

# Town of Jay News

Winter/Spring Edition 2026

**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**

To the Residents of the Town of Jay,

I want to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for your continued support. Being entrusted with another term as your Town Supervisor is an honor I do not take lightly. Thank you for your confidence in our shared vision for the future; I am already hard at work on the projects that matter most to you.

This edition of our newsletter is packed with information to keep you "in the know." Inside, you will find reports from our department heads and committees outlining the progress made over the past several months. I encourage you to read these updates to see the dedication our town employees and volunteers bring to their work every day. I feel truly lucky to serve a community as involved and engaged as ours.

Recently, I had the opportunity to deliver a Community Spotlight presentation to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Board. My focus was on representing the Town of Jay's unique needs regarding sustainable development and infrastructure. It is vital that our voice is heard at the regional level to ensure our town remains a place we are all proud to call home.

While this newsletter provides a great seasonal overview, things move fast! This year is shaping up to be a monumental



one for Jay, featuring:

- The opening of the Visitor Center in conjunction with Main Street Revitalization in Au Sable Forks.
- The Public Wi-Fi Project, which aims to provide coverage across all three hamlets.
- Continued enhancements to our Parks and Open Spaces.
- The official rollout of our updated Comprehensive Plan.

For real-time information on these projects and local events, please keep an eye out for my weekly updates. These are designed to provide a frequent "pulse" on town business and community news.

I look forward to seeing you around town—whether at a special event, a Town Board meeting, or while visiting our local businesses. It is a privilege to serve you. Let's make this term our most productive one yet.

Matt Stanley

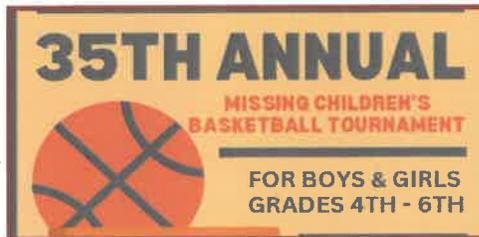
## From The Town Clerk- Carol Greenley-Hackel

Hello everyone!

Winter has certainly been reminding us that we live in the Adirondacks! I hope you're all getting outside to enjoy the season, whether it's skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, or simply admiring the view (preferably with a hot drink in hand).

A friendly reminder for our dog-loving residents: New York State requires all dogs to be licensed, which helps keep our community and our four-legged friends safe. If your pup is due for renewal or you've welcomed a new dog to your family, please be sure to stop by the Town Clerk's Office. Updated licensing fees are now in effect: \$10 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$20 for dogs not spayed/neutered. We're always happy to help answer any questions.

March will once again bring an important and meaningful community event: the 35th Annual Missing Children's Basketball Tournament. This tournament is held in memory of Au Sable Forks native



Kari Nixon, who was abducted as a teenager and never made it home. Each year, this event brings people together not only through sport, but through remembrance and awareness, and it continues to be a powerful tradition in our region.

On a personal note, I would like to sincerely thank everyone for the support shown during my reelection in January. I am truly grateful for the trust you place in me. I am also very pleased to share that Tamber McCabe has been re-appointed as Deputy

Town Clerk. Tamber is an incredible help to me and a wonderful asset to the Town—her dedication and kindness do not go unnoticed.

As always, thank you for being such a supportive and engaged community. Stay warm, stay safe, and enjoy all that winter in the Adirondacks has to offer!

All our best,  
Carol and Tamber

## Planning Board- Chair Melinda Beuf

The Planning Board (PB) is responsible for reviewing and approving/denying requests to subdivide parcels within the Town of Jay. 2025 was a slow year for its Planning Board with only three requests for subdivision were submitted for the entire year. The Town of Jay has three hamlets that are generally outside of the jurisdiction of the APA. The Planning Board reviews detailed survey maps, submitted applications, deeds, environmental forms and other documents to make sure the applicants proposed subdivision adheres to the Town of Jay regulations. These municipal subdivision regulations and the application forms are available on the town website.

The Planning Board is made up of five regular members and two alternates. All members are volunteers. The PB meets every second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. If a public hearing is required there

will be a separate meeting set before the regular meeting. All subdivision applications, with the exception of boundary line revisions, must have a public hearing. Owners of property located within a 500 ft proximity of the applicant parcel receive notification at least ten days prior to a hearing and can be present to voice concerns.

If you are interested in joining the Planning Board please contact [planning@townofjay.gov](mailto:planning@townofjay.gov). We are currently seeking one regular member for the PB. All members (regulars and alternates) are mandated to receive at least four hours of training. These training sessions are either free or reimbursed. We are all learning all the time and are happy to help any willing volunteer.

Melinda Beuf  
Planning Board Chair

## Comprehensive Plan Special Board– Chairman Wally Walters

The town continues to update its comprehensive plan which was written in 1980 and last updated in 1997. The effort is well underway. The town's Comprehensive Plan Special Board (CPSB), its working groups, its contractor and consultant are presently collaborating to draft a text for presentation to the public later this year.

The comprehensive plan update process began in October 2024 with an Open House and subsequent Community Survey #1 to identify resident concerns. Over 70 people participated in the open house and over 430 participated in the survey.

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

Respondents expressed concerns 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 input, five working groups examined the issues town residents identified. Each working group chose several 'focal topics' for more detailed study.

The Economic Working Group led by Adam DeSantis evaluated business and workforce recruitment and retention, and Main Street revitalization.

The Planning and Land Use Working Group led by Matt Gillman examined housing stock, rental properties, land use planning and potential residential growth.

The Parks and Open Spaces Working Group led by town counselor Olivia Dwyer considered 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 worked with county and other organizations to identify ways to improve access to affordable housing, health care, and other services. Robin led the establishment of a new Community Food Bank which opened in November 2025 and has been helping 40-60 people each week.

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

A visioning workshop in May 2025 identified four primary goals for the plan update:

"Managing growth" looks to channel future development which supports a diverse population and 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 and young families.

"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.

During August and September 2025 the town conducted Community Survey #2 focusing on specific issues. Over 230 people participated in this survey. The most important consensus areas included broad support for improved cell and internet service, agreement on the need for downtown revitalization and widespread concern for affordable housing.

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

During the past three months, the town's consultant conducted 16 stakeholder interviews to gather more expertise and to identify other sources of relevant information to support the update. Working with the members of the CPSB, she drafted a detailed community profile.

Continued on page 6



# JAY NEW YORK MAIN STREET

*The Jay NYMS Program helps property and business owners in Au Sable Forks improve their buildings with grants covering up to 75% of project costs (up to \$50,000) for projects like façade upgrades, signage, interior renovations, and site improvements.*

*Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all funds have been committed.*



Scan the QR code to apply:



Questions?

[spalma@northcountryruraldevelopment.org](mailto:spalma@northcountryruraldevelopment.org)

## Climate Smart Taskforce– Knut Sauer

The Town of Jay Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Taskforce continued to make significant progress throughout 2025, advancing local sustainability, reducing municipal energy costs, and preparing the community for a more resilient future. Building on the Bronze Certification earned earlier this year, the Taskforce remains firmly committed to achieving Silver Certification in 2027.

Several major projects reached completion this year. The new solar array at the Town Highway Garage is now fully operational, delivering clean, renewable energy that will reduce long-term electrical costs. The Town Highway Department also completed construction of the new Salt Shed—funded through a \$600,000 grant—improving winter road maintenance while significantly reducing environmental impact.



The installation of public EV chargers in Jay and Upper Jay is nearly complete, with both locations expected to be online in Q1 2026. In addition, a \$206,000 DEC grant for EV chargers in Au Sable Forks has moved into the contract phase, with installation planned for late 2026.

Work continues on several new initiatives. The Residential Compost Drop Off Pilot Program, supported by a \$22,000 DEC grant, is scheduled to launch in spring 2026. Community outreach will begin in March, followed by hands-on training and demonstrations led by Compost for Good and River Valley Regeneratives. The Town also secured a planning grant in December to begin developing a Complete Streets Policy in mid 2026, which will help identify

priorities for sidewalks, pedestrian safety, and biking infrastructure.

Significant progress has also been made in energy efficiency. A comprehensive PHIUS based energy audit of the Community Center—funded by a \$603,000 NYSERDA grant—was completed in December. Priority upgrades are now in the process of being identified to advance the Town’s long-term energy reduction goals.

The Taskforce continued to lead community outreach in 2025, promoting campaigns for heat pumps, EVs, and community solar. The Town also adopted updated FEMA Flood Insurance Maps and the Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan, strengthening Jay’s preparedness for future flood events.

Community participation remains essential as the Taskforce prepares for an ambitious year ahead. Residents are encouraged to get involved by joining the Climate Smart Taskforce or volunteering for focused initiatives such as the Complete Streets planning effort.

For more information or to get involved, visit [www.townofjayny.gov/climate-smart-taskforce](http://www.townofjayny.gov/climate-smart-taskforce) or email [k.sauer@townofjayny.gov](mailto:k.sauer@townofjayny.gov).

Knut Sauer

Town of Jay Councilor

Town of Jay Climate Smart Task Force Chair

## Human Services Committee—Robin Licari

The Town of Jay Human Services Committee (HSC) continues to work towards improving the lives of our residents in the Town of Jay. The HSC collaborates with various established organizations to bring additional services to the Town.

The HSC is engaging with the Regional Food Bank of the Northeast and encouraging their partnership with the St. James Episcopal Church Ecumenical Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is already serving approximately 45 people per week. The representatives from the Regional Food Bank did their first site visit at the food pantry in February and estimate that the Food Pantry has already served 995 meals to Town residents. This partnership is needed to supplement the food required to ensure the long-term continuation of the Food Pantry. Thank you to the Town of Jay, St. James Episcopal Church, the Essex Food Hub, Stewarts, Ward Lumber, the Rotary Club, Juniper Hill Farms, the Adirondack Community Foundation, United Way, family foundations and the generous support of resi-

dents in the Town of Jay for helping their neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

The HSC promotes Mercy Care of the Adirondacks an organization helping Seniors remain in their homes. The HSC promotes their training opportunities and encourages residents to volunteer as Friendship Volunteers. There are currently five Town of Jay volunteers providing services to Seniors who are homebound, including friendly visits, transportation to medical appointments and light housekeeping.

The HSC is collaborating with the Essex County Suicide Prevention Team to bring their annual 5K race to the Town of Jay. The “Vivid Life 5K Run in the Town of Jay” will be this June, 2026. An additional educational session about how to help someone experiencing suicidal ideation will be included in the day’s events.

Robin Licari  
Town of Jay HSC Chair

## Sole Assessor- Timothy Gay, Jr.

March 1st, is taxable status date. This is the deadline to submit new and renewal exemption applications for property tax exemptions. I cannot accept late applications so please submit them as soon as possible so we can have time to process before they are entered into the database.

There are a few changes this year for the Low-Income Senior Citizens Exemption (65 years). The Income will be based on 2024 income. If you filed income tax for 2024 you will be required to submit a copy of your 2024 Federal Tax Return with Schedule 1(if applicable). If you did not file taxes, you will need to submit an income worksheet and copies of all year-end statements. The annual income limit for the Au Sable Valley School District is 29,000 and Essex County is 25,000. The town of Jay has set the limit at 29,000 to include a sliding scale that maxes at 37,400. Therefore, if your total income is less than 37,400 you may qualify for a percent of an exemption. Income includes wages,

social security, interest, dividends, capital gains, etc. The easiest way to see if you qualify is to complete an application Form Rp-467 for review. The property must be your primary residence. The application can be picked up at the town hall or printed at the following web address.

Rp-467 Application:

[https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current\\_forms/orpts/rp467\\_fill\\_in.pdf](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp467_fill_in.pdf)

Instructions:

[https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current\\_forms/orpts/rp467i.pdf](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp467i.pdf)

Rp-467-wkst, for non-tax filers:

[https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current\\_forms/orpts/rp467wkst\\_fill\\_in.pdf](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp467wkst_fill_in.pdf)

Timothy D. Gay, Jr.  
Sole Assessor

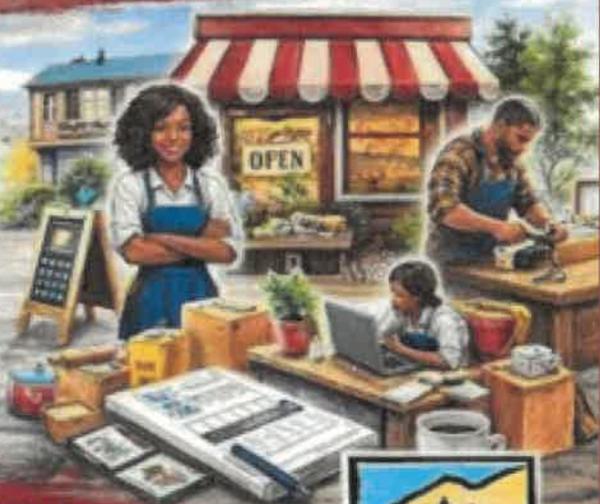
# CALLING ALL SMALL BUSINESSES & STARTUPS IN THE TOWN OF JAY, NY!



## 2025 TOWN OF JAY MICROENTERPRISE GRANT PROGRAM

### GET \$5,000 - \$35,000 TO GROW OR LAUNCH YOUR BUSINESS!

- Businesses with 5 or Fewer Employees
- Covering  Rent • Utilities • Payroll
-   Equipment & Inventory
-  Marketing & Software
- Create Local Jobs:
- Must be Located in the Town of Jay



LEARN MORE BY CALLING

# 518-873-9114

Funded by the NYS Homes & Community Renewal through the  
Community Development Block Grant Program.



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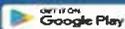
NOTIFICATION  
SERVICE



## 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.

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

## Comprehensive Plan Special Board– Continued from page 3

The consultant, the CPSB members and the working groups are presently drafting other chapters of the plan update, to identify solutions to recommend to the public and to the Jay town board for consideration. As the elected leaders of the town, the town board members are the authority for adoption of the plan update and any of its recommendations.

Prior to approval of the plan update, a draft will be presented to the public in various forums for feedback. It will also be reviewed by county and New York state agency officials. The CPSB and the town board will each hold public hearings as well.

The CPSB and its working groups are all volunteers

who are trying to improve the town as a great place to live. Each of them deserves thanks for their contributions.

The board and its working groups each meet monthly. All meetings are open to the public, in-person and online. Additional volunteers are welcome to join us. We welcome your input and feedback. Our comprehensive plan update effort is committed to openness, public engagement and non-partisanship.

Wally Walters  
Chairperson, Jay Comprehensive Plan Special  
Board

## Dog Control Officer– Dan McDonald

As your Dog Control Officer for the Town of Jay, I'd like to share some important updates to help keep our pets and community safe.

### Free Rabies Clinic ~ May 7, 2026

The Jay Rabies Clinic will be held at the Jay Fire Department on Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

The clinic is FREE and open for both dogs and cats. The veterinarian for the clinic will be Dr. Susan Benway. To ensure the safety of our staff, residents and pets please keep dogs on a leash, cats in carriers.

You must pre-register for the clinic online at [www.health.essexcountyny.gov](http://www.health.essexcountyny.gov) or call 518- 873-3500. You can expect a "drive-up" clinic flow. Remain in your vehicle & await instructions. Anyone with proof of previous vaccination is asked to snap a photo & email it to [health@essexcountyny.gov](mailto:health@essexcountyny.gov). All others will be given a 1 year certificate. Those that bring proof of prior vaccination (certificate) will be mailed a 3 year certificate. We cannot accept tags as proof of vaccination. All pets must be at least 3 months old.

Rabies vaccination is required by New York State law and helps protect pets, people, and wildlife.

### Dog Licensing Reminder

All dogs over four months old must be licensed annually in New York State. To obtain or renew a license, you'll need a current rabies certificate and proof of spay/neuter if applicable.

Licensing fees and applications are available on the Town of Jay website, where forms can be downloaded for your convenience. I will also be handing them out at the clinic.

Licensing helps reunite lost dogs with their owners and keeps our town safer.

### Winter Safety Tips

With winter conditions in Jay:

- Limit time outside in extreme cold.
- Wipe paws after walks to remove ice and salt.
- Keep pets visible in snowy conditions.
- Make sure pets have proper shelter and unfrozen water.

A little extra care goes a long way during the winter months.

Thank you for your help in keeping Jay safe and pet-friendly. I hope to see you at the clinic!

Dan McDonald

## Town Historian—Sharron Hewston

Warm Greetings Folks,

With Spring drawing near just 41 days away I have much to look forward to and to share as time passes. First and foremost, I'd like to convey my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you who have so kindly donated a piece of our local history to our Town Museum. Together you've enabled me to create this Au Sable Forks Heritage Museum to benefit our residents and our guests not just for today but for future generations. Soon the Museum contents will be relocated to the second floor. I have a sketch in hand for the two former classrooms plus the hallway to display our rich history pertaining to The Forks, Jay and Upper Jay. Since the J & J Rogers Co. was extensively spread out, I also include the Hamlet of Black Brook. Back in the days the residents were all connected here in one way or another.

In the bigger picture I continue to document all four hamlets and our two Townships when it comes to our history. I don't want anyone or anything left behind or lost that is worth remembering. So, I continue to gather, preserve, and promote our local history through stories about the good old days. Always deeply appreciated and accepted are vintage pictures, postcards, diaries, letters, paintings, posters, recipe books etc. The artifacts from local stores, businesses, places of entertainment, private homes, heirloom pieces, various churches, our schools, US Military bits and pieces from the wars fought by local men. Our history is so important!

For example, a piece of local history is the 1880 Fiddle, Bow in the wooden case. I recently received the Fiddle donated to the A.S.F. Heritage Museum by a cousin Jim Borrette. No history attached but I knew it had a story to be told. As fate had it within a couple of hours, I'd secured not only that Fiddle, its musical era thanks to my friend Julie Robard, to be followed by the Fiddle's story ... missing for 104 years it was last played in 1922. That Fiddle had finally found its way home thanks to my friend, Susan Cassevaugh. She and I started first



grade together at Holy Name Catholic School. That Fiddle belonged to Sue's Grandpa Joseph Cassevaugh of West Chazy, N.Y. and was intended to go to his son Guy Cassevaugh who was Sue's Dad. Mr. Cassevaugh taught his son Guy to play that Fiddle. Tragically Mr. Cassevaugh was killed in a Granite Shed boiler explosion in April 1922. From that time forward that Fiddle had simply disappeared . . . lost in time until Jim found it and I gladly accepted it with my mission to find its story. God had a plan and everything fell into place in one day! Stories like this one just can't be made up!

Almost everything I've be fortunate to collect within the Au Sable Forks Heritage Museum was donated by Family or, and Friends. Me being born the 6 generations here, in The Forks, with my roots also in Lower Jay and Black Brook Hamlets has been a blessing in disguise.

To see more stories like the Mysterious Fiddle, or to learn more about our local history you can visit my Face Book Site as follows: Au Sable Forks, New York 12912.

My A.S.F., N.Y. Local History site now has 2.9K followers, locally, around the US and from 6 other countries. Every now and then I post the Dashboard Update.

At the present time I am working of a Foot – Vehicle Tour in late Spring 2026. Retracing most of the J & J Rogers Co. Industrial Era. That story with a couple other surprises along the way from Black Brook, The Forks, both sides within Clinton and Esses Counties, Jay and Upper Jay. I'm trying to figure out how to fit everything into one day.

I did a couple of Foot Tours in the past and have been asked to do another. If interested, please stay tuned for more detailed information to follow. It's definitely a work in progress.

Know this, if you'd like to visit the Museum, please call me at 518-647-5929. I'd be more than happy to work around your work schedule.

Your Official Crypt Kicker (Genealogist) & Historian,  
Sharron

## Water & Wastewater Department– Paul Mintz

Over the past three years, the Town of Jay, working closely with Essex County and MJ Engineering, has identified numerous components in our water infrastructure in Jay, Upper Jay, and Au Sable Forks, and in our wastewater infrastructure in Au Sable Forks, needing improvement, replacement, or renovation. Over the next 3-10 years, all four districts combined will be looking at recommended investments in infrastructure EXCEEDING \$15,000,000.00...And that's using today's cost.

In an effort to keep user rates as low as possible, we're currently exploring every grant and low-interest loan opportunity available. Eligibility for many of these funding opportunities requires the completion of a Household Characteristic Survey. This survey captures information such as size of the household, age (if over 62), and total household income. RCAP Solutions, a not-for-profit agency specializing in water and wastewater projects, is helping the Town gather, compile, and summarize this information, confidentially, at no cost to the Town.

We started our survey in Au Sable Forks in 2025. In the upcoming weeks, we'll expand the survey to include Jay and Upper Jay. For the survey to be considered valid, we must receive a high response rate. If you are a resident in any of our water or sewer districts, when you receive a survey, please complete and return it promptly. If you are an owner but not the

primary resident of the property, please forward the survey to your tenant, or, contact the Town with the correct contact information for the current resident. If there is no long-term resident at the property—such as in a commercial store, short-term rental, or vacant building—please let us know.

Ideally, the best way to submit your response is via the web address included in the survey or via this QR code. Should the Town not receive enough responses, Town of Jay staff will conduct door-to-door canvassing for as long as needed until we obtain the necessary rate of response.. Your prompt response to the mailed survey is our best hope for minimizing the effort needed to complete this process!



Please reach out with any questions or concerns—thank you!

Paul Mintz

Superintendent of Water & Wastewater - Town of Jay  
[watersewersuper@townofjayny.gov](mailto:watersewersuper@townofjayny.gov)  
 (518) 647-2204 ext. 151

## Tax Collector– Lori Ducharme

The 2026 tax season is underway & seems to be progressing rather smoothly. Many Town of Jay taxpayers have already paid their property taxes, satisfying about 80% of the towns warrant. Last year, I implemented the use of credit card payments (through me only) and quite a few people seemed to appreciate this additional method for making their tax payments in spite of the 2.75% processing fee charged by the company. I have also appreciated those who have brought in exact change for all cash payments. Thank you.

Although it has been a very busy season so far, I have tried to return telephone calls & respond to email inquiries in a timely manner, answer questions to the best of my ability, & have enjoyed

meeting and assisting those who come to the office in person. I truly enjoy this position as I am a detail-oriented person who strives for excellence while maintaining a positive attitude. I hope I have been successful in meeting the taxpayers' expectations for the position of tax collector & look forward to finishing the entire process & starting all over again next year.

I would like to thank everyone for their support & hope you all have a blessed 2026!

Lori Ducharme  
 Town of Jay Tax Collector

## Parks & Open Spaces—Olivia Dwyer

### Spring Into Action for Parks & Trails!

Spring has arrived, and it's the perfect time to get outside and lend a hand! The Parks & Open Space Committee invites you to join neighbors and friends for the **Parks & Trails Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Volunteers will work on a variety of projects to help spruce up our shared outdoor spaces, including trail maintenance, weeding, mulching, raking, and clearing blowdown. Projects will take place rain or shine at sites in Au Sable Forks, Jay, and Upper Jay. After the work is done, we'll gather for a **free lunch** in The Grove in Au Sable Forks to celebrate a morning caring for the places we love. This effort is a huge help to our outstanding town parks crew of Brooke Paries and Paul Benway in getting parks ready for summer fun. Whether you can stay for the whole morning or just want to pitch in for a bit, all ages and abilities are welcome. Come enjoy the fresh air and sunshine, meet your neighbors, and help keep our parks and trails beautiful!

### Town of Jay Selected for National Outdoor Recreation Planning Program

The Town of Jay has been selected to participate in the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) program, a national initiative focused on growing outdoor recreation and revitalizing Main Street areas. Over the next year, volunteers and community partners will work with a technical assistance team to develop a Community Action Plan

The plan will explore opportunities to develop and manage new trails, improve promotion and wayfinding, and ensure that outdoor spaces and amenities are welcoming and accessible for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. The process will include a community self-assessment, a two-day visit with a community tour and public workshop, and the development of an action plan to guide future projects and partnerships. **Save the date for the RERC Community Workshop on Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26, 2026 in Au Sable Forks!** This is your chance to get involved in planning and creating outdoor recreation opportunities for our community.

### Plans Underway for Dog Park in Au Sable Forks

The committee is also supporting a new dog park planned for town-owned property at 23 Grove Road in Au Sable Forks. Led by volunteers Sarah Duheme and Larry Hartson of the ADK Civics Club, the project aims to create a safe, welcoming space where residents and their dogs can exercise and socialize close to downtown. Planning is underway, including site design, fencing, and rules for park use, while volunteers pursue grants and donations to support the project. Please contact [adkcivicsclub@gmail.com](mailto:adkcivicsclub@gmail.com) to get involved. The lunch celebration after the Parks & Trails Volunteer Day will include a tour of the proposed dog park site—join the fun on Saturday, April 25!

*Contact Town Councilor Olivia Dwyer at [o.dwyer@townofjayny.gov](mailto:o.dwyer@townofjayny.gov) for more information about volunteer opportunities.*

## Highway Department—Chris Sorrell

Greetings from the Highway Department.

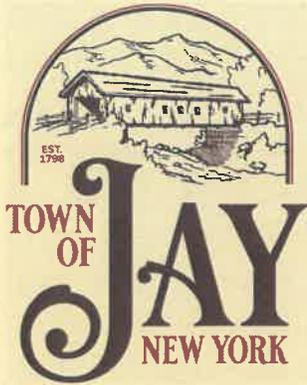
Is it spring yet? This has been an interesting winter to say the least. It has been considerably colder this winter than in past years, and we've only had to thaw a handful of culverts this year. The snow is actually helping by keeping the ends of the culverts buried and insulating them to keep the water flowing and prevent freezing.

When it's really cold and not snowing we continue to perform preventive maintenance on all our equipment to ensure it's in good working order to perform its duties when needed. When it's not below freezing outside, we cut and split wood to

heat our shop during the winter. Soon we will focus on cleaning the streets in Au Sable Forks and then branch out from there. I would say we hope to start cleaning before Easter. I would like to say thank you for your patience during the snowstorms and the subsequent cleanup.

We are currently seeking a MEO 1 operator. If you are interested in applying please reach out to us for an application, or you can find applications on our website as well.

Thank you  
Highway crew



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

Town of Jay News



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Essex County

INDOOR

# WALK WITH EASE

\*Decrease Arthritic Pain \*Increase Balance \*Improve Overall Health

**Town of Jay  
Community Gym**  
11 School Ln, Au Sable Forks

**Mondays, 10:30-11 AM**  
Except the 1st Monday of the month

Walk with CCE Senior Fitness!  
Please bring a clean pair of shoes to change into.  
Participants can walk at their own pace.  
Free Walk with Ease book!



Contact Kate at [kmg324@cornell.edu](mailto:kmg324@cornell.edu)  
with any questions.



**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.