



TOWN OF  
**ONONDAGA**  
ESTABLISHED 1798

FALL / WINTER 2025

# OUR TOWN

## What's inside...

- 🌿 Celebrating Town Hall's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 🌿 Annual Fall Clean-Up Schedule
- 🌿 Community Banner Program Kicks Off
- 🌿 Parks and Senior Center Activities
- 🌿 Master Plan Gets Update
- 🌿 Long-Term Public Safety

TOWN OF ONONDAGA RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

# 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

(Committees: Development & Codes Review, Highway,  
Personnel)

## Town Councilors

Kathy Fedrizzi

(Committees: Personnel, Insurance)

Lisa Goodwin

(Committees: Fire & Safety, Library, Recreation & Senior)

Mary Ryan

(Committees: Environmental, Fire & Safety, Personnel)

John Wheatley

(Committees: Development & Codes Review, Highway, Recreation & Senior)

## Town Departments

Michael Morrissey, Assessor

Jeff Herrick, Director, Building & Codes

John Smith, Highway Superintendent

Hon. Paul Mullin, Hon Patrick Kilmartin, Justice Court

Charry Lawson, Parks & Rec/Senior Ctr.

Kathy Dwyer, Tax Receiver

Janet Hillery, Town Clerk

## County Legislator

Richard McCarron (11th District)



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

(315) 469-3888

(315) 345-4083

(315) 469-3637

(315) 492-0445

(315) 469-3216

(315) 469-3144

(315) 469-1664

(315) 469-1674

(315) 469-3464

(315) 469-0483

(315) 469-1583

(315) 435-2070

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## From the Desk of the Supervisor

Dear Neighbors,

Twenty years ago, the Town cut the ribbon on its new Town Hall here on Ball Road. The beautiful structure was built - debt-free – with residents top-of-mind. For two decades, it has provided easy parking and one-stop access to our Assessor, Clerk, Tax Receiver, Codes Department, Justice Court, Board Room, Supervisor's Office, a Community Room, Historical Society Museum and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office – South Station.



# From the Desk of the Supervisor (continued)

We celebrate that milestone on the cover of this issue and the related article. Thank you to our Historian, Natalie Dardaris, for her help in uncovering some fun photos!

That project is an example of the importance of long-term planning. In fact, ensuring Town residents enjoy the highest quality of life is what drives me, your Town Board and the leaders and employees of our Town departments every day. And while the day-to-day operations keep us all very busy, our role in continually evaluating the enduring needs of the nine very diverse hamlets of our Town is equally important.



*Town Hall Interior – Then*



*Town Hall Interior – Now*

**Over the past several months, a special task force has been working on an updated Town of Onondaga Master Plan to guide development in our Town for the next decade-plus.** The group is comprised of experts in zoning, planning, land use, public safety, engineering, preservation, recreation, and other essential areas. It also includes representation from residents and business owners in each area of the Town. When completed this Fall, the plan will be posted to the Town's website and a link will be provided on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

A Master Plan though, is only as meaningful as the Town leadership's follow-through to its parameters via a variety of checks and balances. That is where our Town Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Building and Codes Department come in. For the past several months, a significant amount of effort has been put into assembling a team of credentialed, experienced and relationship-focused professionals who not only know and understand our Town but are well-versed in the intricacies of code enforcement, land use, site plan review and construction management. With the appointment of Jeff Herrick as Building & Codes Director, and his new staff, we are confident we have a strong team in place to best serve the public. I would like to give a big shout out to Ron Ryan, the Town's former Code Enforcement Officer. He gave generously of his time and limitless knowledge to get us to this point. Ron knows this Town like few others ever have or ever will and has achieved a level of expertise in his field that is second to none. To say we are fortunate to have his assistance is an understatement. You can read more about our Codes Department team in this issue.

**Another significant milestone with long-lasting effects was achieved this summer as we successfully negotiated and finalized a 20-year lease agreement with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department to keep its South Station at Town Hall.** The new contract ensures a police presence in our Town for the foreseeable future - which is invaluable for public safety.



**And finally, we are excited to partner with the Nedrow Fire Department and its Auxiliary and Nedrow Community Crew on a community banner project to honor Town veterans and feature local businesses.** The banners, which were designed by a local artist, will be hung along a portion of South Salina Street and Rockwell Road and available for purchase through the Auxiliary. Details on participating will be posted on Facebook.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Our Town. Be sure to stay in touch year-round by following @townofonondaga on Facebook and Instagram and visiting [townofonondaga.gov](http://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](mailto:jmahar@townofonondaga.gov).

Sincerely,  
John P. Mahar, Town Supervisor



# News From the Town Highway Department

Your Highway Department has been hard at work for residents. Here is a sample of what we've been up to this summer:

- **1,050 Loads** of brush and yard waste have been picked up so far this year, and we expect this to double by the end of the year.
- **103 Yards** of concrete have been poured to repair or replace catch basins and gutters.
- **9.38 Miles** of Town roads have been oiled and stoned, cap sealed or blacktopped so far with more scheduled before the season ends.
- **260 Feet** of pipe has been installed for culverts/drainage issues.
- Many faded stop signs have been replaced, street signs and speed signs repaired/replaced.
- Roadside mowing, first cut completed to help with line-of-site issues, and the second cut continues through the fall. All retention basins have been mowed for the season.
- And so much more, while responding to downed trees and flooding issues caused by the frequent storms.



*John S. Smith,  
Highway Superintendent*

Up next, we are getting ready for our seven-week-long **Annual Fall Cleanup**. Check the schedule for your pickup week and details on what we will and will not pick up. Flyers were also mailed to all residents.

If you have questions, please call or email us and we will be happy to help.

Phone: 315 469-1664; Email: [Lcrowley@townofonondaga.gov](mailto:Lcrowley@townofonondaga.gov)

## 2025 FALL CLEANUP SCHEDULE

It's time to discard your unwanted items (junk) from your home, yard, shed, garage, & basement.

Our crew and trucks cover over 200 miles of road during the 7-week Town Cleanup event. Please look at your schedule carefully and have your junk and yard waste out on the roadside prior to the start of your week. **We will only pick up once for junk and once for yard waste during your week, we can not come back as it takes us the entire week to complete each fire district.**

**Examples of acceptable items:** Sofa, chairs, box spring, washer, dryer, toys, scrap wood, plumbing fixtures, lawn furniture, grill, carpeting, dry empty paint cans without lid. Glass items like windows and mirrors, but please tape or wrap in plastic to avoid them from shattering.

**Brush: MUST** be piled separately from Junk and will be picked up during your scheduled Fall Cleanup week. Branches must be 6 inches in diameter or less and no more than 8 feet in length. Please stack neatly away from fences, power poles and low wires.

**Leaves & Yard Waste: MUST** be in paper leaf bags or cardboard boxes. No plastic bags will be picked up as they are not biodegradable and cannot be composted. **No stones, dirt or trash of any kind in bags please.**

**Please Note:** Brush and yard waste will not be picked up again until after all 7 fire districts are completed. OCRRA'S Amboy and Jamesville compost sites are open for residents to take yard waste if you need to dispose of sooner. Call for more information.

### ITEMS WE **will not** PICKUP

- Recyclables of any kind, plastic & glass bottles, papers, newspapers, magazines and cardboard.
- Mattress
- Tires & Batteries
- Barrels of any kind
- Gas & Propane tanks
- Tree stumps & Rocks
- Freezers, Refrigerators, Dehumidifiers
- Toxic containers, medical supplies or waste
- Lawn Chemicals
- Asbestos, Shingles, Pipe wrap

- Concrete and Construction Material
- Paint cans with contents & lid on.
- TV's, Computers, Microwaves, Air Conditioners, or Electronics of any kind.

**Please no household garbage**

For help disposing of the above items contact OCRRA: (315)453-2866 or [www.ocrra.org](http://www.ocrra.org)

If you have questions, please call or email the Hwy. Dept. for assistance.



# News From the Town Highway Department (continued)

2025 FALL CLEANUP SCHEDULE			
Fire Districts:	Week of:	Onondaga Hill Fire District	Sept. 29th
Howlett Hill Fire District	Sept. 1st	South of W. Seneca Tpk. Cut off is Cole Rd, but does not include Cole Rd.	
Cedarvale Rd. to Townline Rd.		Nedrow Fire District	Oct. 6th
S. Onondaga & Navarino Fire District	Sept. 8th	East of S. Salina St. Including Southwood, Crownpoint & Sentinel Hgts.	
Taunton 1 & 2 Fire District	Sept. 15th	Nedrow Fire District	Oct. 13th
Including: Harris Hill, Buxton Woods & Sherwood Farms		West of S. Salina St.	
Onondaga Hill Fire District	Sept. 22nd	Fire District information can be found on your property tax records (www.ongov.net) or call Hwy. Dept. for help.	
North of W. Seneca Tpk. Including: Limehill, Breckenridge and Autumn Ridge			

## News From the Town Clerk's Office

**Office Hours:** M-F 8:30-4:30; Phone: 315-469-1583; E-mail: [jhillery@townofonondaga.gov](mailto:jhillery@townofonondaga.gov)

The Town Clerk's office continues to be busy offering many services to the public. Please keep in mind the following:

### Marriage Certificates

We have seen an increase in the number of marriage transcript requests, mostly due to the Real ID mandate. Please remember that transcripts can only be found at the Clerk's office where you applied for the license, or through the Department of Vital Records in Albany.

### U.S. Passports

**Passport renewals can now be done online.** As always, first-time applicants can submit their application through our office. Please remember to bring a photo from an accepted passport photo processing facility, along with your original birth certificate and state-issued ID. For more information on this and other commonly asked questions, please feel free to call our office or visit [Travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov).

### Conservation Licenses

The DEC is encouraging the use of their mobile app, HuntFishNY, or their website, [dec.ny.gov](https://dec.ny.gov) to obtain your sporting license. We are happy to assist you here at the Town Clerk's office, but please remember we must charge a \$1 print fee if you would like us to print your license. Doe permits can be purchased from 8/1 – 10/1 by visiting the DEC website, by calling the DEC at 1-866-933-2257, or right here at the Town Clerk's office.

### Peddlers/Solicitors

The Town of Onondaga requires a permit for door-to-door sales, which entails a background check and applicable fees before a permit is issued. The solicitor must have company ID and be able to produce the Town issued license upon demand. Please call our office if you have questions about the solicitor's legitimacy. We also post the approved solicitors to our Town Facebook page.

### Veterans Return the Favor Cards

Honorably discharged military Veterans residing in Onondaga County can obtain a **FAVOR** 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 [onondaga.gov/clerk/favor](https://onondaga.gov/clerk/favor). It's one small way to show our appreciation to the many Veterans throughout our community, and it is an honor to meet those that come through our doors!

(Continued)



Janet Hillery,  
Town Clerk



# News From the Town Clerk's Office (continued)

## Dog Licensing

All dog owners living in the Town of Onondaga are required to license their dogs.

Applications can be found on our website under the Town Clerk's page, or you can stop in to our office. Please provide Rabies and spay/neuter documentation, as well as the yearly fee of \$10 for spayed/neutered and \$20 for non-spayed/neutered.

Rabies Clinics offered by Onondaga County for the rest of 2025 are as follows:

Aug. 28th	5-7 pm	Bob Cecile Community Center
Sept. 18	5-7 pm	Town of Cicero Highway Dept.
Oct. 16	5-7 pm	Eastwood Community Center
Nov. 8	10am-12pm	Schiller Park Community Center

The Town contracts with the **SPCA** to field reports of lost, found or stray dogs, as well as nuisance complaints, and can be reached by calling 315-454-0928.



## Board of Elections

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming **General Election** on **11/4/25**. Information on upcoming elections can be found by visiting [ongov.net/elections/](http://ongov.net/elections/), or 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.

## And More!

Please stop in or visit our website for the most recent meeting minutes and information on other services we provide, such as marriage licenses, notary services, handicapped hang-tags, FOIL requests and much more!

# From Building & Codes Department

## Herrick Named as New Director, Building & Codes

Jeff Herrick has been named Director of Building & Codes. He is a NYS-Certified Code Enforcement Officer & Building Safety Officer with 10+ years of land use zoning and code enforcement experience. He is proficient in code interpretation and local land use regulations as well as site plan review and construction management. His broad expertise includes prior municipal code enforcement leadership and experience as director of facilities and facility tech for major area organizations. Please join us in welcoming Jeff!



*Pictured, from left, are Jeff Herrick, Office Director; Tucker Geis, Codes Assistant; John Raflofski, Codes Enforcement Officer; and Victoria Rogers, Administrative Assistant*

## Geis Joins Codes Team

Tucker Geis recently joined the Building & Codes. A lifelong Town resident, he is a graduate of Onondaga Central Schools and received his bachelor's from SUNY-ESF. During college breaks, he served in various roles with local businesses and the Town Highway Department. He works with our Codes Director and Codes Inspector as a codes enforcement assistant while also completing the required training to become a certified codes enforcement officer. We're excited to have Tucker on our team!

## Fire Hazard: Grass & Weed Height

Please be reminded that the Town Code requires all premises and immediate exterior property to be maintained **free from any brush, grass, weed or plant growth in excess of 10 inches (254 millimeters)**. Overgrown vegetation not only looks unkempt but may also pose a **fire hazard**, especially during dry summer months. Let's keep our neighborhoods safe!

## Accessory Structure Zoning Setbacks: Side & Rear Yard Requirements

Below are the setback requirements for various residential zoning districts (R1, R2, R3, RC):

### ◆ Side Yard Setbacks

**R1 District:** 20 ft. from each side lot line; **one story structures** may have a reduced set back of **15 ft.**

**R2 District:** 10 ft. from each side lot line; **one story structures** may have a reduced setback of **7.5 ft.**

**R3 District:** 7.5 ft. from each side lot line; **one story structures** may have a reduced setback of **5.6 ft.**

**RC District:** 20 ft. from each side lot line; **one story structures** may have a reduced setback of **15 ft.**

### ◆ Rear Yard Setbacks

For all **R1, R2, R3 and RC districts**, structures must be set back from the rear lot line by at least **10% of the lot width**.

# From the Assessor's Office

I made it! I just celebrated, on August 5th, my 1-year anniversary as the Town Assessor. I would first like to give many thanks to my co-workers/staff members Dale Barcomb and Kelly Mahar for their patience with me, as I navigated the new world of tax assessing. I came to the Town of Onondaga with 3 years of assessment experience, and 33 years as a self-employed residential real estate appraiser. I quickly realized that there was much more to the Assessor's office than just valuing properties. Dale and Kelly have made my transition to a new office seamless and enjoyable, and they both are always willing to help and train, as I navigated my way through my learning curve. I still have a lot more to learn. Also, I would like to thank John Mahar and the Town Board for entrusting me with this very important job as the Town Assessor.



My experience with the many employees and departments that the Assessor's office must co-exist with has been a very positive experience, and I'm looking forward to many more years of representing the people and property owners of the Town of Onondaga as fairly, and honestly as I possibly can.

Thank you!

Michael Morrissey, Assessor

## Tax Exemption Renewals

Exemption renewal notices will be mailed in early September with a return deadline of March 1, 2026. Renewal forms will be sent to residents currently receiving the following exemptions: **Senior Low Income, Disability and Limited Income, Clergy Members and Non-Profit Organizations, Agricultural Properties, and Volunteer Fire/Ambulance Workers.**

## Simplifying the STAR program and STAR forms

The 2025-2026 Enacted State Budget included several provisions to simplify the STAR program.

Homeowners will no longer be required to submit an application to the assessor if they had an ownership change or if they aged into the Enhanced STAR exemption. ORPTS will notify assessors of Basic STAR recipients who become eligible for Enhanced STAR (rather than requiring seniors to apply to their assessors).

After the last 2025 taxable status date at the end of this month, the following STAR exemption forms will be removed from our website:

- Form RP-425-B, *Application for Basic STAR Exemption*
- Form RP-425-E, *Application for Enhanced STAR Exemption*
- Form RP-425-IVP, *Supplement to Form RP-425-E*

Property owners who have a change of ownership will report it to the Tax Department using the Homeowner Benefit Portal. If they don't have internet access, they can call our representatives.

STAR exemptions and Veteran's exemptions DO NOT need to be renewed annually. They renew automatically!

For more information, call 315.469.3216 or email:

Michael Morrissey, Assessor

[mmorrissey@townofonondaga.gov](mailto:mmorrissey@townofonondaga.gov)

Dale Barcomb, Assessor's Aid/Data Collector

[dbarcomb@townofonondaga.gov](mailto:dbarcomb@townofonondaga.gov)

Kelly Mahar, Assessment Clerk

[kmahar@townofonondaga.gov](mailto:kmahar@townofonondaga.gov)



# Town News Roundup

## EV Charging Stations to be Available by End of September!

Thanks to grants we applied for and received from New York State and National Grid, electric vehicle charging stations will be available at Town Hall, the Parks Department and the Highway Department by the end of September!

## Lannie's Bar & Restaurant to Open in Shady Brook, Onondaga Hill

Lannie's Bar & Restaurant will soon open in Shady Brook, Onondaga Hill. Owners Heather & Adam Van Hoose said their business can best be described as a neighborhood tavern where friends and co-workers can gather for drinks and families can go for a casual meal.

And no one knows what locals like better than Heather. She worked at the former Kelley's for 13 years and Chelsea's for its five-year run at the same location. In fact, the former owners of those businesses, Jon Kelley (Kelley's) and Marty Richardson (Chelsea's) have provided some great guidance, according to Heather and Adam.

The couple said you can also expect to see their three daughters helping out at the restaurant, just like Damon and Kiki Kelley once did for their parents, Jon and Irina, at Kelley's.

The bar is named in memory of Adam's best friend, Chris Lannie, who lived in Camillus.

The menu features burgers, specialty sandwiches, steaks, and even some favorites from the former Kelley's menu, including their much-loved potato skins.

The bar will feature local beers on tap and the return of wine night. Live music will also be part of the mix.

Hours will be: T, W, Th - 4-9 pm; F, Sa - 2 - 11 pm.



## In Other Shady Brook News...

The new facades, roofing, sidewalk, drainage, and parking lot improvement projects at the Shady Brook Plaza are well underway thanks, in part, to a County Main Street grant the Town was able to secure on behalf of the developer.

## New Housing Options

New homes and neighborhoods are sprouting up throughout the Town. Woodridge Heights on Onondaga Road where Split Rock and Taunton meet will include a mix of town homes and single-family homes. Green Hills Manor in Nedrow will bring 20+ new homes to the area and Crown Point and Southwood Heights continue to expand as well as Brittany Hills and Olde Town Estates in Onondaga Hill.



## Inching Closer to a New Park in Southwood!

We can see the finish line, folks! The required legislation to form a new Parks District and build a new park in Southwood has passed both the NYS Assembly and Senate. As of this writing, it is awaiting signature by the Governor.

# Town News Roundup (continued)

## Coming soon to Taunton: The Clerk's House!

This September will see the opening of The Clerk's House, a specialty bakery at 4221 Fay Rd., Taunton. The shop is located in the newly renovated building at the rear of the Cider Mill restaurant property and owned by Dan and Teresa Seeley.

The bakery building carries both historic and personal significance. It once doubled as the residence and office of Katherine Morey, who was the long-time Onondaga Town Clerk, and was home to the Seeley family for 10 years. The bakery will feature fresh bread and baked goods, espresso, sandwiches, and more.

The building was renovated, in part, thanks to an Onondaga County main street improvement grant that the Town was able to secure for the project.



**Updated Town Master Plan.** Over the past several months, a special committee appointed by the Supervisor and Town Board has been working on an updated Master Plan to guide development in our Town for the next decade-plus. The group is comprised of experts in zoning, planning, land use, public safety, engineering, marketing, preservation, recreation, and other essential areas. It also includes representation from residents and business owners in each area of the Town. When completed this Fall, the plan will be posted to the Town's website and a link will be provided on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Public Safety News

- **Long-Term Lease Finalized with County Sheriff's – South Station!** The Town and Onondaga County Sheriff's Department recently signed a new lease agreement that will keep the Department's South Station at Town Hall for the next 20 years!! Our ability to negotiate this long-term contract reinforces the strength of the collaborative relationship that Town officials and Sheriff's Department leaders have developed over the past several years. The agreement ensures a police presence in our Town for the foreseeable future - which is invaluable to residents' public safety.
- **New Neighborhood Watch at Velasko Village/Bellevue Estates.** The Town Board and Town Supervisor John Mahar helped coordinate and hosted the first Velasko Village & Bellevue Estates Neighborhood Watch Meeting at Town Hall. Local residents heard from Rich McCarron, County Legislator and Vice Chair of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee (former Police Sergeant with the County Sheriff's Dept.); Pam DeGeoff, former Supervisor, Onondaga County Emergency Communications; and Neighborhood Watch Liaison Donna Maycumber about area crime trends and prevention tips.
- **ICAD!** 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. Click the link then look for "TON" to find out what's happening in the Town: [911events.ongov.net/CADInet/app/events.jsp](http://911events.ongov.net/CADInet/app/events.jsp)
- **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](mailto:info@townofonondaga.gov).**



# From Richard McCarron, 11th District, Onondaga County Legislator



It's hard to believe summer is almost over and what is hopefully a beautiful fall is on the horizon. One of the best things about our area is we get to enjoy the vibrant colors the leaves on our trees turn this time of year.

## Public Safety

As Vice Chair of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee and a retired Onondaga County Sheriff's Deputy, public safety is of utmost importance to me. I'm happy to report that the Legislature has approved a twenty-year lease agreement between Onondaga County and the Town of Onondaga to operate the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office substation at the Onondaga Town Hall for another 20 years. This is a big win for us, as the town will continue to enjoy the benefits of having a 'local' police department without all the associated costs to the taxpayers within the Town. For the County, it allows the Sheriff's Office to have a central location from which they can patrol the southern towns in Onondaga County.

Through the committee, the county also accepted state funding to support enhanced youth justice alternatives and diversion services, to expand access to mental health programming, and to hire a school-based Threat Assessment Coordinator to help prevent a tragedy in our schools. We also led the way in approving plans to honor two fallen heroes at the county's Emergency Operations Center in Liverpool. The center will be named in honor of Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Michael Hoosock and a 'Wall of Heroes' will be created to remember fallen first responders and it will bear Syracuse Police Officer Michael Jensen's name. This is a fitting tribute as we must always remember their service and sacrifice.

## Flood Mitigation Equipment

The Legislature also approved an agreement with New York State to house and deploy state-owned flood mitigation equipment. We all know the problems melting snow and thunderstorms can create, and with this equipment housed locally, it will be available to our first responders faster in times of flooding. The equipment includes pumps, hoses, sandbags, generators and more.

We're lucky to have Onondaga Community College as our neighbor. The Legislature approved its operating budget for 2025-2026, in which OCC requested no increase in county funding and a modest 2% increase in tuition. Even with that, OCC will still be one of the most affordable of all the community colleges in the State. Funds were also approved to help OCC with renovations and upgrades to move them successfully into the future - with more degree programs than ever before.

## Job Opportunities

If you're looking for work, consider Onondaga County. The Legislature approved an expansion of the state's Hiring Emergency Limited Placement Program, or HELP Program, which allows the hiring of employees on a probationary basis without the requirement of a civil service test. After one year, those employees are considered permanent and do not have to take the civil service test to remain in the position. About one third of all county job titles now fall under this program, and they vary across many different departments. To see all available jobs, visit [Onondaga.gov/Employment](http://Onondaga.gov/Employment).

## Community Events

Over the past few months, I've enjoyed seeing many of you at some great community events, including the Middle Eastern Festival at St Elias Church, Southwood Fire Department's Chicken Dinner, Taunton Fire Department's Community Night and the Navarino Orchards Strawberry Festival! Please consider joining me on Saturday, September 20th for this year's ON Farm Fest. This annual event connects the community with the 570+ farms in our county and encourages us to buy local. Here's something you might not have known: agriculture contributes \$350 million to our county's economy every year! Many of the 11 participating farms are close to us. Learn more at [OnondagaGrown.com/ONFarmFest](http://OnondagaGrown.com/ONFarmFest). I am also excited to announce that I will be a judge for Southwood Fire Department's first ever Chili Cook Off Contest on October 4th! You can find out more on their Facebook page!

If you're interested in seeing YOUR county government in action, stop by our chambers for a meeting, or watch live on the Legislature's YouTube page: [YouTube.com/@OnondagaCountyLegislature5742](https://www.youtube.com/@OnondagaCountyLegislature5742).

As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns and please feel free to connect with me on Facebook: [@McCarronforOC](https://www.facebook.com/McCarronforOC). Thank you for your continued support as I work on your behalf.



# From the Tax Receiver's Office

## 2025-26 School Tax Collection

School tax bills will be mailed August 27th. Collection begins Tuesday, September 2nd.

The 2025-26 School Tax Collection Penalty Schedule is as follows:

September 2 – October 1 = No penalty/interest

October 2 – October 31 = 2% fee

November 1 – November 15 = 5% fee payable to the Onondaga County Office of Real Property.

After November 15, the outstanding balance will be included in 2025 Town/County property tax bills.

For copies of receipts, please go to [ongov.net/etax](http://ongov.net/etax).

For questions regarding STAR and other exemptions, please call the Assessor's Office at 315.469.3216.

### Office Info

- Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. during tax collection. There is no lunchtime closure. On days when foot traffic is high (especially the first and last weeks of September and October), we are not able to answer or return calls immediately, so please plan accordingly.
- You'll see a couple of new faces this year. Our beloved former Deputy Tax Receiver, Annie Owens, is enjoying her much-deserved retirement. Linda Adams, a Nedrow resident, is joining the department as part-time Deputy Tax Receiver and Patty Marquardt of Camillus will be helping out on the days Linda is not here. Please be sure to give them a warm welcome!

### Reminders:

- We use online banking, which means payments are deposited the same day they are received, several times throughout the day. Therefore, please be sure funds are deposited in your account before writing a check to the Tax Receiver.
- There is a \$20 fee for returned checks along with other applicable penalties.
- Always include a phone number on your check in case we need to contact you. This can help you avoid paying unnecessary penalties.
- We strictly adhere to the rule that no payment is considered as "received" until it can be deposited to the bank. We will return checks to payees that are post-dated, unsigned, and with digit and written amounts that differ.
- Don't wait till the last minute to pay! Too often checks must be returned due to errors, resulting in penalties.

If you have questions, please contact us at [kdwyer@townofonondaga.gov](mailto:kdwyer@townofonondaga.gov) or 315.469.0483. We also post timely information at [townofonondaga.gov](http://townofonondaga.gov) and Facebook ([@townofonondaga](https://www.facebook.com/townofonondaga)).



*Kathy Dwyer,  
Tax Receiver*

# From the Town Historical Society

## New Pomeroy Roadside Marker

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation recently approved a grant for a new roadside marker to be placed in South Onondaga.

The Bakeman Family began their story in NYS when Henry Bakeman, who was listed as “colored”, moved to Stone Arabia, New York, with his father Jacob from Rocky Hill, New Jersey in 1765. Henry enlisted in the Revolutionary Army at the age of 16, serving with Colonel Marinus Willett, his unit facing the task of taking back Fort Ontario, in Oswego, from the British forces in 1783. Henry was discharged from the Army at Poughkeepsie in February 1784. He married a woman named Jane or “Jinny” and they had son Benjamin in 1794, born in Montgomery County. Henry apparently remembered the potential water power in the area of the Oswego River and returned to the area with his family in 1801. While living in “Bakeman Landing” in what became the city of Fulton, NY, they had four more children.

Benjamin Bakeman found his way to South Onondaga and married Rachel Day. He purchased acreage in Lots 144 and 145 in 1828 to begin his life as a South Onondaga farmer. There was intermarriage over three generations amongst the Day (or the Dey), the Ray, the DeGroat, and the Bakeman Families, all of whom had their origins in New Jersey where they were descendants of the original people enslaved by the Dutch in New Amsterdam. These families traveled to South Onondaga and made their homes there, becoming part of a cooperative farming community. One descendant of the Days was Marjorie Day Carter, who was the first Black teacher in the Syracuse City School District.

Benjamin and Rachel raised a large family of children including Merinda, Oliver, Artemus, Louisa and Charity. Oliver married Sarah DeGroat, who was Native American. The couple had a large family including a son named Willard. In 1904, Willard married Florence Mathewson, in spite of the age difference; Willard was 42, Florence 16. Living on a farm at Card’s Corners in the Town of Onondaga, Willard and Florence had a family of nine including a son they, too, named Willard. This Willard Bakeman married Mary Hallinan, the family who farmed land on Howlett Hill Road which today is the site of the Hallinan Meadows Housing Development. Their daughters, Barbara Bakeman Fero and Jo Anne Bakeman, provided the information for this article and were the shakers and movers behind the acquisition of this sign.

After decades of hard work farming and raising a family, Benjamin and Rachel Bakeman found their final resting place in the South Onondaga Cemetery, having been a part of the South Onondaga community for over 50 years.

If you would like to learn more about this community and the Bakeman family, visit the TOHS museum and explore the Bakeman Family file.

## Contact

Natalie Dardaris, Town Historian

315.214.2383 / [townofonondagahistorical@gmail.com](mailto:townofonondagahistorical@gmail.com)



*This historic map refers to the location of the new roadside marker.*



# Onondaga Free Library News

## September is Library Card Sign-Up Month!

Are you new to the area? Have a library card, but don't know where it is? Has your child just turned five-years-old? Sign up for a library card and discover the incredible collections, resources and services available to all ages at OFL. Today's libraries are vibrant community centers offering much more than books.

- **LOANABLE ITEMS:** Borrow park and museum passes, mobile hotspots, a mini projector, a ghost hunting kit and more for free with your library card.
- **SERVICES & RESOURCES:** Access technology, private meeting/study rooms, and educational and career resources to support your goals, whether you're a student, job seeker, entrepreneur, or lifelong learner.
- **PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:** At OFL, you'll find diverse programs, technology assistance, homework help, book clubs, author talks, storytimes and more. There's truly something for everyone! Stop by OFL today to get your free library card - it's the one card with endless possibilities!

## Display Your Art at OFL!

Calling all artists! If you have paintings, photographs, or multimedia artwork ready for public display, we want to hear from you. We're booking artists for monthly exhibits in our dedicated art space for 2026. For more information and to complete our Art Exhibit Application Form, visit [www.oflibrary.org/art-exhibits](http://www.oflibrary.org/art-exhibits).

## Upcoming Programs

- **SPOOKY SEASON:** Halloween time means a series of spooky programs at OFL, including two local author events. On Wednesday, 10/8 at 6pm, OFL is welcoming back Dr. Mary Jumbelic, whose second book, *Speak Her Name: Stories from a Life of True Crime*, was released this summer. Then, on Thursday, 10/16 at 6:30pm, Linda Lowen, author of *Secret Syracuse: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful & Obscure*, joins us to talk about local lore and legends. Both authors will read from and autograph copies of their respective books. Learn about ghost hunting with *Syracuse Paranormal* on Thursday, 10/23 at 6pm. Teens are invited to *Murdle Mystery Night* on Monday, 10/27 at 6pm- have fun solving murder mystery logic puzzles! During Halloween week, Oct. 27-31, families are invited to drop by the library to color a mini pumpkin.
- **JUNIOR LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS (JLV) IS BACK:** Do you want to volunteer at the library? Join other teens in your community to make a positive impact at OFL. JLV will help set up book displays, plan and host library events, and help care for our teen collection! Regular meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of each month, 6-7pm. Additional volunteer opportunities may be available, including event support, program planning, etc. Programs vary each month. All participants are encouraged to complete our JLV information form at [www.oflibrary.org/volunteer](http://www.oflibrary.org/volunteer) to stay up-to-date on volunteer opportunities.

Learn about all our fall and winter programs, including weekly preschool programs, book clubs, one-on-one tech help appointments and more at [www.oflibrary.org/program-guide](http://www.oflibrary.org/program-guide).

## Friends of OFL

The Friends are hosting a book sale Oct. 2-4 at the library, with a Friends' Preview Night on Oct. 1. Donations of gently used books, movies and more will be accepted during regular library hours Sept. 26-27 & 29-30. Also, be on the lookout for the Friends' 19th Annual Festival of Trees this holiday season. Learn more about our Friends group and become a member at [oflibrary.org/friends-of-ofl](http://oflibrary.org/friends-of-ofl).

## About Onondaga Free Library

4840 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215

**Phone:** (315) 492-1727 | **Website:** [www.oflibrary.org](http://www.oflibrary.org) | **Email:** [info@oflibrary.org](mailto:info@oflibrary.org)

**Social Media:** @OnondagaFreeLib on Facebook & Instagram

**Current Hours:** Monday – Thursday, 9:00am-8:30pm; Friday & Saturday, 10:00am-5:00pm

**Holiday Closings:** Aug. 30-Sept. 1, Oct. 13, Nov. 11, Nov. 26- Close at 5pm, Nov. 27-28, Dec. 24-25, Dec. 31- Close at 5pm, Jan. 1, Jan. 19, Feb. 16 & 17

**Board of Trustees Meetings:** Wednesdays, 9/24, 10/22, 12/17, 1/28, 2/25 & 3/25 at 6pm





# Fire Department News

## From Howlett Hill Fire Department

Chief: James Harris

President: Frank Valls

### CADET Youth Program to Again be Offered

The Howlett Hill Fire Department is pleased to announce we will once again be offering a Youth/Cadet Fire Fighting program at our Fire Station.

The Cadet program is an opportunity for young people to be exposed to the many aspects of firefighting and EMS services. Our Department has run similar programs for decades and many of our current members trace the beginning of their own membership back to their participation with our previous youth groups.

The program teaches and exposes the Cadets to as many functions and aspects of firefighting and EMS services as we can safely allow. This includes handling fire hoses, wearing SCBA units, learning how to search smoky buildings (safe imitation smoke), EMS and CPR training, simple auto extrication training, and more. HHFD Members, along with outside professional training instructors, will lead the training sessions.

It is not all work and no play. There are social events, Christmas parties and other activities to round out the program and make it fun for all participants.

The Program will be offered to high school students who are at least 14 years old and in the 9th grade, at a minimum. The Cadet program is designed for youths between the ages of 14 to 16. When the Cadet reaches age 16, they can join the Fire Department and become a Restricted Access Member (RAM) and actually ride on the apparatus and take part in emergency calls.

**The Fire Department will host an open house for all interested participants and their parents or guardians at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, September 25 at our Fire Station (3384 Howlett Hill Road).**

If you or your teen want to be involved in hands-on learning in this life-saving vocation, please consider joining the HHFD team.

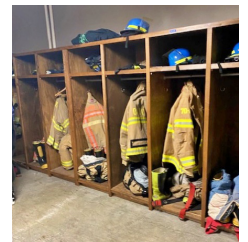
Cadets are not placed in unsafe or hostile environments and any simulations they would take part in are tightly controlled for safety. Cadets will learn donning and doffing of personal protective gear, practice entering smokey rooms, connecting to fire hydrants, aiming a fire hose and how a building sprinkler system works, among other training.

Please watch for fliers, visit and follow our Facebook page ([howletthillfiredepartment](https://www.facebook.com/howletthillfiredepartment) – 100% volunteer) and discuss this opportunity with your teen.

There is NO COST for involvement in the program. The HHFD provides all equipment and all participants are completely insured. Training classes are typically one night a week for two hours.

### ONGOING TRAINING SESSIONS

We have been busy all year long holding training sessions and classes at our Fire Station.



# Fire Department News

## From Howlett Hill Fire Department (continued)

**Original EMT and Refresher Classes.** The HHFD hosted an Original Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class and Refresher class that started in January and ran through May. We had one member enrolled in the full course and five members enrolled in the refresher portion of the class. At the time this article was written, three members completed and passed the refresher class and are now recertified as NYS EMTs.

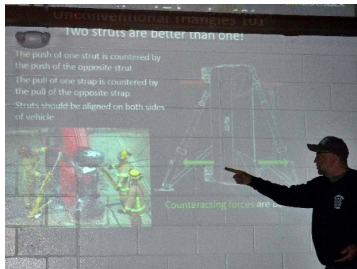
The HHFD has invested in a set of specialized lifting jacks (Res-Q-Jack) that have the ability to lift heavy vehicles. The Fire Department was lucky to have the inventor of the product come to our Fire Station in May and teach an in-depth hands on course on how to use the jacks. About a dozen members of the HHFD spent the better part of a Saturday learning how to use these highly specialized lifesaving tools. Other Fire Departments in the area that have the same brand of jacks (Spafford and Marcellus FDs) attended as well. The HHFD will be training again in July to refresh these newly learned skills.

**CPR/AED training.** We are extremely fortunate to have one of our own members qualified to teach CPR. Millie Dordal-Gale recently completed the CRP instructor class and is able to teach our own members CPP/AED. The HHFD requires ALL members to be certified in CPR-Defibrillator, and it was nice that all members were able to get this training in-house this year. We are grateful to Millie for taking the time out of her schedule to become certified to become a CPR instructor.

ALL Howlett Hill Fire Department vehicles and Fire Chief cars carry external defibrillators which are also known as AEDs. We are very proud of our cardiac arrest “save” rate that we have in our community.

In the last few years, PESH, which stands for Public Employee Safety and Health, has been talking about changing the training requirements for Chief Officers in the Fire Service. These changes would require Fire Chiefs to have additional classes and certifications to be eligible to be Fire Chiefs. These changes would have significant effects on our Fire Department if we weren't prepared for them. PESH is OSHA for public employees and the Volunteer Fire Fighters fall into this category. In an effort to get ahead of any potential future changes, the Chief Officers at the Howlett Hill Fire Department, along with the Junior Officers, have been taking in-house Officer Leadership courses taught by local and highly respected certified instructor, Bill Mitson from Emergency Training Consultants. So far, all our Chiefs, the Captain and other senior members have taken the and completed the curriculum for the Fire Officer 1 and Fire Officer 2 classes. We are taking the summer off and expect to take the Fire Officer 3 course in the fall. The Leadership of the Howlett Hill Fire Department is doing all they can to be ready in the event that these changes do happen so that we can continue to meet our obligation to our community.

### Res-Q-Jack Training



### Sportsman Raffle 2026

Are you looking for an interesting Christmas gift for a sportsperson or hunter in your family? Want to take a chance on picking up something just for yourself? Later in the Fall, be on the lookout for the annual Howlett Hill Fire Department Sportsman Raffle tickets going on sale. At \$20 a ticket, you can't go wrong. Check out our Facebook page (howlethillfiredepartment – 100% volunteer) or keep your ear to the ground and get in on the action.





# Fire Department News

## From South Onondaga Fire Department

Chief: Erik Nelson

President: Tim Nelson



### Thank you!

Thank you to Rich McCarron, county legislator for the 11th district! Rich was instrumental in getting a couple of tablets donated to the Fire Department to assist in our inventory program! Rich is pictured with South Onondaga member Ed Feola, who was also instrumental in making this happen. Thanks again to both of you!

### Volunteer Today

South Onondaga Volunteer FD is always looking for new members. Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Many non-firefighting personnel needed including exterior fireground support, EMT Cert. and support, General Fire Department support. Stop by the firehouse most Mondays at 7 p.m. or call (680) 800-4924 or talk to any member. Also, you can go to our website to download and print out our application - Sofd59.org.

## From Southwood Fire Department

Chief: Vincent Carroll

President: Thomas Bouvia

### Southwood Fire Department: 2025 Community Update

*Proudly Serving the Town of Onondaga and Beyond*

The Southwood Fire Department remains committed to protecting and serving our community with pride, professionalism, and heart. This year has been one of continued growth, meaningful outreach, and strong leadership—thanks in large part to our dedicated members and the incredible support we receive from our neighbors.

Under the guidance of President **Tom Bouvia** and Chief **Vinnie Carroll**, our department has not only strengthened its operations but also its sense of family. Both Tom and Vinnie go above and beyond to ensure every member feels valued, supported, and appreciated—making Southwood a place where people are proud to serve.

We've added three new members this year. We are pleased to welcome **Justin Chrissley** and **Barrett Howard** to the active Fire/EMS division and **Barbara Blaszak** to our Support Services team.

We're especially excited to welcome two new Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), **Sam Dickson** and **Melissa Terino**, who recently completed their certifications and joined our response team. Their commitment to public service and community care has already made a strong and positive impact.

In addition to emergency response and training, Southwood continues to focus on community engagement. This year we hosted our **Annual Open House and Chicken BBQ**, which once again received overwhelming support. We will also continue to hold our **Breakfast with Santa**, a joyful tradition that brings families together during the holiday season and gives children a magical experience with their local heroes.

New this year, we introduced several exciting **fundraising events**, including our **Community Garage Sale**, a family-friendly **Kids Night Out**, and our first-ever Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser will be held on October 4th. Be sure to follow us on Facebook as more info is made available. These events not only help support department needs like equipment and training but also provide opportunities to connect with neighbors and strengthen community spirit.

Our members regularly go "**In the Neighborhood**," attending public events and connecting with residents to encourage new membership and share information about what it means to be a Southwood volunteer. These recruiting efforts are vital to our continued success, and we're always happy to answer questions and welcome those interested in joining.

If you've ever thought about becoming a part of something bigger — whether as a firefighter, EMT, event volunteer, or supporter — we invite you to stop by the station on any Tuesday evening or find us on Facebook at SouthwoodVolunteerFireDept. There's always room for dedicated individuals who want to serve their community.

Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and trust. Together, we'll continue to grow, respond, and thrive as one strong Southwood family.

**With gratitude,**

*The Members of the Southwood Fire Department*





# Fire Department News

## From Nedrow Fire Department

Chief: Chris Moses

President: Rick Nemier

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

We are fortunate to have several members who recently completed training courses and received certification for new roles within the department. Please join us in congratulating:

B. Gibson - Interior

A. Diablo - Interior

C. DeJoseph - Interior

S. White - Scene Support

J. Rodriguez - EMT

These courses are challenging and time-consuming. We are very fortunate to have them in our department and grateful for their dedication and service. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!

### COMMUNITY COOL DOWN EVENT

In June, we held our 2nd Annual Community Cooldown Event at the Rockwell Elementary School playground. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the event for helping to make it a tremendous success. We were thrilled to see the community come together and enjoy an evening of fun and relief from the summer heat. Special thanks to the Onondaga Central School District for graciously allowing us to use the Rockwell property with short notice. We hope to continue this tradition

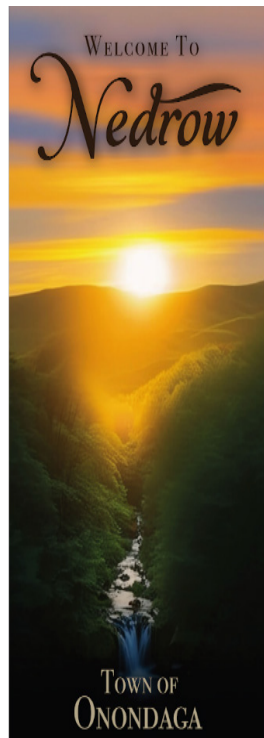
and are committed to serving our community by sponsoring positive, fun-filled family experiences that bring us all closer together. Keep an eye out on our social media pages for future events.



### FLAG DAY/MEMORIAL DAY

In July, members of the Fire Department helped lead the way for the annual Rockwell Elementary Flag Day Parade. This is a long-standing tradition that we are honored to be part of. This year, we also brought back the in-person Memorial Day Service at the Fire Department which provided us

the opportunity to formally dedicate the Harold "Smitty" Smith bench which was donated by the members of the Nedrow Fire Dept Auxiliary. This space is dedicated to pay tribute to all our members and thank them for their service. Harold Smith was truly dedicated to the fire service, and we appreciate him for his many years as a volunteer, mentor and leader of the department.



### NEDROW REVITALIZATION/BANNER PROJECT

We are excited to announce our collaboration with the Nedrow Fire Department Auxiliary and the Nedrow Community Crew, along with the support of the Town of Onondaga, in the Nedrow Revitalization Project. The ultimate goal is to revitalize our town and make it a brighter place to live. The first phase will be the Banner Project which will give businesses and Families of Veterans an opportunity to display their pictures with pride. The banners will be displayed along S. Salina St and Rockwell Rd. and available for sponsorship by any Town of Onondaga resident or business. Further details will be available soon on our social media outlets and from the Town of Onondaga.

### JOIN US

We are always looking for support from members of the community. Whether it be as a member of the fire department, the Auxiliary or helping to organize community events. If you are interested in being a part of the excitement, reach out to any member, call us at 315-469-0053, stop by the fire house or send us an email at [nedrowfire@gmail.com](mailto:nedrowfire@gmail.com).

# Fire Department News

## From Taunton Fire Department

Chief: Michael Phelan

President: Edward Phelan, Jr.

### Reno Night!

6:30 – 11 p.m., Friday, November 7

Taunton Fire Station, 4300 Onondaga Blvd.

\$30 entry fee includes dinner and drinks.

50/50 Raffles, Beat the Dealer, Big 6 and more. Buy a \$100 ticket for a chance to make it \$10,000. Raffle tickets are available for five dollars for a chance to win a Blackstone Griddle with Air Fryer, Pizza Oven or Recliner.



### Special Thank You to the Westhill School District

The Department has been fortunate to be granted the opportunity to train at the former St. Ann's Elementary School now owned by Westhill School District. In collaboration with District Superintendent Steve Dunham, we have been able to form a partnership utilizing the building and grounds for scenario-based training. This is an invaluable asset to our personnel by putting them through unique exercises to hone their necessary skills.

### Join Us!

As always, if you are interested in learning more about the department and would like information on how to join, just stop in to the station any Monday evening. You can also go to [tauntonfd.org](http://tauntonfd.org) or follow us on facebook @Taunton Fire Department for information on how to apply.



## From Onondaga Hill Fire Department

Chief: Sam Garafalo

President: Jeremy Warren



### ONONDAGA HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### STUDENT BUNK IN PROGRAM



**NOW ACCEPTING STUDENT BUNK IN APPLICATIONS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER**

- REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE
- CONTINUOUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
- STATE OF THE ART APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT
- MODERN FACILITIES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE FROM OCC

**Must have NYS Firefighter 1 or Pro Board Equivalent. Must be enrolled in a local college or university.**



 315-492-9191 [www.ohfd.net](http://www.ohfd.net) 4831 Velasko Rd



# Onondaga Community College News

## Building for the Future Workforce at OCC

The future home of the new Diesel/Heavy Equipment Repair program is being added on to the Whitney Applied Technology Center near the roundabout on the OCC campus.

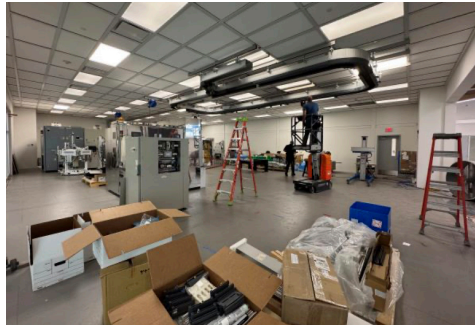
OCC's commitment to educating the workforce of tomorrow can be seen in major construction projects across campus.

On the east side in the Whitney Applied Technology Center, construction continues on facilities for new academic programs in Diesel/Heavy Equipment Repair, Welding, HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning), and CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Machining. The Micron Cleanroom Simulation Lab is also progressing through the summer. The construction in the Whitney building is expected to be completed by the beginning of the fall 2025 semester.

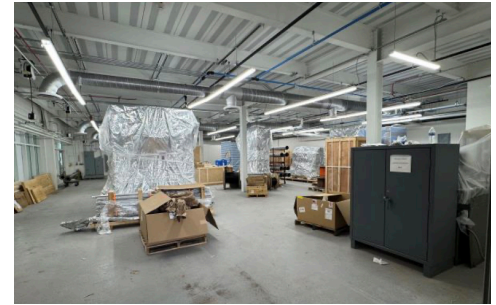
On the west side of campus in Ferrante Hall, a complete renovation of all of the spaces where students are prepared for rewarding Health-related careers is underway. Current efforts are focused on the first floor and will eventually move up to the second floor. The work is expected to be completed sometime in 2026.



*Traditional classrooms are being demolished in Ferrante Hall to make room for Health-related learning spaces which will replicate the workplaces where those services will be provided.*



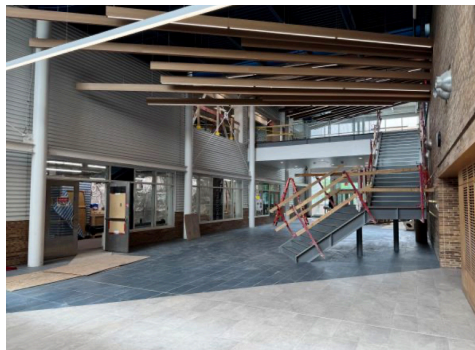
*The Micron Cleanroom Simulation Lab is being built on the second floor of the Whitney Applied Technology Center.*



*The future home of CNC Machining will be on the first floor of the Whitney Applied Technology Center where OCC's Barnes & Noble Bookstore was once housed.*



*The Machine Tools Lab has a new home on the first floor of the Whitney Applied Technology Center.*



*The Atrium in the Whitney Applied Technology Center is getting a facelift.*



*The Diesel/Heavy Equipment addition on the Whitney Applied Technology Center will include a classroom and a new three bay garage.*

Formal opening of the Micron Clean room Simulation Lab is slated for October 2025 along with the Diesel/Heavy Equipment addition to Whitney Building.

## SUNY Reconnect: Free Associate Degrees for Adult Learners

There are more than four million working-age adults in New York State who do not have a college degree or credential. As New York leads the way with emerging industries such as healthcare, the semiconductor industry and advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, IT and AI, and green jobs, the State and SUNY are committed to ensuring New Yorkers have the degrees to fill these well-paying, high-demand careers. Recognizing that higher education can be the pathway to economic opportunity and upward mobility, SUNY Reconnect makes an associate degree in a high-demand field free for adults between the ages of 25 and 55 with no college degree.

For a list of OCC eligible programs, go to: [sunyocc.edu/freec](https://sunyocc.edu/freec)



# Our Cover Story: Happy Vigentennial Town Hall!

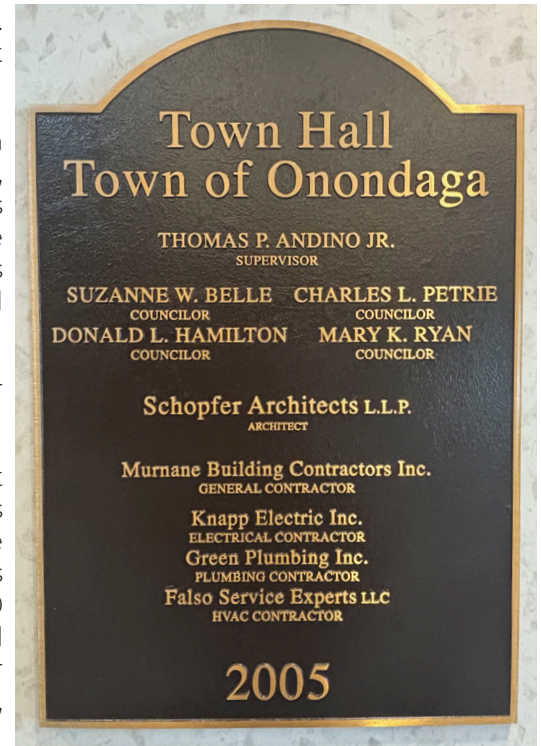
Or as we prefer to say, Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Town Hall. Yes, it's true. It's been two decades since the ribbon was cut and the doors opened at 5020 Ball Road.

Since 2005, the facility has offered residents a one-stop for many town services - all on one level. It is home to the offices of our Clerk, Assessor, Tax Receiver, Supervisor, and Building & Codes Department as well as our Justice Court, Town Board Meeting Room, Historical Society office and museum, community room and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department - South Station. It offers ample parking to the public, and handicapped accessibility.

And while that may not sound exciting to some, the history of the former Town Hall building is a necessary point of reference.

For those not in the know, the former Town Hall was situated on West Seneca Turnpike atop Onondaga Hill near to where Byrne Dairy stands today. The site was the location of Onondaga County's very first courthouse - which moved to Syracuse in 1830 - and was then used as a school. It was torn down and the new four-room District #6 school was built in 1890 using stone from the original foundation. The school operated there until 1953. The Town of Onondaga purchased the building that same year for \$15,000 and it was dedicated as the official Town Hall on September 25, 1954.

Current Town Councilor Lisa Goodwin worked at the former site and remembers the building as drafty and the windows creaking; birds in the courtroom; lots of mice; and a dirt floor basement with inadequate room for storage. Other employees remember having to cut through the tax receiver's and assessor's offices to access the tiny lunchroom where a table could be pulled down from the wall and with just enough room to squeeze a few chairs around it. They also said bathrooms and the courtroom, board room and supervisor's office were located on the second floor and there was no elevator or handicapped accessibility.





# Our Cover Story: Happy Vigentennial Town Hall! (continued)

Former Town Supervisor Tom Andino recalled that Sheriffs would have to clear the stairway when leading prisoners up the narrow stairway to the second-floor courtroom and the Town Judge would have to go to the first floor for Court proceedings for individuals who were handicapped or had mobility issues.

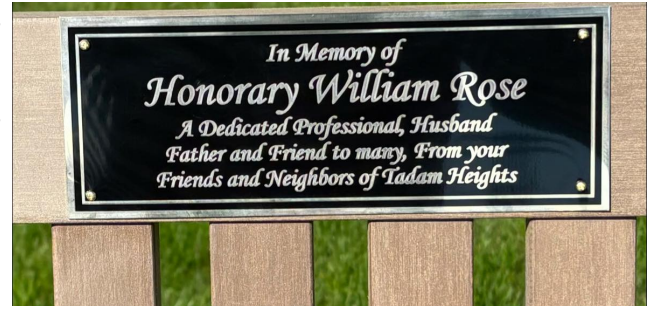
The building had even started to lean to the side and was being held up, in part, by steel cables.

So, when New York State ordered the demolition of the Town Hall to allow for the widening and realignment of Velasko Road, it was met with mixed reactions. The building certainly served school children and the public well for its 125+ years. Yet, the Town population had increased significantly and the limitations of the building were obvious. The new facility was built – without debt – and today provides residents with easier, safer access to government services; ADA-compliance; room for community activities; and a healthier, more pleasant working environment for employees.

If you look closely though, you will see that both the “new” Town Hall and the Byrne Dairy on Seneca Turnpike, pay homage to that historic structure via their distinctive clock towers. Likewise, the Town logo continues to pay homage to the past while embracing the now. The iconic clock tower of the original building is also incorporated to the design of the lobby via tiling.

In 2022 the building was dedicated to former Supervisor Andino in gratitude for his 30 years of service to the Town. A time capsule containing Town-related regalia from 1798 to 1998 is buried at the front of Town Hall to be opened in 2048. A War Memorial is also located at the front of Town Hall honoring local veterans and a bench dedicated to long-time Town Justice Bill Rose stands near the front door.

So, if you haven't been to Town Hall lately, stop by and check it out in celebration of its Vigentennial – i.e. 20<sup>th</sup> - year.



# Parks & Recreation

## REFLECTING ON A FUN-FILLED SUMMER — AND LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL!

As the 2025 summer season winds down here at the Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation Department, we're taking a moment to reflect on the wonderful programs we've packed into just 12 short weeks. It's a fast-moving season, but we sure made the most of it!

## YOUTH PROGRAMS THAT KEPT KIDS MOVING

Over 200 school-age youth stayed active through our six-week day camp, while 20 preschoolers thrived in our *Kinderkids* program. Campers enjoyed a wide range of activities including games, crafts, sports, field trips, themed days, and lots of free play. Beyond day camp, we offered exciting programs such as:

- Soccer Camps
- Nature Camp
- Start Smart Baseball
- YogaKids
- Youth Football
- Art Workshops
- LEGO, Challenge Island, and Minds in Motion Camps



Charry Lawson, Parks & Recreation Director

## NEW! ONE-SESSION CRAFT CLASSES

Our Recreation Supervisor, **Jennifer Smiley** and Secretary **Trisha Conrad**, introduced **one-session craft classes** for both youth and adults this year! These fun, low-commitment workshops are perfect for trying something new without a long-term commitment. Be sure to check out the upcoming Fall evening offerings—there's something for everyone!

## PARKS IMPROVEMENTS THIS SUMMER

While summer programs were in full swing, our team was also hard at work maintaining and improving park facilities:

- **Water stations** were installed at Kelley and Santaro Parks thanks to the Onondaga County Community Development Grant Program.
- **Tennis/basketball courts** at Kelley Park were repaired and resurfaced.
- **Pickleball lines** were added to tennis courts at both Kelley and Santaro Parks.
- Our **softball fields** at King and Howlett Hill were expertly maintained by our dedicated summer park staff, led by longtime Park Labor Crew Leader **Rich Lamphier**, keeping games on track all season.

## PAVILION RENTALS IN HIGH DEMAND

As always, our park pavilions were a popular choice for weekend family gatherings. Some parks even book out completely by June—so remember to get your permit requests in early next year!

## LOOKING AHEAD

Check out all our **new Fall/Winter offerings** in this edition of *Our Town* and remember:  
**No matter your age—get out and play!**

## PARKS & RECREATION INFORMATION

### PARKS & RECREATION STAFF

**Charry Lawson, Director**

Jennifer Smiley, Recreation Supervisor

Barbara Michalski, Senior Program Coordinator

Richard Lamphier, Park Labor Crew Leader

Patricia Conrad, Recreation Secretary

**OFFICE HOURS** Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Address:** 4834 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

**Phone:** 315-469-3464

**Email:** recreation@townofonondaga.gov

**Website:** parks.townofonondaga.gov



## REFUND & CANCELLATION POLICIES

### REFUND/CREDIT POLICY

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. Credits will be added to your account in full, but a \$5 administration fee will be deducted for refunds. If a refund is under \$25, the refund will automatically be credited to your account. A \$20 fee will be charged for any returned checks.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of cancellation due to weather or any 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 ever in question as to whether a class might 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 might not be able to afford to participate, the Parks & Recreation Department 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 Town of Onondaga youth. If your family needs assistance paying for a program, please contact the Parks office.

Next time you visit the Parks & Recreation office or sign up for a class, please consider contributing. Thank you in advance for considering a contribution to the scholarship fund! Call (315) 469-3464 for more information.

**YES, I want to be a Town of Onondaga Recreation H.E.R.O.**

*Enclosed is a donation in the amount of*

\$10      \$25      \$50      \$100      Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to:** *Town of Onondaga*

I understand that 100% of my donation will be given to the H.E.R.O. Scholarship Fund.

***The following information is optional***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for giving these opportunities to others!***

## Parks Facilities

The Town operates four beautiful parks for residents. Please be aware that dogs are not allowed in our parks along with smoking of any materials. 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 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** – 99 Kelley Park Dr., Nedrow, NY 13120

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

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

The athletic fields are used by 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, two pavilions, playground equipment, and restrooms. The small pavilion near the playground is to provide shade and picnic seating for the families that utilize the play area. 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 on weeknights along with WOYSA holding soccer games on Saturdays in the spring and fall. This nine-acre park has two softball fields, a tennis court, a 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. There are playground pieces for children two- to five-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 parks are routinely patrolled by our staff and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, as well as monitored by security cameras. If you have an emergency, call 911. We have seen a rise in vandalism and general disregard for the facilities including excessive trash, unsupervised children in restrooms and improper use of park property. These things lead to additional time and money spent on repairs or even cancellation of activities and park permits. We need your help to keep Town parks beautiful. You are urged to call 911 to report any suspicious activity. All reports are anonymous. Park ordinances are strictly enforced with appearance tickets.

# 2025 Fall Recreation Programs & Activities

## GYMNASTICS AND TUMBLING PROGRAM

Split Rock Elementary School – Gym

Tuesdays, September 16 – December 16 (*excluded 11/11 & 11/25*)

This is a 12-week basic recreational tumbling program for girls and boys in grades K-5 with no previous experience required! Taught by Parry's Gymnastics, class includes expert instruction in Tumbling and Vaulting.

**GRADES:** K - 5    **TIME:** 3:15 – 4:00 pm    **MIN:** 12 /**MAX:** 24

**FEE:** \$295.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$300.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: September 11*

## START SMART SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, September 13 – October 18

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:** \$60.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$70.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: September 10*

## HOT SHOTS YOUTH SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, September 13 – October 18

This Fall Soccer Program is available for boys and girls ages 5 – 8. This is an instructional program where kids learn the fundamentals of the game. They will play games at the end of each session. Bring a water bottle, sweatshirt on cold days, and shin guards. Fee includes a soccer ball to keep! No cleats allowed.

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

**FEE:** \$65.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$75.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: September 10*

## YOGAKIDS

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi use room

Fall Session:

Thursdays, September 11 – October 23

Winter Session 1:

Thursdays, October 30 - December 18 (*excluded 11/27*)

Join certified yoga instructor, Trista Phillipson, for a fun and interactive yoga experience. Each week there will be a new theme with yoga poses, crafts, and games. Miss Trista has a passion for teaching children the art of yoga. Yoga can help kids manage everyday stress through meditation and breathing. Yoga can greatly

increase your child's confidence while also developing skills such as body awareness and self-regulation. I can't wait to meet you on the mat!

\*Check out Little Yogis by Trista website:

[www.littleyogisbytrista.com](http://www.littleyogisbytrista.com)

**AGES:** 5 – 12    **TIME:** 5:30 – 7:00 pm    **MIN:** 12/**MAX:** 18

**FEE:** \$95.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$105.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 a week before each program starts*

## YOUTH DANCE

Onondaga Senior Center – Dance Studio

Tuesday, September 23 – December 16 (*Exclude 11/11*)

Looking to see if your children ages 3 - 8 are interested in dance? Well, youth Dance Classes are for you! Child must be 3 by 9/16/25.

**BALLET:**

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

**AGES:** 3-4    **TIME:** 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm    **MIN:** 4/**MAX:** 8

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

**AGES:** 7-8    **TIME:** 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm    **MIN:** 4/**MAX:** 8

**FEE:** \$60.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$70.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: September 16*

## MAKIN' IT WITH MARY – PAPER SCULPTURES

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi-use room

Tuesdays, October 7 – 28

Come learn the art of paper sculpture making with Ms. Mary! Create a lizard, giant star, mobile, and sea animal in this fun session learning how to fold, cut and glue! Lots of opportunities for creative problem solving!

**AGES:** 7 – 12    **TIME:** 6:00 – 7:00 pm    **MIN:** 8 /**MAX:** 16

**FEE:** \$50.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$60.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: September 30*

## START SMART BASKETBALL

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Saturdays, November 1 – December 13 (*excluded 11/29*)

Get ready to learn the FUN-damentals in this program designed to help build motor-skills and coordination! Parents and children work together on passing, dribbling and shooting to help build the foundation for fundamental basketball skills, which also helps your child improve their physical coordination, fine motor skills, cognition, and is a great way to spend time with your kids! All the skills you learn at Start Smart can be worked on at home, so the fun never stops! Fee includes a basketball to take home!

**AGES:** 4 & 5    **TIME:** 11:00 – 11:45 am    **MIN:** 8 /**MAX:** 20

**FEE:** \$60.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$70.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: October 25*



# 2025 Fall Recreation Programs & Activities



**THERE ARE NO WET SHOES OR BOOTS ON GYM FLOOR.  
PLEASE BRING A SEPRATE PAIR OF SNEAKERS FOR PLAYERS.**

## BASKETBALL SKILLZ 'N' DRILLZ

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Saturdays, November 1 – December 13 (*excluded 11/29*)

Looking for a non-competitive skill-building program for children ages 6 – 12? Our Youth Basketball Program focuses on proper dribbling, passing, shooting, and learning to love basketball. Kids will go through several game-based drills each day to help them improve their basketball aptitude. We encourage taking Skillz 'n' Drillz before you sign up for Youth Basketball Scrimmages.

**GRADES:** 1 – 3    **TIME:** 8:30 – 9:30 am    **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 20

**GRADES:** 4 – 6    **TIME:** 9:45 – 10:45 am    **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 20

**FEE:** \$55.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$65.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: October 25*

## YOUTH BASKETBALL SCRIMMAGES

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Saturdays, January 10 – March 7 (*excluded 2/21*)

Join us for 8 weeks of fun, fast-paced pick-up basketball games! Kids who completed *Basketball Skillz 'n' Drillz* — and any others ready to play — can sign up to apply their skills in game-like scenarios and get ready for organized basketball. All participants receive a T-shirt! (*We recommend taking Skillz 'n' Drillz first.*)

**GRADES:** 1 – 3    **TIME:** 8:30 – 9:30 am    **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 20

**GRADES:** 4 – 6    **TIME:** 9:45 – 10:45 am    **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 20

**FEE:** \$70.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$80.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: January 3*

## 3D HALLOWEEN SPOOKY SCENES PAPERCRAFT

Onondaga Senior Center- Multi use room (upstairs)

Wednesday, October 8

Spook-tacular Fun Awaits! Join our instructor for a hands-on Halloween papercraft session where you'll learn how to make your very own 3D picture—perfect for adding a spooky (and stylish) touch to your home! Let's get crafty and creepy—together! *Grab your friends for this No tricks, just treats—and tons of fun.*

**AGES:** 8 – 12    **TIME:** 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm    **MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 12

**FEE:** \$15.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$20.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: October 1*



## HOCUS POCUS: WITCH & WIZARD EXPERIMENTS!

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi-use room (upstairs)

Wednesday, October 22

Calling all young witches and wizards! Join our magical instructors for a night full of hands-on Halloween themed experiments that bubble, fizz, and amaze. From spooky ghost to mysterious potions, your little scientists will explore the fun side of science – with a magical twist!

**AGES:** 5 - 10    **TIME:** 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm    **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 12

**FEE:** \$20.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$25.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: October 15*



# 2025 Fall Recreation Programs & Activities

## HOLIDAY GIFT-MAKING DAY 1 WORKSHOP FOR KIDS AGES 5-7!

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi-use room (upstairs)  
Tuesday, November 18

*Give from the Heart this Holiday Season!* This year, let your child experience the joy of *giving* with our special Holiday Gift-Making Program — a fun, creative workshop where kids design and craft handmade gifts for the special people in their lives! Including holiday themed stations for making gifts for parents, siblings, grandparents, and other loved ones.

**AGES:** 5 - 7    **TIME:** 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm    **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 15

**FEE:** \$20.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$25.00 Non-residents

**ADD \$10.00 FEE after: November 17**



## HOLIDAY GIFT-MAKING DAY 2 WORKSHOP FOR KIDS AGES 8-12!

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi-use room (upstairs)  
Wednesday, November 19

*Give from the Heart this Holiday Season!* This year, let your child experience the joy of *giving* with our special Holiday Gift-Making Program — a fun, creative workshop where kids design and craft handmade gifts for the special people in their lives! Including holiday themed stations for making gifts for parents, siblings, grandparents, and other loved ones, and snacks.

**AGES:** 8 – 12    **TIME:** 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm    **MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 15

**FEE:** \$25.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$30.00 Non-residents

**ADD \$10.00 FEE after: November 12**

## HOLIDAY ORNAMENT BULB WORKSHOP

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi use room (upstairs)  
Wednesday, December 10

*Build it. Seal it. Hang it on the tree!* In this festive hands-on class, participants will create a one-of-a-kind holiday ornament by using directions to build a mini holiday scene or figure using colorful building blocks—then placing it inside a clear ornament bulb to take home and treasure!

**AGES:** 6 - 10    **TIME:** 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm    **MIN:** 10/**MAX:** 15

**FEE:** \$15.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$20.00 Non-residents

**ADD \$10.00 FEE after: December 3**

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### PICKLEBALL 101

Santaro Park

Thursdays, September 11, 18, October 2 & 9 (excluded 8/25)

This is a 4-week program designed to teach the game of pickleball to new players.

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

**AGES:** 18 and over    **TIME:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 12

**FEE:** \$70.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$80.00 Non-residents

**ADD \$10.00 FEE AFTER: September 4**

### PICKLEBALL 102

Santaro Park

Thursdays, September 11, 18, October 2 & 9 (excluded 8/25)

This is a 4-week program designed to take players from the beginner level to the intermediate level. If you know the rules to pickleball and are looking to improve your pickleball 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 and over    **TIME:** 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**MIN:** 8/**MAX:** 12

**FEE:** \$70.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$80.00 Non-residents

**ADD \$10.00 FEE after: September 4**

### STRENGTH & STRETCH

Onondaga Senior Center – Dance Studio

Mondays, September 8 -December 1

Thursdays, September 11 – December 4 (exclude 11/27)

This class is split into sections of strength for arms, legs, and abs. Use light weights, no heavier weights. We can modify for a beginner and make it more advanced for those who want that. Bring a mat.

**AGES:** 18 and over    **TIME:** 6:15 – 7:15 PM    **MAX:** 14 each class

**FEE:** \$60.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$70.00 Non-residents

**ADD \$10.00 a week before the program starts**

### MEN'S BASKETBALL @ OHMS

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Thursdays, October 9 – March 26 (Check website for exclusion dates)

If you like exercise and some light competition, our men's pick-up basketball program is just what you're looking for. Pick-up games for men ages 18 and up.

**\*\*Bring one white and one black shirt each night\*\***

**AGES:** 18 & up    **TIME:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm    **MAX:** 20 per night

**FEE:** \$5.00 drop-in fee each night

# 2025 Fall Recreation Programs & Activities

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## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL @ OHMS

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Mondays, September 22 – June 8 (*Check website for exclusion dates*)

Join our growing group on Monday nights for some fun and light exercise with fellow female volleyball players!

**AGES:** 18 and up **TIME:** 7:30 – 9:00 pm **MAX:** 20 per night

**FEE:** \$50.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$60.00 Non-residents

## HAPPY FALL ROUND DOOR HANGER WORKSHOP

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi use room

Tuesday, September 30

*Celebrate the season with creativity and charm!* Join our talented instructors for a fun and festive workshop where you'll craft your very own Happy Fall Round Door Hanger. Perfect for welcoming guests and adding a cozy autumn touch to your home. No prior crafting experience needed—just bring your creativity and fall spirit!

**AGES:** 18 and over **TIME:** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**MIN:** 6/**MAX:** 12

**FEE:** \$25.00 Town of Onondaga Residents

\$35.00 Non-residents

*ADD \$10.00 FEE after: September 23*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### 2025 HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST!

Dates: October 1 – October 27

All submissions should be either mailed to or dropped off at the Town of Onondaga Parks & Rec., 4834 Velasko Road.

Each grade, K-5, will have one winner! Winners of the coloring contest will be awarded a Halloween Basket full of spooky goodies & art supplies! Submissions will be posted on our Facebook page and in our office for the community to enjoy. Coloring page can be found on our website or picked up at our office.

### "HOWLIDAY" TREATS WITH SCOUT & FRIENDS

Join the Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation staff, Scout the dog, and some furry friends as they whip up fun, safe, and festive treats for your pup this holiday season! Each month, a new video will be posted each month on the Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation Facebook page, featuring easy-to-make dog treat recipes themed for:

Halloween (October)

Thanksgiving (November)

Winter Holidays (December)

Follow along from home and treat your four-legged family members to something special! See you there—tails wagging and aprons on!

### AUTUMN COLORING CONTEST FOR ADULTS

Dates: November 1 – November 21

All submissions should be either mailed to or dropped off at the Town of Onondaga Parks & Rec., 4834 Velasko Road.

**Don't miss out on our 4th Annual Autumn Coloring Contest! Coloring page can be found on our website or picked up at our office.**

### LETTERS TO SANTA

Dates: November 24 – December 19

Mail to or drop off: Parks & Recreation. 4834 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Trying to get a letter to the North Pole on time? Well, lucky for you, the official North Pole Mailbox will arrive at the Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation office on November 24th! Once you've written your letter to Santa, stop by our office and drop it into the bright red mailbox — it's that easy! Be sure to include your return address so Santa can write back! **DEADLINE:** All letters must be received by December 19th to ensure delivery to the North Pole on time.

### YOU'VE HEARD OF ELF ON THE SHELF... NOW MEET CLARENCE THE CAMEL!

This December, the Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation Department is introducing Clarence the Camel, who will be roaming around town all month long! Follow along on our Facebook page (Town of Onondaga Parks & Recreation) for Clarence's daily updates as he travels to different spots throughout the Town—snapping photos and spreading holiday cheer along the way! Be sure to check in daily to see where Clarence ends up next!



# 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 healthy, fun and fitness activities.

Our bi-monthly newsletter, the Senior Gazette, featuring events and activities, is mailed 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 residing in the Town of Onondaga. The Senior Gazette is also available on our website [parks.townofonondaga.gov](http://parks.townofonondaga.gov)

## SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

- Enjoy a hot lunch provided by P.E.A.C.E., Inc. every Monday through 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: September 4, October 2 and December 4 at Noon.

## HALLOWEEN PARTY: Thursday, October 30

Come in your Halloween costume and attire and enjoy the fun! Arrive by 11 AM for the costume parade and judging at 11:30. We'll take pictures before lunch so don't be late! Everyone dressed in costume has a chance to win a prize! After lunch be entertained by the Town of Onondaga Tappers! This will be a regular P.E.A.C.E. lunch - \$3.50. Call the lunch line to sign up.

## FREE LUNCH FOR U.S. MILITARY VETERANS

Thursday, November 13

Veterans are invited to be our guest for a FREE P.E.A.C.E. lunch in honor of your military service. (Non-veterans -\$3.50). Your lunch is paid for by the Friends of the Onondaga Seniors. Call the lunch line for your reservation.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISOR/SENIOR COUNSELING

Our Neighborhood Advisor Kristen works for the Salvation Army and assists with completion of medical applications and other forms and can assist in accessing other services: Healthcare, Transportation, Legal Advice, Housing, Nutrition and Socialization and Caregiver Information along with providing info about programs such as SNAP, SS Income, EPIC, HEAP, 214 Form/Property Tax Reduction. Call the Senior Center for an appointment. Or for immediate assistance, contact 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

### **ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

Anyone 50+ is eligible to take this one-day course.

**Class Dates: October 17 and November 21: 9 AM – 3:30 PM.** (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. Bring your check payable to AAA for \$39.

## 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. The following are the remainder of trips this year.

**Thursday, September 18, Seneca Lake Wine Trail,**  
lunch at Genora Winery

**Monday October 6, Raquette Lake and the**  
**Adirondack Museum**

**Thursday December 11, Turning Stone Casino, The**  
**Barry Manilow Christmas Show and Gaming (WAIT**  
**LIST ONLY).**



# SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

## NUTRITION COUNSELING

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

## FARMERS MARKET COUPONS STILL AVAILABLE

**Thursday, September 3 from 10 – Noon at the Senior Center**

Last chance to get your Farmers Market coupons sponsored by the Onondaga County Department of Aging. Get \$25 worth of free coupons for seniors 60+ who meet income requirements and have not received coupons this year. They can be used until November. Call the office to get yours now!

## TECH HELP FROM THE OFL

**Thursday, October 16**

**11 a.m. – Noon**

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

## FALL PREVENTION CLASS

**Thursdays, September 25 – November 6**

**11:30 a.m.**

CARE, a program from Lemoyne College and the Office of Aging, is sponsoring a FREE 7-week course in Fall Prevention. They will present proactive as opposed to reactive fall prevention. You will receive an individual fall assessment as well as an exercise program. You need to attend all 7 classes to get the full benefit. Sign up required.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

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

**COMPUTER:** A computer is available for seniors to use.

**KNIT & CROCHET:** Make an appointment to meet with our instructor for help getting started on a new project or answers to questions about challenges with projects.

**DOMINOES:** 1 - 3 p.m., Mondays

**PASS THE ACE:** 12:50 p.m., Tuesdays

**LIBRARY:** A selection of donated books is available at our front entrance. Paperback book (no hard covers) donations are gratefully accepted.

**MAH JONGG:** 1 – 3 p.m., Monday 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 that are raffled each month. Come in and buy a ticket to win one of their creations.

**BILLIARDS:** A regulation pool table is available all day.

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

**WALKING PROGRAM:** 10 – 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Michael's Parish Center indoors, rain or shine, out of the hot sun and cold weather. Seating is available to rest.

**BINGO:** 12:45 p.m., Thursdays, September 11 & 25; October 16

\$1 for first card; \$.50 for each additional card.

**DONATIONS:** We Collect Byrne Dairy Receipts – Aluminum Pull Tabs – Yarn. Thank you for your Donations!

**MEDIAL EQUIPMENT:** Looking to borrow a wheelchair or walker? We have a few items: walkers, wheelchairs, and a steerable knee scooter. The equipment supply changes based on what's loaned out.

## CLASSES

### MAH JONGG LESSONS

**Thursdays, 10 a.m. – Noon**

**September 11, 18, 25 & October 2**

Mah Jongg involves skill, strategy, and calculation as well as a certain degree of chance. The aim is to match your tiles with one of the 'hands' on the Mah Jongg League Cards.

**FEE for ALL PARTICIPANTS: \$10**

### Zumba Gold

Instructor: Marie Thornton

**Wednesdays, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

Perfect for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower-intensity. Come ready to sweat and leave empowered and feeling strong.

**Current Session ends September 17**

**Next 12 week session:**

**September 24 - December 10**

Resident Fee: \$48

Non-Resident Fee: \$58

*After September 17, add \$10*

### INTERMEDIATE SENIOR TAP

Instructor: Denise Gehm

**Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – Noon**

**Current session ends October 8**

**Next Session:**

**October 15 - December 31**

Resident Fee: \$48

Non-Resident Fee: \$58

*After October 8, add \$10*

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

# SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



## EXERCISE WITH LIGHT WEIGHTS

**FREE...Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 - 10:50 a.m.**

Video-guided exercise. We provide 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 lb. weights. Enjoy a thorough body stretch.

## CHI KUNG

**Mondays, 1 - 2 p.m.**

A Chinese exercise meaning Therapeutic Breathing Exercise for Health, involving simple movements and breathing 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 Session ends September 15**

**Next 12-week Sessions:**

**September 22 – December 15**

RESIDENT FEE: \$72 (each class)

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$82 (each class)

After September 15, add \$10

No Class 10/6

## TAI CHI (Intermediate)

Instructor: David Dolbear

**Mondays, 2 – 3 p.m.**

Characterized by soft, slow and continuous movement. Physically: promotes pliability, improved cardiovascular increased strength, especially in the legs. Psychologically: promotes concentration, relaxation, and overall improvement in the function of the central nervous system.

**Current session ends September 8**

**Next session:**

**September 15 – December 8**

RESIDENT FEE: \$72 (each session)

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$82

After September 8, add \$10

## YOGA/CHAIR YOGA

Instructor: Cynthia Smith

**Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.**

**September 18 – December 11**

Gentle yoga/chair yoga suitable for all. Bring your mat or wear sneakers.

RESIDENT FEE: \$48

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$58

After September 11, add \$10

NO CLASS 11/27

## STRENGTH & STRETCH

Instructor: Marie Thornton

**Thursdays, 9:15 a.m.**

This energetic class is split into sections of strength for arms, legs, and abs and is similar to the evening classes using light weights. Bring a mat.

**Current Session ends September 25**

**Next Session: October 2 – January 8**

RESIDENT FEE: \$48

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$58

After September 25, add \$10

NO CLASS 10/13

## STRENGTH & STRETCH

Instructor: Marie Thornton

**2 Evening Classes! Mondays and Thursdays**

This class is split into sections of strength for arms, legs, and abs. Use light weights. We can modify for a beginner and make it more advanced for those who want that. Bring a mat.

**Mondays, 6:15 p.m.**

**September 8 – December 1**

RESIDENT FEE: \$60

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$70

After September 2, add \$10

NO CLASS 10/13

**Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.**

**September 11 – December 4**

RESIDENT FEE: \$60

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$70

After September 4, add \$10

NO CLASS 11/27

## ART INSTRUCTION

Instructor: Thomas Hussey

(Call the Senior Center for availability to join each class.)

**Current Session ends September 16**

**Next Session: October 14 – December 30**

NO class 9/3, 9/30, & 10/7

## ADVANCED ART

Tuesdays 9 a.m. - Noon

RESIDENT FEE: \$72

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$82

## BEGINNER ART

Tuesdays, 12:30 – 2:30 PM

RESIDENT FEE: \$84

NON-RESIDENT FEE: \$94

Maximum 12 participants in class.

After October 7 add \$10



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