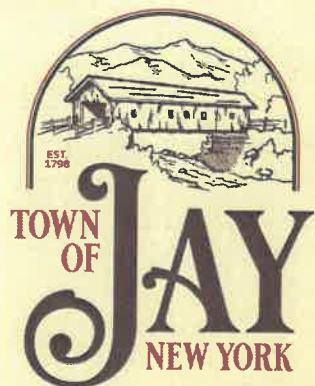
Councilor Olivia Dwyer  
Parks & Open Spaces Committee Chair

## Tax Collector—Lori Ducharme

The 2025 tax season ended on 4/30/25. 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 Ducharme  
Town of Jay Tax Collector



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

**Town of Jay News**

### **JEMS Summer Concert Series**

**Atlantic Crossing—July 26**  
**Irons in the Fire—August 2**  
**Alice's Fault—August 9**  
**Rock 'N' Lil—August 16**  
**Mike Penderson—August 23**  
**High on the Hog—August 30**

## **Upper Jay Art Center**

**Boom - July 24-27**  
**Beacon - August 23/24**  
**Art Party - August 16**  
**Marsh Lights - September 13**  
**DJ Broosha - Dance Party - September 27**