



Town of Yates Newsletter February 2023

8 S. Main St, P.O. Box 484, Lyndonville, NY 14098
585-765-9716 townofyates.org

200th Anniversary Celebration

We are so very grateful to all those who helped make our town bicentennial such a great success! In 2021, a committee formed to explore how best to celebrate the Town of Yates' 200th anniversary. The goal of our group was to develop a plan to celebrate and honor the rich history of the Town of Yates, to instill community pride in our town, and to inspire future generations. By most accounts we succeeded!

Members of the committee were Jim Simon, Susan Hrovat, Dawn Metty, Brad Bentley, Kelly Cousins, Cindy Grabowski, Ginny Hughes, Russ Martino, Cal Stinson, Georgette Stockman, Joanne Suhr, Tom Wenhold, Katie Whipple, Valerie Wells and Larry Wolfe.

In addition to several initiatives to include refurbishing the state historical markers throughout our town, we celebrated three major activities in 2022:

- "A Family Fair" was held on July 3rd featuring historical artifacts in the Town Hall with docents, a barbershop quartet, Lyndonville school band and singers, an ice cream social, children's games, and an ecumenical singing group from area churches.
- "A Street Fair" on August 19th included the Lyndonville farmer's market, food trucks, the Who Dat's and DJ'd music, a Civil War encampment, two Lynhaven Cemetery tours, and multiple craft vendors.
- "A Grand Finale Lake Fair" was held on September 24th featuring a formal ceremony and American Legion honor guard, several distinguished NY State speakers, the dedication of the new Russ Martino pavilion, a ribbon cutting, a town bicentennial birthday cake, music, food and fun, fun, fun!

The Town of Yates plans to collaborate with the Village of Lyndonville for the second annual "Street Dance" in August.

The Town is also planning a party at "The Best Little Town Park on the Great Lakes" – date to be determined.

Please keep checking our town website for upcoming events and public notices: townofyates.org

Town Park Update

This Spring, the final touches will be made to our beautiful, newly upgraded town park. The last items to complete include:

- Hands-free water fountain
- Large grill next to new pavilion
- Horse buggy tie-downs
- Security cameras
- Staining of pavilion and picnic tables
- Sealing of all new cement
- 2-3 more fixed benches
- Several new park signs

Our Town Park is the recipient of the **2022 Genesee Valley Branch of the American Public Works Association's Project of the Year Award** in the Small Cities/Rural Communities category!

Town Board

Local Laws: During 2023, the Town Board is planning to revise and update the rules and regulations in the following local laws: Cemetery, Town Park, Short-term Rentals, Tall Structures

Emergency Response: Also this year, the Town Board is establishing a task force to revise and update our town's Emergency Response Plan.

NYSEG 152-Acres: The Town Board is working with NYSEG to possibly purchase the 152-acres surrounding the Town Park on the lake. The purpose of the purchase is to expand the town park and to preserve the land and wildlife. The Board's intent is to only purchase the land if it can obtain grant funding.

Invitation: The Town Board (Jim Simon, John Rigg, Harold Suhr, Susan Hrovat and Terry Chaffee, Jr) invites all residents to attend our monthly meetings – Board Meetings 2nd Thursday of month @ 7pm, and Board Workshops the Monday prior to the Board Meeting @ 5:30pm. Please come and tell us what's on your mind!!

Town Clerk Update

2023 Town and County Tax Payment Information. If your taxes are not held in escrow, you should receive your Town and County tax bill by January 10th. If you have not received it you may view a copy on the Town of Yates website: townofyates.org, or contact our office at (585)765-9716 to obtain a copy. We receive all payments at the Yates Town Hall, 8 S. Main St., Lyndonville, NY 14098, until May 1st. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Yates Tax Collector. We accept cash, checks, and debit/credit cards. Online payments may be made at townofyates.org. The payment portal is located on the homepage at the bottom right-side of the page. As a reminder, there is a mail-drop located in the South Door of the building to enable payments after hours and on weekends.

Dog Licensing. The Town Clerk's Office is responsible for issuing dog licenses, processing license payments and updating dog status. New York State requires that all dogs over the age of 4 months be licensed. The Town Clerk's Office issues dog licenses under the authority of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. To obtain a license, the owner must provide the following veterinary documentation:

1) Proof of Current Rabies Vaccination and 2) Proof of Spay or Neuter (only if the dog is spayed or neutered). Dog licenses must be renewed on an annual basis. Renewal notices will be sent out the month prior to the dog's renewal month. If you move out of Town, please notify the Clerk's Office so that we can remove the dog from our renewal list. License fee schedule: Spayed/Neutered Dogs: \$7.00, Intact Dog (Not spayed or neutered): \$15.00, Late Fee \$2.00, Replacement Dog Tag: \$3.00

Assessor Update

Agricultural Exemptions, AGED/Senior Exemptions and Disability Exemptions must be applied for or renewed before March 1, 2023 for the 2023-24 tax cycle. If you have not renewed or believe you may qualify for one of these exemptions please contact the office at 585-765-9146 (Thursdays) or 585-798-0730 (Monday-Friday).

A Townwide Reassessment project is underway. Notices of change of assessment will be sent to all property owners in the Spring of 2023. When you receive your change notice please review and if you have questions regarding the new value please contact the office. Reminder: The assessment of your property should be the full market value. What would your property sell for on the open market? This amount may not be what you believe so ask for the comparable sales used to determine the value. An increased property value does not automatically equal an increase in property tax. There is information available regarding assessments on the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services website at www.tax.ny.gov

Summer Youth Program

Each summer the Lyndonville Youth Commission runs a Summer Youth Program at the Lyndonville Central School District. This program is sponsored by the Town of Yates, the Village of Lyndonville, and the Lyndonville Area Foundation. Last summer 120 children, ages 5-12, participated in a wide-range of fun physical fitness programs as well as some arts, crafts, games and academic skills development. This summer the program will run Mondays – Thursdays, 9am – Noon. For more information please contact Karli Sturtevant (ksturtevant@lcsdk12.org)

Biodigester Feasibility Study Update

The Town Board has been hard at work for the last year in supporting renewable energy goals which support our agricultural way of life. One important way we're doing our fair share is determining feasibility of a Bio-Digester Project. Bio-Digesters use cow manure to generate methane gas, which can be used to renewably produce electricity as well as a nutrient material that can be used to fertilize fields. Our work for the last year has resulted in an initial determination that dairy herds are large enough to successfully support a Bio-Digester project. We are currently performing a large-scale feasibility study project which will include a full potential listing of participating farms and the project design required to support all participating farms. It is important to note a successful project as one that supports renewable energy goals and which also ensures all Yates/Somerset constituents and farmers see a benefit from the project.

Food Pantry: The Lyndonville Yates Food Emergency Food Pantry, located in the Lyndonville Presbyterian Church on Main St, serves area families and provides meat and dairy, vegetables, nonperishables and hygiene products. It is open Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 12 noon.

Code Enforcement Officer: Best wishes to Jason Raduns, and warm welcome to David Reese dreesee@townofyates.org (585)332-8144