



TOWN OF
ONONDAGA
ESTABLISHED 1798

SPRING / SUMMER 2025

OUR TOWN



What's inside...

- * Community Spotlight: Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve
- * Our Military Heroes' Final Resting Places
- * Brush Pickup Details
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TOWN OF ONONDAGA RESIDENT NEWSLETTER



TOWN OF
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Town of Onondaga Directory

Town Office Locations

Onondaga Town Hall
5020 Ball Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215
Highway Department
4478 W. Seneca Tpk., Syracuse, NY 13215
Parks & Recreation Department/Senior Center
4834 Velasko Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215

Town Supervisor

John P. Mahar (315) 469-3888
(Committees: Development & Codes Review, Highway, Personnel)

Town Councilors

Kathy Fedrizzi (315) 469-3888
(Committees: Personnel, Insurance)
Lisa Goodwin (315) 345-4083
(Committees: Environmental, Fire & Safety, Library, Recreation & Senior)
Mary Ryan (315) 469-3637
(Committees: Environmental, Fire & Safety, Insurance, Personnel)
John Wheatley (315) 492-0445
(Committees: Development & Codes Review, Highway, Recreation & Senior)

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Town Councilors Mary Ryan and Kathy Fedrizzi, Town Supervisor John Mahar, and Town Councilors Lisa Goodwin and John Wheatley

Town Departments

Michael Morrissey, Assessor (315) 469-3216
Building & Codes (315) 469-3144
John Smith, Highway Superintendent (315) 469-1664
Justice Court (315) 469-1674
Parks & Rec/ Senior Ctr. (315) 469-3464
Kathy Dwyer, Tax Receiver (315) 469-0483
Janet Hillery, Town Clerk (315) 469-1583

County Legislator

Richard McCarron (11th District) (315) 435-2070



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From the Desk of the Supervisor

Dear Neighbors,

We survived! This winter was one for the books. We saw it all: feet of snow, frigid temperatures, ice and wind storms, power outages and to top it off – a rock salt shortage. To say that our Highway crew is made up of everyday heroes is a simple truth. This small but mighty team of pros worked in shifts seven days a week at all hours to keep roads safe and clear while navigating the challenges of the short salt supply.



Adam and Wally from our Highway crew on Fox Road South in Navarino

but we are getting closer and will provide regular updates on the Town Facebook page (@townofonondaga). In the meantime, our other parks open May 1 and provide numerous recreational opportunities including pickleball, tennis, volleyball, basketball, playgrounds, and so much more. Park pavilions are available for rent at a reduced fee for town residents for your special event as well. And don't forget to check out the extensive list of new and returning favorite recreation programs to help residents of every age enjoy the outdoors, get more active, pursue a new hobby, take a day trip, or just socialize. As an important reminder, our popular Summer kids camps sell out FAST so be sure to register now.

As a reminder, all the great services for Town residents outlined in this newsletter are only possible through sound fiscal management of your tax dollars, wise investments, managing and reducing costs, and identifying new revenue and funding streams.

Finally, and most importantly, in observance of the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, this issue's cover features the Onondaga County Veterans Cemetery, located on Howlett Hill Road, which we feel honored to have in our Town. Likewise, be sure to read the article about the site and the other final resting places of Town residents who bravely served our country dating back to the Revolutionary War. Your Town officials volunteer at some of these sites each year to place flags on Memorial Day, lay wreaths on Veterans Day and help with spring cleanup. Both my parents and our Town Clerk Janet Hillery's parents are buried in the County Veterans Cemetery so these activities have been incredibly meaningful to us. We have provided information on how you can get involved in these efforts as well. Be sure to check the Town Clerk's page as well to learn about efforts she spearheads for local Veterans.

We hope you enjoy the Spring/Summer Our Town. Stay in touch year-round by following @townofonondaga on Facebook and Instagram and visiting townofonondaga.gov. As always, I am available to answer questions, address concerns and hear your ideas. Contact me at 315-469-3888 or jmahar@townofonondaga.gov.

Sincerely,
John P. Mahar, Town Supervisor



Our tireless Highway team has already switched gears to brush pick-up and road maintenance so be sure to read the Highway Superintendent's message for important reminders and PLEASE USE CAUTION when our crews are at work roadside. Their lives depend on it.

Now that the warmer months are here, we have some terrific programs in the works to help celebrate the seasons. We will again host two summer concerts – one at Kelley Park and one at Santaro Park. These events have proven to be a great way to get neighbors together while supporting the Town's volunteer fire departments, which are able to share recruitment information and raise funds through concession sales.

And while we are talking about parks, we are glad to report that we are making steady progress toward establishing a fifth town park to be located in Southwood. It's been a rather cumbersome multi-step process to navigate



Town Supervisor Mahar places flags at his parents' graves with his grandson, Niko, at the County Veterans Cemetery.

The Power of Community: Saving Pleasant Valley Preserve

Along a five-mile stretch of Pleasant Valley Road in the hamlet of Cedarvale sits a 304-acre mixed wetland and woodland preserve owned by the Central New York Land Trust (CNYLT) that is open to the public for hiking and enjoying nature at its most pristine.

The area is rich with streams, ponds, fields, an upland forest and open and wooded wetlands that are home to many species of birds and wildlife. It includes four miles of easy to moderate hiking trails and a parking area off Pleasant Valley Road.

The land was once part of Karl and Mary Wiles' family farm where they grew Christmas trees, tapped the countless maples for their Cedarvale Maple Syrup brand, leased acreage to farmers and gave friends access to the land for quiet walks. So, when the Wiles decided to retire and sell their land in 2018, neighbors sprang to action to save the area from development and keep it forever natural.



If it were not for the incredible efforts of local residents, Diana Green, Harry Nusbaum and Barb Root, the Pleasant Valley Preserve might be just another housing tract today. Instead, they contacted the CNYLT in hopes the organization could purchase and save the land. CNYLT was not in an immediate position to do so, therefore the trio countered an existing purchase offer on the land and held the mortgage for CNYLT while a fundraising campaign was undertaken. In 2022, after three years of fundraising, the \$273,000 goal was reached to allow for the land purchase and additional funds were raised to enhance the property.



A significant contribution from Kathy and Steve Schwab was instrumental in the fundraising along with donations from 200+ other individuals, the Onondaga Cycling Club, Onondaga Audubon and other sources.

Pleasant Valley Preserve had the added benefit of providing the link to other CNYLT properties - donated by the Lockwood family - that did not previously have road access. In recent years, CNYLT obtained funding from the Onondaga Environmental Institute to install a bridge over the wetland to allow for safe aquatic animal passage and reduce human impact on the wetland ecosystem. And, since 2022 the Trust has been returning the former farmland to native wildflower meadows.

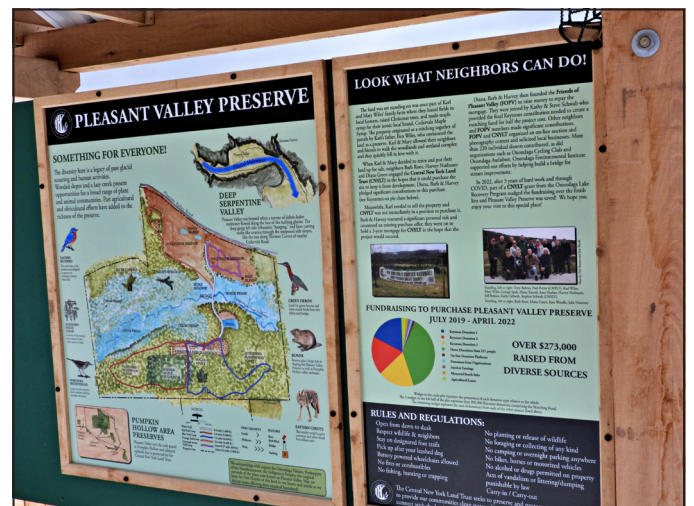
Town Councilor Mary Ryan is a member of CNYLT's fundraising committee and a passionate advocate for the mission of the

organization. She explained that the organization is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of Central New York's unique landscapes. Over the years, its efforts have expanded to include environmental education and sustainable practices with a focus on enhancing water quality, restoring habitats, and creating green space.

"Pleasant Valley Preserve in all its unspoiled beauty is an incredible asset for our community. We owe the Town residents who spearheaded the campaign to save it a forever debt of gratitude. It's incredible what can be accomplished when landowners, neighbors, the land trust and public work together," Ryan said.

"We encourage residents to check out the Preserve if they haven't already. Please be sure to stay on the path and follow all rules to ensure the habitats remain protected," she added.

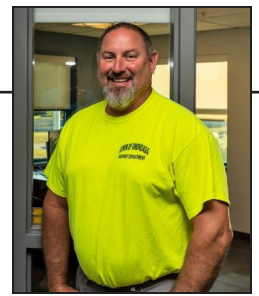
For information about the Central New York Land Trust and Pleasant Valley Preserve, go to cnylandtrust.org.



Photography by Frank Valls, Howlett Hill

News From the Highway Department

The Highway Department is shifting gears into Spring, putting away the plows and preparing for another season of road repairs, drainage work, mowing roadsides, sweeping roads, and of course brush and yard waste pickup. For a complete list of all the services the Highway Department provides please go to our townofonondaga.com/departments/highway.



*John S. Smith,
Town Superintendent*

Brush & Yard Waste Pickup

- April 1 through October 31 weather permitting and subject to change
- Average 2 pick-ups a month, but not a scheduled service
- Brush and yard waste is the “woody” natural material from your property including cut pieces of trees, limbs, shrubbery, grass, yard, and garden waste.
- Grass clippings and leaves must be in brown paper bags or boxes. No plastic bags or loose material will be picked up.
- Do not place materials under wires, tree branches or in the road.
- Pieces of trees and brush must be piled neatly near the road with nothing larger than 8-feet-long and 6-inches-in-diameter.
- No lot clearing or waste produced by commercial contractors, such as tree stumps, large tree branches, trunks, landscaping waste, rocks, sod, dirt or other construction and landscaper waste is acceptable. Commercial contractors are responsible for disposal of these.

If you need assistance with removal of these items or have yard waste and brush remaining after pickup has ended, OCRRA has drop off sites available for a fee. Call them at 315-453-2866 or go to ocrra.org.

Earth Day Dropoff

Once again, the Town will be participating in OCRRA's Earth Day Cleanup as a drop-off location for residents to bring their stickered bags and other items. Our volunteers will be available to unload your items for disposal.

When: 9 a.m. to Noon, Saturday April 26th

Where: Town of Onondaga Highway Garage
4478 West Seneca Turnpike

Groups or individuals can sign up for OCRRA's Earth Day Cleanup and request stickers at ocrra.org, or call 315-453-2866.

Coming this Fall

The always anticipated Fall Cleanup will begin September 2 this year. The schedule and pickup details will be mailed in July and available on our website.

THANK YOU

We at the Highway Department would like to say a special thank you to all our great residents who took the time to call, stop by with goodies or emailed to let us know what a great job we were doing during this very challenging past winter season. Thanks so much. It really made a difference.

Contact Us

Need help or information on Highway Department services?

Email Linda at lcrowley@townofonondaga.gov or call 315-469-1664 and we will be happy to help.

Local Roads Are Essential – Advocacy Day

Did you know local highway departments, like ours, maintain 87% of New York's highways, roads and bridges? Last month, Town Highway Superintendent John Smith joined 700+ other highway leaders from around New York for Local Roads Are Essential Advocacy Day at the State Capitol Bldg. in Albany. He met with Assemblyman William Magnarelli, Senators Jeremy Cooney and Rachel May and others to advocate for more funding for road maintenance and better safety measures to protect highway crews on the job. John and his fellow Superintendents wore their trademark orange safety shirts at a press conference afterward to share their agenda with the media.



Town News Roundup

Southwood Park Progress

The path to a new park in Southwood is paved with state government red tape. But thanks to the group effort of Town Councilor Lisa Goodwin, Jamesville-Dewitt School Superintendent Dr. Peter Smith and our State elected representatives, legislation has been drafted and is moving forward in the NYS Assembly and Senate that will allow the Town to lease property in Southwood from the school district for the park.

Why is that necessary? New York State requires municipalities to own the property where a park district will be formed. The land the Town has identified as the best site for the project is owned by the School District so an amendment to current law is needed. The bill (A3949/S5557) has been introduced in both houses of the Legislature and once passed, the Town can create a park district and start building the park! We hope to have good news to report back to the residents of Southwood before this legislative session closes.



Program Extended to Benefit Longest Serving Volunteer Firefighters

BIG thanks to Frank Valls, President, Howlett Hill Fire Department, who championed a Proposition to extend the Length of Service Award Program – administered by the Town and established for active local volunteer firefighters – from 40 to 50 years of service, effective January 1, 2025. The Proposition was approved by a 97.3% margin. Annual costs of the amended program will not increase despite the change, thereby not impacting taxpayers. Frank brought the issue to the Town Board last year in time for the Board to adopt a program amendment; secure an official vote date from the Board of Elections; make all of the required public notifications; and hold the public vote necessary for its adoption. Thanks to Frank's diligence, the Town has the distinction of being the only known Town in the area that has approved the extension on behalf of our volunteer fire departments' longest serving members.

The Best Little Grocery Store in America Turns 90

The Town Board recently celebrated Green Hills Farms' big anniversary with a special proclamation honoring its important place in the history and hearts of our Town and thanking the Hawkins and Turner families for always putting service, quality and community at the forefront. From its humble roots as a farm stand to employing 200+ and being named the "best little grocery store in America", Green Hills is and will always be central to the fabric of our community.

Fun Fact: Town Supervisor Mahar started bagging groceries at Green Hills when he was 16 and worked his way up to Director of Operations.



Pictured with Town Supervisor John Mahar and the Town Board are Cindy Hawkins Turner and Kevin Petrie, Director of Operations (center), Elliott Turner, (4th from left) and Dan Piron, Perishables Manager (2nd from left).

Town News Roundup

State Grants Secured to Boost Town's Clean-Energy Efforts

Town Councilors have been working with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board on a variety of initiatives to advance clean energy usage locally. After some initial energy education, training, and benchmarking, we've tackled LED streetlight conversion throughout the Town and are in the midst of several energy studies. These projects were instrumental in helping us receive a grant from the New York State Energy Research Development Authority to convert all lighting at Town Hall to LED lighting. This will prove a cost-savings to taxpayers as well as provide environmental benefits.

Nedrow Fire Department Celebrates Diamond Anniversary

The Town Board recently honored Nedrow Volunteer Fire Department on the occasion of its diamond anniversary. Pictured from left: Town Councilors John Wheatley and Lisa Goodwin; Highway Superintendent John Smith - a former Nedrow volunteer firefighter whose late father was a driving force in the Department; Fire Dept. President Rick Nemier and Asst. Chief Ernie Horne; Town Supervisor John Mahar; and Town Councilors Mary Ryan and Kathy Fedrizzi. Thank you to all the Department's members, past and present, for your service!



Public Safety: Good to Know!

- Did you know you can subscribe to NY-Alert to **receive critical information and emergency alerts** tailored to your area? NY-Alert provides real-time instructions and recommendations from emergency personnel. From severe weather warnings and highway closures to other emergency conditions, NY-Alert keeps you in the loop. It's FREE to sign up! Just choose your preferred method of receiving alerts – phone, email, text, or fax – and receive essential updates directly. Visit the NY-Alert website to subscribe. alert.ny.gov/sign-up-ny-alert
- Helicopter circling your neighborhood? Sirens in the distance? A listing of the **latest police and fire activity** dispatched by the County's 911 Center is available online. Go to 911events.ongov.net/CADInet/app/events.jsp, then look for "TON" to find out what's happening in the Town.
- Reminder to residents: **If you see speeders, dangerous drivers or other crimes, please call 911.** We have seen a large uptick in calls to Town Hall reporting these issues from individuals who did not contact law enforcement to report specific incidents. Our Town Supervisor meets regularly with the commander of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept. located at Town Hall to get updates on their efforts to combat crime in the Town but law enforcement is not our role. Always call 911 when you see something illegal happening.

**To include your community event or other news in the next issue of Our Town,
send information to info@townofonondaga.gov.**

Final Resting Places of Local Heroes

Onondaga County Veterans Cemetery

On May 30, 1987, the Onondaga County Veterans Memorial Cemetery - located on Howlett Hill Road here in the Town - was formally dedicated and today honors Onondaga County residents and family members who dedicated portions of their lives to the military and defense of our nation.

Since the first burial of decorated World War II Navy veteran Leo McNerney on June 11, 1986, the cemetery has performed services for more than 5,000 service members from the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Air Force, including visionary Onondaga County legislators Jack Haley and Jim Salanger, as well as legendary paratrooper/Syracuse University football coach Ben Schwartzwalder.

All veterans buried in the Veterans Cemetery were honorably discharged from military service and were residents of Onondaga County for at least five years. More than 8,630 Veterans and their spouses are buried there.

Among those are the parents of Town Supervisor John P. Mahar and Town Clerk Janet Christopherson Hillery. John A. Mahar served in the Navy during the Korean War and is buried alongside his wife, Mary Ellen. Warren Christopherson served in the Navy during World War II and is buried next to his wife, Vivian.

The 52-acre Veterans Cemetery grounds have been improved and expanded over the years to include the renovated Gordie Lane Memorial Chapel in 2021 and additional acreage to ensure a fitting final resting place for veterans today and those who will serve in the future. The Chapel's namesake is lifelong area resident Gordon "Gordie" Lane (1948-2021), who served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. He dedicated his life to serving the veteran community and was a well-respected advocate for veteran wellness, earning many honors for his leadership and veteran advocacy.

Each year, in preparation for Memorial Day, Town officials join volunteers from around the County in getting the cemetery ready for Memorial Day activities. Local residents interested in helping have several opportunities:

- 10 a.m., May 2: Veteran's Cemetery Spring Cleanup
- 9 a.m., May 27: Memorial Day Flag Removal
- 1 p.m., May 23: Memorial Day Flag Placement
- 10 a.m., Sunday, May 25: Memorial Day Ceremony

Every evening at 6 p.m., nearby Howlett Hill neighbors can hear Taps played in the cemetery as a daily call to remember and honor those who served.

Did You Know... West Genesee grad and town resident, Colleen McNerney, designed the Town's new logo. She is the granddaughter of the first Veteran buried in the County Veterans Cemetery.

Other Final Resting Places of Local Veterans

There are several other sites in the Town where local veterans find their final resting place. Patriot Burial Signs, which signify the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers include Walnut Grove, South Onondaga, Howlett Hill and Pine Ridge cemeteries..

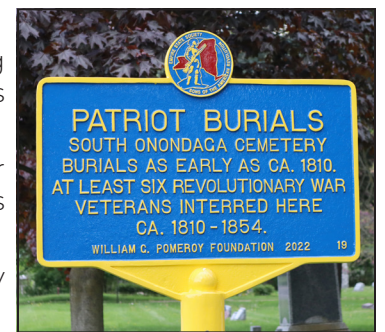
Walnut Grove Cemetery is the burial place of many veterans of the Revolutionary War through Vietnam. Town Councilor Lisa Goodwin and her family and friends place flags at Veterans' graves there every year in advance of Memorial Day.

Pioneer Cemetery in Sentinel Heights has a roadside marker that notes Revolutionary War soldier, Andrew Share, is buried there.

The General Ellis Cemetery is located on property owned by Onondaga Community College, across from Mulroy Hall on Onondaga Road. This small family cemetery includes the grave of General John Ellis, who served in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Likewise, there are a number of smaller cemeteries where veterans of the armed forces are buried including the Cedarvale (Kinyon) and Gilbert/Pleasant Valley Road cemeteries as well as a few remaining family cemeteries that were parts of farms in the 1800s. Loomis Hill Cemetery next to the Veterans Cemetery is the final resting place of many who spent years living at the Poorhouse or Onondaga County Home and Hospital. Because many died without families, there is a high probability there are veterans buried there as well.

For those interested in volunteering, contact the Town of Onondaga Historical Society at townofonondagahistorical@gmail.com, and they will connect you with one of the Cemetery Associations.



From Building & Codes Department

We hope the following information helps residents stay in compliance with applicable codes, rules and regulations.

Zoning Code Compliance Info for Property Owners: Swimming Pools and Accessory Structures

Accessory Structure Location & Setback

The Town's Zoning Code provides standards that apply to sheds, garages and other buildings that are detached as well as to swimming pools. Detached sheds, garages and other buildings - no matter how large or small - are defined as "accessory structures" in the Zoning Code. All accessory structures are subject to the location and setback requirements set forth in the Town's Zoning Code based on the zoning district where your property is located.

Such structures of all sizes must be in your rear yard, as defined by the zoning ordinance, and cannot be closer to your rear lot line than a distance which is 10 percent of your lot width, but not closer than five feet, and must be set back and no closer to the side lot line than would be permitted for your main building in your zoning district.

For example, a shed on a lot that is 100-feet-wide and is located in an R-1 Zoning District would require the setback from the rear property line to be 10 feet and a setback from the side lot line of 20 feet because the side yard setback in an R-1 zoning district is 20 feet on each side. Consult the Zoning Code or the Codes Enforcement Office if you have questions about the setback requirements in your zoning district.

Building Permit Required

All accessory structures including, but not limited to, tool and storage sheds and playhouses in excess of 144-square-feet also require issuance of a building permit - which means compliance with the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, in addition to the Zoning Code. This is not a new requirement. Check to see if your accessory structure is in compliance with these requirements.

Swimming Pool Barrier and Access Requirements

There are special requirements on the State and local levels for swimming pools. The New York State Residential Code defines a "swimming pool" as any structure or basin that contains water more than 24 inches deep at any point. This includes above and inground pools, hot tubs, spas, and wading pools. There is a requirement for a barrier around any swimming pool, spa or hot tub to prevent against potential drowning by preventing access to such facilities by persons outside the property, persons within the dwelling and persons in other parts of the property not contained within the pool enclosure.

Pools require a barrier that is at least 48 inches in height above grade on the side which faces away from the swimming pool. A fence is a form of barrier. If the barrier includes a gate, the type of gate must be both self-closing and self-latching. If the wall of a house is one side or a part of the barrier, all doors with direct access to a pool must be equipped with an audible alarm that meets the State standards. Operable windows in the walls of such barrier must have latching devices and not be able to open more than four inches. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Codes Office for specific requirements about barrier requirements.

The barrier requirements also apply to above ground pools. When an above ground pool structure itself is used as a barrier, it must be at least 48 inches above the level of grade or supplemented by an additional barrier mounted on top of the pool structure. Alternately, an above ground pool may be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of the building code. Any ladder or steps must be able to be secured, locked or removed to prevent access or the ladder or steps must be surrounded by an appropriate barrier.

An outdoor pool must be surrounded by a temporary barrier at least 48 inches above grade during construction and installation for no more than 90 days and replaced by a permanent barrier.

All swimming pools, other than hot tubs or spas with a safety cover, must be equipped with a pool alarm capable of detecting entry into the water at any point on the surface. A pool with an attached spa at a different water level would require an alarm at each level.



From Building & Codes Department (continued)

A swimming pool requires issuance of a building permit which requires construction and electrical inspections to be conducted and requires issuance of a certificate confirming compliance with these code requirements.

From a Zoning Code perspective, a swimming pool must be located in your rear yard, and the pool, together with any pool wall, walkway or related equipment cannot be located any closer to the rear lot line than a distance equal to 10 percent of the required lot width in the zoning district in which it is located - or actual lot width, whichever is greater, and no closer to your side lot line than the main building side yard width. For example, in an R-1 One Family Residential District where the side yard setback is a minimum of 20 feet on each side, and the actual house is set back at 23 feet from the side lot line, the pool and all walls, walkways and equipment must be set back at least 23 feet along the entire side lot line.

Compliance Responsibility

The Town Codes Enforcement Office is available to explain and to help you understand all these requirements and to assist you in obtaining and processing necessary permits. Please do not rely solely upon the advice of your contractor or installer to determine zoning compliance. The property owner is ultimately responsible for assuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Contact Us

315.469.3144

Code Enforcement Officer

Christopher Perdue
cperdue@townofonondaga.gov

Codes Enforcement Officer

John Raflowski
jraflowski@townofonondaga.gov

Codes Inspector

Gary Butler
gbutler@townofonondaga.gov

Onondaga Community College News

New Health Center Open to Students, Employees and the Public

In December, Syracuse Community Health opened a new Quick Care Clinic on campus. The facility is open to students, college employees, and community members.

The new Syracuse Community Health Quick Care Clinic at OCC assists patients with:

- Treatment for rashes and infections
- Work physicals
- Sprains, aches, pains
- Ear, nose, and throat problems
- Minor lacerations, splinters, cuts, and bruises
- Flu vaccines
- Cold or flu symptoms
- Rapid testing (results during visit)
- COVID-19 ANTIGEN
- Glucose
- Glycosylated Hemoglobin
- Influenza
- Pregnancy Test (Urine)
- Strep A Test
- Urinalysis
- Phlebotomy services
- Pharmacy - Prescription Delivery
- Mental Health Services (by appointment only)

The facility is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and located in Residence Hall C with a dedicated, exterior entrance. The phone number is 315.234.5996.

Cranes in the Air!

If you've visited campus lately for an event at the SRC Arena or to work out at the YMCA, you may have seen construction at the Whitney Applied Technology Center and wondered what is being built. The addition will be home to OCC's new Diesel/Heavy Equipment Repair program. Also under construction in the same building are the new Micron Cleanroom Simulation Lab along with training centers for HVAC, Welding, and CNC Machining. On the other side of campus in Ferrante Hall, a total renovation is underway of the spaces where students prepare for careers in healthcare.



Onondaga Free Library News

Annual Birdhouse Raffle Fundraiser

Stop by the library any time May 2nd to June 7th to see our beautiful display of uniquely decorated birdhouses by local families, businesses and organizations. Purchase raffle tickets at the front desk: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. There will also be one uniquely crafted birdhouse- Raffle tickets for that birdhouse are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Winners will be drawn on Monday, June 9th. All birdhouses have been handcrafted and donated by local father/son woodworking duo, Jerry and Jerry Holbrook. Thank you both for your generous contributions to OFL!



Tony Roffo and Ellen Guptill were two of the winners in last year's Birdhouse Raffle.

Spring Programs

- Celebrate National Poetry Month by submitting an original poem to OFL's poetry contest in April. For all ages! Winners will receive a prize bundle including a framed copy of their poem. Adults are also invited to a Poetry Open Mic Night on Monday, 4/21 at 6pm.
- To recognize Mental Health Awareness Month in May, OFL will offer free self-care kits for adults and teens (while supplies last). The kits contain a journal, a stress ball, coloring pages, mindfulness tips and more.
- On Monday, 5/12 at 6:30 p.m., the CNY Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Alliance will host a Tick Talk at OFL- a presentation discussing tick basics, prevention methods, symptoms and treatments for Lyme disease, and much more.
- Then on Tuesday, 5/13 at 6:30 p.m., author and ornithologist Tina Morris visits OFL to talk about her journey of reintroducing Bald Eagles to New York State and ultimately playing "mother" to seven eaglets at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, which is also documented in her book, *Return to the Sky*. Also, keep an eye out for a bird walk at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, a Master Gardeners class with Cornell Cooperative Extension, a genealogy series, beginner technology classes and much more!

Summer Reading

Color Our World! Embrace the beauty of art with OFL when you sign up for Summer Reading this year- All ages can read, log and earn prizes. Attend lots of fun, interactive programs too, including an immersive *Wizard of Oz* experience kickoff event! Check our website in June for updates on all things summer. Library staff would like to thank the Friends for fully funding summer at OFL once again this year!



Learn about all of our spring and summer programs, including weekly preschool programs, one-on-one tech help appointments and more at www.oflibrary.org/program-guide.

Friends of OFL

The Friends will hold its book sale June 4-7 at the library. Donations of gently used books, movies and more will be accepted during regular library hours May 30th, 31st, June 2nd and 3rd. To learn more about our Friends group and become a member, visit oflibrary.org/friends-of-ofl or attend a monthly Friends meeting- the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm.

About Onondaga Free Library

4840 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215
(315) 492-1727 or info@oflibrary.org
oflibrary.org

Follow us on social media:

@OnondagaFreeLib on Facebook & Instagram

Current Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Summer Weekend Hours (3rd Sunday in June through Labor Day): Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Holiday Closings: 5/24 – 5/26, 6/19, 7/4 & 7/5, 8/30 – 9/1

Board of Trustees Meetings: Wednesdays, 5/28 & 7/23 at 6 p.m.



From Richard McCarron, 11th District, Onondaga County Legislator



I hope you are all well after the snowy and cold winter we had and that, like me, you can't wait to be outside this spring and summer. I'm looking forward to using my smoker and enjoying some great food on the deck!

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

In the past few months, the Legislature has passed several very important items that could directly impact you. One is a new local law which would allow for the installation of stop-arm cameras on school buses in participating districts and fine those who pass when the red lights are flashing, and the stop-arm is extended. The County will now partner with an outside company to administer the program which has been successful in other parts of the country. It's my hope that since the money is coming from traffic safety, or lack of it if you will, it only seems appropriate to reinvest it in that.

EMS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

The Legislature also authorized the use of \$200,000 in previously approved money for a comprehensive study of emergency medical services in Onondaga County. We'd like to address some of the current challenges with EMS in our County and this study will examine everything from the 911 dispatch to the transfer to hospital care. Some of you may have experienced long wait times for care and that is not acceptable. Our goal with this study is to include all local providers and fire departments to figure out what's working and what's not. I'm looking forward to seeing the results in about one year and then hopefully implementing some of the recommendations.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Both of those items initially came through the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, of which I am proud to continue as Vice Chair for 2025. Another recently advanced resolution, which was later approved by the full Legislature, allows the county to accept state grant funding to support a new mental health initiative for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office. Having served with them for over 20 years, I know first-hand the stresses and emotional battles experienced by our emergency responders, and last April's tragedy only added to them. It is fantastic that we are now able to provide them with an additional resource to help them deal with some of the things they see and go through every day.

We all know that our first responders are a critical part of our communities. Over the past few months, I was honored to emcee nearly a dozen fire department banquets all across Onondaga County, including Onondaga Hill, Taunton and Nedrow. I also had the honor of speaking at the Onondaga County Fire Chiefs Association's annual banquet. We owe a debt of gratitude to these fine men and women who put their personal lives aside to help us during our time of need, so please join me in publicly thanking them!



ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I've said it before – we are so lucky that the campus of Onondaga Community College is located in our 11th District. They recently released their 2024 Report to the Community and one thing that stands out to me is that the new Micron-related Electromechanical Technology degree program doubled in capacity and enrollment last year. This shows that Onondaga County's investments are having an impact, and by working together, the County and OCC are providing our students with the programs they desire to train them for the high-tech jobs of tomorrow. I look forward to Dr. Hilton presenting OCC's budget to the Legislature in May and promise to continue supporting this great institution.

From Richard McCarron, 11th District, Onondaga County Legislator (continued)

REGIONAL MARKET

So many of us enjoy visiting the CNY Regional Market and supporting our local farms and businesses. It is no secret they've had some challenges in recent years. I'm happy to share that they are currently finalizing an all-encompassing study funded in part by the county and that they will soon share a specific strategy and vision for the market. Though still in the planning phase, improved parking, lighting and new facilities to better meet the needs of farmers, wholesalers and buyers were mentioned as high-level goals.

ON FARM FEST

Mark Saturday, September 20th on your calendar for this year's ON Farm Fest. It is always a fun opportunity to learn about, enjoy and appreciate the agricultural industry in our County. Last year, I stopped by Albanese Longhorns in LaFayette and got to see and touch a longhorn up close. They are surprisingly gentle animals. If you'd like to learn more about ON Farm Fest or find out about being a host location, visit OnondagaGrown.com.

STAY IN-THE-KNOW

Finally, just a reminder that all Legislature meetings are streamed live on the Legislature's Facebook page: @OnondagaCountyLegislature. I invite you to watch and see County Government in action.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns and please feel free to connect with me on Facebook: @McCarronforOC. Thank you for your continued support as I work on your behalf!

From Judge Patrick M. Kilmartin, Town Justice Department



Judge Patrick Kilmartin

The Town of Onondaga administers its Justice Court pursuant to the New York State Constitution and other applicable New York State statutes. Two Town Justices are elected within the Town to administer civil and criminal matters that might come before the Court. I serve as one of the Town Justices, along with Judge Paul Mullin. Court proceedings are generally held by the Town Justices on a weekly basis.

The civil matters that come before our court include landlord tenant matters and small claims matters. The landlord tenant matters typically relate to rent disputes and habitability of rental properties disputes involving landlords within the Town and those renters that reside within the Town. Small claim matters most often include contractual disputes where the disputed matter is \$3,000 or less.

The criminal matters that come before the court most often involve misdemeanor matters, where the maximum allowable sentence could involve no more than one year in jail, and traffic matters. The most typical criminal matters involve petit larceny, assault, domestic violence, and criminal contempt charges - alleging a violation of an order of protection.

The most typical traffic matters involve speeding and other customary traffic matters, but also Driving While Intoxicated misdemeanor charges. The non-DWI related traffic matters are often much less serious than other criminal charges.

In addition, throughout the year, the Town judges conduct preliminary hearings wherein felony charges are brought before the Court. In such cases, the Town judges hear evidence from prosecutors and defense attorneys and render decisions on whether or not sufficient evidence exists to hold in jail those that are charged with felony matters (those more serious criminal charges that could involve a sentence to jail in excess of one year). These felony charges often involve serious assault, robbery, burglary and the most serious domestic violence charges.

The Town of Onondaga website (townofonondaga.gov) provides detailed information about: the Court schedule; contact information for Court Clerks; links to the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding points, fine information, and license suspension, as well as a link to District Attorney's Office traffic portal to allow those charged with traffic matters to seek a traffic charge reduction to resolve traffic matters via the mail, instead of repeatedly appearing at Court.

News From the Town Clerk's Office

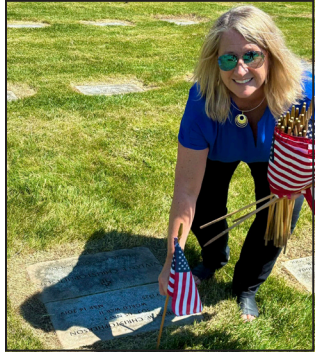
The Town Clerk can be reached by calling 315-469-1583 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or go to townofonondaga.gov for links to commonly requested information. Here is some useful information and updates:

Meeting Minutes

All Town Board meeting minutes are prepared by the Town Clerk and can be viewed on our website under the **Town Clerk's page**, under **Minutes and Agendas**.



Janet Hillery, Town Clerk



Town Clerk Janet Hillery places flags at her parents' graves at the County Veterans Cemetery.

Veterans

Every year in time for Memorial Day, the Clerk's office orders and distributes American flags for placement at the graves of Veterans at the Pine Ridge, Walnut Grove, Howlett Hill and South Onondaga cemeteries. It is a tradition the Town of Onondaga is honored to uphold. This is in addition to the many flags provided by the County for the Onondaga County Veteran's Cemetery on Howlett Hill Road, in which many of us have taken part in flag placement each Memorial Day. Also, remember that honorably discharged military Veterans residing in Onondaga County can obtain a FAVOR (Find and Assist Veterans of Record) card by bringing their discharge or DD-214 papers, along with photo ID, to the Town Clerk's office. FAVOR cards qualify you for discounts throughout Onondaga County. For a list of participating merchants, stop into the Town Clerk's office or visit ongov.net/favor. Please spread the word to any area businesses you think would like to participate in this program. Merchant applications can be picked up here at the Town Clerk's office.

Conservation Licenses - Update

In August 2024, the DEC moved away from the State-issued Valeron paper and now offers the following options for obtaining your license:

- 1) Purchase the license directly through the DEC, either online at dec.ny.gov or by calling **866-933-2257**. They will be e-mailed to you for immediate use. If you choose to have the license mailed to you, there is a two dollar printing and mailing fee. You can also utilize the **DEC app – HuntFishNY**, for electronic proof of licensure, or by providing your 12-digit DEC ID number.
- 2) Purchase the license at a License Issuing Agent location, such as our **Town Clerk's office**. If you choose to have our office print the license, there will be a print fee of one dollar. This fee can be avoided by having our office e-mail the license to you to print at home. Our 2025 Hunting & Fishing Guides should be arriving soon, or you can visit dec.ny.gov for the latest hunting and fishing information and regulations.

Peddlers/Solicitors

The Town of Onondaga requires a permit allowing solicitors to go door to door. This entails a background check for a fee of \$25/peddler, and the Peddler Permit fee of \$100/peddler. They are instructed to have this permit with them and should be able to produce this on demand, as well as have their Company ID visible. If you have any concerns about a peddler's legitimacy or have questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office. If a solicitor approaches your residence and you fear for your safety, call 911.



The Town Clerk's dog, Wyatt, is setting a good example for his fellow Town friends by getting his license.

Handicapped Parking Permits

Handicapped hangtags/parking permits can be obtained for **Town of Onondaga residents** by providing our office with the completed NY State application signed by you and your doctor. Applications can be obtained from your doctor's office, through the link on our website, or here at the Town Clerk's office. You will also need to provide your driver's license or a state-issued ID when applying.

Dog Licensing

If you own a dog in the Town of Onondaga, please remember that it is a requirement to get them licensed. Dog license applications can be obtained from our office or by visiting our website at townofonondaga.gov. Please provide Rabies and spay/neuter documentation, as well as the yearly fee of \$10 for spayed/neutered and \$20 for non-spayed/neutered. You can license your dog for up to three years at a time – depending on vaccination status. Please visit ongov.net/health/env for upcoming Rabies clinics. The Town of Onondaga contracts with the **SPCA** to field reports of all lost, found or stray dogs, and can be reached by calling 315-454-0928.

News From the Town Clerk's Office (continued)

FOIL Requests

The Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) provides citizens the right to examine records maintained by government agencies, with certain exceptions. To examine records held at the Town Clerk's office, please complete a FOIL request form, available at the Town Clerk's office or via the FOIL Request link on the Town Clerk's page at townofonondaga.gov.

Board of Elections

Please mark your calendars for the following important elections: **Primary Election – 6/24/25; General Election – 11/4/25**. Other important information including registration deadlines can be found by visiting ongov.net/elections, or by calling 315-435-VOTE. Voter Registration Forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office or through the Onondaga County Board of Elections located at 1000 Erie Blvd. West.

U.S. Passports

Passport renewals can now be done **online** for eligible U.S. citizens by visiting **travel.state.gov**. As always, applying for a **new** passport can be done here at the Town Clerk's office. An appointment is required for all new passports and can be made by calling our office at 315-469-1583.

Services that Require Appointments

In order to ensure a more time-efficient, positive experience for everyone, we ask that you call us at 315-469-1583 to make an appointment for a passport, marriage license, or any lengthy notary service.



Cassandra and Joe getting their marriage license with their little guy, Chino

Fire Department News

From Southwood Fire Department

Chief: Vincent Carroll

President: Thomas Bouvia

Grants for Equipment Improvements

The Southwood Volunteer Fire Department was approved for two grants in 2024. One from FEMA which allowed us to replace our aging AEDs and purchase a LUCAS device.

The LUCAS device, which is an automatic compression device utilized during CPR, allows for excellent, prolonged chest compressions when CPR is needed. Our second grant approved was from NYS and will allow us to replace aging Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn by our volunteers. This grant is for 15 sets of PPE to be purchased over a five-year period. This will allow us to replace those sets to ensure we are in compliance with OSHA without having to purchase all 15 sets at one time.



Recruit NY Weekend

Southwood Fire is always looking for more volunteers and our recruiting program for this year will kick off April 27 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., during the Recruit NY Weekend. Stop by and check out what we have to offer and see how you could make a difference within your community. Refreshments will be served. And please stop by any Tuesday evening, as this is our drill night, speak to members and check out our Fire and EMS opportunities. (RecruitNY pic)

Upcoming Events

Recruiting is always at the forefront, and we will hold additional events, such as another "In The Neighborhood" recruiting event this year as well as Chicken BBQs. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for locations as well as dates/times.

Southwood Fire will be host to a Town Summer Camp program for children 6 – 12 years old, Camp Southwood. It will be held July 7th – August 1st from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Check out the Town Parks site for information and how to register: onondagany.myrec.com

We always need more members so please find out how you can make a difference in the Southwood community. Interested in volunteering? Please reach out via Facebook or stop by the station on Tuesday evenings.

Fire Department News

From Howlett Hill Fire Department

Chief: James Harris

President: Frank Valls

Howlett Hill Fire Department

Mother's Day Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru



May 11th

Noon until Gone

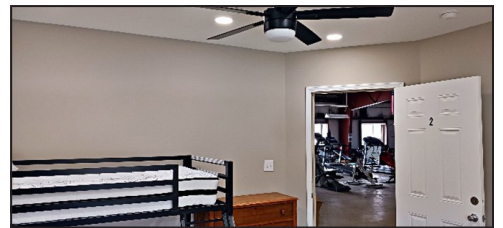
Just \$15 per meal
Our Famous Half Chicken BBQ
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw
Salt Potatoes, Dinner Roll

Annual Mother's Day Chicken BBQ Take-out Dinner

Once again, we honor Moms with our Annual tradition - Mother's Day Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru. We'll cook and sell over 500 half BBQ chicken dinners with all the fixings To Go. Give Mom a break, let us do the cooking and she'll love you for bringing home our excellent chicken and the works! Watch for our road-side signs around the district. Remember, Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th. Come on time, you know we will sell out quickly.....rain or shine!!

Calling All Bunk-In Firefighters

The Department completed our two new Bunk Rooms at the firehouse. We continue looking to fill these rooms with college students enrolled in the OCC Fire Prevention and Services curriculum, and/or firefighters from other County



Fire Departments who are interested in taking a work shift at Howlett Hill and require a place to rest up for the day ahead. The department is making good use of some of the recruiting and retention funding all Town Fire Departments received from the Town in the Post-COVID era! Full workout area available for qualified firefighters!

Join the HHFD

If you have an interest in serving the Community, learning new skills and even maybe Saving a Life, consider joining us at the Howlett Hill Fire Department! We offer a wide variety of positions, not all involving actual fire contact. Train in the medical field, outside and support operations and other support positions. No experience is necessary as we provide the training, the protective equipment and mentorship to give you the greatest time of your life. If you have questions about our fire department, or just want to take a look around, please stop in any Monday evening at 7 p.m. as the department members are always there for drill, training or meetings. We'll be happy to show you around.

Howlett Hill Fire is located at 3384 Howlett Hill Road Syracuse, NY 13215. Put us in your GPS!

Make sure you follow us on Facebook @Howlett Hill Fire Department - 100% Volunteer

Our website is howletthillfiredepartment.org

Be Safe during the Spring and Summer Seasons!

From Taunton Fire Department

Chief: Michael Phelan

President: Edward Phelan, Jr.



TAUNTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

4300 ONONDAGA BLVD SYRACUSE NY 13219

We're looking for new members to help protect our community. Volunteer firefighting is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have! We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, contact the fire department and ask what you can do to help!

Serve your community - there is a roll for everyone! Firefighters, EMTs, Apparatus Operators and Administration

No experience needed, all equipment and training provided at no cost to you

College credits for select training

Service pension (LOSAP)

tauntonfd62.com

JOIN NOW

[@taunton_fire](https://www.instagram.com/taunton_fire)



Fire Department News

From Nedrow Fire Department

Chief: Chris Moses

President: Rick Nemier

In December, we celebrated our 75th anniversary and installed a new slate of officers for the upcoming year.

Chief: Chris Moses

1st Assistant Chief: Ernie Horne

2nd Assistant Chief: Rick Nemier

Captain: Mack Leonard

Lieutenant: Tristan Moses

Lieutenant: Drew Agguire

President: Rick Nemier

Vice President: Chris Malisa

Treasurer: Ken Tiss

Assistant Treasurer: Brendon Gibson

Secretary: Diana Seymour

Assistant Secretary: Ashley Diabo

Board of Directors (3-year term): Mack Leonard

Last year, we responded to over 550 calls for service and this group helps make that possible. Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the community and especially to this group for taking on the extra responsibility that comes with these positions.

Earth Day/Recruitment Day

Our fire dept members, along with the members of the Nedrow Fire Dept Auxiliary, are teaming up with the Nedrow Community Crew for Earth Day Cleanup. The event will take place on Saturday, April 26th (rain or shine) from 08:30-11:30am. Last year was a great year and we are looking forward to making it bigger and better this year. Some of our members will also be standing by at the fire department so you can see what they do and answer any questions you may have about joining our ranks. BONUS – bring the kids in for chance to see the fire trucks up close and free popcorn/beverages provided by our Auxiliary!

Mutual Aid

We continue to conduct training exercises with our neighboring fire departments which is essential when there is a large incident such as the recent fire in Jamesville. Several volunteers from many different fire departments worked together until the early morning hours to extinguish this fire.

Upcoming Events

We are hoping to host several community events throughout the next year, including: Kids Ice Cream Day, Truck or Treat & the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Follow us on Facebook at Nedrow Volunteer Fire Inc. to see what's happening.



Parks & Recreation

In January, we welcomed Trisha Conrad of Onondaga Hill as our new Parks & Recreation Department Secretary. She previously worked at Town Hall in the Codes Department so is familiar with town operations. Feel free to stop by and welcome her aboard when you register for a program or reserve a pavilion. The Parks & Recreation Department is making enhancements at our parks and gearing up for a fantastic season of engaging programs for all residents. Some of the notable offerings and events include our Summer Concert Series, Camp Southwood, Pickleball for beginners and experienced players, Summer Day Camp and much more!



Charry Lawson, Parks & Recreation Director

FACILITY RESERVATIONS: Pavilion and field usage opened for town residents on April 1st. For those interested in reserving pavilions or other facilities for private events such as birthday parties, family reunions or weddings, here is the process:

1. Go to parks.townofonondaga.gov
 2. Create or Log in to your Account:
 3. Select Your Facility: Browse available facilities and choose the one that suits your event needs.
 4. Complete the Reservation Request: Fill out the form with all necessary details about your event.
 5. Submit Your Request: After submission, you will receive a confirmation email with further instructions.
- Our pavilions are in high demand over the summer so be sure to plan ahead!

PARK UPDATES: Last fall saw two new gates and a new roof on the restroom building at Kelley Park. This spring we hope to install water stations at Kelley and Santaro Parks thanks to Onondaga County Community Development grants. Summer projects will include resurfacing and striping the tennis/basketball courts at Kelley as well as pickleball lines on an existing tennis court at Santaro Park.

For a comprehensive list of activities, programs and events for residents of all ages, we invite you to look through the following pages. Staying connected with the department's communications will help ensure you're informed about the latest offerings and any updates as summer approaches. Enjoy your spring & summer and please visit our parks or sign up for a program today.



TOWN OF ONONDAGA
ESTABLISHED 1798

SUMMER 2025 CONCERTS

thirteen curves
@ KELLEY PARK
july 16

Letizia & the z band
@ SANTARO PARK
aug. 13

Concerts are 6-8 pm
Fun for all ages!

Activities for kids | Bring your own chair
Fundraising event for town fire departments
[WWW.TOWNOFONONDAGA.GOV](https://www.townofonondaga.gov)

Brought to you by:



TOWN OF ONONDAGA
PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS & RECREATION STAFF

Charry Lawson, Director

Jennifer Smiley, Recreation Supervisor

Barbara Michalski, Senior Program Coordinator

Richard Lamphier, Park Labor Crew Leader

Wesley Adams, Park Labor

Patricia Conrad, Recreation Secretary

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Summer Office Hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (June 23 – Aug. 29)

Address: 4834 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Phone: 315-469-3464

Email: recreation@townofonondaga.gov

Website: parks.townofonondaga.gov

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS.

- Non-residents pay \$10 more for most programs.
- Registration is online at parks.townofonondaga.gov
- We have a drop box in the rear of the building/office on East Ave.
- Registration deadline (unless otherwise specified) for all programs is one week before the program begins. A late fee of \$10 will be added to the program fee when registering after the deadline.
- Don't wait for deadlines. Program may be canceled if the minimum is not reached.
- It is the intention of the Town that no youth be denied the ability to participate in programs because of an inability to pay. Partial scholarships are available for youth programs to eligible families.
- Parking and entrances on both Velasko Road and East Avenue.
- Now accepting major credit cards. A 2.65% (\$3 min.) convenience fee is added to each credit card transaction. **This fee is non-refundable**, even if the program is cancelled by the department.

- If paying in person or by mail, make checks payable to Town of Onondaga. An online account must be created even if you choose not to pay online.

REFUND & CANCELLATION POLICIES

REFUND/CREDIT POLICY

Please use care when selecting classes. A 100% refund (excluding the convenience fee for registration when using a charge card) will be made when a class is canceled by the Recreation Department. Refunds or account credit will be made up to a week before the program begins. Credit will be added to your account in full, but a \$5 administration fee will be deducted for refunds. If the refund is under \$25, the refund will automatically be a credit to your account. A \$20 fee will be charged for returned checks.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In case of cancellation due to weather or other unavoidable problem, every effort will be made to contact participants. However, sometimes this is impossible. Ensure you are opted-in to receive our texts and email blasts. If you are in question as to whether a class may be canceled, call the Recreation Office at 315-469-3464 or check our website or Facebook Page.

Be a HERO to Local Children!

Every child deserves the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of recreation programs. To help meet the needs of families who cannot afford to participate, the Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation Department has established a youth scholarship fund. Become a H.E.R.O. (Help Expand Recreation Opportunities) by contributing to our scholarship fund. One hundred percent of your contribution to the H.E.R.O. fund will benefit town youths. If you are a family in need of assistance paying for a program, please contact the Parks & Rec office. Next time you visit our office or sign up for a class, please consider donating. Thank you in advance! Call (315) 469-3464 for more information.

Park Facilities

The Town operates four beautiful parks for residents. Please be aware that dogs are not allowed in our parks. Smoking of any materials is also prohibited. Reservations for courts, fields, and pavilions require a permit and are available at the Parks office or online at parks.townofonondaga.gov. Permit forms have a list of all fees and rules. Permits must be submitted AT LEAST one week in advance, and no refunds will be issued for inclement weather. Groups of 15 or more MUST have a permit. Parks are closed November 1 through April 30.

Kelley Brothers Memorial Park – 99 Kelley Park Dr., Nedrow, NY 13205

This 15-acre park has a rentable pavilion with an accessible walkway and grills. The park has a restroom, play areas, tennis court, basketball court, and a beach volleyball court. There is a pavilion (not rentable) near the playground to provide shade and picnic seating for families that utilize the play areas on a regular basis. The maximum occupancy for permits is 75.

King Memorial Park – 4030 Split Rock Road, Camillus, NY 13031

The athletic fields are reserved for our adult softball leagues during the week, with WOYSA playing games on Saturdays in the Spring and Fall. This 20-acre park has two softball fields, a beach volleyball court, two tennis courts, a basketball court, two pickleball courts, grills, 2 pavilions, playground equipment, and restrooms. The small pavilion near the playground provides shade and picnic seating for the families that utilize the play areas. The bigger pavilion in the front of the park is rentable. The maximum occupancy for permits is 100.

Howlett Hill Park – 5051 Youth Center Road, Camillus, NY 13031

Adult softball games are held weeknights and WOYSA holds soccer games on Saturdays in the spring and fall. This 9-acre park has two softball fields, one tennis court, one basketball court, a pavilion, grills, playground equipment, and restrooms. The maximum occupancy for permits is 75.

Anthony J. Santaro Memorial Park – 4979 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

This 22-acre park is a home site for WOYSA, Blue Wave & Outlaws Lacrosse, Westhill and Onondaga Community College athletic teams. There is a playground for children aged 2-5, as well as a play area for older children. The blue shelter, adjacent to the play areas provides shade and picnic seating and is open to all. It is not reserved for groups - **only the upper pavilion is available by permit**. Two large grills are adjacent to the upper pavilion. The park also has pickleball courts, tennis courts, a tennis/pickleball wall, and a basketball court. Tikes 'n Bikes Santaro Town provides a safe, fenced-in area for in-line skating and children with big wheel-type riders, tricycles, and small bikes with training wheels. The maximum occupancy for permits is 150.

PARK SECURITY

Our Town parks are patrolled by our staff and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department and covered by security cameras. Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in vandalism, litter, unsupervised children in restrooms, and improper use of park property, which causes additional time and money spent on repairs and can lead to sudden cancellation of activities including park permits. We need your help to keep the Town of Onondaga Parks beautiful. Please call 911 to report any suspicious activity. All reports are anonymous. Park ordinances are strictly enforced with appearance tickets.



*Anthony J.
Santaro Park on
Velasko Road,
Onondaga Hill*

2025 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

START SMART SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, May 3 – June 14 (Exclude 5/24)

Bringing parents and children ages 3 – 5 together to work on a variety of soccer skills. *Parents work directly with their children* to prepare them for organized soccer in a FUN, non-threatening environment. It offers soccer exercises that become increasingly more difficult as the program progresses and children show improvement. All participants should bring a water bottle, sweatshirt on cold days and shin guards. Fee includes a soccer ball to keep! No cleats allowed. MIN: 12/MAX: 20

AGES: 3 - 5 **TIME:** 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

FEE: \$60 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$70 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER April 26

HOT SHOTS YOUTH SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, May 3 – June 14 (Exclude 5/24)

Join our coaches for this fun Spring Soccer Program designed for boys and girls! This program focuses on teaching the basics of soccer in a supportive, friendly environment. Each session will include instructional activities to help kids develop essential soccer skills, followed by fun, mini-games where they can practice what they've learned. All participants should bring a water bottle, sweatshirt on cold days and shin guards. No cleats allowed. MIN: 12/MAX: 30

AGES: 5 - 8 **TIME:** 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

FEE: \$65 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$75 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER April 26

MATCH POINT TENNIS LESSONS (SPRING)

Santaro Park – Tennis Courts

Saturdays, May 10 – June 21 (exclude 5/24)

Instruction for aspiring youth tennis players ages 4 – 12! Come learn the basics of tennis, or work on your existing skills with coach Natalie! Tennis racquets are available to borrow, but feel free to bring yours from home. Age groups may be combined to ensure program runs for all registered participants. MIN: 6/MAX: 12

AGES: 4 – 8 **TIME:** 9 – 10 a.m.

AGES: 9 – 12 **TIME:** 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

AGES: 9 – 12 **TIME:** 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FEE: \$50 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$60 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER May 3

PICKLEBALL 101

Santaro Park

Thursdays, May 29 – July 3

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports! In this beginner 6-week program there will be one hour of instruction to learn the strokes, basic techniques and rules. The second hour will be supervised open play – testing new techniques with instructor suggestions.

MIN: 8/MAX: 12

AGES: 18 and over **TIME:** 10 a.m. – Noon

FEE: \$80 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$90 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER May 22

PICKLEBALL 102

Santaro Park

Thursdays, May 29 – July 3

This 6-week pickleball program takes players to the intermediate level and improves their skills. One hour of instruction and one hour for open play with recommendations on strategies and techniques.

MIN: 8/MAX: 12

AGES: 18 and over **TIME:** Noon - 2 p.m.

FEE: \$80 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$90 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER May 22

BABYSITTING CLASS

Onondaga Senior Center

Friday, June 27 OR Friday, August 15

Learn the essentials of babysitting in this course designed to prepare potential babysitters for the job. All participants will receive training from American Heart Association instructors and upon successful completion of the class, will receive certifications. Please bring a pen/pencil, notebook, and water. MIN: 4/MAX: 10

AGES: 11 – 18 **TIME:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

FEE: \$80 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$90 Non-residents

ADD \$10 one week before the class date.

MATCH POINT TENNIS LESSONS (SUMMER)

Santaro Park – Tennis Courts

Saturdays, June 28– August 9 (exclude 7/5)

Instruction for aspiring youth tennis players ages 4 – 12! Come learn the basics of tennis, or work on your existing skills with coach Natalie! Tennis racquets are available to borrow, but feel free to bring yours from home. Age groups may be combined to ensure the program runs for all registered participants. MIN: 6/MAX: 12

AGES: 4 – 6 **TIME:** 9 – 10 a.m.

AGES: 7 – 9 **TIME:** 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

AGES: 10 – 12 **TIME:** 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FEE: \$50 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$60 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER June 21

2025 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

SUMMER DAY CAMP!

LOCATIONS:

Santaro Park- 4979 Velasko Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215
OR Rockwell Elementary School, 208 Rockwell Rd.,
Nedrow, NY 13120

Summer Day Camps run Monday – Friday, July 1 (Tuesday) – August 8, 2025 (No program July 4)

AGES: 6 - 14 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

5-year-olds can sign up ONLY if they have completed kindergarten. Drop off or email a progress report for proof of age if 5.

Spend your summer days with us! Summer Day Camps have a variety of fun daily activities for school-age children including games, arts & crafts, sports, special events and field trips. Registration includes **ALL SIX WEEKS!**

When registering for Day Camp, be prepared to provide Immunization Record, most recent Physical, and any other Medical Information we may request.

6-Week Program Fee:

- \$160 Town of Onondaga residents
- \$260 All others
- More than 2 children: each additional child \$90
 - ADD \$10/PER CHILD AFTER June 20
- **NO REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 11, 2025.**

Proof of Residency Requirements

- Parent/Guardian may be required to provide proof of guardianship.
- Parent/Guardian may need to provide proof of residency.
- Child's primary parent or legal guardian must reside in the Town of Onondaga to receive resident rate.

DO NOT WAIT TO REGISTER!

Minimum of 50 must be registered by June 6. Failure to reach minimum number will result in site cancellation.

TRANSPORTATION SHUTTLE: Wheeler to Rockwell

Monday – Friday, July 1 (Tuesday) – August 8 (No program July 4)

We provide transportation every day of the program. Bus leaves Wheeler at 9 a.m. and returns at 3:15 p.m. When registering online, make sure to add this program as it is **NOT INCLUDED** in day camp registration. Min. 20/Max 40

Please note, in order to offer bus transport, we must meet the minimum number of participants by June 20, otherwise the bus will be canceled and participants notified.

6-Week Transportation Fee:

- \$75 Per Child
- **ADD \$10 AFTER June 20**



KINDERKIDS

Onondaga Hill Middle School Gym

Mondays – Fridays, July 1 (Tuesday) – August 8 (No program July 4)

AGES: 3 – 5

TIME: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Kinderkids is a supervised 6-week playground program for children ages 3-5. Children will get structured and unstructured activities both indoor and outdoor (weather dependent) as well as weekly reading



programs & special drop-in events. Children should come dressed to play and bring a snack and drink. **Space is limited. CHILD MUST BE POTTY TRAINED.**

Age & Residency Requirements:

- Child must be 3 by: June 23, 2025
- The child must not have attended Kindergarten yet.
- Parent/Guardian may need to provide proof of age.
- Child's primary parent or legal guardian must reside in the Town of Onondaga to receive resident rate.

FEE: \$175 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$185 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER June 23

2025 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

CAMP SOUTHWOOD!

Southwood Fire Department

Monday – Friday, July 7 – August 1

This summer, *Camp Southwood* invites kids to embark on an adventure like no other! Over the course of four exciting weeks our camp is packed with themed activities designed to spark creativity, imagination, and fun in a safe and supportive environment. Whether it's games, arts and crafts, sports, or special events, there's something for everyone - special events, picnic at Kelley Park, Pizza Party and special guest Challenge Island! There will be a T-Shirt provided.

Don't miss out on the adventure of a lifetime—sign up today and get ready for a summer of fun!

Min: 15/Max: 25

**5 year-olds can sign up ONLY if they have completed kindergarten. Must provide a progress report for proof of age if 5.*

Ages: 6 – 12 **Time:** 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Fee: \$45 per person

ADD \$10 AFTER June 16

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 23

START SMART BASEBALL

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, July 14 - 18

Check out this Homerun of a program! Children are encouraged to register for this program where we work to improve their motor skills, communication and hand-eye coordination using baseball and softball drills like throwing, catching, batting and agility. ***Parents work directly with their children*** each session under the direction of the program facilitator. Registration includes a baseball bat, ball, glove and parent instruction book to keep! Please bring a water bottle. MIN: 8/MAX: 20

AGES: 4 – 6 **TIME:** 5 – 6 p.m.

FEE: \$70 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$80 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 7



ISLAND DOLL WAVEMAKER – CHALLENGE ISLAND

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, July 7 – 11

Make waves in the worlds of design, engineering and entrepreneurship in our Island Doll camp, where you will learn about exceptional female role models and work in small STEAM Teams to design & build working prototypes of skate parks, restaurants, tennis courts, homes, waterslides, monster trucks, ski slopes, Paris-inspired fashion brands and much more.

MIN: 10/MAX: 20

AGES: 7 – 14 **TIME:** 9 a.m. - Noon

FEE: \$185 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$195 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER June 23

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 30

ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CAMP

Westhill High School Football Field

Monday – Thursday, July 14 - 17

Our Football Camp, led by Westhill coaches, provides participants ages 7-12 the opportunity to learn and improve football skills in a fun, friendly (non-contact) setting. Positions of focus include Quarterback, Running Back, and Wide Receiver. Proper fundamentals will be taught for each position in an appropriate manner. Demos and drill sessions will be presented daily. A football game/activity will be played at the end of each session. Participants must bring sneakers and a water bottle. Girls and Boys are encouraged to register!

MIN: 12/MAX: 40

AGES: 7 – 12 **TIME:** 6 – 7:30 p.m.

FEE: \$50 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$60 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 7

2025 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

HERO: SOUND-SENSING ROBOT – MINDS IN MOTION

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room
Monday – Friday, July 21 - 25

Build and take home your own sound-sensing superhero, Hero the Robot! With three super-sensitive microphones, Hero can find you, follow you around, listen to your sound commands or even challenge you to a wild game of tug-of-war! Hero's design is totally cool with hidden movable arms and a giant glowing eye. You'll put Hero together from over 100 parts using a full-color, manual packed with step-by-step instructions. Plus, you'll learn how Hero's super hearing works through the science of sound waves and spatial hearing! Ready to build and play with the coolest robot ever? MIN: 7/MAX: 14

AGES: 8 – 12 **TIME:** 9 a.m. – Noon

FEE: \$175 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$185 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 7

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 14

6-IN-1 SPACE FLEET ROBOT – MINDS IN MOTION

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room
Monday – Friday, July 21 - 25

Build and take home your very own Solar Space Fleet Robot! This is a solar powered science robot that can transform into six different lunar modules. Using your own mini solar panel, watch as direct sunlight brings the kits to life! Create a Space Station, Space Rover, Space Explorer, Astronaut, Space Shuttle and Space Dog. Watch as it moves around depending on the intensity of light as you learn, experiment and have fun with solar power! Each complete model can also be powered by your very own mini rechargeable battery. Join this super fun solar space adventure! MIN: 7/MAX: 14

AGES: 7 – 11 **TIME:** 12:30 – 3:30 pm

FEE: \$175 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$185 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 7

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 14

YOUTH SOCCER CAMP

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, July 21 - 25

This week of soccer activities will be packed with fun drills, mini soccer tournaments, speed, agility & fitness exercises. This dynamic program emphasizes the development of a player's touch, technique and skill development. Players will develop their understanding of the game and improve their confidence using progressive instruction and skill reinforcing games. Please bring a water bottle and wear shin guards. MIN: 12/MAX: 40

AGES: 6 – 14 **TIME:** TBA

FEE: \$40 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$50 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 14

CIRCUIT CUBES

Onondaga Senior Center – weather permitting we will be outside in the pavilion

Wednesday, July 23

To introduce participants to basic electrical circuits through hands-on learning, creativity, and problem-solving. This activity involves creating simple circuits using a combination of materials such as nylon tape, batteries, LED lights, and creating mini blocks to build fun, interactive circuit cubes. MIN: 8/MAX: 16

AGES: 7 – 12 **TIME:** 5:30 – 7 p.m.

FEE: \$15 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$20 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 16

YOGAKIDS CAMP

Onondaga Senior Center – dance studio

Monday – Friday, July 28 – August 1

Join Trista Phillipson, a certified Yogakids facilitator, in a WEEK-LONG learning adventure with Yoga as the pathway. Children will spend time each day practicing flexibility, mindfulness and fun. They will learn skills while they grow strong and flexible on all levels. Dress comfortably. Mats and art supplies provided. **First class will be upstairs in the multi-use room.** MIN: 12/MAX: 16

AGES: 5 - 12 **TIME:** 1 – 3 p.m.

FEE: \$100 Town of Onondaga Resident
\$110 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 21



2025 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

BACKYARD BIRDHOUSE/BIRDFEEDER

Onondaga Senior Center – Outside Pavilion (weather permitting)

Wednesday, August 6

Let your creativity soar as we come together to design and paint colorful birdhouses and create bird feeders for our feathered friends. This hands-on activity is the perfect opportunity to engage your imagination and make a positive impact on local wildlife. The birdhouses and feeders you make will help attract and support birds right in your own backyard! ****This project includes peanut butter.** MIN: 8/MAX: 16

AGES: 5 – 10 **TIME:** 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

FEE: \$15 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$20 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 30

BASKETBALL CAMP

King Park – Basketball Court

Monday – Friday, August 4 - 8

Join us for a week-long camp aimed at improving basketball skills! We will focus on dribbling, passing, shooting and game strategy for more advanced players. Coach will be instructing on form, strategy and helping children develop their confidence for organized play. Please bring a water bottle and wear sneakers. MIN: 10/MAX: 20

AGES: 7 – 9 **TIME:** 5 – 6 p.m.

AGES: 10 – 12 **TIME:** 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

FEE: \$30 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$40 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 28

ISLANDMON STEAM QUEST – CHALLENGE ISLAND

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, August 4 - 8

Join us for a mini-monstrous journey into the Challenge Island wild! Our adventurous STEAM Teams are on a quest to catch, collect and train all of the island's mini-monsters. They'll visit gyms, earn badges, go on treasure hunts, and even engage in a battle or two. With the help of their ally STEAMaroo, a clever and friendly kangaroo islandmon, our STEAM Team will tackle an island full of engineering challenges as they evolve into true STEAM Champions. MIN: 10/MAX: 20

AGES: 7 – 14 **TIME:** 9 a.m. – Noon

FEE: \$190 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$200 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER July 21

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 28

NATURE CAMP

Santaro Park - Pavilion

Monday – Friday, August 11 - 15

Discover nature this summer during a weeklong camp! We will be enjoying the great outdoors through exciting activities to include nature trail exploration, nature themed adventures, creek walks and trips. There will be nature-related crafts and nature games all week long. Field trips may include: Little Ray's Nature Center/APX. Special Event - Challenge Island is coming to do an in person "Field Trip". Please bring daily a lunch, water bottle, clothes that can get messy and sneakers. MIN: 15/MAX: 40

AGES: 6 – 14 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

FEE: \$120 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$130 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER: August 4

BRICK INSPIRATION – LEGO CAMP

RETURNING BRITISH INSTRUCTORS

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, August 11 – 15

LEGO camp explores science, technology, architecture, engineering and art using LEGO® bricks. The camp will fire up your child's imagination and spark creativity through inspired play, building one of our many themed LEGO creations coupled with our magical delivery. Our curriculum provides children an opportunity to design and build many different LEGO® creations. MIN: 6/MAX: 15

AGES: 5 – 13 (Each camp is broken into ages groups:
Ages 5 – 7 and Ages 8 – 13)

Half Day Camp: Please bring a water bottle.

TIME: 9 a.m. – Noon

FEE: \$120 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$130 Non-residents

Full Day Camp: Please bring lunch and a water bottle.

TIME: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FEE: \$200 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$210 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER: August 4



2025 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

DIGITAL LEARNING AND GAMING CAMP

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, August 11 – 15

Learn the fundamental tools of using iMovie, animation and visual arts while exploring how to make movies. You will be applying LEGO and other props using iStopmotion in this exciting and creative digital learning curriculum. A range of visual art apps will blend campers' creative artistic talents using digital technologies. Retro classic arcade games and physical recreation activities will be included in this non-stop action and learning fun. MIN: 7/MAX: 15

AGES: 5 - 11 **TIME:** 1 – 4 p.m.

FEE: \$100 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$110 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER August 4

ART CAMP – WITH MAKIN' IT WITH MARY

Onondaga Senior Center – Downstairs

Monday – Friday, August 18 - 22

Get creative with Makin' it with Mary at the "Hot Summer Days!" Art Camp. This camp is perfect for young artists eager to dive into the world of creativity and explore their passion for art. Over the course of the week, kids will be inspired to create, experiment and let their imaginations run wild! Please wear clothes that can get messy and bring a water bottle. MIN: 10/MAX: 16

Note: The Monday, August 18 class will be held upstairs in the multi-use room. The Thursday, August 21 class will run from 1 – 3 p.m.

AGES: 7 – 12 **TIME:** Noon – 2 p.m.

FEE: \$100 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$110 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER August 11



SENSIBLE SOCCER – SOCCER SQUIRTS

RETURNING BRITISH INSTRUCTORS

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, August 18 - 22

An action-packed week of introduction to soccer. Includes quality coaching, fun soccer games, mini soccer tournaments, speed, agility & fitness exercises in a relaxed and fun-filled environment for young players. Fundamental skills and constant encouragement from coaches ensures a memorable soccer experience. Please bring a water bottle and shin guards. MIN: 8/MAX: 30

AGES: 4 – 6 **TIME:** 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

FEE: \$75 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$85 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER August 11



SENSIBLE SOCCER – SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

RETURNING BRITISH INSTRUCTORS

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, August 18 - 22

This dynamic program emphasizes the development of a player's touch, technique and skill development. Players will develop their understanding of the game and improve their confidence through the use of progressive instruction and small-sided games - providing a challenging and enjoyable soccer experience. Please bring a water bottle and shin guards. MIN: 8/MAX: 30

AGES: 7 – 14 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FEE: \$130 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$140 Non-residents

ADD \$10 AFTER August 11

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Barbara Michalski,
Senior Program Coordinator

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

There Are No Strangers Here – Only Friends We Haven't Met.

Any senior citizen 55 or older is welcome to participate at the Onondaga Senior Center in a wide variety of ongoing scheduled programs and activities throughout the week. We offer day trips, classes, special party/lunch events, as well as health, fun and fitness activities.

Our bi-monthly newsletter, the *Senior Gazette*, featuring events and activities, is mailed out to all interested seniors. To get on the mailing list, please call the Senior Center. There is no charge for residents of the Town of Onondaga. There is a \$10 annual charge for those seniors not Town of Onondaga residents. The *Senior Gazette* is also available at parks.townofonondaga.gov

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

- Enjoy a hot lunch provided by P.E.A.C.E., Inc. every Monday - Thursday at Noon
- \$3.50 for any senior 60+. \$7 for anyone under 60
- Call the lunch line at 315.469.3259 for reservations.

CATERED LUNCHEONS - \$5 - Sign up early!

Upcoming luncheons with entertainment are scheduled for Thursdays: May 8, June 5, July 3 and August 7 at Noon.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISOR/SENIOR ASSISTANCE COUNSELING

Get help regarding: Food Stamps; HEAP Energy Assistance; Veterans Benefits; Meals On Wheels; Housing Subsidies; Home Repairs and Weatherization; Caregivers; Tax Assistance; Food Pantries; Social Day Programs. Call the Senior Center to set up an appointment to meet with the counselor, or for immediate assistance call the Salvation Army Office at 315.479.1125.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MID-NY

Provides legal services to residents of Onondaga County ages 60+. Services cover the following civil areas: Consumer/Debtor Relief, Living Wills, Power of Attorney Preparation, and Revocation, Simple Will & Testament, Veterans Benefits, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Social Security, Health Care Proxies, Medicare, Public Assistance and Utility issues. Call the Senior Center to schedule an appointment.

AAA DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Advance Registration Required

Anyone 50+ is eligible for this one-day course.

Class Dates: May 16; October 17; November 21:

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Senior Center doors open at 8:30 a.m.). Please arrive on time. Lunch: Noon - 12:30 p.m.

BRING TO CLASS: Your driver's license, pen/pencil and a bagged lunch (nothing that needs to be microwaved.) Coffee and Tea provided. *Check payable to AAA* for \$34 before class date.

Nutrition Counseling

For dietary counseling by phone, call the Dept. of Aging at 315.435.2362 to be connected with a nutrition counselor.



SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Book Club: 12:30 p.m., Mondays

DOMINOES: 1 – 3 p.m., Mondays

PASS THE ACE: Tuesdays from 1 – 3 p.m.

LIBRARY: A selection of donated books is available at our front entrance. Book donations are also accepted, however no hard covers.

MAH JONGG: 1 - 3 p.m., Mondays for Beginners; 1 – 3 p.m., Wednesdays for experienced players

QUILTING GROUP "BUSY HANDS": 10 a.m. – Noon, Mondays. Our quilters donate to various charities and make fun quilts to raffle each month. Come in and buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of their creations.

BILLIARDS: A regulation pool table is available all day. Come check out our newly decorated Pool Room!

Wii BOWLING: 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays

TECH HELP FROM THE OFL

Thursday, June 12 (*call Senior Center for date in July*)

11 a.m. - Noon

Looking for help with your phone, tablet or laptop? OFL's Marketing & Outreach Coordinator will be at the Senior Center to help and provide information on the digital services available at the Library.

SENIORS GOLF @ ORCHARD VALI

The 2025 Season Senior MENS Golf League (for seniors over age 55) will start Friday, April 18. Call Gill Madigan, League Secretary, for details, 315.469.4934 or 315.251.0739 if you are interested in playing.

For LADIES interested in golfing, call Orchard Vali Golf Course directly at 315.677.3303. They have women's leagues available with mixed age groups.

Walking PROGRAM

10 - 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Michael's Parish Center located on W. Seneca Turnpike behind the rectory.

Beginning in May, walk from 9 – 11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday around Brookdale Summerfield across from Santaro Park.

Please sign up at Senior Center.

CLASSES

ZUMBA GOLD

Instructor: Marie Thornton

Wednesdays 9:15 - 10:15 a.m., June 11 – September 3

This 12-week session is perfect for active older adults looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love, but at a lower-intensity. Come ready to sweat and leave empowered and feeling strong.

RESIDENT FEE: \$48

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$58

After June 4, add \$10

No Class June 25

INTERMEDIATE SENIOR TAP

Instructor: Denise Gehm

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays

Current session ends June 4

Next 8-week Session:

June 11 – July 30

RESIDENT FEE: \$32

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$42

After June 4 add \$10

***If you are interested in taking Beginner Tap Lessons let us know.*

EXERCISE WITH LIGHT WEIGHTS

10 – 10:45 a.m., Tuesdays & Fridays

NO-COST. Follow a video to stretch and strength train. Various sized hand weights provided.

INTERMEDIATE TAI CHI

Instructor: David Dolbear

2 – 3 p.m., Mondays

Characterized by soft, slow and continuous movement. Promotes pliability, improved cardiovascular and pulmonary function, improved posture and increased strength, especially in the legs. Also promotes concentration, relaxation, self-confidence and improvement in function of the central nervous system.

Current Sessions ends May 19

Next 12-week session:

June 2 – August 18

RESIDENT FEE: \$72

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$82

After May 26, add \$10

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

CHI KUNG

1 - 2 p.m., Mondays

Involves simple movements and breathing exercises to reduce stress and promote pliability, improved pulmonary and cardiovascular function. Chi Kung can be done sitting in a chair or standing. This is a beginner class for anyone who wishes continuing on to Tai Chi.

Current Sessions ends May 19

Next 12-week session:

June 2 – August 18

RESIDENT FEE: \$72

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$82

After May 26, add \$10

STRENGTH & STRETCH

Instructor: Marie Thornton

9:15 a.m., Thursdays

This energetic class is split into sections of strength for arms, legs, and abs and is similar to the evening classes using light weights, no heavier weights. Bring a mat.

Current Session ends June 19

Next 12-week session: July 3 – September 18

RESIDENT FEE: \$48

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$58

After June 19, add \$10

ART INSTRUCTION

Instructor: Thomas Hussey

Current session ends June 17

Next 12-week session: June 24 – September 9

(Call the Senior Center for class availability.)

ADVANCED ART

9 a.m. – Noon, Tuesdays

RESIDENT FEE: \$72

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$82

After June 17, add \$10

BEGINNER ART (Oil Painting)

12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Tuesdays

RESIDENT FEE: \$84

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$94

After June 17, add \$10

Contact Tom at wthussey@gmail.com or 315.730.4063 for information regarding supplies for class.

AUTUMN STRING ART DESIGN

Wednesday, August 20

Our adult string art class is designed to transform simple threads into masterpieces. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or someone new to string art, this class invites you to unwind and explore your artistic side. All supplies are provided. Choose one project to create: a Cardinal; or Sunflower in a light up mason jar; or a Pumpkin. Please let the office know which project you would like to do. MIN: 6/MAX: 12

TIME: 1 – 3 p.m.

FEE: \$25 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$35 Non-Residents

After August 13, add \$10



DAY TRIPS

Day trip information is posted at the Senior Center and in the *Senior Gazette*. Sign up at the Senior Center or call for availability. Payment can be made by check, payable to: Onondaga Seniors. Registration information must include: Name, phone number, trip date, pick-up point & menu choice (if any). Your payment includes bus transportation and all fees for the day, along with gratuities to restaurants and bus driver.

Upcoming trips:

Monday, June 6: REV Theatre *Jesus Christ Superstar* with lunch at Prison City Brewing

Wednesday July 23: *Murder For Two* at Cortland Repertory Theater with lunch at Tinelli's Hathaway House

Monday September 2: REV Theatre *Top Hat* with lunch at the Sherwood Inn

Monday October 6, Racquet Lake and the Adirondack Museum

More Summer and Fall trips to be announced!

From the Tax Receiver's Office

The next tax collection period is not until September so I won't dwell on it in this newsletter as no one wants to think about taxes in the spring and summer! I instead want to take a moment to celebrate a colleague and extend thanks to my neighbors.

Deputy Retires

Annie Owens retired last month as Deputy Tax Receiver after nearly five years and eight tax collection cycles. Together, we worked to modernize the office and adopt numerous budget-cutting and revenue-generating initiatives. I did make her promise to come back and help out in September while my new Deputy learns the ropes though!

THANK YOU!

I would also like to thank the thousands of residents who I had the great honor of interacting with during "tax time" this past fall and winter.



I never cease to be surprised when residents come in to pay taxes and hand me baked goods along with their check. Or bring their dog to visit just because they thought we needed a reason to smile. Or share jokes or personal stories and photos with me. Or we open the mail and see thank you cards and kind notes.

I feel very fortunate to live in this Town and to be able to serve my neighbors.



Our Town residents are the best. Period.

If you have questions, please contact me at kdwyer@townofonondaga.gov or 315.469.0483. We also post timely information at townofonondaga.gov and Facebook (@townofonondaga).



Kathy Dwyer,
Tax Receiver



Did You Know.... If you need a copy of a tax receipt or tax bill, you can access and download those at ongov.net/etax.

From the Assessor's Office

Exemptions by the Thousands

What a turnout this exemption season! Our office saw so many new and returning faces this season. As always, it is our absolute pleasure to see and converse with Town residents! We've processed thousands of both exemptions and exemption renewals.

Grievance Day Scheduled

The next big event in the Assessor's office will be Grievance Day coming up on the fourth Tuesday in May. This year, it falls on May 27.

We're Here to Help!

If you have any questions or concerns related to your property, please feel free to reach out to our office at 315-469-3216 and check out our Town of Onondaga Facebook page for updates related to important dates and reminders.

Michael Morrissey, Assessor
mmorrissey@townofonondaga.gov



Pictured: Dale Barcomb, Data Collector;
Mike Morrissey, Assessor; and Kelly Mahar, Clerk.

From the Town Historical Society

Partridge Family Collection

The indenture, pictured here, from 210 years ago, bound Amanda Stevens to Williams Partridge. Partridge was a lawyer, farmer, and served as Commissioner of both Highways and Schools. His home was on Makyes Road, near today's Fawn Hill development.

A few years ago, the Town of Onondaga Historical Society (TOHS) received a large box of documents that pertained to the activities of the Partridge family when they lived on Onondaga Hill. It includes land deeds and mortgages, receipts, letters to and from family, and numerous essays written by James Albert Partridge when he was a student in the early 1830s at Onondaga Academy in the Valley. Likewise, a number of Partridge family members are buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery on South Ave.

Collection Digitized, Available Online

TOHS extends our gratitude to the Central New York Library Resources Council (CNYLRC) and to Ashley Beavers for assistance in guiding the TOHS through the digitization process of the Partridge Family Collection for placement on nyheritage.org.

Also, thank you to Onondaga Free Library for making this connection to the CNYLRC possible.

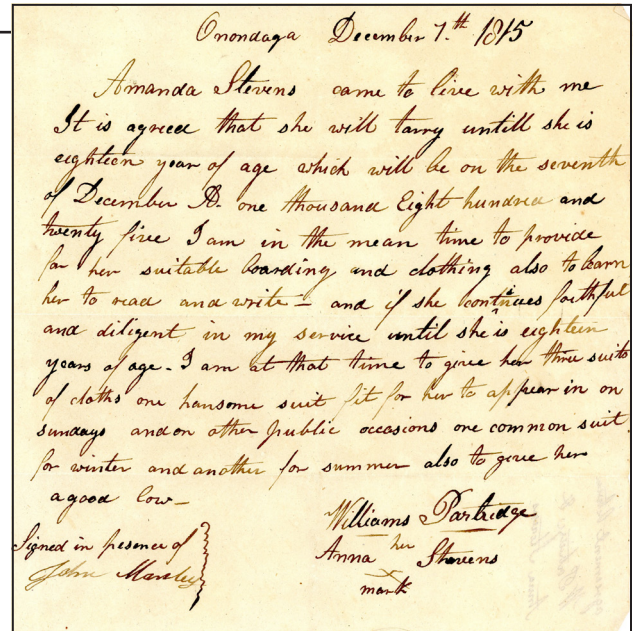
New York Heritage Digital Collections (nyheritage.org) include over 400,000 digitized books, manuscripts, maps, letters, photographs, and memorabilia. New York Heritage gives access to big stories and small affairs spanning the history of New York. It includes contributions from over 430 libraries, museums, archives, and other community organizations.

You can find the Town of Onondaga Historical Society's digital collections at nyheritage.org/organizations/town-onondaga-historical-society. And be sure to take a look at the Partridge Family Collection, which contains more than 350 family-related items.

Contact

Natalie Dardaris, Town Historian

315.214.2383 / townofonondagahistorical@gmail.com





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