

TOWN OF SENNETT NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2023

WINTER/SPRING 2023 UPDATES

Hello Neighbor/Friend - We hope you have been enjoying a warmer than usual winter season and are doing well. We snowmobilers/skiers are not sure what to make of this!

I am happy to report the Town's Q3 2022 Sales Tax collections were \$432,401.18. This is \$130,000+ higher than the Q3 2022 budget estimate. Also, the Town's Q4 2022 Sales Tax collections were \$ 322,632.93. This is \$22,000+ higher than the Q4 budget estimate. The Town continues to see a healthy surplus in its General Fund.

During Q3 and Q4 of 2022, the Sennett Town Board has accomplished the following:

- Held public information sessions for proposed WD 1 & 3 water improvement; projects and awarded bids for a re-designed less costly project;
- Bid-out and awarded the Veteran Affairs/Town Historian Office project;
- Attended Sennett Seniors lunch meetings;
- Worked with Cayuga County Planning to update the Town's HL Overlay District and appointed an Ad Hoc committee to oversee zoning updates to the District;
- Adopted local laws to include a moratorium on commercial Solar Energy projects so the Town's Solar law can be updated;
- Approved the completion of Town Hall window replacements;
- Met with other Cayuga County municipal leaders to discuss sewer and water issues;
- Worked on Town special district projects and billing issues;
- Attended a ribbon cutting for the Senior apartment project "Sennett Meadows";
- Continued meeting on Town of Sennett branding and marketing;
- Interviewed and hired a new Town Code Enforcement Officer;
- Welcomed our new/returning ZBA and Planning Board members, including new Planning Board Chairman Patrick Leamy;
- Interviewed candidates and hired a new Water & Sewer Department employee;
- Plan for and approve parking lot replacement project;
- And of course handled day to day issues in the Town as they arose.

(continued on page 2)

Town of Sennett

6931 Cherry Street Road
Auburn, New York 13021
(315) 253-3712

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Town Board:

The Town Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board meets when needed on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7 pm.

Town Court:

Town Court is held every Wednesday at 5:00 pm.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets, when needed, on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm.

Inside this Issue:

Town and Board News • Senior Group • Zoning and Planning Board • Highway Department • Parks & Recreation
Veteran Affairs Committee • Water and Sewer Department • Fire Department • Water District • Town Clerk

WINTER/SPRING 2023 UPDATES *continued from page 1*

The Town offers a sincere *thank you* to long-time Code Enforcement Officer **Tom Passarello**, who retired at the end of 2022 after serving Sennett for over 6 years.

Also, a hometown replacement deserves a tip of the cap and warm welcome, as Sennett resident Harold Gilfus has assumed the job of Code Enforcement Officer. Harold is a long-time Mutton Hill Road resident and brings many years of experience in construction and code enforcement to the position. His office hours are by appointment. He can be reached at 315-374-3631.



Senior apartment project "Sennett Meadows"

Another recent farewell salute went out to outgoing Sennett Planning Board Chairman **Jeremy Bacon**, who was instrumental in leading the Town's Planning Board through dozens of projects over his last 7 years of service. Jeremy is taking a well-deserved break to spend more time with family and a busy work life. He will be missed. He is being replaced by Mr. Patrick Leamy, the former Deputy Chair of the Planning Board, who is a local architect residing on Franklin Street Road.

Reminder! The Town of Sennett provides easily accessible updates on its Facebook page in order to modernize communication. Just follow Town of Sennett NY on Facebook. Also, the Town's website address is www.sennettny.org. We encourage you to sign up for the Town's electronic newsletter on our website to save printing costs.

Also, if you are looking to examine the Town's water, sewer or zoning maps – stop by the Town Hall anytime during business hours as these maps have now been mounted in the main hallway. These maps have also been uploaded to the Town's website.

Sennett's Town Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you can't make it into Town Hall for the meeting but would like to attend remotely, you can do so by accessing our website and clicking on the meeting link. We look forward to your interest and participation in Town business and at Town meetings.

Last item; the Town is currently seeking qualified candidates to run for Town Highway Superintendent for a term that begins January 2024. Interested candidates please email supervisor at [www.sennettny.org](mailto:supervisor@sennettny.org).

We thank you for your support and hope to see you around Town.

Respectfully,
Tom Blair, *Supervisor*
(supervisor@sennettny.org)



Water District(s) 1 & 3 Improvement Project

The originally designed waterline replacement, installation, and Water Tank project came in well over budget and was redesigned, bring the costs from \$ 6,581,000 to \$3,747,00 (including soft costs). WD 1 & 3 residents will realize the benefits of some waterline expansions and replacements, but not a water tank. Work is due to begin in the Spring and residents will have notice of work beginning on their road at least one week in advance.

Water & Sewer Dept.

As of January 1, 2023, the City of Auburn has increased our Sewer rate by 6.5%. As a result, sewer customers will see an increase on their sewer rates of 6.5%, beginning the first quarter billing cycle that will be mailed out in early April. The City of Auburn will also be increasing our water costs by 15% as of 5/1/23. As a result of this increase, water customers will see an increase on their water bills beginning the second quarter billing cycle of the year, which will be mailed out in early July.

We have continued to replace water meter heads throughout our water districts, and have established a watermain flushing plan, and a hydrant maintenance schedule. We will be replacing the district



3 watermain meter in the coming weeks. We have recently submitted our cybersecurity plan to New York State for approval.

We have newly installed & updated Water/Sewer District maps posted in the Town hall for residents to view.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Hope all is well.

Thank you. Kris A. LaPointe
Water & Sewer Superintendent

Parks & Recreation Committee

The Sennett Parks & Recreation Committee has been formed! This committee is empaneled to make decisions on Town Park expansion projects, maintenance, risk management, conservation areas, walking trails, hours of operation, and land opportunities. **We are in need of a local landscape architect – are there any Sennett residents in this profession? If so please call us! (315-253-3712)**

Also, if you, or someone you know, in Sennett has excess land and would like to contribute it to a non-profit organization, please contact

the Town Supervisor (supervisor@sennettny.org). The Town is looking for conservation areas and a donation to the Town may have possible tax advantages!



Town Clerk

2023 Tax Collection continues through March 31, 2023. The Clerk's office is open Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4pm. Tax payments can be mailed in by sending to Sennett Tax Collector, 6931 Cherry Street Road, Auburn, N.Y. 13021. Payments can also be made in person at the Clerk's office during the hours listed above or left in the Town Clerk's "Drop Box" located next to the front door. If you are unable to make your payment during the scheduled office hours noted above, please call 315-253-3712 ext. 1 to schedule an appointment.

New York State requires that all dogs over the age of 4 months must be licensed. New licenses must be obtained in person, whereas annual renewals may be submitted by mail. To obtain a license, the owner must provide to the Town Clerk's office veterinary documentation of a current rabies vaccination and, if spayed or neutered, the certificate issued by the surgeon who performed the procedure. You can license your spayed or neutered dog for \$8.50 per year or your un-spayed or un-neutered dog for \$18.50 per year as long as their rabies shot is valid. Be proactive. Dog enumerations are expensive and fines are charged to unlicensed dog owners.

If you have any problems with dogs in your area, please reach out to our dog control officers, Fingerlakes Dog Protection Agency (315) 253-4367 or fldpaine@outlook.com.

Free at-home COVID-19 test kits continue to be available at the Town Clerk's office.

Flags in need of retirement can be dropped off at the Town Hall.

Thanks and have a great day!

Kate Salisbury, *Town Clerk*





Highway Department

The Highway Department has been busy with a variety of daily chores and projects.

Another successful Fall Dumpster Days weekend was held on October 1st and 2nd. Fall leaf and brush pickup was again very busy and the Town is saving on salt this year since we have seen a very warm winter season, however, there has still been plenty of salting and plowing to keep the Highway Department busy.

Brush pick up will begin the first Monday in April and will continue on the first Monday of each month through October. Please remember it takes us 2 full days to get around the whole

Town, so it might be Tuesday before we get to your house. NO PLASTIC BAGS! WE WILL NOT PICK THEM UP! We will have mulch again for Town residents later in the summer season.

Spring Dumpster Days have not yet been set. Stand by for this announcement.

Thank you.

Kris L. LaPointe,
Highway Superintendent

Veteran Affairs Committee

The Sennett Veteran Affairs Committee has been meeting since April and is comprised of eight proud veterans and family members of veterans. The mission statement is:

To promote public awareness and enhance the well-being of past and present Town of Sennett service members and their families. To create and foster an awareness of our American heritage by honoring and perpetuating the memory of those patriots who have distinguished themselves by their service and sacrifice while members of the armed forces of the United States, and to promote a greater sense of patriotism and Americanism within the Town of Sennett.

This committee is assisting with the creation of the Town's first ever Veteran Affairs Office, which should be up and running by Summer 2023. Other projects on the radar include upgrades to the Town memorial park and displays at Town Hall; the introduction of Americanism in Town Hall and cataloguing the Town's many service members.

The committee is currently looking for a mural artist. Please email townclerk@sennettny.org.



Planning Board

Since our January and February meeting the Planning Board has been working on the following.

1. Auburn Associates subdivision.
2. A preliminary site plan for Auburn Auto Group for a property located at 325 Grant Avenue Road.
3. A preliminary review for a proposed subdivision for a property located on Depot Road.
4. A preliminary site plan review and SEQRA review for Owens-Brockway located at 7134 County House Road. This project is for a Oxygen Gas combustion melting furnace or production of sustainable glass containers, the first phase is roughly a \$50M project.

In case you haven't noticed, work is also underway at the former Route 20 Grill restaurant building and the new Chipotle restaurant in the Staples parking lot!

Sennett has a lot to offer prospective businesses and is
OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!

Sincerely,
Patrick Leamy
Planning Board Chairman



New Chipotle restaurant under construction



Former Route 20 Grill restaurant

Zoning Board of Appeals

This 5-member board recently underwent changes due to the resignation of Harold Gilfus, who became the Town's Code Enforcement Officer, and also due to the "terming out" of Sue Foster's ZBA term. The ZBA has welcomed new members Robert Steiner and Dennis Sherry as regular members. The Town is currently seeking 2 ZBA alternates to serve on an as needed basis! If you are interested in serving on this important board, please provide an email to townclerk@sennettny.org.

As a reminder, your ZBA works impartially as a zoning and land use appellate board. It hears appeals from decisions of the Codes/Zoning Office and reviews area and use variance requests. The ZBA may also evaluate special permit applications. It functions as a "safety valve" to relieve the pressure of inflexible zoning provisions and has the power, on appeal, to interpret zoning codes or local laws and to grant variances. In essence, the ZBA is called upon to issue final decisions on many of the Town's most difficult zoning law interpretations. The board strives to adhere to Town precedent.

Thank you.
David Sikora,
ZBA Chairman

Sennett Seniors

Welcome to the Sennett Seniors in 2023. Here are some things about our organization you might like to know:

- When:** We meet the 3rd Wednesday, except January, February, and March.
- Where:** Various restaurants in the area.
- Time:** 11:30 business meeting, lunch (served or buffet) at 12: 00 PM and then a program.
- Cost:** \$18 for lunch each month
- Dues:** No annual dues are charged to Sennett residents and a small yearly dues for non-Sennett residents
- Activities:** Day trips-cost based on activity, bus, and food.
Speakers on various topics, musicians, or entertainers.
New to you table: members may bring any small item they no longer need (new or gently used) for others to take.
Book and puzzle exchanges take place in the Fall.

A birthday party will be held in June for all members.

Senior News and Views newsletter is available from the Office for the Aging-Free by calling 315-253-1226.

We would love to have you join us! For more information please contact :

Kathy Gray @ 315-253-7731 or **Maryellen Perry** @ 315-252-0427.



PROJECT LIFESAVER®

Bringing Loved Ones Home



Through a Partnership with Cayuga County Office for the Aging and Cayuga County Sheriff's Department, Project Lifesaver is a rapid-response rescue program for individuals who are at risk of wandering and becoming lost. Each participant is fitted with a personalized Project Lifesaver wristband. This unique wristband is a one-ounce battery-operated transmitter that emits an automatic tracking signal.

When needed, this signal can be tracked by specially trained personnel in the Cayuga County Sheriff's Department on the ground or in the air. Search time has typically been reduced from hours and days down to minutes.

Project Lifesaver can provide comfort and peace of mind to caregivers without compromising the safety or dignity of their loved one.



Contact Cayuga County Office for the Aging at (315) 253-1226 for more information and eligibility requirements.

Town Supervisor

Tom Blair

supervisor@sennettny.org

Town Board Members

Michael Wellauer

mwellauer@sennettny.org

Rick Gagliardi

rgagliardi@sennettny.org

Bob Edmunds

redmunds@sennettny.org

Ed Rizzo

erizzo@sennettny.org

Town Clerk

Kate Salisbury

townclerk@sennettny.org

Highway Superintendent

Kris LaPointe

highway@sennettny.org

Water & Wastewater Superintendent

Kristopher LaPointe

waterdept@sennettny.org

Sennett Fire Department

The Sennett Fire Department experienced a near record year in 2022, responding to 407 calls for service. As part of the National Fire Incident Report System (NFIRS) incident categories, we reported 24 fires (includes structure, vehicle, and outdoor fires); 236 rescue and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) which includes motor vehicle crashes; 21 hazardous conditions, 30 service calls, 61 good intent calls, 33 false alarms and 2 severe weather-related calls.



Come become a member of a team with an excellent sense of community service and camaraderie. Enjoy the satisfaction that comes with the excitement of helping in diverse situations. Opportunities vary as do time commitments. Stop by one of the fire stations or contact a department representative to find out more.

Station 1: 3155 Turnpike Road Station 2: 3526 Franklin Street Road

Or feel free to contact us by email chiefs@sennettfire.com

**Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner is March 25th 4pm -7pm at Fire Station 1.
Adults \$11, Kids 12 + under \$6.**

Statewide Open Burn Ban

The annual statewide ban prohibiting brush burning begins on March 16 and extends to May 14. Open burning—as in outdoor fires, burn barrels, backyard incinerators, or any fire that's not vented through a stack or chimney—is not allowed, with few exceptions. Open burning is the single greatest cause of wildfires in NYS. Since the spring burn ban was implemented in 2009, the number of wildfires has decreased by more than 40%. Burning loose leaves or leaf piles is illegal.

Outdoor Cooking

Outdoor barbecue grills of many types are popular. Roughly 70% over U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ grill or smoker. According to the National Fire Protection Association, 9,600 home fires are started by barbecue grills each year, on average. July is the peak month for grill fires, followed by May, June, and August. Over 16,000 people are treated for grill related injuries each year with over half being thermal burns.

Grilling: Keep barbecue grills far away from anything that can burn -- your home, cars, dry vegetation, etc. Stay with the grill when it is lit and keep children and pets well away from the area. When barbecuing, protect yourself by wearing a heavy apron and an oven mitt that fits high up over your forearm. If you get burned, run cool water over the burn for 10 to 15 minutes. (Tip: Don't use butter or a salve on



burns because these seal in heat and can damage the tissue further.) If you receive a serious burn, with charred skin, for example, seek medical attention promptly. Barbecue grills must never be used inside the home because, in addition to the fire hazard of indoor grilling, the grill can easily cause carbon monoxide poisoning. If lightning appears while you are grilling, seek shelter and wait for the storm to pass.

Gasoline Safety

Store gasoline outside the home, preferably in a locked, detached shed, and store just enough to power your gasoline-fueled equipment. Keep gasoline up high, inside a clearly marked container that is labeled and approved for gasoline storage. Make sure gasoline and all flammable liquids are well away from any heat source or flame. Use gasoline as a motor fuel only - never as a stain remover or for other purposes. To transport gasoline in an automobile to and from the filling station, place a sealed, approved container in the trunk with the trunk lid propped open and drive directly to the fueling site. Take a direct route back home and never store gasoline in a vehicle. Extinguish smoking materials before fueling and take the equipment outside well away from combustibles. Wipe up any spills immediately and move the equipment at least 10 feet away from the fueling area to start the engine. Before re-fueling, turn off the equipment and let it cool completely.

Thank you.

Sean Holmes,
Sennett Fire Chief

Town of Sennett
6931 Cherry Street Road
Auburn, New York 13021

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUBURN, NY
PERMIT No. 1

Address Signs

As part of our public safety commitment, we have provided over 250 residences and businesses with reflective address signs. If we can't find you, we can't help you! The signs come in a variety of colors and configurations, feature high visibility reflective material on both sides, fade resistance and pre-drilled holes. Order forms are available on our website, at either fire station, at the Town Offices or by contacting Dave Morris (315-729-6248).



Town Historian

Sennett's Historians are **Jim Vivenzio** and **Scott Longtin**. Jim has years of history and cataloging experience at Seymour Library, and Scott is a U.S. Army veteran with a passion for history and community heritage. Upcoming projects include the creation of a Historian Office (shared with Veteran Affairs), records analysis, organization, and digitizing. The uncovering and display of Sennett's proud heritage is COMING SOON !

Jim Vivenzio, Scott Longtin , *Town Historians*

Sennett Town Historian

Records on File: ***Please note-certain records are for family members only.***

Death:	1881- Present (most complete collection)
Birth:	1881-Present
Marriage:	1881-Present

For genealogy purpose, records are open to all if they are 75 or more years old.

Public Safety Update Reverse 911

The Cayuga County Sheriff's Department and E-911 Emergency Communication Department encourage residents to sign up for Community Mass Notification Messages. This sends out alert notifications of emergency situations such as boil water advisories, inmate breaches, missing persons, or any situation that would require a mass notification in a short period of time. Verizon provides landline numbers to the service but cell phones need to be registered.

To sign up text "Cayuga Alerts" to 828-201-3877
or use the following link
secure.hyper-reach.com/comsignup.jsp?id=12642