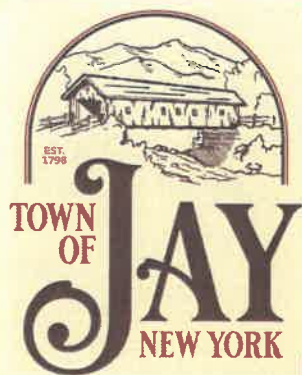




Town of Jay News

Summer 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

Deputy Highway

Superintendent

Cody Garren

Water/Sewer

Superintendent

Paul Mintz

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From The Supervisor's Office

As the warm days of summer begin to wind down, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything our community has accomplished since our last newsletter. From personal family milestones like celebrating my daughter's college graduation and connecting to my past at the Essex County Fair, as seen in the pictures, to the daily work of local government, the past six months have been filled with incredible momentum. I am proud to share this overview of the progress we are making together.

Revitalizing Main Street & Supporting Local Business

Economic development has been a primary focus across our hamlets. While we have been working with the North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC) for years on our revitalization roadmap, my recent appointment to the NRDC Board of Directors will further strengthen our collaboration as we prepare to submit our NY Forward/Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application this fall. Through our active \$315,000 Main Street Grant program, property and business owners in Au Sable Forks are receiving financial support for building improvements, coinciding with exciting additions like The Community Chest thrift store. We also celebrated the ribbon cutting of our new Visitor and Business Center at the Tahawus Cultural Center, operated twenty hours a week in partnership with



ARVBA and ROOST. Furthermore, artist Miss Teal completed the "Walls Between Waters" mural on the AuSable Theater, and our community is actively preparing for the inaugural Art in the Forks festival on September 5th.

Infrastructure & Smart Investments

We continue to make crucial, cost-effective investments in our town infrastructure and services. To address long-term water utility needs, we introduced bond resolutions across all three Town of Jay Water Districts, applying for grant funding through the DEC Water Improvement and Infrastructure Act (WIIA) for mandated water meters, a new water tank in Au Sable Forks, control systems, and well upgrades.

By passing Local Law Number 2 of 2026 to enact a Best Value Procurement Policy, we acquired a demo Motor Grader valued at \$410,000 for approximately \$244,000 to replace an aging 1990s

Continued on page 6

Water/Sewer Superintendent—Paul Mintz

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate and complete the Household Characteristics Survey sent out to residents in our water and sewer districts.

What did we learn? Based on the results reported confidentially to us by RCAP Solutions, the non-profit organization who helped us conduct the survey and compile the results, the water districts in the Town of Jay—Jay, Upper Jay, and Au Sable Forks—had a Median Household Income (MHI) of \$60,000.

Why does the Town or State need the districts' MHI? New York State uses MHI to determine whether communities are eligible for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund's (DWSRF) Hardship program, a major source of funding for drinking water infrastructure improvements. According to census data, our Town, as a whole, does NOT meet eligibility requirements—our MHI is too high. However, because YOU completed the survey, we now know that our water districts DO meet eligibility requirements. Furthermore, the water and sewer districts in Au Sable Forks are also eligible for the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, giving these districts even more funding opportunities.

Why are the survey results important now? Our

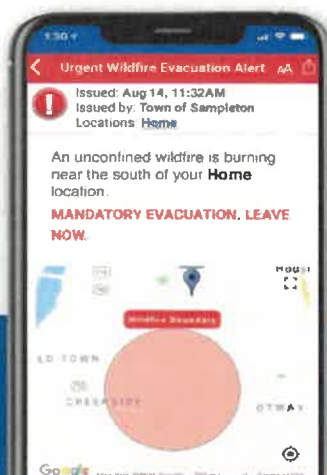
water and sewer districts have numerous components requiring updating and replacement. By giving us access to low or 0% interest loans, our eligibility for the DWSRF hardship program and CDBG funding increases the likelihood that we can make these improvements with less overall cost. Our improvements still have to be reviewed and 'scored' by the State to determine how critically important they are compared to other projects across New York. While our survey results do not guarantee State or Federal assistance, failing to undertake or complete the survey would have guaranteed we wouldn't receive any assistance.

Why is this important for the future? Many infrastructure projects take 20-30 years to pay off. Any opportunity to reduce a project's upfront costs or the interest paid on loans results in significant savings over the life of those loans. The results of this survey are valid for 3-5 years, depending on the funding source. Based on the results of this survey, YOUR participation in future surveys is critically important to ensure we remain eligible for these cost-saving programs!

Thank you!

Paul Mintz

Superintendent of Water/Wastewater



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

NOTIFICATION
SERVICE



Comprehensive Plan Special Board- Chairman Wally Walters

Comprehensive Plan Update Draft Nearing Completion

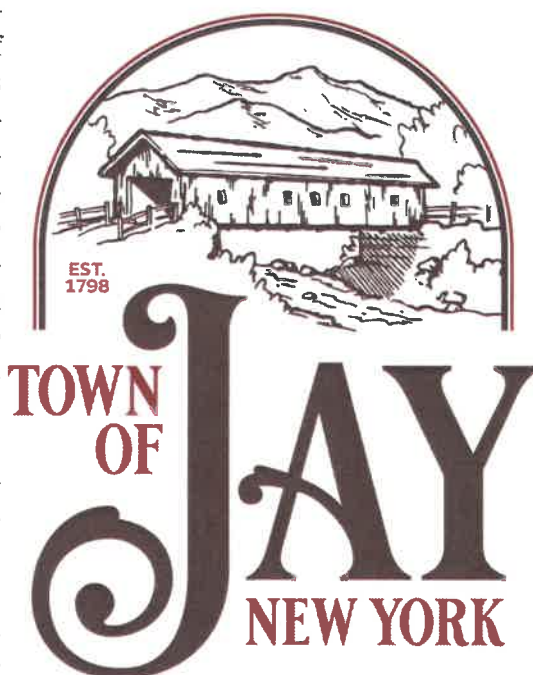
After nearly two years of surveys, an open house, a workshop, interviews with stakeholders and experts, and many meetings by five working groups, a draft Town of Jay Comprehensive Plan Update is nearing completion. It will be presented to the public this Fall.

Comprehensive plans are used in New York state as advisory documents for towns to gather insights and propose initiatives. The original Town of Jay comprehensive plan was written in 1980 and last updated in 1997. The forthcoming update will have two major parts: a community profile highlighting existing conditions and a 'plan portion' with recommendations for the consideration of residents and town leaders.

Based on community input, five working groups examined topics town residents identified: an Economic Working Group evaluated business and workforce recruitment and retention, and Main Street revitalization, a Planning and Land Use Working Group examined housing, land use planning and potential residential growth, a Parks and Open Spaces Working Group considered how improvements and access to Jay's natural and recreational assets can better serve the entire community, a Human Services Working Group focused on improving access to affordable housing, health care, and other services, and a Climate and Infrastructure Working Group 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.

Forthcoming recommendations will be organized around four strategic themes identified by a visioning workshop last year: "managing growth," "enhancing quality of life," "creating opportunity" and "leveraging resources."



This month our Comprehensive Plan Special Board will be reviewing the draft plan update consolidated by our town's comprehensive plan consultant. We will welcome your feedback when we publish the draft plan update this Fall.

Following further input from the public, an amended draft will be reviewed by county and New York state agency officials. A public hearing will be held later this year by the town board prior to deciding whether to accept the plan update as a guiding document for the town.

Our comprehensive plan update effort is committed to openness, public engagement and non-partisanship.

Wally Walters
Chairperson

Jay Comprehensive Plan Special Board

Highway Department—Chris Sorrell

As we head into late summer, the Town of Jay Highway Department has been hard at work keeping our roads safe, well-maintained, and ready for the upcoming seasons. Here is a look at what our crew has been up to lately:

Seasonal Road Maintenance & Paving Prep

Our team is currently finishing up roadside mowing, cutting and chipping brush, and repairing recent washouts around town. These efforts are crucial for keeping visibility clear and ensuring proper drainage along our roadsides. Additionally, we are busy prepping several town roads for our upcoming paving schedule. Our new motor grader has been a game-changer this season, acting as a huge help and timesaver as we tackle shoulder work, washout repairs, and road prep!

Cost-Saving Equipment Repairs

To stretch taxpayer dollars as far as possible, the department tackled a major in-house project this season. Over the summer, our crew fully refurbished our 25-Ton Trailer, restoring it to top working condition without the hefty price tag of buying new or outsourcing major repairs.

Generating Revenue for the Town of Jay

We've also been partnering with outside agencies to bring additional revenue into our town budget. The Highway Department has taken on shared services work for both the New York State DOT and the Essex County DPW. This work included road cleaning, mowing, and prep work for the Ironman triathlon, which helps keep our regional infrastructure in top shape while generating income that directly benefits the Town of Jay.

Join Our Team!

The Town of Jay Highway Department is still accepting applications for an open Motor Equipment Operator (MEO) position. If you or someone you know enjoys hands-on work, serving the community, and operating heavy machinery, we encourage you to apply! Please contact the Town of Jay Highway Department or visit the Town Offices to pick up an application.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue our summer roadwork projects!

Chris Sorrell

Town of Jay Highway Superintendent

From The Town Clerk- Carol Greenley-Hackel

It's hard to believe that before we know it, we'll be putting away our flip-flops and getting out our sweaters! Summer, however, is my favorite season, while Fall is my deputy's favorite. Along with the changing leaves and cooler temperatures which are always so beautiful here in the Adirondacks, comes a busy time in the Town Clerk's Office as we begin to wrap up the year.

As we head into fall, it's also a good time to take care of a few Town Clerk reminders. First on the list: making sure your four-legged family member's is licensed. See the Town Clerk's page on the Town of Jay website for forms and more information.

In addition to dog licenses stop by the Town

Clerk's Office for:

- Hunting and fishing licenses
- Marriage licenses
- Certified copies of birth, death, and marriage records
- Genealogical and vital record searches
- Accessible parking permits
- Bell jar and gaming licenses
- Liquor licenses

Wishing everyone a beautiful Adirondack fall. Enjoy the changing leaves, crisp mornings, and the wonderful change of seasons!

All the best,
Carol and Tamber

Climate Smart Taskforce- Knut Sauer

Climate Smart Communities Task Force - Mid- year progress report 2026

The Town of Jay's Climate Smart Communities Task Force continues to make significant progress on a variety of sustainability, energy efficiency, and community improvement initiatives.

Our solar panel array at the Highway Garage continues to perform exceptionally well. Year to date, the system has generated over 40MWh of electricity, helping reduce municipal energy costs while lowering our carbon footprint.

The new EV charging stations at the new Upper Jay park and parking area, as well as at the Jay Village Green, are now fully operational and seeing regular use from residents and visitors. These chargers support the growing number of electric vehicle driver residents and visitors traveling through our region and contribute to cleaner transportation options.

A special thank you goes to our Parks Department for transforming the formerly overgrown FEMA property in Upper Jay into a beautiful open space and community asset. We would also like to recognize the Rotary Club of Au Sable Valley and ROOST for partnering on the installation of the wayfinding and visitor information kiosk. Strategically located along busy Route 9N, this welcoming gateway creates a positive first impression for travelers entering the Town of Jay and the hamlet of Upper Jay from the south.

Our Community Food Scraps Composting Program experienced some minor delays but is now moving forward. We anticipate launching community outreach and educational efforts in early fall, with the food scraps drop-off program expected to begin by late fall. We look forward to sharing more details as the project progresses.

The Town was also awarded funding for a Complete Streets, Walkability, and Bicycle Planning Study. We are currently finalizing the contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and hope to begin working with a consultant by late fall. The project is expected to be completed in 2027 and will help

guide future transportation and infrastructure improvements throughout the town.

Our next EV charging project, which includes a DC fast charger and a Level 2 charger in Au Sable Forks near Main Street, is also advancing. We are currently awaiting feedback from NYSEG regarding power supply requirements and potential utility upgrades before proceeding with final design and bidding. While there is a possibility the chargers could be operational before the end of this year, completion is anticipated by spring 2027.

The Energy Efficiency Improvement Project, funded through a \$600,000 grant from NYSEDA and the U.S. Department of Energy, is progressing as well. Based on a comprehensive energy audit utilizing Passive House standards, the Town is preparing to seek bids for roof insulation and energy-efficient window upgrades at the Community Center. Once completed, these improvements are expected to generate substantial utility cost savings while improving comfort and building performance.

Task Force members have also been working closely with the Comprehensive Plan Special Board on climate resilience, sustainability, and infrastructure-related elements of the Town's updated Comprehensive Plan. We look forward to its completion in the near future.

Please save the date for this year's **Sustainability and Energy Fair on September 12**, with additional details to be announced in the coming weeks.

Finally, while we are fortunate to have an outstanding and dedicated Climate Smart Communities Task Force, we are always looking for new members and volunteers. If you are interested in helping shape a more sustainable future for Jay, please contact **Knut Sauer** at k.sauer@townofjayny.gov. We welcome your participation.

From The Supervisor's Office—Continued from page 1

model. Additionally, we are working to purchase land on AuSable Drive for a future sand and salt shed and have expanded free public Wi-Fi to the Jay Village Green and Upper Jay parking lot, which officially brought our new EV charging stations fully online.

Celebrating Jay & Looking Ahead

It has been a vibrant season filled with music, celebration, and community spirit. From free performances at the Upper Jay Art Center to our 10-week JEMS Summer Concert Series on the Jay Village Green, our public spaces have been lively all season long. We enjoyed a fantastic 4th of July celebration with the Jay Volunteer Fire Department and Christmas in the Forks, featuring a fireworks display dedicated

to the memory of former Councilman Gerry Hall. Looking forward, I encourage everyone to participate in our upcoming Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) workshop on September 25th and 26th.

Stay Connected

While this newsletter provides a great seasonal overview, things move fast! For real-time updates on ongoing projects and local events, please keep an eye out for my weekly updates. Thank you to our town staff, board members, volunteers, and residents who work hard every day to make a Stronger Jay.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,
Matt Stanley.

Planning Board - Vice Chair Matt Gillman

After a slow start to the year, applications in front of the Planning Board have been picking up. There are currently applications before the board for one major and two minor subdivisions. The Planning Board is responsible for reviewing and approving/denying requests to subdivide parcels within the Town of Jay. The Town of Jay has three hamlets that are generally outside of the jurisdiction of the APA. The APA provides a kind of zoning, but the Town of Jay itself does not have zoning. Subdivision regulations are not considered zoning regulations. The Planning Board reviews detailed maps, applications, deeds, environmental forms and other documents to make sure the subdivision adheres to the Town of Jay subdivision regulations. The regulations and the application forms are provided on the town website.

Two members also represent the Planning Board on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Members have also been participating with other Town officials in discussions with APA staff to increase coordination on regulatory and planning projects. Discussions on these top-

ics take place with the entire Planning Board during a portion of the regular monthly meetings.

The Planning Board (PB) is made up of five regular members and two alternates. All the 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, except for lot line revisions, must have a public hearing. Owners of parcels within 500 ft of the applicant parcel will be notified at least ten days prior to a hearing and will be allowed to comment at that hearing. If you are interested in joining the Planning Board, please contact planning@townofjay.gov. All members are required to receive at least four hours of training. The training is either free or reimbursed. We are all learning all the time and are happy to help any willing volunteer.

Matt Gillman
Town of Jay Planning Board Vice Chair



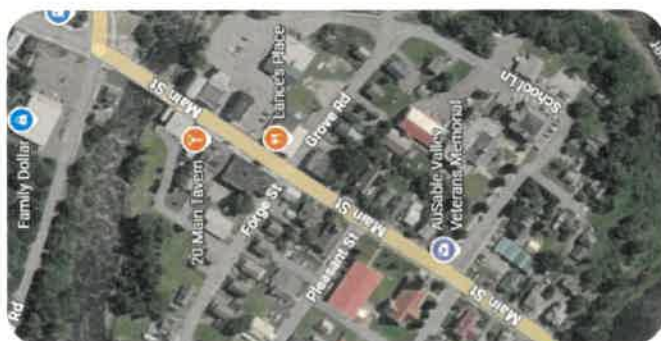
North Country
RURAL DEVELOPMENT COALITION

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.

**APPLY
NOW**



Scan the QR
code to apply:



Questions?

klong@northcountryruraldevelopment.org



Sole Assessor- Timothy Gay, Jr.

As your Sole Assessor, one of the most common topics residents ask me about is the difference between property assessments and property taxes. While these two terms are often used interchangeably, they represent two very different parts of the property tax system.

Understanding how they work together can help clarify your tax bill, and show you where to direct any questions or concerns.

The Key Difference

- Assessments are determined by the Assessor. The local assessor estimates the market value of your property. This valuation is used to determine your proportional share of the overall tax burden in the town.
- Taxes are set by local taxing authorities. Your actual tax bills are determined by elected boards, including the school board, town board, and county board. These groups set budgets and determine the overall tax levy needed to fund public services.

Common Misconceptions

- "Grieving Your Taxes" vs. Grieving Your Assessment

Property owners often mention wanting to "grieve their taxes." In New York State, you cannot grieve your tax bill or tax rates. You can, however, contest your property assessment if you believe the estimated market value of your home or

land is inaccurate.

- Assessments and Taxes Don't Always Move Together

It is entirely possible for your assessment to increase while your taxes go down, or for your assessment to stay the same while your taxes go up. Because taxes depend on local government budgets and tax levies, the movement of one does not automatically dictate the other.

What Should You Do If You Have Questions?

- If you believe your assessment is incorrect (for example, higher than what your property would reasonably sell for on the open market), please reach out to the Assessor's office. I am happy to review your property details with you and explain the assessment process.
- If you feel your assessment is fair, but your tax bill is too high, those concerns should be brought to your local elected officials during their budget workshops and public hearings, as they establish the annual tax levies.

Our goal in the Assessor's Office is to ensure fair and equitable assessments across the Town of Jay. If you ever have questions regarding your property records, exemptions, or valuation, please feel free to contact the office!

Timothy Gay, Jr.
Town of Jay Sole Assessor

Tax Collector- Lori Ducharme

The 2026 tax season ended on 4/30/26. 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 and I look forward to serving the tax payers of our town again next year.

Lori Ducharme
Town of Jay Tax Collector

Parks & Open Spaces—Olivia Dwyer

Summer Fun and the Town of Jay's Parks & Trails!

Summer brings us all the chance to get outside and enjoy our parks and trails with friends and neighbors. A huge thank you to our town employees Brooke Paries and Paul Benway for their tireless work day in and day out keeping these public spaces safe and well maintained for our community.

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. In 2026, community volunteers and partners are working with a technical assistance team to develop a Community Action Plan that 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 next step is a two-day community workshop to bring us together to identify and plan for future projects and initiatives. **Save the date for the RERC Community Workshop on Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the Community Center in Au Sable Forks!** This is your chance to get involved in planning and creating outdoor recreation opportunities for our community.

New Picnic Area in Upper Jay

Through the comprehensive plan update, town officials and community volunteers identified that our community has been asking for a park area in Upper Jay since the town's first comprehensive plan completed in 1980. The town has rehabilitated a FEMA property at the corner of Trumbulls Road and Route 9N for this purpose. There is now a parking lot, electric vehicle chargers, an information sign, picnic tables, a

portable restroom, and a trash can available here. Thank you to the town's Highway Department and Parks Department for cleaning up and improving this site to create a welcoming outdoor space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

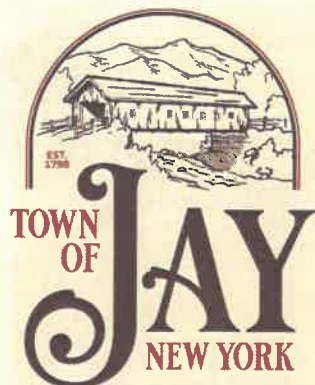
Thank You, Volunteers!

At the Parks & Trails Volunteer Day in April 2026, we had 55 volunteers spread out from Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay to the Children's Playground and Douglas Memorial Park in Jay to Henry's Trail in Au Sable Forks. We all worked together to weed, rake, and mulch, and there was lots of smiles and great conversation among new and old friends and neighbors. About 30 people made it down to The Grove in Au Sable Forks for a pizza party afterwards. We had volunteers from 5 to 75 years old, a great reminder of how our parks and trails bring people together to appreciate the natural beauty and community we share. This event will return for a sixth year in April 2027 and we hope to see you there!

Plans Underway for Dog Park in Au Sable Forks

The town is also working with volunteers Sarah Duheme and Larry Hartson of the ADK Civics Club to explore the creation of a dog park at town-owned property at 23 Grove Road in Au Sable Forks. 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. Please contact adkcivicsclub@gmail.com to get involved or make a tax-deductible donation to support the project.

Contact Town Councilor Olivia Dwyer at o.dwyer@townoffayny.gov for more information about the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) planning assistance program and the community workshop on Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26.



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

Town of Jay News

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Essex County

Au Sable Forks Senior Fitness

Town of Jay Community Center
11 School Lane



Walk With Ease

Walking program that incorporates health education,
stretching and strengthening exercises.
Mondays at 10:30 am



Bingocize

Exercise program that incorporates health education,
light exercises, and bingo with prizes.
Mondays at 11 am



Tai Chi for Arthritis

This form consists of gentle stretches and relaxing
movements.
Wednesdays at 10:00 am



Range of Motion

Gentle stretching, endurance exercises and
strengthening.
Wednesdays at 11:00 am



All classes intended for adults ages 60 years and older
Contact Samantha Davis at smd242@cornell.edu for more information.