



TOWN OF
ONONDAGA
ESTABLISHED 1798

FALL / WINTER 2024

OUR TOWN

What's inside...

- 🍏 It's time for the annual Junk Pickup!
- 🍏 Community Spotlight:
Onondaga Fire Training Center
- 🍏 Parks Programs for All Ages!



TOWN OF ONONDAGA RESIDENT NEWSLETTER



TOWN OF
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Town of Onondaga Directory

Town Office Locations

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



Town Supervisor

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

Town Councilors

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

Town Departments

Assessor (315) 469-3216
Building & Codes (315) 469-3144
Highway Superintendent (315) 469-1664
Justice Court (315) 469-1674
Parks & Rec/ Senior Ctr. (315) 469-3464
Tax Receiver (315) 469-0483
Town Clerk (315) 469-1583

County Legislator

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

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From the Desk of the Supervisor



Dear Neighbors,

Fall is our time to shine across the eight hamlets that make up the Town of Onondaga. Panoramic views like none other – especially when the foliage is at peak. Farm stores, apple orchards and pumpkin patches teeming with families. Young adults heading off to college at OCC. Hunters, anglers and trappers geared up for outdoor adventure in the numerous rural pockets of our 65-square-mile town. The haunted legend of Thirteen Curves attracts visitors from near and far as Halloween approaches. And so many other seasonal distinctions that help define us.

This issue of Our Town celebrates some of those special things while taking a closer look at one of the organizations that operates under the radar - yet is of the utmost importance to our community: Onondaga Fire Training Center. The facility is owned by the seven fire departments of the Town and Bussey Road resident, Tom Sauer, is the organization's president, all-around property manager and training scheduler, who provides his services on a completely volunteer basis.

He is one of the incredible humans who make this Town tick. And in this newsletter, we launch a section shouting out other residents who make this community shine.

Fall is also the time for the ever-popular Town Junk Cleanup. The Highway Department has mailed the schedule to all residents. It is also included herein. Be certain to read it carefully as the guidelines are strictly followed.

Lastly, your Town Board has begun, in earnest, the process of developing the budget that helps fund our fire departments, parks, senior center, highway department and other vital functions that make our Town a great place to live. We take our role in identifying grants along with shared services and revenue generating opportunities seriously. Through sound fiscal management and the expertise of our councilors, we have been able to keep property taxes flat the past several years despite the rising cost of goods, equipment and health care along with the toll of state government mandates.

Be sure to keep in touch year-round by following @townofonondaga on Facebook and visiting townofonondaga.gov. As always, I am available to answer questions, address concerns and hear your ideas. Contact me at 315-469-3888 or jmahar@townofonondaga.gov.

Sincerely,
John P. Mahar, Town Supervisor



About our Cover: Beak & Skiff Apple Orchards | 1911 Established | ayrloom is the most iconic brand family in our town, the region and, increasingly, across the country - so it seems only fitting to feature them on our cover. This multi-generational family-owned operation located right here in the Town of Onondaga is an example of agritourism at the highest level of creativity, versatility, resourcefulness and quality. What started as a family farm stand has evolved to a prestigious apple grower and cidery that today offers a full line of retail products inclusive of spirits, wines, hard cider and CBD- and THC-infused beverages and products. The fifth generation family-owned business encompasses its flourishing Apple Hill Campus complete with You Pick Apples, the 1911 Tasting Room and Tavern, general store, bakery & café, general store and Kids Treehouse; a Summer Concert Series featuring national acts as well as Yoga in the orchard and other special events and programs; a Distillery on Route 20; Beak & Skiff vacation rental houses; and its national "tree to bottle" retail businesses. For Fall/ Winter hours and You Pick Schedule, go to beakandskiff.com.

Town News Roundup

New Local Law for Unsolicited Materials

A new local law was enacted in June that prohibits distribution of unsolicited print or other written materials, excluding political mailers, to residents of the Town unless the resident opts in to receive those materials with the vendor. The purpose of the law is to protect the privacy of Town residents who do not wish to receive unwanted or other written materials; to protect the safety of residents by deterring accumulation of unsolicited literature that might signal a house is unoccupied and thus, precipitate a burglary; and to prevent littering and protect the aesthetic appearance of the Town.



Waterfront Revitalization Grant

The Town recently applied for a New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant. The grant would help forward a plan to give residents kayak/canoe access to Onondaga Creek at Kelley Park, create nature trails and other amenities along the creek and provide improvements along South Salina Street - Nedrow's main business corridor. The project timing seems right, and we are cautiously optimistic given the recent completion of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council's Mobility Study for Route 11 in Nedrow; Micron's \$100B investment in the area; the proposed Jon Diaz Community Center in Nedrow; and the city's ongoing development along the creek. Stay tuned for updates!

South Onondaga Fire Department Celebrates 75 Years

The South Onondaga Fire Department recently observed its 75th anniversary. Members of Town government attended the celebration, and the Supervisor and Town Board honored the department with a commemorative resolution at its May meeting. From left: Tom Andino, Deputy Town Supervisor; Onondaga County Sheriff Toby Shelly; Town Supervisor John Mahar; State Senator Pamela Hunter; SOFD Chief Erik Nelson; SOFD 1st Deputy Chief Pat Abbott; SOFD 2nd Deputy Chief Tim Nelson; Town Councilor Kathy Fedrizzi; SOFD President Howard Carr; and Town Councilor Mary Ryan.

Thank you doesn't even begin to express how grateful we are to all the volunteers who have served the department these past seven and a half decades! (Photo credit to Joshua Harris/JR Photography)



Navarino Fire Department Turns 75 in September!

The Navarino Fire Department will celebrate its own anniversary in September. The department is currently collecting memorabilia to use at its celebration banquet. Drop off photos or other mementos at the firehouse, give them to a member or contact the firehouse via DM on their Facebook page.



Did you know....

Taps is played nightly at dusk at the Onondaga County Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Howlett Hill Rd. in the Town. The cemetery was formally dedicated on May 30, 1987 and honors county residents and their family members who dedicated portions of their lives to the military and defense of our nation. Since the first burial on June 11, 1986, the cemetery has performed services for 5000+ service members. From left, Town Councilors John Wheatley and Kathy Fedrizzi with Town Supervisor John Mahar at the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at the site.

Town News Roundup (continued)

Jon Diaz Community Center Progress Update!

In May, OCS grad and NFL great Latavius Murray held a meeting at the Nedrow Fire Department to give area residents a progress update on the proposed Jon Diaz Community Center. The Center's Foundation has already raised over five million dollars for the project via state and county grants, public and private donations and Aldi donated the land off of Salina St./Route 11 where the facility will be located. The center's operator has been chosen (ICAN) and partnerships with HCC E-Sports Lab, CNY Food Bank, Onondaga Central School District and Syracuse University are in the works.



The Center will honor the memory of 2008 OCS grad and Onondaga Hill native, Jon Diaz who spent his too short life working with youth and those with disabilities. The Center aims to provide a safe, accessible space for community health and wellbeing by bringing diverse community partners together to deliver critical programs and resources focused on empowering youth and families in Nedrow and surrounding areas.

Cheers to Our Residents!

- Split Rock resident **Rich Lamphier** was honored with a Citation of Appreciation by the Town Board upon his retirement from volunteer fire service, having served with several area departments including Onondaga Hill and Howlett Hill. Many of his family members attended. Over the years, Rich has dedicated countless hours to training, education, fundraising and responding to fire and EMS calls. That commitment to community is central to Rich's life. He has been a valued member of the Town's workforce for 35+ years - currently serving as Parks Department Labor Crew Leader. Even off the clock, Rich is the guy who residents, the Sheriff's Office, and other organizations reach out to when there is an issue in any of the Town parks; and who generously helps local seniors in need of assistance around their homes.
- Onondaga Hill resident, **John Smith**, owner of JTS Painting, recently volunteered his services and shared his connections with the Taunton Fire Department. When the department reached out to the public looking for a sprayer to paint their apparatus bays, John stepped up to do the job and secured paint donations from Sherwin Williams!
- At 5 a.m., Saturday, May 25th, the Southwood Fire Department received a maternity call. **Chief Vinnie Carroll** arrived at the family's home to find the baby already showing and the dad-to-be on the phone with 911 getting instructions on delivery. He jumped in to assist the mom- and dad-to-be with delivery of their healthy baby. At a recent monthly department meeting, Chief Carroll received his first ever Stork pin with the Mom, Dad, big brother and grandparents of baby Richard in attendance as well as the rest of the Southwood Fire Department's membership.
- South Onondaga resident, **Brayden Cutri**, recently received a Rich Webster Memorial Scholarship from the Onondaga County Volunteer Firefighters Association. A recent graduate of OCS, he is a member of the South Onondaga Fire Department, WAVES Ambulance, and Minoa Ambulance. He is entering college at Cornell this fall.
- **David and Cindy Hoyne** of Onondaga Hill recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of their family business - Kitty Hoyne's Irish Pub & Restaurant. The couple brought the St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser to CNY to help children battling cancer, sponsored countless community events, won over the tastebuds of Guy Fieri and were featured on Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives, while giving area residents a one-of-a-kind place to raise a pint and enjoy great eats with family and friends.



If you know a Town resident who deserves a Shout Out, please send information and photos to info@townofonondaga.gov.

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

News From the Town Clerk's Office



Janet Hillery,
Town Clerk

The Town Clerk offers a variety of services for residents. We can be reached at 315-469-1583 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or go to townofonondaga.gov for links to commonly requested information. Here's an overview of some of the services we provide, as well as important updates:

Conservation Licenses - UPDATE

Beginning August 2024, the DEC is moving away from the currently issued Valeron paper licenses to regular paper due to supply chain issues and increased costs. The transition will allow quicker access to recreational activities as hunters, trappers and anglers will be able to print their license from home or use the DEC app – **HuntFishNY** - to provide proof of licensure. Please visit dec.ny.gov for the latest hunting and fishing information and regulations.

Peddlers/Solicitors

The Town of Onondaga requires door-to-door solicitors to obtain a permit from the Town Clerk's office which entails a background check and a fee of \$100/peddler. Solicitors must carry this permit with them and produce it on demand, as well as have company ID visible. If you are concerned about a peddler's legitimacy or have questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office. If a solicitor approaches your residence and you fear for your safety, call 911.

Handicapped Parking Permits

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

Veterans Return the FAVOR Cards

Honorably discharged military Veterans residing in Onondaga County can obtain a FAVOR (Find and Assist Veterans of Record) card by bringing their discharge or DD-214 papers, along with photo ID, to the Town Clerk's office. FAVOR cards qualify Veterans for discounts on goods and services throughout Onondaga County. For a list of participating merchants, stop by the Town Clerk's office or visit ongov.net/favor. Merchants who want to participate in the program can pick up an application at the Town Clerk's office.

Dog Licensing

It is a requirement for all dog owners living in the Town to license their dogs. Licenses provide many benefits including providing Rabies vaccination status and helping reconnect lost dogs with their owners. A portion of fees collected go to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for spaying/neutering programs. Dog license applications can be obtained from our office or by visiting www.townofonondaga.gov. Please provide Rabies and spay/neuter documentation, as well as the yearly fee of \$10 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$20 for non-spayed/neutered dogs. You can license your dog for up to three years at a time – depending on vaccination status. The next Onondaga County **Rabies Clinics** will be held on **9/19 at Sunnycrest Ice Rink**, and **10/17 at the Eastwood Community Center**. Please go to ongov.net/health/env for more information. The Town of Onondaga contracts with the **SPCA** to field all reports of lost, found or stray dogs. They can be reached at 315-454-0928.



U.S. Passports

The Town Clerk's Office is a great place to submit your passport application. **Appointments are required** along with a photo from an accepted passport photo processing facility. **For eligible U.S. citizens, renewals can now be done online.** For more information, call our office at 315-469-1583, or visit travel.state.gov.

FOIL Requests

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

News From the Town Clerk's Office (continued)

Board of Elections

The **General Election** will be held this year on **Tuesday November 5th**. Polling locations are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you have questions about elections, your polling location, absentee ballots or voter registration deadlines, please call the Board of Elections at 315-435-VOTE or go to ongov.net/elections. Voter registration forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office or through the Onondaga County Board of Elections located at 1000 Erie Blvd. West.

Meeting Minutes

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

Services that Require Appointments

To ensure a time-efficient, positive experience for everyone, please call us at **315-469-1583** to make an appointment for a **passport, marriage license, or any lengthy notary service**.

From the Tax Receiver's Office

2024-25 School Tax Collection

School tax bills will be mailed the last week of August. Collection begins Tuesday, September 3rd.

The 2024-25 School Tax Collection Penalty Schedule is as follows:

September 3 – October 2 = No penalty/interest

October 3 – 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.

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

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.

Tax Estimates

Important Note for Real Estate Professionals or Appraisers: Our office does not estimate taxes for you. Tax bills include tax rates, taxable assessed values and exemption information. These are public records and available at ongov.net/etax. Various tax estimators are available online, including at seethroughny.org.

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 only able to return calls about every three hours, so please plan accordingly.

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



*Kathy Dwyer,
Tax Receiver*

From Building & Codes Department

Dedicated to Providing a Safe, Healthy Environment to Support Residents' Quality of Life

The Town Codes Department administers and enforces numerous State and Local Laws, Rules, Regulations and Ordinances that collectively are over a foot thick. The intent of these regulations is to provide a safe, healthy environment and improve the quality of life for Town residents. Some of these regulations are State mandates such as the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code that addresses fire safety regulations, minimum building construction requirements, property maintenance standards, and Energy Conservation among other requirements. Local laws and ordinances - including the Town of Onondaga Zoning Ordinance and Subdivisions regulations - are also administered by the department.

The Codes Department may be reached at (315) 469-3144.

Life Safety Inspections Underway

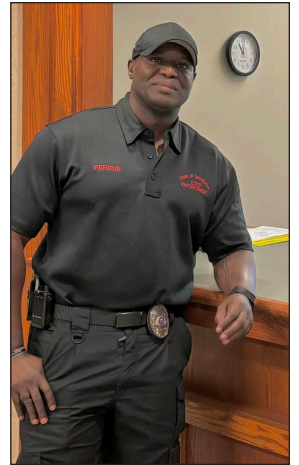
Our Codes Officers are in the process of reviewing and updating the town's life safety inspections by Fire District with an eye toward a more efficient process for the business owner and the codes department.

Each business and other organizations will be delivered a letter of intent to inspect two to three weeks ahead of the inspection date and provided a copy of the inspection form with state codes listed so owners know in advance what will be required at the time of the inspection.

Any fire-related violations will trigger a drop-in inspection within two weeks of the initial inspection and any combination of four major violations will trigger a paid re-inspection within 30 days of the initial inspection.

Welcome Chris!

Please join us in welcoming Christopher Perdue as Code Enforcement Officer with our Building & Codes Department. He has several years of municipal codes enforcement experience and is an apprentice fire investigator, EMT, volunteer firefighter and holds numerous professional certificates and licenses. We are excited to have Chris as part of our Town team.



News From the Town Highway Department

The Town Highway is always hard at work for residents. Here's just a glance at what the department has been up to this past spring and summer and what is planned for fall:

- **1020 Loads** of brush and yard waste have been picked up so far this year, and that number is expected to double by the end of year.
- **21.5 Yards** of concrete have been poured to repair or replace catch basins and gutters.
- **8.67 Miles** of Town roads have been oiled and stoned, cap sealed or blacked topped so far with more scheduled through end of season.
- **380 Feet** of pipe has been installed to resolve culvert/drainage issues.
- **4 Miles** of ditches have been cleaned out to keep water flowing and off Town roads.
- Many faded stop signs have been replaced, and street signs and speed signs repaired or replaced.
- Roadside mowing first cut complete to help with line-of-sight issues and the second cut continues through fall. All retention basins have been mowed for the season.
- Ongoing emergency responses to downed trees and flooding issues caused by the frequent storms this season.



*John S. Smith,
Highway Superintendent*

Up next! The Department is getting ready for the seven-week-long **Annual Fall Cleanup**. See details in this newsletter. Schedules have also been mailed to all residents.

Question? Call 315 469-1664 or contact Linda Crowley at Lcrowley@townofonondaga.gov.

News From the Town Highway Department (continued)

2024 FALL CLEANUP SCHEDULE

It's time to discard your unwanted items (junk) from your home, yard, shed, garage, & basement. Flyers have been mailed to all residents and a printable version is available at townofonondaga.gov on the Highway Department's page.

Our crew and trucks cover 200+ miles of road during the 7-week Town Cleanup. Please look at the 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 seven fire districts are completed.

SCHEDULE

Fire Districts:

Howlett Hill Fire District
Cedarvale Rd. to Townline Rd.

S. Onondaga & Navarino Fire Districts Sept. 9th

Taunton 1 & 2 Fire District Sept. 16th
Including: Harris Hill, Buxton Woods & Sherwood Farms

Onondaga Hill Fire District Sept. 23rd
North of W. Seneca Tpk. including: Limehill,
Breckenridge and Autumn Ridge

Onondaga Hill Fire District Sept. 30th
South of W. Seneca Tpk. Cut off is Cole Rd, but does not
include Cole Rd.

Nedrow Fire District Oct. 7th
East of S. Salina St. including Southwood, Crown Point
& Sentinel Hgts.

Nedrow Fire District Oct. 14th
West of S. Salina St.

Fire District information can be found on your property tax records (www.ongov.net) or call the Highway Department for help.

ITEMS WE WILL NOT PICKUP

- **Recyclables of any kind, plastic & glass bottles, papers, newspapers, magazines and cardboard.**
- **Mattresses**
- **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.**
- **TVs, 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

If you have questions, please contact us at (315) 469-1664 or LCrowley@townofonondaga.gov.

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? We're inviting everyone to discover the resources and opportunities available at OFL by signing up for a library card. TRANSFORMERS' Optimus Prime is this year's special ambassador, highlighting that there's more than meets the eye at OFL. Today's libraries are vibrant community centers offering much more than books. At OFL, you'll find diverse programs, technology assistance, homework help, book clubs, author talks, storytimes and more. Also, did you know that OFL offers park and museum passes, mobile hotspots, a GoPro, mini projector and more available to check out for free with your library card? There's truly something for everyone! Getting a library card is easy and free, so stop by OFL today to get what could be one the most valuable cards in your wallet!

Display Your Art at OFL

Do you have paintings, photographs, or multimedia artwork that you would like to display for the public to see? We are looking for artists to host monthly displays in our art exhibit space in 2025. For more information and to fill out our Art Exhibit Application Form, visit oflibrary.org/art-exhibits.



Upcoming Programs

- **BUILD A WEATHER & CLIMATE STATION:** On Saturday, 9/28, OFL will host a five-hour program (11 a.m. – 4 p.m.) during which participants will explore the relationship between greenhouse gasses, atmospheric disturbances, and the changes we observe in how our local ecosystems function. This program, led by SUNY ESF Professor of Environmental Engineering Dr. Timothy Morin, will be a combination of lecture, building of a weather & climate station, and data analysis.
- **ANYTHING BUT COLLEGE FAIR:** Does your teen want to explore career paths that don't involve a four-year degree and learn about the career training options available to them? On Thursday, 9/26, from 5 to 8 p.m., representatives from several local organizations will be available to talk with teens and their parents and provide information about training programs for various careers in the trades and other fields.
- **AND MORE:** Keep an eye out for an American Red Cross **blood drive**, another round of **dance classes** presented by Walt Medicis Dance Studio, **tech classes**, **storytimes** and much more! Learn about all our fall and winter programs, including weekly preschool programs and one-on-one tech appointments, tech classes and dance classes at oflibrary.org/program-guide.

Friends of OFL

First off, a big thank you to our Friends for sponsoring summer reading for the sixth straight year! Looking ahead, the Friends will host a book sale October 3 through 5, with a Friends Preview Night on October 2. Donations of gently used books, movies and more will be accepted during regular library hours, September 27 and 28 as well as September 30 and October 1. And the Festival of Trees will return for its 18th year this holiday season. More details to come!

Learn more about Friends OFL and how to become a member at oflibrary.org/friends-of-ofl/.

About Onondaga Free Library

4840 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215

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

Social Media: @OnondagaFreeLib on Facebook and Instagram

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

Holiday Closings: Aug. 31 - Sept. 2, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, 28 - 29, Dec. 24 - 25, Jan. 1, 20, 29, Feb. 17, Close at 5 p.m. on Nov. 27 & Dec. 31

Board of Trustees Meetings: Wednesdays, 9/25, 10/30, 12/18, 1/22, 2/26 at 6pm

Fire Department News

From Howlett Hill Fire Department

Chief: James Harris

President: Frank Valls

Get Your Ice Cream!

Depending on how quickly you receive mail delivery to your home, you may still have time to join us at the 2024 Town Summer Concert at Santaro Park. On Wednesday, August 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. we will be selling ICE CREAM during the concert. So, as Letizia and the Z Band play your favorite tunes, head over to our exhibit and enjoy a nice ice-cold treat on a hot Summer night at the park!

New Bunk Rooms

The Department is putting the finishing touches on our two new Bunk Rooms at the firehouse. We expect to fill these room with college students enrolled in the OCC Fire Prevention and Services curriculum, and/or Firefighters from our or other County Fire Departments who are interested in taking a work shift at Howlett Hill and require a place to rest up for the day ahead. The department is making good use of some of the Recruiting and Retention Funding all Town Fire Departments received from the Town in the Post-COVID era! We are excited about publicizing our upcoming "ribbon-cutting" ceremony!

New Event Coming!

Be on the look-out for Howlett Hill Fire Department marketing information on social media. We are in the planning phase of an event to be held in late September, instead of the annual King's Feast. This exciting event will be a combination Open House, Bar-Be-Que and tie-in to national Fire Prevention Week. We will offer something exciting for your whole family.

Election Day Bake Sale

For Town residents who will cast their vote in the presidential election at the Howlett Hill Fire station on Nov. 5, remember to bring some cash with you! Our HHFD Auxiliary will be conducting their annual Bake Sale of homemade goods while the polls are open (or until they sell out). So, come out and vote, enjoy the aroma of fresh baked goods and Support our Auxiliary!

Join the Department

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

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

Stay in Touch

Make sure you follow us on Facebook @Howlett Hill Fire Department - 100% Volunteer or visit howlethillfiredepartment.org.



Please be safe during the Fall and Winter seasons!

Fire Department News

From Southwood Fire Department

Chief: Vincent Carroll

President: Thomas Bouvia

The members of the Southwood Fire Department have been busy the past several months!

Congratulations Muhammed, Tom & Andrew!

Southwood Fire Department recently hosted the Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations (BEFO)/Interior Firefighting Operations (IFO) class. The in-person, hands-on requirements were completed at the Fire Training Center of the Town of Onondaga.

We were very fortunate to have three members complete the BEFO class: Muhammed Aljerari, Tom Forgione and Andrew Eitel. Muhammed and Tom also went on to complete the IFO class. This requires over 100 hours of intense training. If you see these members, be sure to offer your gratitude for their commitment to Southwood.

Open House & BBQ

The Department held an Open House/Chicken BBQ in July and it was well received by the community. We sold OUT!

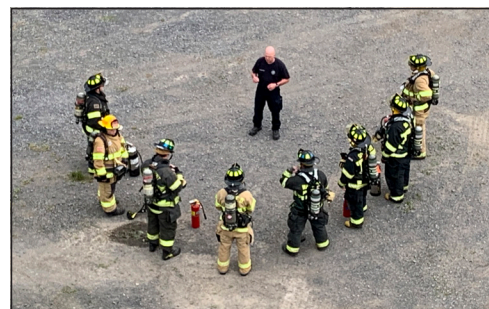
We are planning another "In the Neighborhood" recruiting event for September. Please follow our Facebook page for more info as it becomes available.

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 Tuesday evening.

You can also go to southwoodfd.org for information on how to apply.

A day in the life...



From Taunton Fire Department

Chief: Michael Phelan

President: Edward Phelan, Jr.



Come Bet on Red,
Roll the Dice & Support The
Taunton Fire Department

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
6:30P-10:30P

TAUNTON FIRE STATION: 4300 ONONDAGA BLVD

BUY \$100 TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO MAKE IT \$10,000
(INCLUDES FOOD/DRINKS)

BASIC ENTRY FEE GETS DINNER/DRINKS ONLY

50/50 RAFFLES, BEAT THE DEALER, BIG 6 & MORE

Community Spotlight: Fire Training Center of the Town of Onondaga

Tucked away at the end of Nixon Park Drive is a non-descript parcel of land that is home to one of the most important resources in the Town: The Fire Training Center of the Town of Onondaga (FTCTO).

Founded in 1983, the facility is owned by the Town's seven volunteer fire departments – Howlett Hill, Navarino, Nedrow, Onondaga Hill, South Onondaga, Southwood and Taunton - and serves as the site of weekly live fire and equipment training and classroom education for their members. The land was donated to the Town of Onondaga by Joseph Scuderi, which in turn transferred a portion of the land to the fire departments for the training center. Town taxes on the property are charged at a reduced rate of less than \$25 a year.

Look around the site and you see several structures resembling homes and businesses, school buses, old cars, a fire behavior simulator, an apparatus for forcible door entry practice, and a pavilion where firefights can rest and rehydrate.

The Smokehouse is the initial stage of training. It is set up like a two-story home and smoke and noise are piped in so that firefighters can learn mask confidence and how to search for occupants in challenging conditions. Here, trainees also learn the different fire and rescue techniques specific to various sized windows and different siding materials.

In the two-story Hot House, firefighters battle active blazes of up to 1000 degrees. The fires are started using wood pallets and hay purchased from local farms, including Luchsinger's and Rohe's.



The Fire Behavior Simulator, which was bought “used” from the New York Fire Department, allows the firefighters to experience and learn to recognize and escape impending back drafts and flashovers.

One building is dedicated to practicing ventilation and firefighting skills on roofs of different pitches as well as flat roofs, like the one at Green Hills Farms grocery store. The trainees also learn to repel off the roof, practice rope rescues and ladder placement.

There is also an area where volunteer firefighters practice auto extraction and battling car fires. John's Auto Body on East Brighton Avenue - whose owner, Shaun Curtis, is a South Onondaga resident – has generously provided vehicles at a reduced price. Likewise, the Onondaga Central School District (OCS) donated old school buses so that the trainees are prepared should there be a bus crash or fire situation where children are at risk or trapped.

OCS also donated the building used as the classroom where state-required standards are taught. An attached maze provides opportunities for trainees to learn – blindfolded - how to maneuver in their gear on stairways and in closed spaces.

A fun fact is that each of the buildings have individual addresses registered with the County's 911 Emergency Dispatch Center. For example, the Garage is 5890 Hot Stove Dr.

Community Spotlight: Fire Training Center of the Town of Onondaga (continued)

For the past 15 years, Tom Sauer (pictured), President, FTCTO, has managed and maintained the site on a fully volunteer basis. He mows and weeds the grounds, handles equipment and building repairs, stocks all training materials – including wood chips, pallets, replacement parts, mannequins and much more; schedules groups training at the site; scouts donations; and ensures state safety requirements are adhered to. He also leads the FTCTO board comprised of representatives from each of the Town's fire departments.



For Tom it is a labor of love. His day job is as Personal Lines Major Case Adjustor with Travelers Insurance, where he is licensed in 13 states and is well-versed in construction and fire restoration. Yet, his passion is community fire safety. He is a past Chief of the Taunton Fire Department and current treasurer and New York State licensed Level II Fire Investigator with that Department.

“Having the training center allows the Town's fire departments to operate at a highly professional level by ensuring firefighters are skilled and response ready. It also allows new firefighters to train at their own pace,” said Sauer.

He said the biggest challenge is the budget. One third of the Center's budget goes to insurance.

“We have to be creative in finding donations,” he explained.

To put costs in perspective, he explained that parts for the forced entry apparatus - which constitutes a minor part of the overall training - cost approximately \$11K.

The Marcellus, Solvay and Camillus fire departments train at the site for a fee as has Syracuse University's Public Safety officers. The site is consistently in use by other outside organizations as well, including, most recently, SWAT teams and the United States Air Force. The organization also seeks grants to fund operations.



“The volunteer fire departments in our Town are exceptional. They are on call around the clock and commit to extremely challenging weekly skills and performance training so they can provide the highest level of service to residents while keeping their firefighters safe. The Fire Training Center has been a key resource toward making that goal a reality,” said John Mahar, Town Supervisor.

Want to Support the Town of Onondaga Fire Training Center? They need a weedeater, hay and pallets, mannequins, a new freestanding building/shed and donations in any amount. If you can help, contact Tom Sauer at (315) 491-1193 or tsauer9701@gmail.com.

From the Assessor's Office

Tax Exemption Renewals

Exemption renewal notices will be mailed in early September with a return deadline of March 1, 2024. 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.**

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

For more information, call 315.469.3216.

From Richard McCarron, 11th District, Onondaga County Legislator



It's hard to believe that fall is almost upon us, and that we're almost a third of the way through 2024! It's been a great year for me and I hope for you as well.

Since the last newsletter, two law enforcement officers in Onondaga County were killed in the line of duty. Lieutenant Michael Hoosock of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and Officer Michael Jensen of the Syracuse Police Department were simply doing their jobs. Being a former Sheriff's Deputy, their deaths greatly impacted me but it was nice to see the outpouring of love and support from the entire community. We must always remember them and the sacrifice they made for all of us.

I continue to serve as Vice Chair of the Legislature's Public Safety committee. In this role I continue to work to support our law enforcement and their relationship with the Town of Onondaga. I have spoken with many residents relative to their concerns about crime and safety in our community and I work closely to be sure our Town is one of the safest in the County!

If you weren't aware, Onondaga County 911's center is located in our district, and I was more than happy to host a joint meeting of the Legislature's Public Safety and Health & Human Services committees at the center. Legislators received a detailed update on the county's Person In Crisis Navigation Pilot Program which provides a mental health professional response in some situations instead of a police or EMS response. This frees up our emergency responders for more critical calls and from August 2023 through April 2024, more than 25% of person in crisis calls to 911 were transferred and many ended without the need for an emergency response. This is a great program and I look forward to helping expand it in the near future.

I was pleased to help announce the third round of recipients for our county's Agritourism Grant Program. Agritourism is the term used for when working farms invite visitors in to see and learn about what they do and, in many cases, where our food actually comes from. It benefits both the farm owners and those who visit. The county's investment in our agricultural community is a vital part of our future success. Congratulations to Delaney Farms, Navarino Orchard, The Pumpkin Hollow, Rohe Farm Camp, Denise Vespa Stables, Stones Throw Farm and Deer Run Farms Orchard. I am so proud to live in a District with so many successful local agricultural establishments!

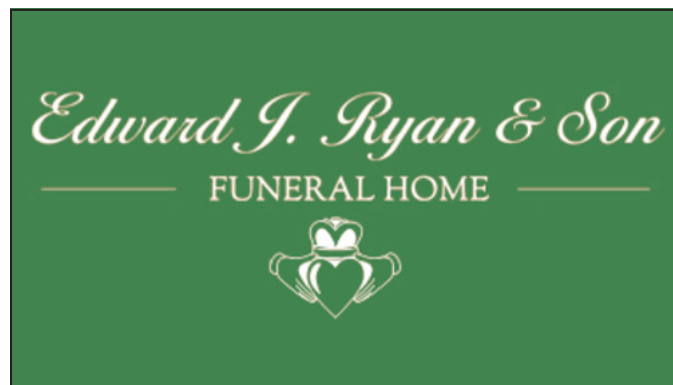
In the past few months, I have used my position as Onondaga County Legislator to encourage our Congressman, Brandon Williams, to support federal funding for the Jonathan Diaz Community Center project in Nedrow and to replace aging equipment and vehicles at the Onondaga Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

Finally, just a reminder that all Legislature meetings are streamed live on the Legislature's Facebook page: @OnondagaCountyLegislature.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns and please feel free to connect with me on Facebook: @McCarronforOC or email me at: RichardMcCarron@ongov.net.

Paul Mullin, a 30+ year resident of Onondaga Hill,

was appointed by the Town Board earlier this year as Town Justice to succeed the Honorable William Rose, a beloved and accomplished long-time judge who passed away March 7. Judge Mullin is an experienced trial attorney and partner with Sugarman Law Firm. He presides on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 5 p.m. at Town Justice Court, 5020 Ball Rd.



Onondaga Community College News

Micron Clean Room Simulation Lab

Onondaga Community College (OCC) faculty are working with Micron to design programs and certificate courses for the skills students will need for Micron careers. Progress continues in OCC's Whitney Applied Technology Center where the 3,000 sq ft. Micron Clean Room Simulation Lab is being constructed. Training will take place for careers in semiconductor and microelectronic industries along with HVAC and welding. Construction is expected to be completed by 2025. There are currently eight OCC students working at Micron in Boise, Idaho this summer. And there are three more students doing paid internships at Micron in Manassas, Virginia. All 11 are enrolled in technology-related courses of study, including the Micron-inspired Electromechanical Technology degree program which was created last year.



County Recognition

Special thanks to Onondaga County Legislator Rich McCarron for honoring OCC National Champion Bryn Whitman on her second consecutive national championship in women's discus and the OCC Women's lacrosse team for their national championship.

SBDC Receives Statewide Recognition

Our Small Business Development Center (SBDC), located in Mulroy Hall on Onondaga Road, was awarded statewide recognition for outstanding service to clients. The SBDC serves an eight-county area and provides no-cost, confidential business advisement to individuals and companies. The SBDC assists in offering advisement, education, research and advocacy for entrepreneurs and small business community innovators and is led by regional director, Robert Griffin. SBDC can be reached at 315-498-6070.



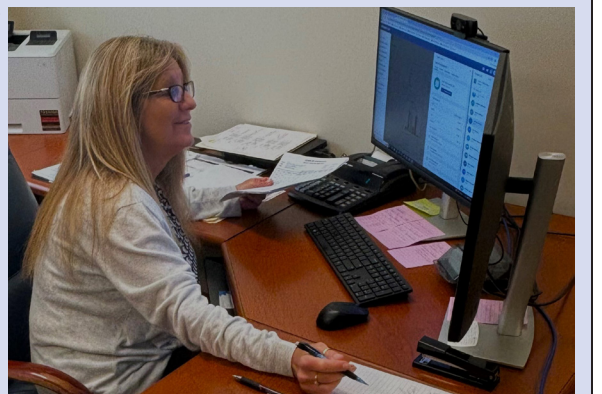
Other Happenings

- OCC will host its annual **September 11 Remembrance Ceremony** on Wednesday September 11 at the college's 9/11 memorial located outside the Whitney Applied Technology Center across from the residence halls.
- OCC's Mulroy Hall is proud to serve as an **early voting and election day polling site**.
- We will host a **Naturalization Ceremony** on November 7 at 11 a.m. in Storer Auditorium with U.S. Magistrate Judge David Peebles presiding. It is open to the public.

Left to right: Athletic director Mike Borsz; players Gianna Zerrillo, Gabriella Smart and Alecsis Buda; McCarron, and lacrosse head coach Erik Mattox.

Michelle Biggs of Howlett Hill

recently joined the team at Town Hall as Administrative Assistant to the Town Supervisor. She is a graduate of Westhill High School and Onondaga Community College with extensive experience in customer service and office management. Welcome Michelle!



Parks & Recreation

LOOKING BACK ON A BUSY SUMMER

As usual, your Parks & Recreation Department had a busy summer. A huge shout goes out to all our seasonal and full-time staff that put in many hours to beautify our parks, prepare our softball fields for adult play, and keep our Town's children busy and having fun.

As of this writing, we've had over 70 park pavilion permits and 10 ongoing organization permits. Several projects continue to be completed in the parks as we are always working to upgrade our facilities and add touches to make them more welcoming.

At the senior center, we just wrapped up projects made available through an Onondaga County Office of Aging grant. It included new lighting throughout the building, a new floor in the kitchen, fire doors installed, and an air conditioning/heater unit in our activity room. If you are 60 or older come on by and check us out.

This summer saw two concerts in the park. Both were well attended. Thanks go out to Vote for Pete for their performance at Kelley Park in July and Letizia & The Z Band at Santaro in August. Two local Fire Departments, South Onondaga and Howlett Hill, were on hand to do some recruiting. A shout out to Colonial Laundromat for sponsoring Letizia & The Z Band. Watch for the return of our concerts next summer.

Our youth were kept busy throughout the summer with over 30 different programs offered. Our day camps once again served 260+ youth in the six-week run. We tried several new programs this summer with huge successes - pickleball, dance camp and Slimetopia to name a few.

Please check out our Fall offerings here in the Our Town and on our registration website at parks.townofonondaga.gov.

Charry Lawson
Parks & Recreation Director



Charry Lawson, Director



PARKS & RECREATION INFORMATION

PARKS & RECREATION STAFF

Charry Lawson, Director

Jennifer Smiley, Recreation Supervisor

Barbara Michalski, Senior Program Coordinator

Richard Lamphier, Park Labor Crew Leader

Rachel Draper, Recreation Secretary

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

Address: 4834 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Phone: 315-469-3464

Email: recreation@townofonondaga.gov

Website: parks.townofonondaga.gov

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

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

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

REFUND & CANCELLATION POLICIES

REFUND/CREDIT POLICY

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

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of a cancellation due to weather or other unavoidable problem, every effort is made to contact participants. Ensure you are opted-in to receive our texts and emails. If you ever are unsure whether a class is cancelled, call the us at 315-469-3464 or check our website and Facebook Page.

Parks Facilities

The Town operates four beautiful parks for residents. Dogs and smoking of any nature are not allowed. 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 Nov. 1 - April 30.

Kelley Brothers Memorial Park - 251 Dorwin Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13205

This 15-acre park has a rentable pavilion with an accessible walkway and grills nearby. The park also has a restroom, play areas, tennis court, and a beach volleyball court. There is a small pavilion near the playground equipment to provide shade and picnic seating for all the families that utilize the play areas. The maximum occupancy for permits is 75.

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

The athletic fields are heavily used by our adult softball leagues during the week, with WOYSA playing games on Saturdays in spring and fall. This 20-acre park has two softball fields, a beach volleyball court, two tennis courts, a basketball court, two pickleball courts, grills, pavilion, playground equipment, and restrooms. There is a small pavilion near the playground equipment to provide shade and picnic seating for the families that utilize the play areas. The maximum occupancy for permits is 100.

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

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

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

This 22-acre park is a major site for WOYSA, Blue Wave & Outlaws Lacrosse, Westhill, and Onondaga Community College athletic teams. The blue shade shelter, adjacent to the play areas, is for the use of all park participants, providing shade and picnic seating and it is not reserved for groups. Only the upper pavilion is available by permit. Two large grills are adjacent to the upper pavilion. The park also has pickleball courts, tennis courts, a tennis wall, and a basketball court. Tikes 'n Bikes - Santaro Town provides a safe, fenced-in area for in-line skating, and children with big wheel-type rider toys, tricycles, and small bikes with training wheels. The maximum occupancy for permits is 150.

PARK SECURITY

Our Town facilities are routinely patrolled by our staff and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. If you have an emergency, call 911. We need your help to keep the Town's Parks beautiful. Please call 911 to report any suspicious activity. All reports are anonymous. Park ordinances are strictly enforced with appearance tickets.

2024 Fall Recreation Programs & Activities

GYMNASTICS AND TUMBLING PROGRAM

Split Rock Elementary School – Gym

Tuesdays, Sept. 24 – June 2025, 3:15 – 4 p.m. (Ongoing – Some exclusion dates apply. Full schedule available from the instructor.)

This is an ongoing basic recreational tumbling class for girls and boys in grades K-5 with no previous experience required! Taught by Chuck Parry's Gymnastics. A one-time fee is required upon registering with the Town, then, a weekly fee of \$20 will be paid directly to Parry's Gymnastics. Questions? Visit Parry's Gymnastics online at: parrysgymnastics.com

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

START SMART SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, Sept. 14 – Oct. 19, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

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. Soccer exercises become increasingly more difficult as the class progresses and children show improvement. Bring a water bottle, sweatshirt on cold days, and shin guards. Fee includes a soccer ball to keep! No cleats.

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

HOT SHOTS YOUTH SOCCER

King Park

Saturdays, Sept. 14 – Oct. 19, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Available to boys and girls ages 5 – 8. This instructional program teaches kids soccer fundamentals with games at the end of each session. Bring a water bottle, sweatshirt on cold days, and shin guards. No cleats.

FEE: \$55 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$65 Non-residents

MAKING IT WITH MARY – ON THE FARM

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi-use room

Wednesdays, Sept. 25 – Oct. 23, 6 – 7 p.m. (except 10/16)

Create farm animal drawings, learn simple art perspective, printmaking goats, and Van Gogh inspired starry night pumpkins with Ms. Mary! Ages: 7 - 12

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

YOUTH DANCE

Onondaga Senior Center – Dance Studio

Check out our website for more information.

Ages 3 – 8. Child must be 3 by 9/16. If your child is interested in dance, this class may be for you!

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



YOGAKIDS

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi use room

Session 1: Thursdays, Sept. 12 – Oct. 24, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Ages 5 – 12. Join certified yoga instructor, Trista Phillipson, for a fun, interactive yoga experience. Each week will feature a new theme with yoga poses, crafts, and games. Yoga can help kids manage everyday stress through meditation and breathing and can increase your child's confidence while also developing skills such as body awareness and self-regulation.

FEE: \$95 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$105 Non-residents

START SMART BASKETBALL

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Saturdays, Nov. 2 – Dec. 14, 11 – 11:45 a.m.

Ages 4 – 5. Helps prepare children for organized basketball in a fun, non-threatening environment by developing basic motor skills used in organized sports. Fee includes a basketball your child can keep.

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

BASKETBALL SKILLZ 'N' DRILLZ

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Saturdays, Nov. 2 – Dec. 14

Ages 6 – 12. This non-competitive skill-building program focuses on proper dribbling, passing, shooting, and appreciation for basketball. Kids go through game-based drills each day to help them improve their basketball aptitude. We encourage taking Skillz 'n' Drillz before signing up for Youth Basketball Scrimmages.

AGES: 6 - 8 TIME: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
AGES: 9 - 12 TIME: 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
FEE: \$50 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$60 Non-residents

2024 Adult Programs

PICKLEBALL 101

Santaro Park

Thursdays, Sept. 19 – Oct. 10, 10 a.m. – Noon

This 4-week program teaches the game to new players. Each class includes an hour of instruction followed by an hour of supervised open play.

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

PICKLEBALL 102

Santaro Park

Thursdays, Sept. 19 – Oct. 10, Noon – 2 p.m.

This 4-week program takes players from the beginner to intermediate level. If you know the rules to pickleball and want to improve your skills, this is the class for you. Each class includes an hour of instruction followed by an hour of supervised open play.

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Onondaga Hill Middle School Gym

Thursdays, Oct. 10 – March 27, 7:30 – 9 p.m. *(Check website for exclusion dates)*

Pickup games for men 18 and older who like exercise and some light competition. Bring one white and one black shirt each night.

FEE: \$5 each week

PICKLEBALL

Wheeler Elementary School

Saturdays, Nov. 2 – April 12, 10 a.m. – Noon *(Check website for exclusion dates)*

Back by popular demand for adults 18 and older. Equipment available to borrow. (Last year's unused punch card will be honored.)

FEE: \$8 each week

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Onondaga Hill Middle School – Gym

Mondays, Sept. 23 – June 9, 7:15 – 9 p.m. *(Check website for exclusion dates)*

Join our growing group for some fun and light exercise!

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

A GATHERING OF GHOSTS

Onondaga Senior Center – Multi use room

Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

What should you do if you see a ghost? How do you get rid of one? Here's your chance to study various types of ghosts and hauntings. Hear theories explaining ghostly phenomena and learn ghost-hunting techniques. Instructor Ron Cain sheds light on famous haunted houses and legends, including tales from Hollywood and the White House. The boogeyman, bedsheet ghosts, and poltergeist will also be discussed. Learn about haunted objects like Annabelle the Doll and the Lincoln Ghost Train. Be prepared to share your own ghost stories! *(Ages 16 and older. Ages 16 - 17 should be accompanied by an adult.)*

FEE: \$38 Town of Onondaga Residents
\$48 Non-residents



SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Barbara Michalski, Senior Program Coordinator

Address: 4834 Velasko Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

Phone: 315-469-3464

Email: recreation@townofonondaga.gov

Website: parks.townofonondaga.gov

OFFICE HOURS

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

All Senior Citizens are welcome to participate in our programs and events. We strive to provide interesting, educational, and enjoyable activities and welcome your input on what programs you would like to see offered!

To be added to the mailing list for our bi-monthly newsletter, the Senior Gazette, call 315-469-3464. There is no charge for Town of Onondaga residents. Non-residents are charged a \$10 annual fee. The *Gazette*, monthly activity calendar and P.E.A.C.E. Inc. lunch menu can be found at parks.townofonondaga.gov.

P.E.A.C.E. Inc. SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

Lunch is served Monday - Thursday at Noon. Lunch is \$3.50 for ages 60+, \$7 for those under 60. Pay at the door. Please arrive at 11:45 a.m. and *notify our PEACE Lunch Manager if you have a food allergy or need to cancel*. **For reservations, call 315.469.3259 by 12:30 p.m. Thursday for the following week.**

CATERED LUNCHEONS

THURSDAY, September 5, Noon

\$5 - Sign up by Tuesday, Sept. 3

Deli Lunch; Entertainment by *Blair Frodelius*

THURSDAY, October 3, Noon

\$5 - Sign up by Tuesday, Oct. 1

Pizza, Salad, Dessert; Entertainment by *Rock Shadows Band*

BUNKO BASH!

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1 p.m. (Please arrive by 12:45 p.m.)

No experience necessary. Bring \$3 to play and win a prize! Call or sign up in the front office.

Halloween Party

Thursday, Oct. 31

Dress in your best Halloween costume & attire! Arrive by 11:15 a.m. for the costume parade and judging at 11:30 a.m. We'll take pictures before lunch, so don't be late! Entertainment by Paul, one-half of the Twin Musicians, will follow lunch. This will be a regular P.E.A.C.E. lunch (\$3.50). Call **315.469.3259** to sign up.

FREE LUNCH FOR U.S. MILITARY VETERANS

Thursday, Nov. 14

Veterans are invited to be our guests for a FREE P.E.A.C.E. lunch in honor of your military service (all non-veterans, \$3.50). Your lunch is paid for by the Friends of the Onondaga Seniors. Call **315.469.3259** to make your reservation.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISOR/SENIOR ASSISTANCE COUNSELING

Our Neighborhood Advisor, who works for the Salvation Army, assists with completion of medical applications and other forms as well as identifying services related to: Healthcare, Transportation, Legal Issues, Housing, Nutrition, Socialization and Caregiver Information along with info about SNAP, SSI, EPIC, HEAP, and 214 Form/Property Tax Reduction. Our neighborhood advisor is always available to assist you. To meet at the Senior Center on September 18 or October 16, call us to schedule an appointment. For immediate needs, call the Salvation Army directly at 315.479.1125.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MID-NY

Provides legal services to residents of Onondaga County ages 60+. Services cover the following 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 to schedule an appointment: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wednesdays, Sept. 18 and Nov. 13.

SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

ONE-DAY AAA DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Oct. 11 or Nov. 8. Ages 50+. **Advance registration required.** Checks payable to AAA for \$34 at registration. Bring to class: Your current driver's license, pen/pencil.

Lunch: Noon - 12:30 p.m. - Bring a bagged lunch that does not to be microwaved or refrigerated. Coffee and tea provided.

WALKING PROGRAM

Walk year round from 10 - 11 AM Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Michael's Parish Center and during the summer months also walk around the Brookdale Summerfield Residence Building (across from Santaro Park). Seating is available to rest.

NEW CLASS!

STRENGTH & STRETCH for Active Seniors - Instructor: Marie Thornton
THURSDAYS 9:15- 10:15 a.m., September 12 – December 5 (exclude 11/28)

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

FEE: Town of Onondaga Residents \$48
Non-Residents \$58
(After September 5, add \$10)

Senior Care Event

Sept. 26, 10 a.m. - Noon

Onondaga Senior Center

Learn about the many services and opportunities available to seniors in the Syracuse area at this **FREE** event. Visit vendor tables for services, information and promotional items.

EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES

Upstate University Hospital makes it easy to get your annual mammogram.

Our mobile mammography van will be in your area soon!

Onondaga Senior Center

4834 Velasko Rd
Syracuse

Monday, September 30th

9 AM to 3 PM



WOMEN 40 YEARS AND OLDER ARE ELIGIBLE TO USE THE VAN IF:

- They have not had a mammogram in the past year
- They show no signs or symptoms of breast cancer

Appointments are preferred. Register now!

BY PHONE: 315-464-2588 ONLINE: www.upstate.edu/noexcuses

We welcome insured and uninsured women.

UPSTATE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Mobile Mammography

DAY TRIPS

- September 18: Lunch at Ventosa Vineyards followed by a cruise on the Canandaigua Lady
- October 9: Travel to Bethel Woods Center for the Arts located at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock festival

For a full listing of all our Senior Center has to offer, go to:
parks.townofonondaga.gov

From the Town Historical Society

New Website

The Town of Onondaga Historical Society's new website, TownofOnondagaMuseum.com, is up and running. Please visit the site to learn more about the History of the Town and its hamlets, enjoy videos of historical society presentations going back to 2018, and check out what books are available at our gift shop.

Cemetery Restoration Project Underway

The Walnut Grove Cemetery Association's multi-year monument restoration project is underway thanks to a grant from the New York State Division of Cemeteries (NYSDOC). The grant is the second largest ever awarded by the Division. The project encompasses restoration of 78 monuments and is expected to extend through Fall. The Association extends its sincere appreciation to NYSDOC representative Michael Seelman for his support and guidance throughout the grant process.

Contact

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Carl Wiezalis, President
315.214.2383
townofonondagahistorical@gmail.com

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