



TOWN OF
ONONDAGA
ESTABLISHED 1798

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

OUR TOWN



What's inside...

- Remembering Hon. William Rose, Town Justice
- Fox Fest Finale
- Camps and Clinics and Field Trips (Oh my!)
- Brush Pickup Basics

TOWN OF ONONDAGA RESIDENT NEWSLETTER



TOWN OF
ONONDAGA
ESTABLISHED 1798

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 and Senior Center,
4834 Velasko Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215



Town Supervisor

John P. Mahar

(315) 469-3888

Town Councilors

Kathy Fedrizzi

(315) 469-3888

Lisa Goodwin

(315) 345-4083

Mary Ryan

(315) 469-3637

John Wheatley

(315) 492-0445

Town Departments

Sadee Sarsfield, Assessor

(315) 469-3216

Paul Votra, Building & Codes

(315) 469-3144

John Smith, Highway Superintendent

(315) 469-1664

Sandi McKee, Justice Court

(315) 469-1674

Charry Lawson, 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,

It takes a village to run a Town. And every day, I am grateful to our small but mighty village of part- and full-time employees; town, planning and zoning board members; judges; and department leaders. They make sure our Town is functioning smoothly on a day-to-day basis while keeping a watchful eye on future needs.

This issue's cover photo features that special group of people - minus a few important faces! – as a tribute to their dedication to serving the community we all love. The programs and services featured in this Our Town newsletter would not be possible without them.

With that in mind, Spring and Summer are the seasons when our Parks & Rec Department and Senior Center shine especially bright. Be sure to check out the extensive list of great programs – both new and returning favorites – to help residents of every age enjoy the outdoors, get more active, pursue a new hobby, take a day trip, or socialize with your neighbors. As an important reminder, our popular Summer camps for kids sell out FAST so be sure to register early.

Our four gorgeous Town parks open on May 1 so dust off those pickleball and tennis racquets, bicycles and basketballs, and head on over to Howlett Hill, Kelley, King or Santaro. Park pavilions are available for rent at a reduced fee for town residents for your special event; and keep an eye on our Facebook page for details on dates and times for not one, but TWO, summer concerts – one at Santaro Park and one at Kelley Park.

Our Highway Department has switched gears from plowing and salting to brush pick-up and road maintenance so be sure to read the Highway Superintendent's important reminders about brush pick-up.

As a reminder, all the great services we provide to Town residents are only possible through sound fiscal management of your tax dollars, wise investments, managing and reducing costs, and identifying new revenue and funding streams. We are happy to report that property taxes went down this past collection period, keeping Onondaga's tax rate as one of the two lowest in the 19 counties within Onondaga County.

As for new revenue generators, while it may be a minor example, beginning with this issue of Our Town, we have started accepting advertising relevant to residents to offset print/mail costs. We've had a great response and want to thank our inaugural group of advertisers: Colonial Laundromat, Edward J. Ryan & Son Funeral Home, Green Hills Farms, Howard Hanna Real Estate, Murray's Heating & Air Conditioning, Smooooth Creations, Valley Auto, Brinson Marine and Tru Fitness.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Our Town. 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



In Memoriam: Hon William Rose

“One of the people not shown in our cover photo is the Honorable William Rose, who passed away March 7th. Bill, who lived on Onondaga Hill, was elected as Town Justice in 2003



and many current Town employees and officials had the pleasure of working with him at one time or another during the ensuing 20 years. He was a skilled attorney and dedicated public servant, but more importantly, he was kind and thoughtful, a wonderful dad and husband, and someone I am honored to have called a friend. He is dearly missed.”



Town News Roundup

Thank You to our Inaugural Advertisers!

A big shout out to Colonial Laundromat, Green Hills Farms, Murray Heating & Air Conditioning, Edward J. Ryan & Son Funeral Home, Howard Hanna Real Estate/Kathy Fedrizzi, Smooooth Creations, Valley Auto, Brinson Marine and Tru Fitness. These great local businesses were the very first to step up and answer our call for Our Town advertisers. Their support helps underwrite the costs of this publication while keeping residents apprised of the valuable services they offer. This new revenue generator is part of our overall commitment to continually identify ways - big and small - to reduce expenses.

Park It

Southwood residents gathered at the Southwood Volunteer Fire Department for an informational meeting regarding a new Town Park proposed for a site owned by the Jamesville-Dewitt School District. Based on the feedback received, a presentation was made to the JD School Board for review regarding sale of the property to the Town. Stay tuned!



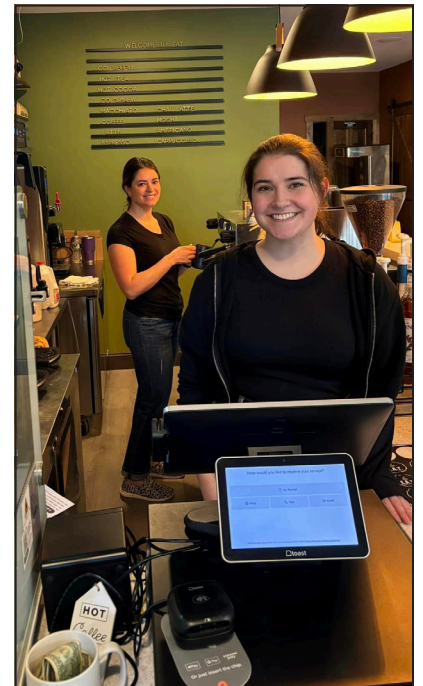
Solar Savings

New York State leads the country in Community Solar! And the Town of Onondaga is thrilled to be a project participant. All Town offices and facilities are reaping the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy without having to install panels, as a result. In fact, every year, the Town saves 10% on its energy and energy delivery costs. "The Town was an early adopter of Community Solar and has since seen notable electric bill savings while reducing our carbon footprint. I want to commend our Town Board for their forward-thinking approach in pursuing this innovative and environmentally friendly cost-savings opportunity," said Town Supervisor John Mahar. For more info on Community Solar, go to nyserda.ny.gov.

A New Place to EAT! E.A.T. (Eggs and Toast) opened in March in the Shady Brook Plaza on Onondaga Hill to rave reviews from residents and Syracuse.com. They offer a great selection of coffee, breakfast fare and bakery items for on-the-go or dine-in. Check out their menu at eateggsandtoast.com.

Shared Services for School Tax Collection

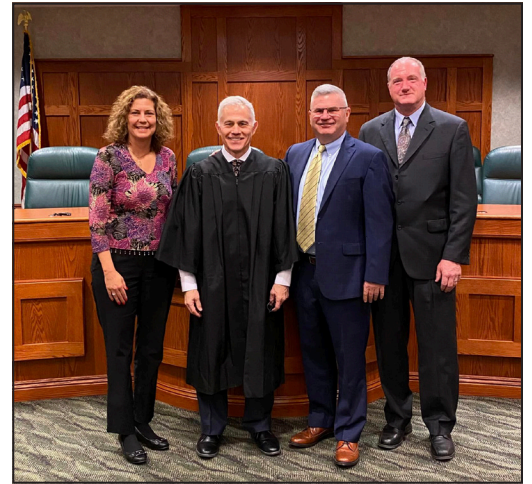
No one talks to more people one-on-one during the year than our Tax Receiver, Kathy Dwyer. She is responsible for collecting both town & county property taxes as well as school taxes for six of the districts in our town. Through her relationships with district administrators, she recently established shared service agreements with the Onondaga Central and Marcellus School Districts. Moving forward, Kathy will collect taxes for the entirety of the Marcellus and OCS Districts, including those areas outside the Town of Onondaga. The change will reduce these districts' collection admin costs while adding revenue for the Town.



The E.A.T. crew

Town News Roundup

Sworn to Service. NYS Supreme Court Justice, Hon. Robert Antonacci, who resides in the Town, did the honors swearing in Town Supervisor John Mahar, and Town Councilors Kathy Fedrizzi and John Wheatley to their new terms of office that commenced on Jan. 1. Congratulations John, John and Kathy and thank you for your tireless service to Town residents!



From left, Councilor Fedrizzi, Judge Antonacci, Supervisor Mahar and Councilor Wheatley

New Local Law for E-Bikes and E-Scooters

In recent years, the appearance of abandoned Veo eBikes and Scooters has become as much a sign of Spring as flowers blooming. Vehicles left on the sides of the roads and in the road became a serious safety issue last year. The Town has been in communication with the vendor and for each vehicle our Highway Department is forced to pick up and store, a fine will be imposed.

Grants Grants Grants

Our Parks Department recently secured grant funding that will be used for water stations at Santaro and Kelley Parks, parking lot lighting, a new gate and new roof at Kelley Park. We are still waiting for more information on when our grant funds will be received from New York State for electric vehicle charging stations at Town Hall, Parks & Rec/Senior Center and the Highway Department.

Music, Food and Fun! Local Concerts and Festivals

Here are a few of the events in the Town we can look forward to! Mark your calendars!

St. Elias Middle Eastern Festival, 4988 Onondaga Rd.

July 11-14

4 - 10 pm (July 11 & 12)

Noon -10 pm (July 13)

Noon - 6 pm (July 14)

syracusemideastfest.com or Facebook: @syracusemideastfest



Beak & Skiff Concert Series

(Named Best Music Series in CNY at 2024 SAMMY Awards)

June 4 - Gary Clark

June 8 - Bleachers

June 20 - Gregory Alan Isakov

June 22 - Michael Franti & Spearhead

June 27 - Brothers Osborne

June 28 - Shakey Graves & Trampled By Turtles

June 29 - Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit

July 7 - Lake Street Dive

July 23 - Flaming Lips

August 22 - Lee Brice

For ticket info, go to beakandskiff.com/events



Syracuse Macedonian Festival, 5083 Onondaga Rd.

August 2 - 4

stgeorgemoc.com/macedonian-festival

Facebook: @syracusemacedonianfestival

To include your community event in the Fall/Winter Our Town, send information to info@townofonondaga.gov.

From the Tax Receiver's Office



*Kathy Dwyer,
Tax Receiver*

Tax Receiver Update

Towns of the First Class (population over 5,000), like the Town of Onondaga, are required by New York State to elect a Tax Receiver. My role as Tax Receiver is pretty straightforward. I, along with my Deputy, Annie Owens, collect, process and record tax payments on behalf of the Town, County and six school districts and distribute those funds to each of them.

I also perform a broad range of associated processing, reporting, accounting, banking, and administrative tasks associated with the role. Each year, my office collects approximately \$62 million in total for all entities. At the heart of what we do though is customer service.

Having served in this role since 2020, I have enjoyed interactions with hundreds of residents each collection period and formed relationships and become familiar with many of their personal situations and challenges during our discussions. These encounters have had a significant impact on me and caused me to be especially diligent in improving office operations with an eye toward excellence, empathy and preparing for the future.

So, I want to give you a quick update on changes we've made to improve efficiency, lower operating costs, identify revenue streams and set the office up for long-term success:

- I recently formed shared service agreements with the Onondaga Central and Marcellus School Districts. I will now collect the entirety of taxes for these Districts, not just those properties in the Town of Onondaga. The Town will, in turn, be paid a fee. This means that the Town receives added revenue, and the districts can reduce admin costs as they do not need to hire someone to perform collection services. The agreements were forged after the retirement of previous school tax collectors.
- I moved our payment processing to Onondaga County's e-tax system. This has been an incredible benefit. It adds another level of checks and balances to ensure accuracy as well as additional oversight to protect against fraud. It also allows residents ready access to online services so you can do things like print your own receipts and tax bills if you misplace originals as well as pay taxes via e-check or credit card from the comfort of your home. As a result of that transition, we also cut tax bill print/mail costs IN HALF.
- The office now utilizes online depositing, thereby eliminating bank runs and the associated security risks, mileage expenses and time away from the office. I likewise adopted new technology and tech practices that allow me to work outside of traditional business hours when needed and respond immediately to residents' phone calls and emails in response to alerts I receive via an iPhone app.
- I eliminated several lines from the Tax Receiver department budget and reduced support staff hours without sacrificing customer service and efficiency.
- I created an operations and procedures handbook for use in staffing emergencies and to make the transition for future tax receivers easier. No such guide existed previously, which causes unnecessary risk in an office that handles such large taxpayer sums that so many entities count on to stay viable.

Paying taxes is never pleasant but Annie and I will always try to make the experience as positive as possible. We look forward to seeing many of you again in the Fall!

Contact: 315-469-0483 or kdwyer@townofonondaga.gov



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 28.

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. We are looking forward to another successful and busy exemption cycle again in September. See you then!

Sadee Sarsfield Assessor

ssarsfield@townofonondaga.gov



From left, Kelly Mahar, Sadee Sarsfield and Dale Balcomb

News From the Town Highway Department

Brush Pickup

Brush pickup is underway and will continue through October 31. The schedule is always subject to change, based on weather conditions. Pickups are done, on average, twice a month but are not on a specific schedule due to the unpredictability of load sizes in any given area and weather.

Definition of Brush and Yard Waste

Brush and yard waste is the "woody" natural material from your property, including cut pieces of trees, limbs, shrubbery, grass, yard, and garden waste. Our brush and yard waste pickup services provide residents with a convenient way to dispose of green waste.

Do's and Don'ts

- 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 or tree branches.
- Pieces of trees and brush must be piled neatly near the road with nothing larger than eight-foot-long and six inches in diameter.
- No lot clearings, and no trees larger than six inches in diameter are acceptable, as this takes time away from regular yard waste pick-up and we are charged additional disposal fees.
- No waste produced by commercial contractors are acceptable - such as tree stumps, large tree branches, tree trunks, landscaping waste, rocks, sod, dirt or other construction and landscaper waste. Contractors are responsible for the disposal of these.

If you need assistance with removal of items the Highway Department does not accept or have yard waste and brush remaining after seasonal pickup ends, OCRRRA offers drop-off sites. Fees applicable. Please call them at 315.453.2866 or go to www.ocrra.org.

Contact Us

John Smith, Superintendent

Linda Crowley, Administrative Assistant

315.469.1664



News From the Town Clerk's Office



The Town Clerk offers ready access to a wide variety of important services. We 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's an overview of some of the services we provide to residents:

Handicapped Parking Permits

Handicapped hangtags/parking permits can be obtained **BY RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN ONONDAGA ONLY** at our office once your required New York State application is completed. Applications are available at your doctor's office, through the link on our website, or here at the Town Clerk's office. The form must be completed and signed by you and your doctor, and you must present your driver's license or state-issued ID when applying.

Veterans Return the Favor Cards

Honorably discharged military Veterans residing in Onondaga County can pick up a FAVOR card by bringing their discharge or DD-214 papers, along with photo ID to the Town Clerk's office. FAVOR cards qualify Veterans for discounts throughout Onondaga County on programs, services, and merchandise from participating businesses/organizations. Area businesses interested in joining the program can pick up applications at our office. It's one small way to show appreciation to the Veterans in our community! For more information, visit ongov.net/favor.

Dog Licensing

One of the sometimes-overlooked responsibilities of owning a dog is getting them licensed within your municipality. You may ask why it matters. The main reason is so we can keep track of the dogs living amongst us and most importantly, their Rabies vaccination status. It also is helpful in reuniting lost dogs with their families by calling the number on the tag. Another plus? A portion of the fees collected go to the NY State Department of Agriculture & Markets for spaying/neutering programs. Dog license applications are available on our website or at our office. Please provide Rabies and spay/neuter documentation, as well as the yearly fee of \$10 if spayed/neutered and \$20 if non-spayed/neutered. You can license your dog for up to three years at a time – depending on when the vaccine expires. The Onondaga County Health Department will host Rabies Clinics on 5/16, 6/27, 7/25, 9/19 and 10/17 at various sites. For more information and to request an appointment, go to ongov.net/heath/env.

U.S. Passports

The Onondaga Town Clerk's Office is a great place to submit your passport application. **Appointments are required**, as well as a **photo** from an accepted passport photo processing facility. Payment must be made by **check or money order only** per U.S. Department of State requirements. Please feel free to call our office or visit travel.state.gov for more information.

Conservation Licenses

Town residents can apply for their Hunting and Fishing licenses at our office. The latest Fishing Regulations Guide is now available so stop in to get a copy while they last. The DEC has announced that beginning in August 2024, they are moving away from the currently issued Valeron paper to regular paper for hunting/fishing licenses. That means you can print your license from your home computer. Please visit www.dec.ny.gov for the latest hunting and fishing information and regulations.

Peddlers/Solicitors

Many Town residents have contacted us about solicitors in their neighborhoods. The Town requires all solicitors to obtain a permit before going door-to-door here. The process includes a background check and \$100/peddler fee. They are instructed to have this permit with them and must produce this on demand, as well as have their affiliated organization's 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.

FOIL Requests

The Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) provides citizens the right to review 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.



Theresa Allen, Deputy Town Clerk (right), and Rosemary Riley, Town Clerk Assistant, recently joined the office.

News From the Town Clerk's Office (continued)

Board of Elections Deadlines

Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

Non-Presidential Federal Primary - Tuesday June 25th | General Election - Tuesday November 5th

Polling locations are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you have questions about your polling location, or need answers to important information including registration deadlines, please call the Board of Elections at 315-435-VOTE or go to ongov.net/elections. Voter Registration forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office or through the Onondaga County Board of Elections located at 1000 Erie Blvd. W.

Services that Require Appointments

Please call 315-469-1583 to make an appointment for a passport, marriage license, or any complex notary service. By doing this, we hope to create a more time-efficient positive experience for everyone accessing our office's services.

Community Spotlight: Fox Fest

Nearly 15 years ago, three buddies - Kenny Francisco, Jim Johnson, and George Ryan - decided to host an epic summer bash featuring live music at George's Fox Road home.

Since then - thanks to the tireless efforts of George, his wife, Dodi, and sister, Kelly Ryan - that backyard party, dubbed Fox Fest, has grown to become a major award-winning music festival and charity fundraiser attended every year by thousands from around Central New York.

In its soul, Fox Fest is about the music, but its heart is squarely focused on the charitable component. Over the years, the event has raised thousands of dollars for local non-profits. This year's beneficiary is the Zach Helfrich Memorial Fund, which aims to build awareness and reduce the prevalence of suicide in young people through education, outreach, and funding for effective mental health treatment programs.

Fox Fest has become a must-attend event for CNY music enthusiasts based in large part on its powerhouse lineups that typically feature a mix of the area's most popular country, heavy metal, and rock bands. Yet its signature laid back vibe is what really seems to resonate with repeat attendees, including the BYO policy, free camping, easy onsite parking, and popular food options. That combo even helped Fox Fest take home the coveted SAMMY (Syracuse Area Music Awards) Award for People's Choice: Best Festival in 2014 permanently solidifying its place in local music history.

Yet sadly, Fox Fest's epic run is coming to an end. Geoge and Dodi announced earlier this year that this will be the 14th and final event. So, be sure to mark August 3rd on your calendars and let's show them they indeed saved the best fest for last.

When: Noon to Midnight, Saturday, August 3

Where: 3242 Fox Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215

Admission: Buy a shirt for \$30 online in advance or pay \$30 at the door.

Fast Facts:

- No pets allowed
- No alcohol sold. BYO
- Free camping is available
- Fest merch for sale
- Limp Lizard and The Spud Shack
- ATMs available
- Security: Onondaga County Sheriff's Department

More information is available at: foxfestsyracuse.com



August 3rd, 2024
14th and FINAL

FOXFEST 2024

SAMMY award winning Music festival featuring all day music from a dozen Great Bands

Proceeds from Foxfest 24 benefit the Zach Helfrich Memorial Fund and

LIFEWORTHYLIVING
Suicide Awareness and Prevention

FEATURING

RYDHER

Cousin Jake • Mike and Brian • Days End • Chasing Neon
Small Town Shade • Country Justice
Bonfire: A Tribute to AC/DC • Steve Cali Band
Tiger with Dave Hawthorn • Cooper Greer
Special Guest Sydney Irving and Briana Jessie

FOR TICKETS AND OTHER INFO - FOXFESTSYRACUSE.COM OR 315.633-8796
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
Free Camping on site

From Building & Codes Department

Let's Welcome Trish!

Please join us in welcoming Town resident, Patricia Conrad, to our Building & Codes team. As secretary, she is responsible for a variety of administrative and customer service duties and will likely be the first person you see when you visit the department. Trish hails from Orange County, NY and relocated to Onondaga from the Poughkeepsie area. She is from a family of contractors and real estate professionals and has broad-ranging experience in customer service as well as teaching and healthcare expertise.



Building Permit Rules, Fees and Fines Updated

After careful review, our building permit rules, fees and fines have been updated to adapt to the changing landscape in the Town. It is important to note that undertaking activity that requires a building permit prior to obtaining such permit is a Class A Misdemeanor. For detailed information on building permit rules, fees and fine and to access a permit application, go to townofonondaga.gov. Here's a quick overview:

A Building Permit will be issued when the application is submitted along with the required supporting documents and the proposed work conforms to the requirements of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and the Town of Onondaga Zoning Law and Regulations. The permit may be limited by conditions. The Codes Enforcement Office must be notified of any changes to the information contained in the application during the period the permit is in effect.

The following information must be submitted at the time of application:

1. A copy of the application
2. A copy of an up-to-date lot Survey, certified by a licensed NYS Land Surveyor, showing locations of lot and buildings on the premises, and relationship to adjoining premises and public streets
3. A set of plans and specifications describing the proposed work, per applicable State Education Law. The original seal and signature of a licensed and registered NYS Architect or Professional Engineer must be affixed to all plans except where good cause is shown and if the construction is under 1500-square-feet and the construction cost is less than \$20,000.
4. If the permit is for installation of a Solid Fuel Burning Appliance, the manufacturer's installation specifications must be submitted at the time of application.
5. A Certificate of Insurance with the Town of Onondaga as a Certificate Holder, listing Worker's Compensation and NYS Disability benefits, if wages are to be paid to anyone working on the project
6. Proof of Ownership, such as a copy of a deed or a tax receipt
7. Driveway Permit
8. Septic Approval
9. Application Fee:
 - Building Permit Application: \$50 - Includes first \$1,000 of construction
 - Building Permit: \$5 per every \$1,000 of construction over \$1,000
 - Building Without a Permit: \$100
 - Demolition: \$65
 - Pool Permits: \$25 Inflatable | \$50 Above Ground or Hot Tub | \$100 In-Ground
 - Fire Inspections: \$50 - Up to 10,000 square feet | \$100 - Over 10,000 square feet
10. The applicant must schedule inspections with the Codes Enforcer 24 hours in advance for the following:
 - Footer
 - Framing
 - Foundation
 - Solid Fuel Burning Appliance
 - Insulation
 - Final Inspection

Onondaga Free Library News



New Fundraiser Alert!

Onondaga Free Library (OFL) is hosting a brand-new fundraiser this Spring! Stop by the library any time through Thursday, May 9 to see the display of uniquely decorated birdhouses in the front lobby and take a chance on bringing one home! Raffle tickets are available at the front desk: one dollar each or six for five dollars. A separate raffle will be held for a special birdhouse crafted by local woodworker, Jerry Holbrook. Tickets for that are five dollars each or five for 20 dollars. Winners will be drawn Friday, May 10.

Spring Programs

- **To Enter or Not to Enter?** Do you know April is National Poetry Month? To celebrate, OFL is holding a Poetry Contest open to all ages. Simply submit your original poem any time in April. Winners receive a prize bundle that includes a framed copy of their poem.
- **Tick Talk Time.** At 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 29, the CNY Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Alliance will host a Tick Talk at OFL. The presentation will include tick basics, prevention, symptoms and treatments for Lyme disease.
- **We Dig It!** In the summer of 1967, archeologists excavated a Haudenosaunee longhouse discovered at a site in Howlett Hill. At 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 30, come find out all about it from Dr. Sara French, professor of Landscape Architecture at SUNY ESF. She will give an overview of the location, the excavation, and discuss the development, construction, and significance of longhouses in Native American culture.
- **More You Know.** May is Mental Health Awareness Month and OFL welcomes back NAMI Syracuse to present Let's Talk About Mental Illness. The presentation will cover diagnoses, early warning signs, coping strategies, the importance of early intervention and resources for families and others impacted by mental illness.
- **Coming Soon.** Keep an eye out for Community Living Advocates' senior fair; dance classes presented by Walt Medicis Dance Studio; book talk and signing with romance author and Syracuse native, Rochelle Bilow; and much more!
- **Calling All Teens!** OFL's Teen Volunteer program is back. Teens interested in volunteering at the library are invited to attend our meetups to discuss available opportunities and your areas of interest. Visit www.oflibrary.org/volunteer for dates and times.

Summer Programs

- **Adventure Begins @ Your Library!** Come along for a Summer of adventure with OFL when you sign up for our Summer reading program. All participants are welcome to join. Simply sign-up, read, log and earn prizes. Lots of fun, interactive programs will be held too! Check our website in June for updates on all things Summer.

June Book Sale

The Friends of OFL will host its annual Book Sale from June 5-8 at the Library. Donations of gently used books and movies will be accepted during regular library hours on May 31, June 1, June 3, and June 4. OFL is closed Sunday, June 2. If you would like to learn more about how to become a member of the Friends of OFL, visit www.oflibrary.org/friends-of-ofl or attend one of its meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

Must Love Books

Onondaga Free Library is seeking trustees for its board of directors. Anyone who resides or works in the Town of Onondaga is eligible to serve. We encourage interested parties to attend a Board meeting or email trustees@oflibrary.org.

Contact Us

4840 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215

Phone: (315) 492-1727 | **Website:** oflibrary.org | **Email:** info@oflibrary.org

Social Media: @OnondagaFreeLib on Facebook and Instagram

Current Hours: Monday – Wednesday, 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Summer Weekend Hours (4th Saturday in June through Labor Day): Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Holiday Closings: May 25-27, June 19, July 4, August 31-September 2

OFL Board of Trustees Meetings: 6 p.m., Wednesdays on May 22, July 24, September 25

From Richard McCarron, 11th District, Onondaga County Legislator



I am so grateful for the opportunity to continue representing you on the Onondaga County Legislature! Thank you to all those who elected me in November and I look forward to working on behalf of the entire 11th District during this two-year term.

Given my many years as an Onondaga County Sheriff's Deputy, I am happy to continue in the role of Vice Chair of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee where I can share my insights based on firsthand experiences. Public safety is an obvious priority to all of us, and with rising crime since NYS changed the bail laws, I have been trying to educate our neighbors on how to protect themselves to prevent becoming a victim.

First and foremost, always remain aware of your surroundings. At home, utilize as much exterior lighting as possible and install a camera if you can. And make sure your car is locked and there are no keys or valuables left in your vehicle. If you would like more tips or want to find out more about starting a neighborhood watch group, please reach out to me.

This year, I have also been appointed Vice Chair of the Legislature's Health & Human Services Committee. The committee oversees and approves funding requests for several county agencies including the Health Department, Department of Social Services & Economic Security, Adult & Long-Term Care Services, Children & Family Services, and the Veterans Service Agency. These all provide vital services to County residents, and I am excited to do my part to help ensure they are meeting your diverse needs.

One of the things I'm pleased to have helped with to date is securing funding for a digital sign at the Navarino Fire Department. The department can now more readily share department and community news - plus it looks great! If you haven't seen it, take a drive by the station on Amber Road. And speaking of making our communities look better, the County's Main Street grant program recently provided funding to help businesses along the Nedrow business corridor to make exterior improvements, including E.C.K. Tree & Outdoor Power Products, EJ's Auto and CNY Glass Block.

In other recent news, I met with residents in our Town who were charged a sewer fee on their property tax bills despite not being on County sewers. I worked with the County's Department of Water Environment Protection to get these inaccurate charges removed or refunded.

And finally, the Legislature has begun implementation of an updated Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan that defines the vision and goals for our County's success and details how we make it happen. One of the key themes relates to housing and neighborhoods. I've been working closely with Supervisor Mahar and other Town officials to see how and if we can increase housing opportunities while remaining the suburban/agricultural community we love. I will be sure to provide periodic updates. You can learn more about the county plan at plan.ongov.net.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at richardmccarron@ongov.net or 315.435.2070. And be sure to connect with me on Facebook: [@McCarronforOC](https://www.facebook.com/McCarronforOC).

Enjoy your Spring & Summer!



County Legislator McCarron attends the recent St. Baldrick's fundraiser at Kitty Hoyne's in support of Onondaga County Sheriff's Deputy Conor Young. The annual community event raises money for childhood cancer research.

Fire Department News

From Howlett Hill Fire Department

Chief: James Harris

President: Frank Valls

Delicious Meals for Moms

It's almost that time again! Time to give your Mom a delicious Mother's Day surprise! We will host our super-popular Mother's Day Chicken BBQ meals-to-go on Sunday, May 12 from noon until sold-out.

This scrumptious meal includes a half chicken cooked in mouth-watering sauce on our famous chicken grill, cole slaw, baked beans, salt potatoes, and dinner roll for \$15. We even provide the carrying case and utensils, so clean-up is a breeze.

By the way, we will run another Chicken BBQ in September, so you can go around again!

Multi-Media Recruitment Efforts

Be on the look-out for our upcoming multi-media recruitment campaign. We recently hired a local marketing group to help us spread the word about the benefits of joining our fire department. You will see messages on a variety of digital and social channels as we continue our efforts to recruit new members of all ages for a wide range of positions. No experience is necessary as we provide training, protective equipment, and mentorship to help volunteers succeed and enjoy the experience.

Stop By!

If you would like to know more about our fire department or just want to look around, please stop by any Monday evening at 7 pm. That's when department members are onsite for drills, training, and meetings. We'll be happy to give you a tour and introduce you to our volunteers.

You can find us at 3384 Howlett Hill Road, Syracuse, NY 13215.

Spring Sportsman Raffle Ticket Sales End April 24th

Tickets sales for our annual Spring Sportsman Raffle are underway and will end on April 24th. If you or someone you know loves getting outdoors and enjoying the great rural environment where we live, this raffle is for you. Purchase tickets from any Howlett Hill Fire Department member, call 315-673-1817, or purchase online at: howletthillfiredepartment.org/howlett-hill-fire-department-ny/raffle-2024/.

Winners may choose the prize for which their ticket was drawn OR a \$200 check. Ticket sales end April 24. Drawings will be held at 7 p.m., May 1 at the firehouse. You do not need to be present to win.

Follow! Visit!

Make sure you follow us on Facebook (@Howlett Hill Fire Department - 100% Volunteer) and visit our website at howletthillfiredepartment.org/howlett-hill-fire-department-ny/.



Howlett Hill VFD Installation Dinner. Town Supervisor John Mahar was on hand to celebrate the installation of the Howlett Hill Fire Department's slate of officers for 2024. Also pictured are Rich McCarron - Onondaga County Legislator 11th District, Chief James Harris and Frank Valls, President. Congratulations and a heartfelt "thank you" to all the incoming officers for their tireless volunteer leadership!

Fire Department News

From Southwood Fire Department

Chief: Vincent Carroll

President: Thomas Bouvia

The Southwood Fire Dept had a very busy year last year and 2024 is proving to be no different. Here are some of the highlights:

- Mid 2023 we gained eight new firefighters and four new support team members. Five of the firefighters have signed up and are currently taking their BFO (Basic Fire Operations) course. This will give them the knowledge they need to perform the basic skills necessary to respond to fire calls.
- As a department we are reviewing plans for updates at our fire station. Stay tuned for details.
- We are awaiting delivery of a new Chief's vehicle and have formed a committee to review specs on a new Squad vehicle as well.
- Recruitment and retention remain major challenges for volunteer fire departments here and around the county. We are continuing our focus on hosting community events and activities to encourage community members to find out more about becoming volunteers with the Southwood Fire Department department.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to visit southwoodFD.com for more information or stop by the firehouse on any Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. to see what we are all about!



Southwood VFD Installation Dinner. Town Supervisor John Mahar joined County Legislator Richard McCarron in helping celebrate the Southwood Volunteer Fire Dept. and its amazing leaders and members at its annual installation dinner. Thank you to the department's volunteers for all you do to keep Town residents safe!

From South Onondaga Fire Department

Chief: Erik Nelson

President: Howard Carr

Family Traditions

A tradition is defined as the “transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation.” Did you ever think of starting your own family tradition?

Many local families have a tradition of service with the South Onondaga Fire Department. From their great-grandfather being a Charter member to husbands and wives or fathers, mothers and their children joining together and helping their community. If you are considering starting a tradition with your family, we invite you to stop by the firehouse any Monday evening. We'd love to have you as part of our fire department family.

Family Fun Day

Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 13th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as you won't want to miss our Family Fun Day and Chicken Bar-B-Que. The bar-b-que starts at 11 a.m. until gone with cooking by Dave's Finger Lickin' Chicken. Activities will include raffles, the Onondaga County's Public Education Trailer and much more.

Free Smoke Alarms!

Together with the American Red Cross, we are helping community residents get smoke alarms installed in their homes at no cost to the homeowner. Contact any fire department member for more information. We are here to help YOU!

Like Us! Follow Us!

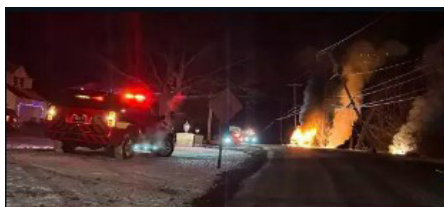
Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook (South Onondaga Fire Department) to keep up to date on our news and events.

Fire Department News

From Taunton Fire Department

Chief: Michael Phelan

President: Edward Phelan, Jr.



**Taunton Fire
DEPARTMENT**

NOW RECRUITING

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO
HELP PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY**

CLICK BELOW TO APPLY

(Applicant must be 16 or older)



**4300 Onondaga blvd
Syracuse, NY 13219
(315) 468-1011
www.tauntonfd62.com**

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There is a role for everyone -
Firefighters, EMT's, Apparatus
operators and Administration.

All equipment and training
provided at no cost.

New facility, new apparatus and
new equipment.

College credits for select training.

Service Pension (LOSAP).



A Sign for the Times. The Town was happy to be able to earmark grant funds to the Navarino Fire Department for its community message board. We are grateful every day to the department's volunteers for their brave efforts to protect our community.

Parks & Recreation

OUR MISSION

The Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for providing quality facilities, grounds, programs, and leisure services to all residents of the Town. We strive to provide the highest quality programs and facilities through strong, imaginative, and caring leadership.

We fulfill this mission starting with ongoing training for all staff, participation in professional organizations, training workshops and making staff available to attend meeting/seminars furthering their networking opportunities.

The Department serves the needs of over 23,000 Town residents. Our full-time Senior Center houses our administrative offices, and we maintain the four Town parks consisting of nearly 60 developed acres. All parks have a varying number of tennis, pickleball, volleyball and basketball courts, play areas, athletic fields, pavilions and grills. Our parks crew consists of one full-time, year-round employee and an average of four seasonal employees from April through October. In addition to the parks, we maintain town rights-of-way, and the properties of the Highway Department, Town Hall, and our building.

We are the oldest full-time senior center program in Onondaga County. Our part-time coordinator provides a well-rounded program of scheduled activities throughout the week. We offer day trips, classes, as well as health, fun and fitness activities. Many programs and speakers are centered around the lunches provided Monday through Thursday through PEACE Inc. The lunch program allows seniors to enjoy an affordable (suggested \$3.50 donation) hot meal along with the opportunity to socialize and participate with others in planned activities. There are many other programs coordinated through the Senior Center as well, including AAA driver courses, legal services, and senior assistance related to insurance, tax preparation, HEAP, food stamps and more.

We provide leisure, educational and physical activities for ages three and older including an all-encompassing six-week summer day camp, which allows youth opportunities to learn new activities in a non-threatening atmosphere to give them a solid foundation for success in the endeavor of their choice. Offerings throughout the year include basketball, soccer, tennis, and lacrosse instruction; babysitting certification; art classes; field trips; yoga; Lego camp; sports-specific camps; and much more.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Pavilion rentals begin April 1 for residents, and May 1 for non-residents.
- Parks officially open May 1.
- Early program registration is recommended. Many programs fill fast – especially our summer camps.
- HERO (Help Expand Recreation Opportunities) scholarships are available to eligible local youth. This fund helps support families that may not otherwise be able to afford recreation programs for their children. Call our office for more information or to donate: 315-469-3464.

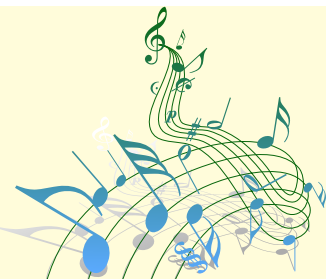


Charry Lawson, Director

JOIN US IN THE PARK FOR A CONCERT (OR TWO)!

The Parks & Recreation Department will host two concerts this summer! One at Santaro Park and one at Kelley Park. Some of our Town Fire Departments will be on hand with recruiting information.

Refreshments and children's activities will be available. Watch our website and Facebook page for details as they develop!



PARKS & RECREATION STAFF

Charry Lawson, Director

Jennifer Smiley, Recreation Supervisor
Barb Michalski, Senior Program Coordinator
Richard Lamphier, Park Labor Crew Leader
Rachel Draper, 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 24 – Aug. 30)

Address: 4834 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Phone: 315-469-3464

Email: recreation@townofonondaga.gov

Website: parks.townofonondaga.gov

Park Facilities

The Town operates four parks for residents. Dogs and smoking of any nature are not allowed in any of our parks. Reservations for courts, fields, and pavilions require a permit and are available at the Parks office, 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 are 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 – 251 Dorwin Avenue, Syracuse, 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, and beach volleyball court. There is a small pavilion near the playground to provide shade and picnic seating for families that utilize the play areas. The maximum occupancy for permits is 75.

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

The athletic fields are heavily used by our adult softball leagues during the week, with WOYSA playing games on Saturdays, 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, pavilion, playground equipment, and restrooms. There is a small pavilion near the playground to provide shade and picnic seating for the families that utilize the play areas. The maximum occupancy for permits is 100.

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

Adult softball games are held weeknights, along with WOYSA holding soccer games on Saturdays in the 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 major site for WOYSA, Blue Wave & Outlaws Lacrosse, Westhill and Onondaga Community College athletic teams. Playground pieces for children 2-5 years old, as well as a play piece for older children. The blue shade shelter, adjacent to the play areas, is for the use of all park participants, providing shade and picnic seating. 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 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 rider toys, tricycles, and small bikes with training wheels. The maximum occupancy for permits is 150.

PARK SECURITY

Our Town facilities are patrolled by our staff and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. If you have an emergency, call 911. We have experienced a rise in vandalism and disregard for the facilities which causes additional time and money spent on repairs or even the cancelling of activities including park permits. We need your help to keep 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.

Be a HERO to Local Children!

Every child deserves the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of recreation programs. To help meet the need of families who might not be able to 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 will benefit the Town of Onondaga youth. If you are a family in need of assistance in paying for a program, please contact our office.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, call 315-469-3464. Thank you for your consideration!

2024 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

- Non-residents pay \$10.00 more for most programs.
- Registration is online at parks.townofonondaga.gov
- We have a drop box in the rear of the building 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 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% (\$3.00 min.) fee is added to each transaction. **This fee is non-refundable, even if the program is canceled.**
- If paying in person or by mail, please make checks payable to Town of Onondaga. An online account must be created even if you choose not to pay online.

REFUND & CANCELLATION POLICIES

Details regarding our Refund/Credit & Cancellation Policies are available online at parks.townofonondaga.gov. Please be sure to read all terms carefully before registering.

"EXPLORE ARCHERY" YOUTH ARCHERY CLINIC

Howlett Hill Park

Saturday, May 18

Introductory Archery Clinic with Expert instruction! USA archery certified Instructor Trainer, Charlie Kline, teaches children how to safely handle a bow and arrow, and runs them through drills and games to help them be successful Jr. Archers! All equipment is provided! Participants should bring water, a snack, and wear-weather appropriate clothing, and a sock with the toe cut off to be used as an underlayment for the arm guard if your child has thin arms.

AGES: 11 – 16 **TIME:** 10:00 am – 11:30 am **MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 10

FEE: \$60.00 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$70.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: May 11

ADULT ARCHERY

Howlett Hill Park

Saturday, May 18

Ever considered trying archery as hobby, but didn't want to invest in the equipment? Well, here's your opportunity to learn the basics before you go out and drop a bunch of money! Our archery instructor, Charlie Kline, will walk you through the basics and let you explore this sport!

AGES: 17 and over **TIME:** 12:00 PM – 1:30 pm

MIN: 6/**MAX:** 10

FEE: \$60.00 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$70.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: May 11

START SMART SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, May 4 – June 15 (No class May 25)

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 class 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.

AGES: 3 - 5 **TIME:** 8:30 am – 9:30 am **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$50.00 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$60.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: April 27

HOT SHOTS YOUTH SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, May 4 – June 15 (No class May 25)

This Spring Soccer Program is for boys and girls ages 5 – 8. This is an instructional program where kids can learn fundamentals of soccer. They will play games at the end of each session. All participants should bring a water bottle, sweatshirt on cold days and shin guards. No cleats allowed.

AGES: 5 - 8 **TIME:** 9:45 am – 10:45 am **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 30

FEE: \$55.00 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$65.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: April 27

2024 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

MINI-STYX LACROSSE

Santaro Park

Wednesdays, May 15 – June 5

Children ages 4 – 8 can join our spring instructional lacrosse program! Sessions cover the basics of ball handling, passing, catching and stick work. Children learn introductory skills that are easy to understand. We use soft practice balls, only require kids to bring sticks, mouthguard, water bottle, and wear weather appropriate clothing.

AGES: 4 – 5 **TIME:** 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 20

AGES: 6 – 8 **TIME:** 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$45.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$55.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: May 8

PICKLEBALL 101

Santaro Park

Thursdays, May 30 – June 27 & Wednesday, July 3

This 6-week program is designed for new players.

Each class will be an hour of instruction followed by an hour of supervised open play.

AGES: 18+ **TIME:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 12

FEE: \$80.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$90.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE AFTER: May 23

PICKLEBALL 102

Santaro Park

Thursdays, May 30 – June 27 & Wednesday, July 3

This 6-week program is designed to take players from the beginner to intermediate level. If you know the rules to pickleball and are looking to improve your skills, this is the class for you. Each class will be an hour of instruction followed by an hour of supervised open play.

AGES: 18+ **TIME:** 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MIN: 8/**MAX:** 12

FEE: \$80.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$90.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE AFTER: May 23

YOUTH PICKLEBALL

Santaro Park

Thursdays, May 30 – June 13

Participants will learn the rules, techniques, and strategies of Pickleball in this 3-week course. Bringing your own pickleball paddle is recommended, but there will be paddles to borrow if you do not have one. Bring a water bottle.

AGES: 8 - 12 **TIME:** 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 12

FEE: \$25.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$35.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE AFTER: May 23

BABYSITTING CLASS

Onondaga Senior Center

Friday, June 28 OR Thursday, August 15

This course designed to prepare potential babysitters for the job. All participants receive training from American Heart Association instructors and upon successful completion of the class, will receive certifications to show to parents. Please bring a pen/pencil, notebook, and water.

AGES: 11 – 18 **TIME:** 9:00 am – 11:00 am **MIN:** 4/**MAX:** 11

FEE: \$65.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$75.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE one week before the class date.

STEAM-WARTS CAMP – CHALLENGE ISLAND

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, July 8 - 12

Welcome to STEAMwarts Academy of Wizards, Spells and Potions! You'll design your own wand and wizarding gear and be sorted into your perfect STEAM house. You'll take on a full load of wizarding classes from Transfiguration to Flying Broomsticks to Magical Beasts. You'll mix up spellingbinding potions, cast enchanting spells, and make your own flying dragon. Camp will culminate with an enchanted graduation ceremony complete with butter beer and diplomas. STEAMwarts spots are sure to disappear like magic, so sign up today!

AGES: 7 – 14 **TIME:** 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **MIN:** 10/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$160.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$170.00 Non-residents

DEADLINE: July 1

TENNIS LESSONS

Santaro Park – Tennis Courts

Mondays & Fridays, July 8, 12, 22, 26, 29, & August 2
(No class 7/15 & 7/19)

This camp will emphasize fundamentals, skill-building games, team competitions and fun activities for each player. The camp will cover basic stroke production, rules, positioning, and strategy. Bring a water bottle.

AGES: 4 – 8 **TIME:** 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm **MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 12

AGES: 9 – 12 **TIME:** 6:45 pm – 7:45 pm **MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 12

FEE: \$50.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$60.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: July 1



2024 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

SUMMER DAY CAMP!

LOCATIONS:

Santaro Park- 4979 Velasko Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215

OR Wheeler Elementary – 4549 S. Onondaga Rd.

Summer Day Camps run Monday – Friday,

July 1 – August 9 **(No program July 4 & 5)**

AGES: 6 - 14 **TIME:** 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

A 5-year-old can sign up **ONLY** if they have completed kindergarten. Must bring a report card for proof of age if 5.

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

Prior to the start of Day Camp, please be prepared to provide Immunization Records, most recent Physical, and any other detailed Medical Information we may request when registering.

6 Week Program Fee:

- \$150.00 Town of Onondaga residents
- \$250.00 Non-residents
- More than 2 children: each additional child \$80.00
- *After 6/24/24 add \$10.00 per child*

• **NO REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 12**

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!

FOR WHEELER DAY CAMP ONLY

Wheeler has extended hours in the morning! See details and pricing on our registration website: parks.townofonondaga.gov

TRANSPORTATION FROM ROCKWELL TO WHEELER

Monday – Friday, July 1 – August 9

(No program July 4 & 5)

We provide transportation to and from the camp at Wheeler from Rockwell Elementary every day of the program. Bus leaves Rockwell @ 9 AM and returns at 3:15 PM. When registering online, make sure to add this program as it is **NOT INCLUDED** in playground registration.

Min. 15. / Max 40

6 Week Transportation Fee:

\$60.00 Per Child

Add \$10 to fee after 6/28/24

KINDERKIDS

Onondaga Hill Middle School Cafeteria

Monday – Friday, July 1 – August 9, 2024

(No program July 4 & 5)

AGES: 3 – 5 **TIME:** 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Kinderkids is a supervised, six-week playground program for children ages 3-5. Children will get structured and unstructured activities both indoor and outdoor (weather depending) as well as weekly reading programs & special drop-in events. Children should come dressed to play and bring a snack & drink. Space is limited. **CHILD MUST BE POTTY TRAINED.**

Age & Residency Requirements:

- Child must be 3 by: 6/21/2024.
- 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: \$175.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$185.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: June 24



2024 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

START SMART BASEBALL

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, July 15 - 19

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 foam bat and ball to keep! Please bring a glove and water bottle.

AGES: 4 – 6 **TIME:** 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$60.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$70.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: July 8

CODE & CONTROL ROBO DOZER – MINDS IN MOTION

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, July 22 - 26

Build and take home your own robotic bulldozer and handheld wireless controller! With your own-colored manual and the aid of your instructor, you will each assemble your Robo Dozer that consists of over 40 different robotic parts that includes a speaker, circuit board, motors, LED lights, and more. Bring a water bottle. See parks.townofonondaga.gov for more details.

AGES: 8 – 12 **TIME:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm **MIN:** 7/**MAX:** 14

FEE: \$160.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$170.00 Non-residents

DEADLINE: July 15

FUTURE ENGINEERS – MINDS IN MOTION

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, July 22 – 26

Take home your very own engineering kit! You will build up to 8 working models including a material lift, stationary bike, crane bridge, construction crane, and windmill! With the aid of your instructor and the easy-to-follow manual, you will learn different scientific principles involving pulleys and mechanics. Bring a water bottle. See parks.townofonondaga.gov for more details.

AGES: 8 – 12 **TIME:** 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm **MIN:** 7/**MAX:** 14

FEE: \$160.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$170.00 Non-residents

DEADLINE: July 15

ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CAMP

Westhill High School Football Field

Monday – Thursday, TBA

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 age-appropriate manner. Demonstration, 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!

AGES: 7 – 12 **TIME:** TBA **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 40

FEE: \$50.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$60.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: TBA



YOGAKIDS CAMP

Onondaga Senior Center – dance studio

Monday – Friday, July 29 – August 2

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. **Please note, first class will be upstairs in the multi-use room.**

AGES: 5 - 12 **TIME:** 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 16

FEE: \$100.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$110.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: July 22

2024 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

SOCCER CAMP

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, TBA

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. Players will develop their understanding of the game and improve their confidence through use of progressive instruction and skill reinforcing games. Please bring a water bottle and wear shin guards.

AGES: 6 – 14 **TIME:** TBA **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 40

FEE: \$40.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$50.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: TBA

BASKETBALL CAMP

King Park – Basketball Court

Monday – Friday, August 5 - 9

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

AGES: 7 – 9 **TIME:** 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **MIN:** 10/**MAX:** 20

AGES: 10 – 12 **TIME:** 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm **MIN:** 10/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$25.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$35.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: July 29

SLIMETOPIA 3: CHEFS ON DECK – CHALLENGE ISLAND

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, August 5 - 9

Prepare to stir up the most delicious-looking slime recipes on the Seven Seas! You and your STEAM Team have been chosen to be slime sous chefs on the S.S. Slimetopia cruise ship and it's up to you to "feed" the slime hungry passengers morning, noon and night! You'll mix up Belgian Waffle Slime, Fast Food Hamburger Slime, Ice Cream Sundae Slime and Spectacular Sushi Slime (to name a few!). Slimetopia 3 is sure to sell out in a squishy, squashy splash, so book your cruise cabin ooey, gooey fast! Note: Although the slimes in this camp may look and smell yummy, they are for playing not for tasting!

AGES: 7 – 14 **TIME:** 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **MIN:** 10/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$185.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$195.00 Non-residents

DEADLINE: July 29

DANCE CAMP

Onondaga Senior Center – Dance Studio

Monday - Friday, August 5 - 9

Looking to see if your child(ren) are interested in Dance Classes? Well, this is the Dance Camp for you! Child must be 3 by 8/5/24

BALLET: **AGES:** 3-5 **TIME:** 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm **MIN:** 4/**MAX:** 8

BALLET: **AGES:** 3-5 **TIME:** 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm **MIN:** 4/**MAX:** 8

BALLET: **AGES:** 6-8 **TIME:** 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm **MIN:** 4/**MAX:** 8

FEE: \$25.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$35.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: July 29

NATURE CAMP

Santaro Park - Pavilion

Monday – Friday, August 12 - 16

We will be enjoying the great outdoors through a number of exciting activities including nature trail exploration, nature themed activities, creek walks and exciting trips. There will be nature-related crafts and nature games all week long. Field trips may include: Beaver Lake, Clarks Reservation or Green Lakes. Please bring daily a lunch, water bottle, clothes that can get messy, and sneakers.

AGES: 6 – 14 **TIME:** 9:30 am – 3:00 pm **MIN:** 15/**MAX:** 40

FEE: \$100.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$110.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: August 5

BRICK INSPIRATION – LEGO CAMP

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, August 12 – 16

We are pleased to have our British instructors back for LEGO camp which explores science, technology, architecture, engineering, and art concepts using LEGO® bricks for children ages 5-13. The camp will fire up your child's imagination and spark creativity in the form of inspired play, building one of our many themed LEGO creations coupled with our magical delivery. Our curriculum will provide your child with an opportunity to design and build lots of different LEGO® creations.

AGES: 5 – 13

Half Day Camp: Please bring a water bottle.

TIME: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm **MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$100.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$110.00 Non-residents

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

TIME: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm **MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$180.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$190.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: August 5

2024 Summer Recreation Programs & Activities

DIGITAL LEARNING AND GAMING CAMP

Onondaga Town Hall – Back Room

Monday – Friday, August 12 - 16

Join our British instructors in learning the foundational tools of iMovie, animation, and visual arts. Campers will explore how to make movies with iMovie and create animations using 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 some physical recreation activities will be included in this non-stop action and learning fun.

AGES: 5 - 11 **TIME:** 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 20

FEE: \$90.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$100.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: August 5

ART CAMP

Onondaga Senior Center – Downstairs

Monday – Friday, August 19 - 23

Kids will love this hands-off screen-free art camp. Your children will enjoy projects designed to be purposeful, not prescriptive and inspire imagination and confidence. Students will be inspired by nature in this weeklong camp. The program will end with a gallery showing of their work. Please wear clothes that can get messy and bring a water bottle. **Please note, Monday, August 19 class will be held upstairs in the multi-use room.**

AGES: 7 – 12 **TIME:** 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm **MIN:** 10/**MAX:** 16

FEE: \$100.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$110.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: August 12

SENSIBLE SOCCER – SOCCER SQUIRTS

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, August 19 - 23

Sensible Soccer UK is a leading international soccer education & development organization based in the UK. They create and implement innovative programs at the forefront of today's game, which educate and inspire individuals to achieve their full potential in soccer. An action-packed week of activities, including quality coaching, fun games, mini tournaments, speed, agility & fitness exercises. This program offers an introduction to the game in a relaxed and fun-filled environment for young players. Fundamental skills are introduced through a series of 'disguised learning' games & exercises. Constant encouragement from our coaches ensures a memorable experience. Please bring a water bottle and shin guards. No cleats.

AGES: 4 – 6 **TIME:** 8:30 am – 9:30 am **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 30

FEE: \$55.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$65.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: August 12

SENSIBLE SOCCER – SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Santaro Park

Monday – Friday, August 19 - 23

This dynamic program emphasizes development of a player's touch, technique, and skill. Players will develop their understanding of the game and improve confidence using progressive instruction and small-sided games, providing a challenging and enjoyable soccer experience. Please bring a water bottle and shin guards. No cleats.

AGES: 7 – 14 **TIME:** 9:30 am – 12:30 pm **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 30

FEE: \$110.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$120.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE after: August 12

ARCHERY CAMP

Howlett Hill Park

Tuesday – Thursday, August 20, 21, & 22

Register for our Archery Camp to learn the safety components of the sport while improving your skills. Please bring a water, bottle, snack and a sock with the toe cut off to be used as an underlayment for the arm guard if your child has thin arms.

AGES: 11 – 16 **TIME:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 10

FEE: \$100.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$110.00 Non-residents

ADD \$10.00 FEE: August 13



SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

SENIOR CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Barbara Michalski, Senior Program Coordinator

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 24 – Aug. 30)

Address: 4834 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Phone: 315-469-3464

Email: recreation@townofonondaga.gov

Website: parks.townofonondaga.gov

Anyone 55 and older is welcome to participate in the wide variety of programs and events offered at the Onondaga Senior Center. We offer day trips, classes, special events, as well as health, fun and fitness activities.

Our bi-monthly newsletter, the *Senior Gazette*, featuring events, activities and updates, is mailed to interested Seniors. To receive a copy, please call the Senior Center. There is no charge to residents of the Town of Onondaga. There is a \$10 annual charge for those Seniors not residing in the Town. The *Senior Gazette* and P.E.A.C.E. Inc. monthly lunch menu are available at parks.townofonondaga.gov

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

Every Monday – Thursday at 12 Noon.

Enjoy a hot lunch provided by P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Reservations should be in by 12:30 PM the day before, and/or Thursday for the following week. Call the lunch line at 315-469-3259 for reservations. Drop by and pick up a monthly lunch menu at the Senior Center. Call and cancel if you are unable to come for lunch, and make sure to include in your message the day and date you are cancelling.

FEE: \$3.50 for any senior 60+. \$7 for anyone under 60

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 directly, 315.479.1125.

NUTRITION COUNSELING

To receive dietary counseling by phone, call the Department of Aging at 315-435-2362 and they will connect you with a nutrition counselor.

Donations We Collect: Byrne Dairy Receipts – Aluminum Pull Tabs – Canned and Non-Perishable Items for Food Pantry – Yarn.

CATERED LUNCHEONS - \$5 - Sign up early!

Upcoming luncheons with entertainment are scheduled for:

Thursdays, May 9, June 6, July 11, August 1 @ 12 Noon

AAA DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE (ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED)

Classes for 2024: May 10; October 11; November 8
Anyone 50+ is eligible to take this one-day course. Please arrive on time. Senior Center Doors DO NOT open until 8:30 AM. Lunch: 12 - 12:30 PM. Bring a bagged lunch (nothing that needs to be microwaved!) Coffee and Tea provided. BRING TO CLASS: Your current driver's license, pen/pencil.

CLASS TIME: 9 AM – 3:30 PM

PAYMENT: Checks payable to "AAA" for \$34.00

TECH HELP FROM OFL

Thursday, May 9 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Looking for help with your phone, tablet, or laptop? Chantal, the library's Marketing and Outreach Coordinator will be here at the Senior Center, and also provide tech assistance to learn to use one of Onondaga Free Library's many digital services, such as getting eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music and more from Overdrive/Libby or Hoopla.

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

DAY TRIPS

Day trip announcements are posted at the Senior Center and published in the Senior Gazette. For reservations, sign up at the Senior Center or call for availability then send a check for payment. Include with check: name of person(s) taking the trip, phone number, date of trip, your pick-up point & menu choice (if any). Make check payable to Onondaga Seniors. Your payment includes bus transportation and all fees for the day, along with gratuities to restaurant and bus driver.

Trip Over to Binghamton! - Wednesday, May 8

Music and Gaming @ Turning Stone Casino - Tuesday, May 21

REV Theatre *Jersey Boys* with lunch at Springside Inn - Friday, June 14

Shake, Rattle & Roll @ Silver Birches Resort - Tuesday, July 9

Lunch at the Hathaway House & More of Cortland - Wednesday, August 7

REV Theatre *Bandstand the Musical* with lunch at Highland Golf's 1925 Grill Restaurant - Monday, August 26

REV Theatre *May We All* with lunch at Sherwood Inn - Monday, September 30

More trips coming soon!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

QUILTING GROUP "BUSY HANDS": Mondays 10AM-12 Noon. This talented group creates many quilts and donates to charitable organizations. They also do other sewing/needlework crafts. New folks are always welcome to join them. If you would like to donate fabric and quilting/crafting supplies bring them on Monday mornings when they are meeting.

DOMINOES: Mondays from 1-3 PM.

Book Club: Mondays at 12:30 PM. The group reads one book a month and discusses a few chapters each week. It's a nice get together of 'bookish' minds.

Cards for fun: Mondays and Wednesdays 1-3 PM. Any card game of your choice can be played. Call us if you would like to bring your group to play.

MAH JONGG: Wednesdays 1-3 PM. Experienced players welcome!

Wii BOWLING: Wednesday morning 10:00 AM. Come join in!

Billiards: Our regulation pool table is available all day!

LIBRARY: Our 'library' is in the front entrance of the Senior Center. Come in and pick out a book anytime to enjoy. We also appreciate any clean, used paperback books that you would like to 'share' with our community.



GAMES WE PLAY

(Check our calendar for additional dates)

PASS THE ACE CARD GAME:

Tuesdays, April 30; May 7 & 28; June 11 & 25 @ 12:50 PM (after lunch)

LEFT CENTER RIGHT (LCR) GAME:

Tuesdays, April 23, May 14; June 4 & 18
Bring 6 quarters to play 2 games. Please arrive by 12:45 PM to form tables.

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

WALKING PROGRAM

Throughout the year, seniors are welcome to join a group for walking Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 – 11 AM, at St. Michael's Parish Center, on W. Seneca Turnpike behind the rectory. Beginning in May on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 – 11 AM, through the summer, walking is also available around the Brookdale Summerfield Residences on the path around the building. If you have not provided us your Medical & Emergency Information Form, stop at the Senior Center and fill out the form.

SENIOR GOLF @ ORCHARD VALI

The Senior **MENS** Golf League (for seniors over age 55) starts April 19. If you are interested in playing call Gil Madigan, League Secretary at 315-469-4934 or 315-251-0739.

For **LADIES** interested in golfing, please call Orchard Vali Golf Course directly at 315-677-3303. They have women's leagues available with a mixed age group.

From the Town Historical Society

Bookmark It!

The Town of Onondaga Historical Society (TOHS) is expected to debut its new website in the coming weeks. The revamped site will feature information on each of the Town's hamlets as well as Split Rock and the Poorhouse. Visitors will also be able to sign up to receive our quarterly newsletters and become a member. Be sure to bookmark townofonondagamuseum.com.

Check out the Museum

The community is encouraged to stop by the museum located in Town Hall and see our new display of pictures and artifacts relating to Split Rock's quarries, munitions factory, and explosion. A large map of the area compiled and drawn by the late Split Rock expert Rich Miller is available to view. The TOHS Museum is open Tuesday and Thursday from 1 - 3 p.m., Wednesdays from Noon to 3 p.m., and by appointment.

More to Showcase!

We are fortunate to have recently expanded the rotating showcase of our collections in the Town Hall lobby. Our newest display features historic photos and memorabilia of South Onondaga.

Contact

Natalie Dardaris, Town Historian
Carl Wiezalis, TOHS President
townofonondagahistorical@gmail.com
315-214-2383



Public Safety

In an emergency, always call 911.

Onondaga County Sheriff Office: South Station
Located at Onondaga Town Hall,
5020 Ball Rd., Syracuse 13215 | 315.435-3044

TIP411: To submit an anonymous tip by text to the
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, text TIPONON and
your tip to 847411.

Fire Protection Services

In an emergency, always call 911.

Howlett Hill Volunteer Fire Department
Chief: James Harris, President: Frank Valls
howlethillfiredepartment.org
Facebook: @howlethillfire

Navarino Volunteer Fire Department
Chief: Chris Barry, President: Donald Krick
Facebook: @Navarino-Fire-Department

Nedrow Volunteer Fire Department
Chief: Rick Nemier, President: Paul Tiss
Facebook: @nedrowfire

Onondaga Hill Volunteer Fire Department
Chief: Sam Garafalo, President: Jeremy Warren
ohfd.net, Facebook: @onondagahillfire

South Onondaga Volunteer Fire Department
Chief: Erik Nelson, President: Howard Carr
Facebook: @southonondagafire

Southwood Volunteer Fire Department
Chief: Vincent Carroll, President: Tom Bouvia
Facebook: @southwoodvolunteerfiredept

Taunton Volunteer Fire Department
Chief: Michael Phelan, President: Edward Phelan, Jr.
tauntonfd.org

Library

Onondaga Free Library
4840 W. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse 13215
315.492.1727 | info@oflibrary.org | oflibrary.org



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