

# Town of Sennett Newsletter

Fall 2023

## FALL 2023 UPDATES

Hello Neighbor/Friend - We hope you enjoyed a healthy Summer season and are beginning to enjoy the early Fall.

I am happy to report the Town's Q1 2023 Sales Tax collections were \$118,310.98 higher than the Q1 2023 budget estimate. They were also \$14,706.20 higher than Q1 2022. The Q2 Sales Tax collections were \$89,897.77 higher than the Q2 2023 budget estimate and were \$15,543.67 higher than Q2 2022. The Town continues to see a healthy surplus in its General Fund.

Your Town Board has recently accomplished the following:

- Awarded contracts and started WD 1&3 water improvement projects and closed on the associated \$2.25 million Bond Anticipation Note for the project (now nearing project close-out);
- Completed construction of a Veteran Affairs/Historians office in Town Hall;
- Hired a part-time Town Veteran Service Officer;
- Attended Sennett Seniors lunch meetings;
- Worked with Cayuga County Planning and a Town Ad Hoc committee to update the Town's HL Overlay District;
- Adopted a local law authorizing Town voters to choose whether or not to make the Town Highway Superintendent position an appointed one;
- Introduced a new Solar Energy Law;
- Adopted a new videoconferencing local law;
- Completed Town Hall window replacements;
- Began planning work on the rehabilitation of Town Hall Memorial Park;
- Introduced a First Responder exemption local law;
- Calibrated speed control devices and located same;
- Moved Town deposit accounts to higher yield products;
- Began investigating water supplier options to hedge against possible continued water rate hikes and increases;
- Researched replacement AEDs to replace expired models;
- Began updates to the Town's civil service positions;
- And of course handled many day-to-day issues in the Town as they arose.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Town of Sennett**  
6931 Cherry Street Road  
Auburn, New York 13021  
(315) 253-3712

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday 9 am – 4 pm

**Town Board:**  
The Town Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

**Planning Board:**  
The Planning Board meets, when needed, on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

**Town Court:**  
Town Court is held every Wednesday at 5:00 pm.

**Zoning Board of Appeals:**  
The Zoning Board of Appeals meets, when needed, on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

### Inside this Issue:

Town and Board News • Water District Project • Water & Sewer Dept. • Parks & Recreation • Town Clerk  
• Highway Department • Veteran Affairs Committee • Planning Board • ZBA • Historian • Fire Dept.

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## FALL 2023 UPDATES *continued from page 1*

The Town offers a sincere thank you to long-time Highway Department Employee and Deputy Highway Superintendent Dan Short, who retired in August 2023, after serving Sennett for 30 years.

Best of luck in retirement Dan!

**Reminder!** The Town of Sennett provides easily accessible updates on its Facebook page in order to modernize communication. Just follow [Town of Sennett NY](#) on Facebook. Also, the Town's website address is [www.sennettny.org](http://www.sennettny.org). We encourage you to sign up for the Town's electronic newsletter on our website to save printing costs.

If you are looking to examine the Town's water, sewer or zoning maps – stop by the Town Hall anytime during business hours as these maps are mounted in the main hallway and are on the Town's website.

Sennett's Town Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you can't make it into Town Hall for the meeting but would like to attend remotely, you can do so by accessing our website ([www.sennettny.org](http://www.sennettny.org)) and clicking on the meeting link. We look forward to your interest and participation in Town business and at Town meetings.

We thank you for your support and hope to see you around Town.

Respectfully,  
Tom Blair, *Supervisor*  
([supervisor@sennettny.org](mailto:supervisor@sennettny.org))

### ***NEW BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT(S)***

Please visit our newest business additions in the Town when you can!

#### ***CHIPOTLE OPENED AT PLAZA DRIVE / GRANT AVE***



#### ***COSTA GRANDE OPENED AT GRANT AVE PLAZA***



# Water District(s) 1 & 3 Improvement Project

The originally designed waterline replacement, installation, and Water Tank project came in well over budget and was redesigned, bringing the costs from \$6,581,000 to \$3,747,00 (including soft costs). WD 1 & 3 residents will realize the benefits of some waterline expansions and replacements, but not a water tank. Work is nearly complete and the Town's aged and abandoned water tank off of NYS Route 5 will be demolished. Project is being completed under budget.

## Water & Sewer Dept.

As of January 1, 2023, the City of Auburn has increased our Sewer rate by 6.5%. As a result, sewer customers will see an increase on their sewer rates of 6.5%.

The City of Auburn also increased our water costs by 15% as of 5/1/23. As a result of this increase, water customers will see an increase on their water bills in the second quarter billing cycle of the year.

We have continued to replace water meter heads throughout our water districts, and have established a water main flushing plan, and a hydrant maintenance schedule.

We have replaced the district 3 water main meter and submitted



our cyber security plan to New York State for approval.

We have newly installed & updated Water/Sewer District maps posted in the Town hall for reference.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Hope all is well.

Thank you.  
Kris A. LaPointe  
*Water & Sewer Superintendent*

## Parks & Recreation Committee

The Sennett Parks & Recreation Committee is empaneled to make decisions on Town Park expansion projects, maintenance, risk management, conservation areas, walking trails, hours of operation, and land opportunities. It is knee deep in working on a Town Dog Park and playground expansion for our Town Park.

The Committee is looking for donors/sponsors. If you or your business are interested in helping with a sponsorship, please e-mail Councilman Robert Edmunds at [redmunds@sennettny.org](mailto:redmunds@sennettny.org).



## Town Clerk

Hunting and fishing licenses can be applied for at the Town Clerk's office. The Fall 2023 Hunting Regulations Guides have arrived. Those 70 and older receive a reduced rate on hunting/fishing licenses. Please visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) for the latest hunting and fishing information and regulations.

New York State requires that all dogs over the age of 4 months must be licensed. New licenses must be obtained in person, whereas annual renewals may be submitted by mail. To obtain a new license, the owner must provide to the Town Clerk's office veterinary documentation of a current rabies vaccination and, if spayed or neutered, the certificate issued by the surgeon who performed the procedure.

You can license your spayed or neutered dog for \$8.50 per year or your un-spayed or un-neutered dog for \$18.50 per year as long as their rabies shot is valid. Be proactive please and license your dog. Dog enumerations are expensive and fines are charged to unlicensed dog owners.

If you have any problems with dogs in your area or have a missing dog, please reach out to our dog control officers, Fingerlakes Dog Protection Agency at (315) 253-4367 or [fldpainsc@outlook.com](mailto:fldpainsc@outlook.com).

Flags in need of retirement can be dropped off at the Town Hall.

Thanks and have a great day!

Kate Salisbury  
*Town Clerk*



## Highway Department

Another series of successful Town Dumpster Days were held on May 5th and 6th (17.1 tons of trash and 6.72 tons of metal) and September 30th and October 1st were similarly busy.

Brush pick up was busy all season and now shifts into light brush and leaf pick up that continues in to November. Please remember it takes us 2 full days to get around the whole Town, so it might be Tuesday before we get to your house. NO PLASTIC BAGS! WE WILL NOT TAKE THEM!

We will have mulch again for Town residents in the Spring. The Town has purchased a new 2024 F-550 with plow, wing, and sander. The old 2019 F-550 will be sold as surplus at Auctions International.

Wegman Street, Cambridge Circle, Quincy Hill and some of Barrington Way were milled and paved this year. Broadway Road, Miller Road, Deer Run, Windsong and O'Neil Road were chip sealed.

Mowing roadsides, repairing /replacing cross culverts, grinding brush, delivering mulch, monthly brush pickup, cleaning up after storms (wind and rain events), plowing and sanding roads, were some tasks for this year.

Highway employee Dan Short (Shorty) retired August 17, 2023, with 30 years of service. He did a great job for the Town and will be missed. Thank you, Dan!

Highway Superintendent Kris LaPointe will be retiring December 31, 2023, with 28.5 years of service.

Thank you.

Kris L. LaPointe, *Highway Superintendent*

## Veteran Affairs Committee

The Sennett Veteran Affairs Committee is comprised of ten proud resident patriots. The Committee mission statement is:

*To promote public awareness and enhance the well-being of past and present Town of Sennett service members and their families. To create and foster an awareness of our American heritage by honoring and perpetuating the memory of those patriots who have distinguished themselves by their service and sacrifice while members of the armed forces of the United States, and to promote a greater sense of patriotism and Americanism within the Town of Sennett.*

This committee is assisting with the creation of the Town's first ever Veteran Affairs Office, which should be up and running this Fall. Other projects on the radar include upgrades to the Town memorial park and displays at Town Hall; the introduction of Americanism in Town Hall and cataloguing the Town's many service members.

The committee is currently looking for a mural artist. Please email [townclerk@sennettny.org](mailto:townclerk@sennettny.org).



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## Planning Board

Since our last newsletter, the Planning Board has been working on the following.

1. Auburn Associates subdivision.
2. A site plan for Auburn Auto Group for a property located at 325 Grant Avenue Road.
3. A proposed subdivision for a property located on Depot Road.
4. A site plan review and SEQRA review for Owens-Brockway located at 7134 County House Road. This project is for a Oxygen Gas combustion melting furnace for production of sustainable glass containers, the first phase is roughly a \$50M project.
5. A site plan review and SEQRA review for a 10 lot subdivision on County Line Road.

We also swore in new Planning Board Member Joseph Giacona - welcome sir!

Sennett has a lot to offer prospective businesses and is **OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!**

Sincerely,  
Patrick Leamy  
*Planning Board Chairman*



*Chipotle restaurant, completed and open*



*Renovation of Former Route 20 Grill restaurant*

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## Zoning Board of Appeals

As a reminder, your ZBA works impartially as a zoning and land use appellate board. It hears appeals from decisions of the Codes/Zoning Office and reviews area and use variance requests. The ZBA may also evaluate special permit applications. It functions as a "safety valve" to relieve the pressure of inflexible zoning provisions and has the power, on appeal, to interpret zoning codes or local laws and to grant variances. In essence, the ZBA is called upon to issue final decisions on many of the Town's most difficult zoning law interpretations. The board strives to adhere to Town precedent.

The Town is currently seeking 2 ZBA alternates to serve on an as needed basis! If you are interested in serving on this important board, please provide an e-mail to [townclerk@sennettny.org](mailto:townclerk@sennettny.org).

Thank you.  
David Sikora,  
*ZBA Chairman*

## Sennett Seniors

Welcome to the Sennett Seniors in 2023. Here are some things about our organization you might like to know:

**When:** We meet the 3rd Wednesday, except January, February, and March.

**Where:** Various restaurants in the area.

**Time:** 11:30 business meeting, lunch (served or buffet) at 12:00 PM and then a program.

**Cost:** \$18 for lunch each month. If you are 90 and over or a veteran, it is \$10.00 each month.

**Dues:** No annual dues are charged to Sennett residents and a small yearly dues for non-Sennett residents.

**Activities:** Day trips-cost based on activity, bus, and food.

Speakers on various topics, musicians, or entertainers.

*New to you table:* members may bring any small item they no longer need (new or gently used) for others to take. If the item(s) you brought are not "adopted" by another member, PLEASE take your item home.

Book and puzzle exchanges take place in the Fall.

Senior News and Views newsletter is available from the Office for the Aging-Free by calling 315-253-1226.

We would love to have you join us! For more information please contact:

**Kathy Gray** @ 315-253-7731 or **MaryEllen Perry** @ 315-252-0427.





# PROJECT LIFESAVER®

Bringing Loved Ones Home



Through a Partnership with Cayuga County Office for the Aging and Cayuga County Sheriff's Department, Project Lifesaver is a rapid-response rescue program for individuals who are **at risk** of **wandering** and becoming **lost**. Each participant is fitted with a personalized Project Lifesaver wristband. This unique wristband is a one-ounce battery-operated transmitter that emits an automatic tracking signal.



When needed, this signal can be **tracked** by specially trained personnel in the Cayuga County Sheriff's Department on the ground or in the air. Search time has typically been reduced from hours and days down to minutes.



Project Lifesaver can provide comfort and peace of mind to caregivers without compromising the **safety** or **dignity** of their loved one.

 **Contact Cayuga County Office for the Aging at (315) 253-1226 for more information and eligibility requirements.**

### Town Supervisor

Tom Blair

[supervisor@sennettny.org](mailto:supervisor@sennettny.org)

### Town Board Members

Michael Wellauer

[mwellauer@sennettny.org](mailto:mwellauer@sennettny.org)

Rick Gagliardi

[rgagliardi@sennettny.org](mailto:rgagliardi@sennettny.org)

Bob Edmunds

[redmunds@sennettny.org](mailto:redmunds@sennettny.org)

Ed Rizzo

[erizzo@sennettny.org](mailto:erizzo@sennettny.org)

### Town Clerk

Kate Salisbury

[townclerk@sennettny.org](mailto:townclerk@sennettny.org)

### Highway Superintendent

Kris LaPointe

[highway@sennettny.org](mailto:highway@sennettny.org)

### Water & Wastewater Superintendent

Kristopher LaPointe

[waterdept@sennettny.org](mailto:waterdept@sennettny.org)

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## Public Safety Update

### Reverse 911

The Cayuga County Sheriff's Department and E-911 Emergency Communication Department encourage residents to sign up for Community Mass Notification Messages. This sends out alert notifications of emergency situations such as boil water advisories, inmate breaches, missing persons, or any situation that would require a mass notification in a short period of time. Verizon provides landline numbers to the service but cell phones need to be registered.

To sign up text "Cayuga Alerts" to 828-201-3877  
or use the following link  
[secure.hyper-reach.com/comsignup.jsp?id=12642](https://secure.hyper-reach.com/comsignup.jsp?id=12642)

**The Cayuga County Sheriff's Office** is pleased to partner with Offender Watch, a nationwide sex offender registry network that enables seamless collaboration on investigations and tracking of offenders living in our area. Those living in, and visiting, our community can download the free Offender Watch App to search for sex offenders residing in their neighborhood, including the Town of Sennett, and subscribe to receive e-mail alerts from the Sheriff's Office. The app also provides safety tips, links to additional information, and a contact page to communicate with members of the Sheriff's Office. To download the free app, go to the Sheriff's website at <https://www.cayugacounty.us/155/Sheriffs-Office> - and click on the "Sex Offenders" tab. You can also download the app from Google Play or the Apple app store.

**Cayuga County 911**, in August, partnered with our Law Enforcement friends at the Auburn Police Department and participated in National Night Out at Hoopes Park on August 1st. We sent a staff member to our Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) conference, for the first time ever! This was a wonderful training and leadership opportunity.

In August, we sent out our annual Public Safety Surveys to our first responder community. The goal of the surveys is to help us to gauge both our performance and our communications over the year. The surveys also allow the agencies to provide feedback for areas of improvement.

We received federal grant funding in the amount of \$1 million that will allow us to help our county fire agencies replace some of their antiquated portable and mobile radios. To ensure we are fair in our distribution, we sent out Public Safety Radio Program Applications to the departments. We hope to have the funding and purchase the equipment by end of 2023.

## Public Referendum Vote - Highway Superintendent

The Sennett Town Board has unanimously voted to place a referendum vote on the November 7, 2023 ballot to potentially make the Highway Superintendent position an appointed one. This is a common trend in many communities to ensure competent qualified individuals fill these critical positions.

The Town of Sennett, like other nearby communities, has had a very difficult time getting qualified candidates to run for office. By using appointments, it is the Town Board's hope that a quality marketing and vetting process will lead to the most qualified interested candidate being placed in this important Town position.

## Address Signs

If we can't find you, we can't help you!

As part of the Fire Department's public safety commitment, reflective address signs are available. The signs come in a variety of colors and configurations, feature high visibility reflective material on both sides, fade resistant and pre-drilled holes.



Order forms are available on our website, at either fire station, at the Town Offices or by contacting Dave Morris at 315-729-6248.

Mounting/Color preferences:

- Horizontal or Vertical
- Red, Blue, or Green

## Sennett Fire Department

The Sennett Fire Department has experienced its busiest year ever responding to 368 calls for service through September 2023 compared to 297 through September 2022. Breaking down those alarms as reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) into the following categories, we reported 20 fires (includes structure, vehicle, and outdoor); 182 rescue and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) (includes motor vehicle crashes; 12 hazardous conditions, 28 service calls, 88 good intent calls, 31 false alarms/false calls; 6 severe weather/natural disaster related calls and 1 overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat- No Fire.

Come become a member of a team with an excellent sense of community service and camaraderie. Enjoy the satisfaction that comes with the excitement of helping in diverse situations.

Opportunities vary as do time commitments. Stop by one of the fire stations or contact a department representative to find out more.

- Station 1: 3155 Turnpike Road
- Station 2: 3526 Franklin Street Road

Or feel free to contact us by email [chiefs@sennettfire.com](mailto:chiefs@sennettfire.com).

Sean Holmes, *Sennett Fire Chief*

## Town Historian

Sennett's Historians are **Jim Vivenzio** and **Scott Longtin**. Jim has years of history and cataloging experience at Seymour Library, and Scott is a U.S. Army veteran with a passion for history and community heritage. Upcoming projects include the creation of a Historian Office (shared with Veteran Affairs), records analysis, organization, and digitizing. The uncovering and display of Sennett's proud heritage is COMING SOON !

Jim Vivenzio, Scott Longtin  
*Town Historians*

*Records on File: Please note-certain records are for family members only.*

<i>Death:</i>	<i>1881- Present (most complete collection)</i>
<i>Birth:</i>	<i>1881-Present</i>
<i>Marriage:</i>	<i>1881-Present</i>

For genealogy purpose, records are open to all if they are 75 or more years old.