

# Town of Vernon Times

www.townofvernon.com

Spring 2024

## FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

Randy Watson, Supervisor

**Hello Town of Vernon Residents,**

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding job the Town of Vernon Assessors have been doing for years. Chairman Duane Munger, Assessor Frank LaGuzza, Assessor Timothy Wagner and Secretary Jennifer Tyczinski are the people that make their office run smoothly and efficiently. There has been a lot of changes on the NYS level concerning senior exemptions and STAR programs, which they have been instrumental in getting the laws passed at the local level to benefit our community members. I'd like to publicly thank them all for their dedication to these processes. Next on my list of acknowledgements is the Highway Department. Highway Superintendent Timothy Murphy and his entire staff have done once again an outstanding job at keeping our roads safe. With this year being a bit milder winter, they have worked hard at getting a jump start on tree trimming. Due to Mr. Murphys conscientious approach to saving tax dollars and conservative spending of the Highway budget over the last few years have made it possible to pave more miles of road this year without causing an increase to the tax payer. By no means do I want to neglect any of our other Town Officials or Departments, I appreciate how everyone here puts 110% dedication to their job and community.

I would also like to welcome our newly appointed Town Justice Suzanne Bellinger and Court Clerk Lori Klopfer. As I know they will be a great addition to the Town of Vernon.

I would like to thank Wendy Coston, Town bookkeeper and Personnel Director, for her tireless work for the Town, the Vernon Center Water District, grant writing paperwork and all the work she does on the Town budget. Her dedication and support is above and beyond and I thank her for everything.

I would like to assure the residents in the Vernon Center Water District that we have gained momentum! We have secured all of the necessary easements and we thank all of these residents for their cooperation in signing of these documents so the district can continue.

Last but not least, I am very proud to be a part of the Town of Vernon community and my door is open to all!

From my family to yours, stay safe, happy and healthy!



Randy Watson  
Supervisor, Town of Vernon



# TOWN OF VERNON DIRECTORY

## SUPERVISOR, BUDGET OFFICER

RANDY WATSON .....(315) 829-2985 EXT. 6

## TOWN COUNCILPERSONS

### DEPUTY TOWN SUPERVISOR, EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

GENE BENNATI .....(315) 363-0060

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STEVE ADAMKOWSKI.....(315) 790-8008

### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

MYRON J. THURSTON .....(315) 527-6888

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JOHN PETERS.....(315) 723-4004

## OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS

### Town Justices

SUZANNE BELLINGER .....(315) 829-4481 EXT. 1

### Court Clerk

LORI KLOPFER .....(315) 829-4481 EXT. 1

### Town Bookkeeper

WENDY COSTON .....(315) 829-2985 EXT. 6

### Town Clerk and Tax Collector

JENNIFER CHAMPNEY .....(315) 829-2422 EXT. 2

### Deputy Town Clerk

JULIE MCELROY.....(315) 829-2422 EXT. 2

### Dog Control Officer

CLAYTON CONOVER.....(315) 371-5429

### Building Inspector

REAY WALKER.....(315) 829-2434 EXT. 3

### Codes Officer and Fire Inspector

JODY THIEME .....(315) 829-2434 EXT. 3

### Codes Office Clerk

HEATHER MAIR .....(315) 829-2434 EXT. 3

### Assessors Chairman

DUANE MUNGER .....(315) 829-2587 EXT. 5

### Assessors

FRANK LAGUZZA.....(315) 829-2587 EXT. 5

TIMOTHY WAGNER.....(315) 829-2587 EXT. 5

### Assessors Clerk

JENNIFER TYCZINSKI .....(315) 829-2587 EXT. 5

### Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals

BRIAN DAM.....(315) 829-2434

### Superintendent of Highways

TIMOTHY MURPHY .....(315) 829-2742 EXT. 4

### County Legislators

2ND DISTRICT .....KEITH SCHIEBEL



# Sherrill-Kenwood Free Library

[www.sherrillkenwoodlibrary.org](http://www.sherrillkenwoodlibrary.org)

543 Sherrill Road, Sherrill

Phone: 315-363-5980 • Fax: 315-363-4133

## Hours

**Monday:** 10 - 7  
**Tuesday:** 10 - 7  
**Wednesday:** 10 - 7  
**Thursday:** 10 - 7  
**Friday:** 10 - 4  
**Saturday:** 10 - 1  
**Sunday:** Closed

## Staff

*Library Director*

**Bill Loveland**

*Youth Services  
Coordinator*

**Amy Garcia**

## Board

*President*

**Lauren MacDonald**

*Vice President*

**Katie Falkenmeyer**

*Secretary*

**Rachel Sayles**

*Treasurer*

**Cathi Brewer**

*Trustee*

**Rashmi Bismark**

*Trustee*

**Connie McHenry**

*Trustee*

**Michael Sayles**

*Trustee*

**Jolene Vanderhoof**

**Meetings are held  
the third Tuesday of  
the month at 5:00pm.**

We had a great year in 2023, here's a look back at some of our highlights!

- We launched our Imagination Library affiliate in August! The VVS Imagination Library provides one free book a month to children in the VVS School District under the age of five. Books are mailed directly to the homes of registrants. This program is available at no cost to participating families and children, and allows families to build personal home libraries for their children before starting Kindergarten. For more information and to sign up, stop by or call our library.
- We eliminated late fees for most items in our collection! Library users are no longer charged when print and digital materials are returned late. In addition, all previously existing overdue fees for library materials borrowed at SKFL have been waived. Borrowers are still responsible for ensuring that their items are returned by their due date. Fines still apply for certain special collection items, including park and museum passes, athletic equipment, American Girl Dolls, and more.
- We expanded our hours! We're now open every day at 10 am (except Sundays), and are open until 7 pm four nights a week.

## Join us for Story Time!

**Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:00 am in our Children's Area**

These story times are intended for children under the age of 5, but all ages are welcome. We look forward to seeing you and your little ones there!

### Save the dates!

**From Sap to Syrup  
with Oneida County CCE**

Friday, March 15 at 1 pm

**Eclipse Party at Oneida  
Community Mansion House**

Monday, April 8 at 2pm - 4pm

**Lego Masterminds**

Thursday, April 25 at 3:30pm

**Summer Reading Kickoff**

Monday, July 1

### Join the library!

We're free to join! If you're age 5 and up and don't have a card, stop by with a photo ID or guardian and get a card, which works at all 43 public libraries in Oneida, Madison, and Herkimer Counties.

### What can I do with my card?

We're more than just books and are always adding to our collection! Borrow movies, passes to state parks and local zoos, bakeware, and more!



# Sherrill-Kenwood Free Library 2023 Annual Report

*Thank you for a great year!*

22,121   
Items Borrowed

17,530   
Visits

2,280   
Cardholders

3,423   
Program  
and Event Attendees

6,416   
Digital Items  
Borrowed

## New in 2023 at SKFL

Expanded  
Hours 

Fine-free on  
Physical Materials 

 1,748  
New Items

 Imagination  
Library Launch

Operating Revenue

\$223,469

Operating Expenditures

\$188,195

# Vernon Public Library

LIBRARY AND  
COMMUNITYCENTER



## *All About the library*

We offer three spaces to be rented out for free. They can be used for the following: tutoring, individual meetings, small or large group meeting, yoga, painting or any type of class you would like to host, you can even have a birthday party! Stop by the library or call for more information.

## *OPEN DAYS*

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| MONDAY    | Check        |
| TUESDAY   | Facebook or  |
| WEDNESDAY | vernonpublic |
| THURSDAY  | library.org  |
| SATURDAY  | for hours    |

## *Contact Us*

4441 Peterboro st. Vernon NY, 13476

EMAIL: [vernon@midyork.org](mailto:vernon@midyork.org)

PHONE NUMBER 315-829-2463

Like us on  
facebook @  
Vernon public  
library

## ONEIDA CASTLE NEWS

The Oneida Castle Village Board has been diligently working to complete the final stages of the Federal EPA Grant. It has been a long and difficult process but all involved think we are nearing the end to obtain this final grant that is needed to begin the sewer project.

Many of you may have noticed our new electric sign on State St. just pass the hall on the west side. It will be used to post events, meetings and other activities going on in the Village.

Oneida Castle is proud of the fact that one of our residents is now working toward his

Eagle Scout Badge Gabriel Stone of State St. is planning a project for the park that will include some fitness equipment for seniors. Anyone wishing to donate or help in some way can contact Gabe by email at [grstone@gmail.com](mailto:grstone@gmail.com).

If you would like to be put on our email list to be notified of important hearings, meetings and events, please go to [oneidacastleny.com](http://oneidacastleny.com) to do so and click on Contact Us.

The Oneida Castle Village Board meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the village hall. All are welcome and encouraged to come.

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dear Town of Vernon Residents,

My name is Timothy Murphy and I am the reelected Highway Superintendent. I would like to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to everyone who elected me. I take extreme pride in serving our community to make our roads safe for everyone while doing everything I can to manage the highway budget with the focus of keeping tax dollars low. I would also like to thank all of the residents for your cooperation and patience during this winter season! Below you will find a friendly reminder of information to take note of and a list of Annual Events and other Highway News:

### **SHARING THE ROAD WITH FARM AND CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES**

- These vehicles are heavy, making it hard to accelerate, slow down & stop.
- They often cross the centerline when making a turn
- They have large blind spots

Here are some safety tips for motorists:

- Don't assume the operator can see you
- Wait until it is safe to pass
- Leave ample room between farm & construction vehicles

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROAD

- State Roads are identified by a white shield with black letters. NYSDOT is responsible for these roads.
- County Roads have a blue shield with yellow lettering. County is responsible for these roads
- Town of Vernon roads do not have a center stripe. Town of Vernon is responsible for these roads.

## POTHOLES

- How are potholes formed? They develop when two factors are present at the same time – water & traffic; hence potholes commonly occur in the wheel path.
- Potholes in road, what to do? Try to avoid, but avoid sharp turns of steering wheel; slow down & avoid slamming on breaks, or sudden swerves which can cause a crash
- How are they fixed? The size of the pothole will determine the fix. Smaller potholes are commonly fixed with polymer-based patching mix thrown in the hole and then compacted. Please make sure to give the workers room and slow down when you see road repairs being conducted.

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## ANNUAL EVENTS

### BRUSH PICK UP – 2X a year

- First full week of May and first full week of September is brush and weeds pick up. Once you have placed all of your material roadside call the highway garage (315)829-2742 and give your address. This will make scheduling of pickup more efficient for all. The Village of Vernon, City of Sherrill and Village of Oneida Castle have their own designated brush removal systems.
- We do have a site available at the highway garage at 4322 Churton Road for town residents to bring small limbs, leaves and grass clippings during warm weather.
- The Town does **NOT** accept Commercial green waste. These contractors are paid by the homeowner to remove their brush; therefore, they have to dispose at facilities that accept it, not at the Town. The Town's green waste site is limited in size and it can't handle the excessive amount that commercial green waste brings.

Thank you,  
Timothy Murphy  
Town of Vernon Highway Superintendent

# Codes Office News & Updates



The safety and well-being of the public is one of the primary ways that Codes Enforcement Officers impact communities. The duties of the Codes Officer are the prevention, detection, investigation and enforcement of laws regulating public health, safety and welfare. If possible, please call ahead and schedule a time to meet with one of our Code Enforcement Officers. They are not always in the office during business hours due to fire inspections, building inspections, other appointments, etc.

**All of the following require building permits through our office:**

- New homes including double wides
- Garages, Sheds and Carports
- New septic systems or changes to existing septic systems
- Remodeling interior or exterior, additions
- Decks, porches (including enclosed)
- Above ground, in ground pools and hot tubs/Jacuzzis
- Fences, ramps
- Chimneys, wood stoves, or outdoor wood/gas burning devices

Building permit applications and Fee Schedule are available on our website: [www.townofvernon.com](http://www.townofvernon.com), Click on 'Forms and Downloads' and look for 'Building and Zoning Permit Application'

~ Office Hours ~  
 Monday thru Friday  
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 Call  
 315-829-2434

## FIRE SAFETY

**LEARN... DON'T BURN!**



1. Know the location of all fire extinguishers in your work area.
2. Learn the PASS method for fire extinguisher use.
3. Use fire extinguishers only on small, confined fires with little smoke.
4. Know the locations of all exits in your work area. Count the number of doors to the nearest exit.
5. If caught in a fire drop to your hands and knees, hold your breath as much as possible and breathe shallow through your nose using your blouse or shirt as a filter.
6. If the fire is large or is near other fire sources, immediately call 9-1-1 and leave the premises.
7. If your clothing should catch on fire...

**The "PASS" Method**

- PULL**  
THE PIN LOCATED IN THE EXTINGUISHER'S HANDLE
- AIM**  
THE NOZZLE OR HOSE AT THE BASE OF THE FIRE
- SQUEEZE**  
THE HANDLE ON THE EXTINGUISHER'S TOP
- SWEEP**  
HOSE FROM SIDE TO SIDE AT THE BASE OF FIRE UNTIL OUT

*A non-rechargeable Fire extinguisher Should be replaced Every 10 years*





## ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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Keith Schiebel ♦ 4830 Day Road ♦ Vernon, NY 13476  
Phone: 315.335.0887 ♦ Email: [kschiebel@ocgov.net](mailto:kschiebel@ocgov.net)

### TOWN OF VERNON NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024 KEITH SCHIEBEL -- ONEIDA COUNTY LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 1

Are you looking for a job, seeking a change of work, or know someone who would like to stay in the area and is seeking employment? If so, check out “Current Vacancies” and “Eligible Lists” tabs at <https://oneida-portal.mycivilservice.com>. Currently there are more than 300 vacancies and job opportunities available. Openings exist in virtually all departments with a wide variety of skill sets needed. Please feel free to pass the word along to friends and family as talented “human resources”, or quality people, remains one of our County’s most challenging issues.

For the first time in history, the Oneida County budget topped half a billion dollars at 529 million. Of this, nearly 90% of the budget remains mandated services for our residents with health and human services comprising of the largest portion. Despite increased County costs, driven in part by increased unfunded State mandates such as Medicaid costs, *our County Board of Legislators adopted a County budget that includes no increase in property taxes for the **eighth consecutive year***; great news for all County property owners. A significant portion of our budget includes DPW, the Department of Public Works, that maintains our County bridges and roads. In 2023, Williams Street/Beacon Light Road was repaved with a new surface. Peterboro and Churtin Roads were oil and stoned to seal the surface and extend usefulness for another year. Both of these roads are scheduled for repaving in 2024 or 2025. Of course, highway maintenance remains a high priority; we were able to dedicate increased County funding for roads and bridges.

In other news, Oneida County continues to see tremendous growth and investment. The Wynn hospital is now open, and the downtown parking garage is slated to open this Spring. Additionally, the Nexus Center is now fully operational and will host the World’s Women Hockey tournament in April, a real testament to this world-class facility.

Perhaps of greatest impact locally, the County’s budget includes very significant increases in shared revenues to our local municipalities. The increases, due exclusively to the Oneida Indian Nation Partners in Prosperity agreement, are as follows: Village of Vernon received a 67% increase from \$60,000 annually to now \$100,000; Town of Vernon received an increase of \$100,000 to now \$225,000; City of Sherrill received a \$110,000 increase to now \$300,000; and V.V.S. Schools went from \$700,000 to now \$850,000. The Town of Verona also saw a \$100,000 increase as well. The new agreements are to include a 5-year period with potential for increases within the contract. Thank you to all who assisted in securing these funds for our community.

As County legislator, I certainly enjoy the opportunity to represent you, serve our residents, and represent our area. As your voice, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have an issue, question, suggestion, or concern about our County and the services we provide; I can be reached via email at [Kschiebel@ocgov.net](mailto:Kschiebel@ocgov.net), call or text at 315-335-0887, or attend a local municipality meeting. Thank you for being an active part of our community.

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## TOWN OF VERNON ASSESSOR NEWS

Following is a review of the exemption information for the Town of Vernon. There have been some changes to the income limit for Oneida County and the Town of Vernon Senior Citizen and Low Income Disability Tax Exemptions, so please review to see if you might now be eligible.

Basic STAR – Renews automatically- available for primary residence to all homeowners with income less than \$500,000.

Enhanced STAR – Renews automatically – available to homeowners 65 or older with income less than \$98,700.

Please note that to receive these exemptions you must apply for the initial year, contact the assessor’s office for information or visit <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm>.

Veteran Exemption – Renews Automatically (if you receive the disabled Veteran’s exemption and your percentage of disability changes you must bring your paperwork to the assessor’s office so your exemption can be updated).

Senior Citizen’s Exemption: To be eligible for the Senior STAR exemption a resident must prove ownership, age (65), that their income falls within the scale approved by the taxing jurisdiction and that the property is their primary residence. Below are the limits for some jurisdictions that are in the Town of Vernon:

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Oneida County and Town of Vernon: | Income less than \$37,900 |
| VWS School District:              | Income less than \$26,900 |
| Oneida School District:           | Income less than \$19,500 |

Low Income Disability Exemption: This exemption applies to the Oneida County and Town of Vernon taxes. Income must be less than \$37,900 and you must have proof of your disability.

If you feel you might be eligible for any exemption, please contact the Town of Vernon Assessors office located in the Vernon Town Hall (315-829-2587). The Vernon Assessor’s hours are Monday thru Thursday 9am-2pm.

Please don’t hesitate to call if you have any questions concerning eligibility for an exemption.

## MEMO FROM THE TOWN CLERK



**Tax Receipts**  
Can be obtained on our website under "Assessment & Tax Info" [www.townofvernon.com](http://www.townofvernon.com)

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
Board meeting minutes are available on our website [www.townofvernon.com](http://www.townofvernon.com) under "Official Town Business"

**Pavilion Rental**  
The Pavilion behind the Town Office Building is a beautiful location to have a gathering and can be reserved for your next event. Call or stop in my office to make your reservation.

**Marriage License**  
If you are planning a wedding, we have marriage license applications. Give us a call to inquire what is needed.

**Handicap Tag**  
Vernon residents will need to bring in a form from your Doctor to obtain a permit.

**Dog License**  
According to Article 7, Section 109 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, all dogs 4 months or older must be licensed in the municipality in which they are harbored. Dogs found to be unlicensed will be subject to a court ticket and fine.

**Notes from the Town Clerk - Jennifer Champney**

## TREE MEMORIAL

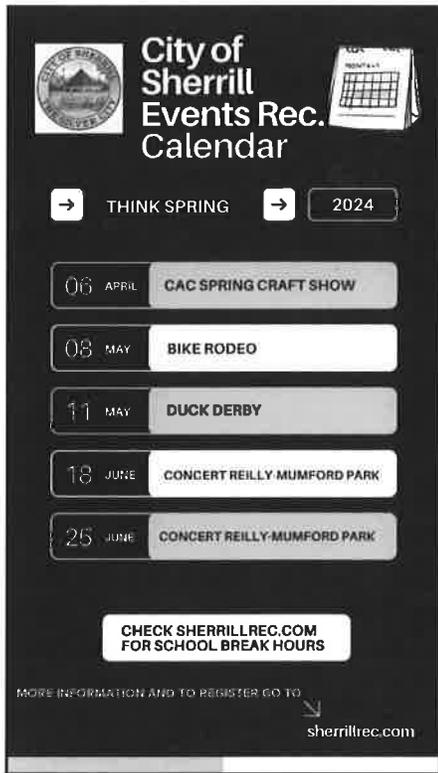
Come out and see all the new trees planted in memory of loved ones at the Walking Trail behind the Town of Vernon Office Building!!

In recent years it has become a trend to memorialize loved ones through planting of trees. The Town is excited to announce a Tree Memorial Park Program where anyone interested in memorializing a family, friend or loved one may purchase a tree to be planted at the Town of Vernon Memorial Park. This is a fabulous way to give a living tribute for decades to come.

The forms will be available at the Town Office Building to select what type and size of tree you would like planted. All trees will be planted during the proper season to optimize survival and growth. Each tree that is planted will include a ground plaque commemorating the person/persons for that tree.

The Town of Vernon  
4305 Peterboro Road  
P.O. Box 643  
Vernon, NY 13476

STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Utica, NY  
Permit #566



**City of Sherrill Events Rec. Calendar**

→ THINK SPRING → 2024

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 06 APRIL | CAC SPRING CRAFT SHOW       |
| 08 MAY   | BIKE RODEO                  |
| 11 MAY   | DUCK DERBY                  |
| 18 JUNE  | CONCERT REILLY-MUMFORD PARK |
| 25 JUNE  | CONCERT REILLY-MUMFORD PARK |

CHECK SHERRILLREC.COM FOR SCHOOL BREAK HOURS

MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO [sherrillrec.com](http://sherrillrec.com)

\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*5-DIGIT 13476

Town of Vernon,  
Or Current Resident  
4305 Peterboro Rd  
PO Box 643  
Vernon NY 13476-0643

P-2 P7  
1187

# Town of Vernon Times

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

Spring 2024

*Think Spring; Visit the [Town of Vernon.com](http://TownofVernon.com) website for upcoming date meetings and events.*

