




# TALK OF THE TOWN

a newsletter from the Town of Cortlandville

Volume III: Issue 3

 townofcortlandville

 www.cortlandville.org

 607-756-6091

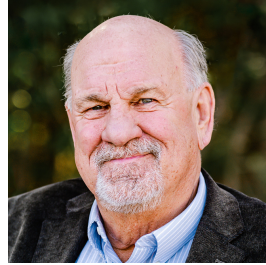
Fall 2022

## Town Board Updates

- The Town Board adopted the following Local Laws of 2022
  - Local Law No. 5 of 2022
    - Vacant Property Law - established a program for identifying and registering vacant buildings; to determine the responsibilities of property owners of vacant buildings, and structures; to speed the rehabilitation of the vacant properties; and to minimize the impact on the surrounding properties.
  - Local Law No. 6 of 2022
    - Videoconference Law - permits the Town's public bodies to participate in meetings using videoconferencing technology in a manner consistent with Public Officers Law § 103-a.
- 2023 Budget Process is underway. The Tentative Budget will be presented to the Board by October 5th.
- Coming Soon - Electric Vehicle Chargers! The Town Board approved a Site Host Agreement with Greenspot JC, LLC to provide electric vehicle charging services on Town property. Locations will be announced at a later date.

*The Town Board meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. at the Peter Alteri Jr. Municipal Garage.*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWN SUPERVISOR



Hello everyone, for the third issue of our Talk of the Town newsletter I offer the following. I think it safe to say that those of us who are responsible for its content are always on the lookout for things that might either inform, educate, or provide items that you might find interesting. This might do all three.

We created a "DID YOU KNOW?" section which will become a regular feature of the newsletter including information from you that may be of interest to the Cortlandville family.

A few weeks ago my wife and I, along with a new pup, visited Dwyer Memorial Park on Little York Lake. While strolling near the back portion of the park we had fun looking at the beautiful mature garden that has been there for years and built and maintained by, I believe, the Little York Garden Club.

What caught my attention was the sign that you see here (page 5). For me, the obvious question was, "How did it happen that Cortlandville funded this project since the park is in either the Town of Homer or possibly even the Town of Preble"? I thought you might like to know too!

If anyone out there knows, as Paul Harvey would have said, "The Rest of the Story", I would love to know it and include it in another edition of this newsletter.

*-Tom Williams*

## Conservation Updates from the Town Clerk's Office!

Conservation license sales for the 2022-23 hunting season are underway. As always, the deadline to apply for Doe Management Permits (DMP's) is October 1, 2022. If you are a landowner of 50 acres or more please bring a copy of your most recent property tax bill when you come to apply for your permits so we can update your account as required. The second round of DMP's is expected to open on November 1, 2022 and are issued on a "first come first serve" basis for the available deer management units. Lifetime license holders should have already received their tags in the mail from NYS. If you have not received them by now, you may stop into our office and request replacement tags at no charge until November 1, 2022.

Hunters often ask us questions about rules and regulations. One frequently asked question relates to the qualifications needed to hunt with a crossbow. Per NYSDEC, there are 3 options to choose from in order to complete the required crossbow qualification & safety training. All must accompany a NYS hunting license and in some cases a muzzleloading privilege:

- Option 1: Review the DEC online crossbow qualification training and complete the Crossbow Certificate of Qualification.
- Option 2: Review the DEC crossbow qualification training and complete the Crossbow Certificate of Qualification found in the current Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide.
- Option 3: Complete a Hunter Education course to receive a Hunter Education Certificate of Qualification. Certificates must be dated on or after April 1, 2014 to meet crossbow qualification and safety training.

The law treats crossbows as a muzzleloader. You must possess a muzzleloader hunting privilege to legally hunt with a crossbow during any muzzleloader season OR during open portions of the early bowhunting seasons. Muzzleloader privilege is not required when hunting with a crossbow during the early bear season or the regular firearms seasons. The Bowhunting privilege is not required for use of a crossbow at any time. Please consult the 2022-23 Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide for more information and to review a summary of the recent significant changes to the hunting rules.

Do you have a youth hunter anxiously waiting to take the Hunter Education Course? Hunter Education Courses are being offered in-person and online. Visit the NYSDEC website for more information and to register for the online courses (fees apply). On a personal note, my 11-year old daughter recently completed her hunter safety class online and is excited to hunt turkeys in the spring when she turns 12!

Interested in sharing your success this season? Share your photos with us at: [townclerk@cortlandville.org](mailto:townclerk@cortlandville.org). Have a safe hunting season, and remember to wear your fluorescent orange/pink!

Kristin Rocco-Petrella  
Town Clerk/Collector



**Headquarters Station - West Road**  
July 12, 1975 to October 29, 1999



**Headquarters Station - Route 13**  
October 29, 1999 to Present



**Station 2 - Route 11**  
January 1, 1993 to May 26, 2010



**Station 2 - Route 11**  
May 31, 2011 to Present

## Cortlandville Fire Department

Hello All - The Cortlandville Fire Department is very excited about this opportunity to be part of the "Talk of the Town". We just turned 40 years old making us the youngest fire department in Cortland County. We descended from the Homer Fire Department. An engine and tanker from the Homer Fire Department were first placed in the Town of Cortlandville in 1974 in an old water garage that sat where the current Town Hall resides. Frank K. Taylor, Town Supervisor at the time and Homer Fire Chief Charles Crosley were instrumental in the rollout. The goal from the start was to transition from the Homer Fire Department covering the Town to Cortlandville establishing its own Fire Department. This became a reality on January 1st, 1982.

Since our original beginnings from our West Road (Rt. 281) Fire Station, we now operate out of two fire stations, housing three engines, three tankers, two brush trucks, one heavy rescue and one ladder truck. We have 49 active members who provide service to the Town of Cortlandville. Our coverage areas consist of 50 square miles encompassing a population of 8,409. The fire department on average answers 555 alarms annually resulting in 3,645 personnel hours expended. Our members on an annual basis complete 5,173 of training hours to ensure the readiness of our personnel to aid the residents of Cortlandville and our surrounding communities through the New York State Mutual Aid plan.

We also host and maintain the Cortland County Regional Training Center at our Headquarters Fire Station. This center is responsible for providing training to all disciplines of emergency service agencies. The newest addition to our campus is a Class A Live Fire Training facility. This facility was the last component to provide one central location for all firefighters to receive the necessary training to be certified as an interior firefighter with their respective departments. Along with opportunities for live fire and all firefighter training facets, the building is designed for rappelling and confined space training. It should be noted that the Town of Cortlandville Town Board, Highway and Water Departments were instrumental in making this a reality through a lifelong partnership we have always enjoyed with the Town.

Kevin Whitney  
*Fire District Chairman*

## Town of Cortlandville Hall of Fame

On June 24, 2022 the Town Board inducted the Hall of Fame Class of 2021 and 2022. The Town Hall of Fame was established in 2018. Its purpose is to recognize and honor individuals who have significantly contributed to the Town of Cortlandville and to our community as a whole. Do you have someone you would like to nominate? Written nominations must be submitted by April 30, 2023 to the attention of the Town Clerk at [townclerk@cortlandville.org](mailto:townclerk@cortlandville.org)



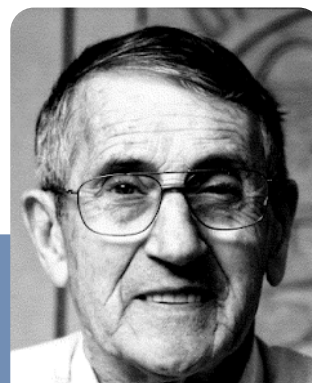
**Hon. Francis J. Casullo**  
Town Justice 2003-2019



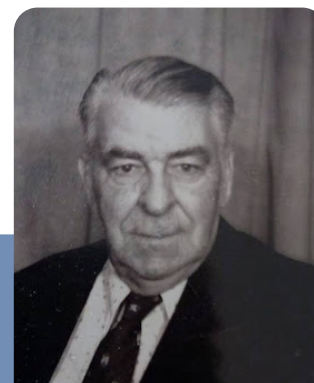
**Ronald L. Rocco**  
Town Councilman 1986-2016  
Town Historian 2005-2010



**Jack Harvey**  
Charter Fire Captain 1974-1981  
Charter Fire Comm. 1981-2011  
58 Years of Fire Service



**Edwin O'Donnell**  
Town Councilman 1979-2009



**Melvin Pierce**  
Town Councilman 1978-1985  
Town Supervisor 1986-1992

**Hall of Fame Class of 2021**



# Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex & Town Park

## Phase 2: Groundbreaking



On Friday, July 22nd community leaders gathered for a ground breaking ceremony held at Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex & Town Park. The event was held to note the beginning of construction on the next phase of development.

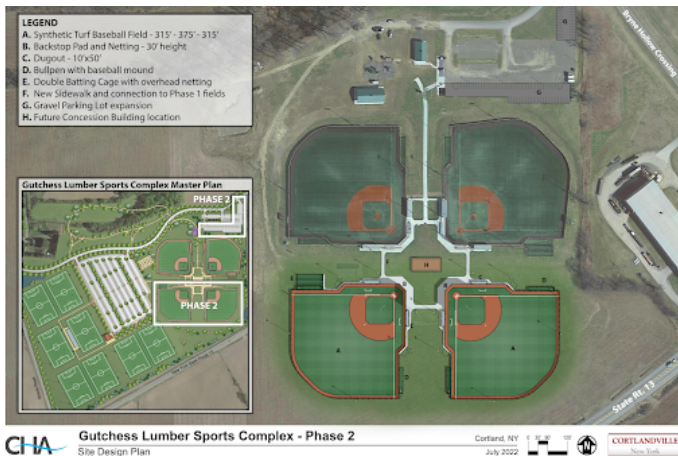
Smith Site Development, LLC began work on two Field Turf baseball/softball fields in early August and are schedule to conclude work by the spring of 2023. This phase of development will bring the total number of fields at the park to four and cementing the Town relationship with Prep Baseball Report (PBR) as it brings thousands of players and their families to Cortland County each year.

The Town Park and Recreation Commission forecast many winning attributes with the Phase 2 development which were highlighted during the ground breaking ceremony.

- Drove of community members benefiting from the Town Park fields, playground, pavilion and other amenities.
- The economic benefit of Sports Tourism
- The partnership with PBR, a brand that top players and teams want to be part of in the baseball world.
- Gender equality as young girls and women will have access to state of the art softball fields.

The goal of GLSC & Town Park has always been to create a recreation and social center for the community and enhancing quality of life. While at the same time capitalize on the exploding youth sports tourism sector and its economic benefits.

John McNerney  
*Recreation Director*



## Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee

The Committee met quite regularly through the first part of August. We will resume meeting in September, upcoming meeting date is to be determined. During our meetings we addressed the initial items that the original committee had set as priorities for the implementation committee. The group had some interesting comments and ideas for each of those areas. Our plan is to make a presentation to the Town Board of the recommendations that we have arrived at for their approval. More specific information will be coming in the next few months. Stay tuned!

Jay Cobb  
*Committee Chair*



**Richard C. Tupper**  
Town Supervisor 2005-2019



**Theodore V. Testa**  
Town Councilman 1988-2022  
Deputy Supervisor 1990-2019

Peter Alteri Jr. has been serving the Town of Cortlandville since August 3, 1987. He began work as a Water Treatment Operator. Then, from 1989 until 1996 he served as Deputy Water & Sewer Superintendent. At this time he was appointed Water & Sewer Superintendent, a position he held until his retirement on September 10, 2021. He has dedicated over 34 years to the Town and to the community as a whole. On June 24, 2022 the Town Board publicly acknowledge Peter Alteri Jr. for his distinguished and dedicated service as Water & Sewer Superintendent for the Town of Cortlandville. And, renamed the Cortlandville Municipal Garage, located at 3587 Terrace Road the " Peter Alteri Jr. Municipal Garage". Thank you Peter for your service to the Town of Cortlandville.



**Peter Alteri Jr.**  
Water/Sewer Sup't 1996-2021  
Deputy Sup't 1989-1996

## Meet the Assistant to the Supervisor

I was previously a Deputy Town Clerk, employed with the Town of Cortlandville since July of 2018. I started a position in the Town Supervisor's Office in October of 2021 and have the privilege of working with long time respected employee, Patty O'Mara, who will be retiring in the future. I have recently taken on the role of Assistant to the Town Supervisor, Tom Williams.

My day-to-day duties include but aren't limited to, responding to emails & phone calls regarding inquiries, complaints etc. and interaction with Town residents, constituents or visitors needing assistance. Maintaining Town Calendar and coordinating, scheduling, and attending regular meetings with and on behalf of the Town Supervisor. Maintaining Annual Contracts for the Town as well as assisting the Supervisor, Financial Administrator and Budget Officer with Annual Town Budgets. Drafting Town Board Agendas with supporting documents for Town Board meetings twice a month or more if there are Special Town Board Meetings scheduled. The agenda is an everyday task. Drafting Planning Board Agendas with Permit applications for the Planning Board meetings once a month or more if needed. Drafting Legal Notices with Permit applications for the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings once a month or more if needed. I am in contact with all three Boards on a regular basis regarding document review, project updates, council members needing assistance ,etc.

I work with the Town's Engineering & Consulting Firms and Financial Administrator regarding specific grants, meetings, contracts, and documents for current projects. I recently had the privilege to be the Grant Administrator for an internal Town of Cortlandville ARPA funded grant for 13 Non-Profit organizations in Cortland County. I also take part in the Town of Cortlandville Event Coordinating and Planning. The Town hosted the 2022 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in June in which well over 100 people attended and the event was a great success. I am a member of the Gutches Lumber Sports Complex Ad Hoc Committee that meets weekly, and I enjoy being a part of future projects, designs, and decisions for the park that my children enjoy.

I am the liaison between the Town Supervisor and Town Boards, Town employees and constituents regarding any Town matters as well as the Town of Cortlandville Staff and Grant Writer. I work with Civil Service regarding Employee Requirements as well. I also assist the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee with drafting correspondence, etc. that will be presented to the Town Board as well as the Clerk of the Works with clerical duties regarding Town Projects.

Other daily duties include, issuing of Purchase Orders and assisting in the preparation of specifications for purchases and bids. Establishing and maintaining general & confidential files including Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board while utilizing Laserfiche to digitize and organize Town documents. Composing and preparing confidential internal department correspondences for the Supervisor as well as matters of policies and procedures. I maintain the scheduling of the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building and Peter Alteri Jr. Municipal Garage use and building closures and notifying the local media and public. I assist with Fixed Asset Management for the Town. I am also the Town Website Administrator involving daily review and updating of information as well as responding to public inquiries submitted through the Town website.

A lot of people may not know what this position entails or what type of work is done out of the Supervisor's Office. This office acts as the "Hub" for the Town and needs to be in the know of everything that the Town is involved in. It's a fast paced, demanding environment which sometimes involves putting time in outside of regular office hours as well. I enjoy working in the Supervisor's Office and being a part of making a difference in the Town of Cortlandville.

Amanda K. Rainbow  
*Assistant to the Supervisor*

## Code Enforcement Office

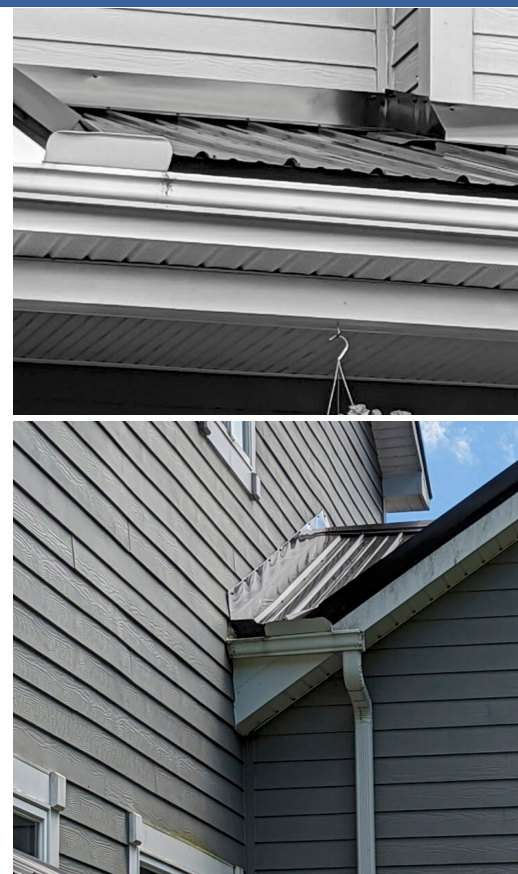
### Building Permits

Welcome back readers! As Code Officers, one of the biggest issues when it comes to permitting must be roofing jobs. Too many times different roofing contractors come into town and put on new roofs without proper permitting which (as shown in the pictures attached) can lead to major issues for the unwitting customer. The bottom line is that if the "contractor" does not suggest (or recommend) getting a permit for any work done at your house or building, this should be a red flag for you as to the integrity of the contractor. Too many times when this happens, I've seen it show up in their work in one form or another with poor results and miserable outcomes.

Pulling permits for projects around the house or business is designed to give the owner professional help and peace of mind, as we are another set of eyes for reviewing and inspecting their projects. We are here to make sure that the Codes are followed, and to help keep your hard-earned money spent properly with updates, remodels and new construction.

The flashing details shown on this particular job is from a re-roof project in another town that was never permitted, and the owner now is having trouble with roof leaks. These pictures were shown to me by a reputable builder who was called in by the homeowner to help remedy the situation. To the untrained eye, the flashings shown may look fine, but in fact are not, and must be properly installed under the siding as required by Code. While we're on the topic of roofs and Codes, the Code allows a maximum of two layers of shingles and anything different than that needs to be stripped off before replacing. Other roofing covers can only have a single layer that is not allowed to be doubled.

So, as you consider whether to pull a permit for your upcoming project, keep in mind that we're here to work on your behalf to make sure that you get the proper job done either by yourself, or when hiring others. The reality is that we're here for all parties involved as the experts, including reviewing plans for Code compliance, to making sure the builders (or homeowners) are building to the approved spec, to full completion involving multiple trades. Our job is about life safety and Code compliance, and it involves many areas of review and inspections, so please keep us in mind!





## 20 Years of Service Recognition

On September 9, 2022 Chavonne LaPlant was honored and recognized for her 20 years of dedicated service and commitment as Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Cortlandville. As a Deputy Town Clerk, Chavonne has spent most of her tenure as the water/sewer billing clerk, a role she has not only excelled in but has also enjoyed. Thank you for making a difference in your community and for being an integral part of our team!



## Water & Sewer Department

### Summer Drought

As many Town residents see the grass in their yards turning brown from this summer's dry spell. We can assure you that you don't have to worry about the well running dry. The Town Water Department keeps a close eye on the water table. Although we haven't had a lot of rain this summer the water table is in pretty good shape as of now and it's been a lot lower in years past at this time of year.

With that said, it does help when residents practice water conservation. A few ways to help conserve water are by installing water saving shower heads or flow restricting fixtures in your home. Take a bath instead of a shower, don't let the water run when you're brushing your teeth or shaving. Check for dripping faucets and garden hoses and water your yard or garden only when it needs it. There are many articles online that list hundreds of ways for the homeowner to help conserve water so this valuable resource never runs out.

Brian R. Congdon  
*Water/Sewer Department*



## Did You Know?

At the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Bicentennial Event at Dwyer Memorial Park on June 27, 1976 the Town of Cortlandville dedicated the Colonial Herb Garden to Cortland County. The bricks of the garden's walking path are from the Hotel Cortland that was demolished in 1975. This herb garden was and still is comprised of four sections:

- **Teas:** in place of boycotted tea, colonists drank what they remed "liberty teas" - infusions of herbs.
- **Aromatics:** These herbs were used for everything from deterring mice to sweetening clothing.
- **Culinary:** Our ancestors called old - fashioned herbs "benefits" and they can serve as such today.
- **Medicinal:** colonists medicinal plants were called "simples", because they were simple remedies for simple ills.

The garden is now maintained by The Town and Country Garden Club of Cortland and Homer. Looking for more information? Contact the Town Historian at [townhistorian@cortlandville.org](mailto:townhistorian@cortlandville.org)



Town of Cortlandville  
Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Bldg  
3577 Terrace Road  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607-756-6091

## Town Hall Holiday Schedule

The offices of the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building  
will be closed for the following holidays:

Columbus Day	October 10, 2022
Election Day	November 8, 2022
Veterans Day	November 11, 2022
Thanksgiving (observed)	November 23, 2022 (Close at 12p)
Thanksgiving Day	November 24, 2022
Thanksgiving (observed)	November 25, 2022



## Skip the Trip

We are encouraging residents to "skip the trip" and do their Town business by telephone, email, regular mail, or by using the secure dropbox located curbside at the main entrance

## Talk of the Town

The *Talk of the Town* is a quarterly newsletter distributed to Town Residents via mail/email/website. If your business or organization has something community related they would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email Nick Alteri at [nalteri@cortlandville.org](mailto:nalteri@cortlandville.org) for more information.

If you know someone who would like to receive *Talk of the Town* via mail or email have them visit [cortlandville.org](http://cortlandville.org) and fill out the Newsletter Form under the Newsletter tab!

## TOWN OFFICIALS

### Assessor

- David Briggs [dbriggs@cortlandville.org](mailto:dbriggs@cortlandville.org)

### Attorney

- John DeVecchio [jdelvecchio@cortlandville.org](mailto:jdelvecchio@cortlandville.org)

### Code Enforcement

- Kevin McMahon [kmcmahon@cortlandville.org](mailto:kmcmahon@cortlandville.org)
- Desiree Campbell [dcampbell@cortlandville.org](mailto:dcampbell@cortlandville.org)

### Highway Supt.

- Larry Drach [ldrach@cortlandville.org](mailto:ldrach@cortlandville.org)

### Historian

- Nick Alteri [townhistorian@cortlandville.org](mailto:townhistorian@cortlandville.org)

### Planning & Zoning

- Bruce Weber [bweber@cortlandville.org](mailto:bweber@cortlandville.org)

### Town Clerk/Collector

- Kristin Rocco-Petrella [townclerk@cortlandville.org](mailto:townclerk@cortlandville.org)

### Town Justice

- Hon. Robert DeMarco
- Hon. MaryBeth Mathey

### Water/Sewer Supt.

- Brian Congdon [bcongdon@cortlandville.org](mailto:bcongdon@cortlandville.org)

## Town Hall Hours



Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm