



Winter 2023 Newsletter

Town of DeWitt

We're building community...
trails, tournaments and bigger
& better events!

Carrier Park, see Inside Front Cover & Challenger, pg. 14

Fiddlers Green Trail Work, pg. 3

Summer Day Camp 2023, pgs. 34 & 37

Feb. Break Camp, Rec. Survey & Forum, SDC 2023
pgs. 28, 33 & 34



Fall 2022 Tournaments

Carrier Park is...more than you think!

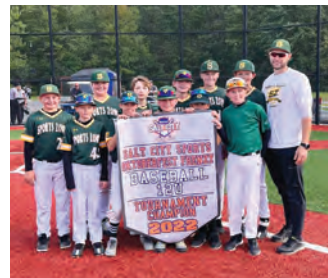
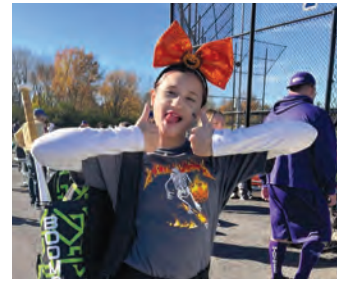
Our own Carrier Park hosted Girls Softball and Boys Baseball tournaments last Fall, as well as scrimmage games, double headers, and little league rentals.

Our thanks to all of the teams competing this Fall, with special congratulations to Girls 12u softball "Apple Classic" winning team CNY Monsters, Boys 11u baseball "Octobefrenzy" winning team Academy Baseball, Boys 12u baseball "Octoberfrenzy" winning team Sportszone, and Girls 12u softball "Boo Bash" winning team CNY Monsters!

Carrier Park hosted some 20 tournaments in 2022, both hometown and CNY teams; plus, Section III semi-final and final softball playoff games for all classes, and of course the 2022 NJCAA Division III Women's Softball Championship Tournament; we will host this exciting best-of-the-best women's championship tournament again this May! We've also been "building community" at Carrier Park with ESM Little League, Advocates Kickball, FM - ESM - JD & Liverpool Softball, LeMoyne College, Syracuse Club Softball, and Wheelchair Basketball.

Carrier Park was also the new site of our 2022 Summer Concert Series. And, of course, Carrier Park is the proud home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball Program, see page 14 for Challenger news.

To book 2023 Softball or Baseball tournaments:
email info@saltcitysports.org, call (315) 256-8433,
or go: <https://www.saltcitysports.org>



We're building community!



Fiddler's Green 2022-2023

We're building community at Fiddlers Green Park

With myriad natural parks, as well as our Carrier Park recreation facility, we are indeed, rich in "natural capitol" in the Town of DeWitt.

One of our most beautiful natural parks is Fiddlers Green in Jamesville; Fiddlers Green is enjoyable no matter what the season. Recently, thanks to the coordination of Fiddlers Green Park Association (FGPA) members, extensive trail work by our Town of DeWitt Parks crew – and 100 tons of materials donated by T.H. Kinsella Quarries – the Fiddlers Green trails are now accessible to more members of the community.

Trails previously less accessible due to mud and deteriorating woodchips have been leveled, smoothed, widened and packed with stone dust, making them not only more useable for strollers, but also safer – with less trip points – for the very young and old. New benches and dedications have also been installed.

Fiddlers Green Park has always been about partnership; committed residents, the business community, and the Town of DeWitt coming together to work in collaboration for the benefit of the whole of the community. "Building community," that's how Fiddlers Green Park originally came into existence some 15 years ago. That same spirit of community collaboration continues today with the partnership of FGPA members, the Town, and T.H. Kinsella Quarries working in cooperation to make these essential trail improvements.



Interested in joining the Fiddlers Green Park Association? The Fiddlers Green Park Association welcomes new members from the Jamesville area – any area of DeWitt – or the greater community. They meet the first Monday of every month, just email: fiddlersgreenpark@gmail.com, for the meeting location. If you would simply like to know more about the FGPA, check out Instagram/ Facebook @fiddlersgreenpark, or go to: www.fiddlersgreenpark.org.

**The Town of DeWitt...
we're building community.**



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Comptroller x 6 comptroller@townofdewitt.com		

A Message from the Town Supervisor Edward M. Michalenko, Ph.D.

This past year we have been fortunate to safely come together “in community” in ways not advisable since the start of the pandemic in 2020. I would be willing to assert coming together with one another for events, meetings, and community celebrations is something we are all thankful for in ways we may not have recognized in the past.

We continued to move forward with important, innovative, and incremental major Town projects in 2022. Our Carrier Park Recreation facility made great strides forward thanks to our partnership with Salt City Sports and the support of teams and organizations throughout the community and the greater community. We hosted some 20 tournaments in 2022, in addition to semi-final and final softball playoff games and the 2022 NJCAA Division III Women’s Softball Championship Tournament; we will host this exciting event again this year May 25th - 27th, see page 13 for more information. I hope you will consider coming out to the park to support these exceptional young women.

We have also been “building community” at Carrier Park with ESM Little League, Advocates Kickball, FM – ESM - JD & Liverpool Softball, LeMoyné College, Syracuse Club Softball, and Wheelchair Basketball. Moreover, of course, Carrier Park is the proud home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program, see page 14 for more information about Challenger’s 2023 season.

Carrier Park was also the new site of our Town of DeWitt Summer Concert Series. Summer Concert Series, the Annual Holiday Lighting event, and our first ever Trunk or Treat event – attended by 2,000 people – brought together friends, families, and neighbors from all across DeWitt to enjoy not only the event itself and a beautiful fall day, but to simply enjoy coming together as a community. Our Recreation Department continues to create both bigger and better community events, while also seeking to tailor events and programs to your interests and needs. Please see page 33 for information about our Recreation survey and a forum here at Town Hall on April 13th.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we anticipate moving ahead with plans for the Widewaters Park component of the Elevating Erie project and working with NYS DOT to continue the Erie Boulevard median down to the juncture of East Genesee Street and Erie Boulevard. We also anticipate significant movement forward on the redevelopment of the Shoppingtown property; when that important Town project progresses, we have plans for sidewalks on both sides of Erie Boulevard.

We are also looking to move forward with our Hydrogen Power Project, the objective being to harness hydrogen to power vehicles like our trucks, heavy equipment, and snowplows. Grants secured in late 2022 – \$370,000 from NYS and \$230,000 from Senator Schumer – will help us pursue this new technology; if successful, we may be able to reduce our municipal fossil fuel usage to zero. See details on page 7.



Details about all of these projects is in my “Notes” on the following pages and in the subsequent departmental sections.

2022 saw the departure of several Town staff. By the latter half of the year however, we added new staff in Planning & Zoning, Codes, Town Clerk’s Office, the Water Department, and the Recreation Department, including our new Recreation Director, Peter Clark. See photos and information about new Town staff throughout the newsletter.

In terms of the 2023 budget, myriad factors came into play in making the decision to increase the tax levy this year. The cumulative impact of holding tax increases at an annual average rate of just 1.5% over the past 15 years, the necessity for two additional police officers – steep price increases on everything from health insurance to fuel – the challenges of the pandemic economy, and adhering to the Governor’s 2% Tax Cap since its inception in 2012 all came into play in the decision by the Town Board and I to break the Governor’s Tax Cap in 2023 and increase the Town property tax levy 7% along with a tax rate reduction of 1.5%. The details of that decision and the cogent factors are outlined on pages 26–27.

There is also an in-depth look at the Town Board’s decision to join the lawsuit in opposition to the Community Grid on page 12. Our decision to do so was based on clear and comprehensive data, expert opinion, common sense, and the majority opinion of Onondaga County elected officials and the general public.

Lastly, as I mention in my “Notes” on the following pages, whether you celebrated Christmas, Kwanzaa, or Hanukkah last month – or will celebrate Ramadan this coming March – I wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year. Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve you and to “build community” with you here in the Town of DeWitt. It is an honor and privilege to do so.

Most sincerely,
Edward M. Michalenko, DeWitt Supervisor



The Town of DeWitt...we're building community.

SUPERVISOR'S NOTES WINTER 2023

**Edward M. Michalenko, Ph.D.,
Town Supervisor**

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Environmental & Energy Initiatives



New! Trail Improvements at Fiddlers Green Park

This past fall, the Fiddlers Green Park Association (FGPA), our Town of DeWitt Parks Crew, and T.H Kinsella Quarries came together in partnership to make significant trail improvements to our beautiful Fiddlers Green Park in Jamesville. The Town provided the manpower, FGPA provided planning and coordination, and T.H. Kinsella Quarries provided 100 tons of materials!

Fiddlers Green Park has always been about “building community;” more than 15 years ago now, I began working with the FGPA to ensure this beautiful, natural park would benefit the whole of the community for years to come. As reported in earlier newsletters, in honor of her late husband, Bryan McNeill Place, Jackie Place and her family donated several acres of land – including several hundred feet of waterfront along Butternut Creek in Jamesville – to the Town of DeWitt in 2020.

The recent trail work – and the addition of benches – make the trails at Fiddlers Green more accessible to everyone. Our thanks to T.H. Kinsella for working in partnership with the Town on this project. For more information – and some great photos depicting the trail work process – see page 3 at the front of this newsletter.



Update: Hydrogen Power Project

To date, there is no technology developed for heavy equipment vehicles – like snowplows and other heavy trucks – to become Electric Vehicles (EV's). Electric vehicles simply cannot generate enough power to, for example, push snow or lift heavy materials. That's where hydrogen power – and the Town of DeWitt – come in.

As you know, since the fall of 2020 our Town Solar Array has been producing 2.66 Megawatts of electricity; that electric power has freed our community from using fossil fuels for all of our municipal electric needs. Moreover, in line with our commitment to fully reduce our use of fossil fuel in DeWitt, the Town is exploring the possibility of harnessing hydrogen power.

In the short-term, hydrogen can be used to power everyday vehicles. In the long-term, we want to employ the surplus electricity from our Solar Array – with the process of separating water into oxygen and hydrogen – to power our heavy equipment, vehicles, and snowplows; the long-term objective is for the Town of DeWitt to one day be fully free from using fossil fuels for any of its municipal buildings, vehicles, or equipment.



In incremental pursuit of this objective, last year we received both state and federal grant funds to pursue the Hydrogen Power Project outlined above: \$370,000 from NYS and \$230,000 from Senator Schumer.

Once again, we'd like to thank Senator Schumer and the NYS DEC for supporting the Town of DeWitt to "build community" in innovative and environmentally responsible ways.

Update: DACC Annual Earth Day Clean Up Saturday, April 22nd

Please join us this spring for one of the Town's most popular "building community" events, the DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission Annual Earth Day Clean Up. Our event, in conjunction with communities all across Onondaga County, will take place on Saturday, April 22, 2023, 9:00am to noon.

As always, participants will gather at the Ryder Park pavilion at Town Hall or at Robbie T's Pizza in Jamesville. This is a great event for kids, as it provides them an opportunity to tangibly learn how to be stewards of both their community and the environment.

The Town provides safety vests, garbage bags, and OCRRA stickers. Participants are requested to bring their own work gloves. Also, please dress for the weather and to protect against ticks. The event proceeds rain or shine. For more information, please see page 25.

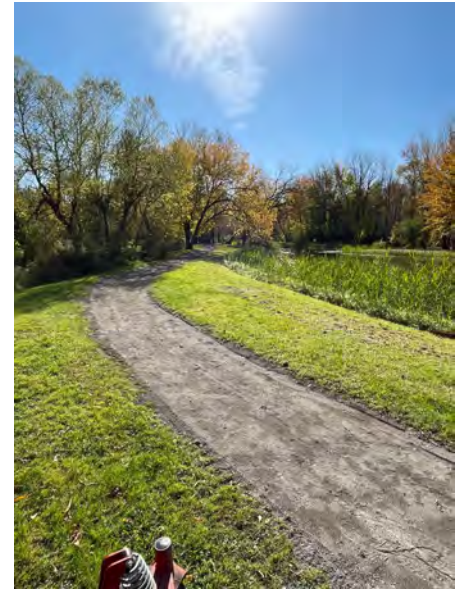
Did you know you can become a Town of DeWitt Tree Steward-Volunteer?

If you would like to become a Tree Steward in the Town of DeWitt, go to: <http://cceonondaga.org/environment/forestry/communitree-stewards> for more information.



New! Ryder Park Trail Work

As you can see from the photos below left and to the right, our Town Parks crew also made substantive improvements to our Ryder Park trails. Making our trails accessible to everyone from children in strollers to senior citizens – and whenever possible, for physically challenged visitors – is a priority in DeWitt. From our many parks all across DeWitt – our Elevating Erie Project, our Carrier Park Recreation facility – inclusivity, accessibility, and creating "connections" with sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes is an on-going commitment we take seriously; it's one of the many ways we are tangibly "building community with you and for you.



Solar Array: Sustainability, Bird Sanctuary & Kiosk

As mentioned in the previous section regarding a possible hydrogen power project, our Town Solar Array has been operational since the fall of 2020. The 2.66 Megawatts of electricity the Solar Array produces not only frees the Town from using fossil fuels for all of our municipal electric needs, it is projected to save us over \$2 million on our municipal energy costs over the 20-year life of the project. That translates to a carbon reduction of 2,605 metric tons, the equivalent of taking 510 vehicles off the road for 20 years.

Going forward, in addition to possibly sourcing the surplus electricity from the solar array for a hydrogen power project, we intend to expand the solar array with a community power purchase program whereby residents can purchase their electricity directly from the solar farm right here in DeWitt.

As you know if you walk, run, or cycle along the Erie Canal, the site of our former Town landfill is also a grassland bird sanctuary. A few years ago now, the Town instituted a minimal lawn mowing regime at the site of the array in order to maintain a grassland habitat. That habitat is now home to several *Endangered*, *Threatened*, *Special Concern* and *High Priority* bird species including Northern Harrier,

Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Bobolink. (For a detailed list of other bird species observed at the landfill/Solar Array and surrounding habitats, please see Cornell's eBird website: <https://ebird.org/home>)

If you and/or you and your family are out for a Winter walk, stop by the Solar Array educational kiosk across the bridge at Cedar Bay Park.* The kiosk illustrates the construction process, as well as the myriad economic and environmental benefits of the array.

As I have written in numerous newsletters, I want my grandchildren and great grandchildren to view polluting fossil fuels – natural gas, oil, and coal – like we view using horses as a mode of transportation. Our Solar Array not only benefits Town of DeWitt residents, but will also improve the quality of life for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for many years to come.

*The Town of DeWitt kiosk is located to the left over the Cedar Bay Bridge at Cedar Bay Park, near the site of the Solar Array; it is several feet past the NYS kiosk featuring information about the Erie Canal.

To learn more about the Solar Array, go to: https://www.townofdewitt.com/departments/planning_zoning/sustainability/solar.php

Assisting Residents with Energy Costs

If you would like information about how to save on your energy costs and/or bill payment options and financial assistance programs, contact the NYS Office of Consumer Services at: <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/results>.

HEAP can help income-eligible households pay the cost of home heating. For more info, go to: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>

Also: <https://mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits/begin>

HeatSmart CNY is a community-based campaign that helps owners of residences (single & multi-family), commercial, and community buildings learn about and install renewable technologies for heating/cooling and energy efficiency/weatherization measures; various incentives can be combined to bring down costs. For more information about the technologies, incentives, and upcoming virtual events please visit: <https://heatsmartcny.org/>

Also: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Heating-and-Cooling-Communities/Campaigns/HeatSmart-CNY>

Update: Deer Management 2022-2023

What some folks may not know is the Town of DeWitt has an exceptionally high deer population. Deer populations in natural forested areas average about 10-20 deer per square mile; it is estimated that populations in DeWitt are as high as 85 deer per square mile in some areas. As such, effective deer management is essential to mitigate the negative impacts of ticks on our personal health and well-being, and the impact of deer on our property.

Since 2018, we have culled 320 deer, providing 9,523 pounds of venison to local food assistance programs; in 2022 alone 1,414 pounds of venison was donated, providing 5,656 meals to the greater community. Our Deer Management program not only supports us to meet our environmental responsibility, it also supports individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Food insecurity is a significant and serious challenge – in our county and in our country – right now, especially given the economic challenges and rising inflation we have faced since the start of the pandemic. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to food assistance in this way and we appreciate those property owners in the Town of DeWitt who have supported us with the Deer Management Program these last 4 years.

For detailed information about our deer management program and the results of the 2022 cull, go to: https://www.townofdewitt.com/i_want_to/find_learn_about/sustainability/white-tailed_deer_management.php

Lastly, the Town works closely with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in order to obtain the required Deer Damage Permits each year and to ensure we adhere to all requirements. Gaining access to large parcels of land within the Town that meet the conditions of our NYS Department of Conservation permit is essential to the success of our Deer Management Program. If you are a property owner interested in supporting the Town's deer management efforts, please contact the Planning and Zoning Dept., (315) 446-3910, ext. 3

Also, important reminders, especially during deer culling months, January to March:

- All Town parks are closed from dusk to dawn.
- Always be sure you have a property owner's explicit permission before entering private property.
- Regardless of deer culling season, it is always highly advisable to have permission to enter private property.

COMMUNITY

Update: Grants Building Community in DeWitt

Construction has begun on ADA compliant bathrooms inside Town Hall. This work is thanks to New York Senator John Mannion who secured \$237,000 in grant monies for the bathrooms. He also secured an additional \$200,000 in grants for repairs to the boardwalk at the head of the Butternut Creek Trail. We expect to begin the repair work on the boardwalk in the spring.

We are also in the process of completing a comprehensive assessment – and cost estimates – for the installation of 6 new EV charging stations at key locations across the Town, including a ZEV/ EV station at the Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville (CLDJ). Our thanks again to National Grid who made this project possible via a \$32,400 grant. EV charging stations “build community” by providing a valued service to residents and visitors, while also supporting our environment.

Update: Continuing to Build Community with CLDJ

The Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville now comes to our PM (after school) Recreation program, supporting kids with art projects and activities with the librarians. The Library has also started to visit our Senior Centers; this allows Seniors who participate at our centers to request a book – or check a book out – when the library visits, rather than folks needing to visit the Library should they have mobility or transportation challenges.

The CLDJ now also supports our Food Sense Pick Up program each month; if anyone comes into Town Hall on Food Sense Pick Up day, they are now able to check out a book or sign up for a library card.

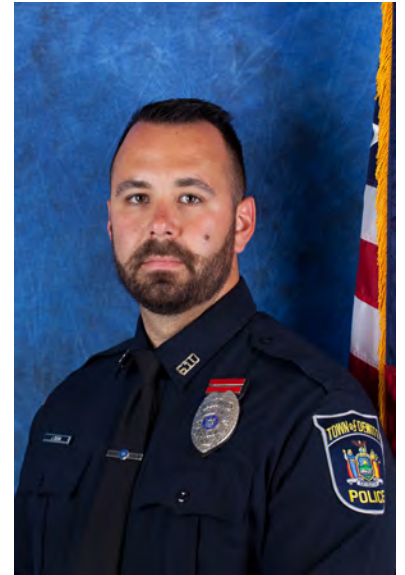


Update: Building Community with CLDJ at the Klim Center, too!

The CLDJ began visiting the People In Action (PIA) program at our Klim Center last spring. This school year, they have been visiting the PIA program once per month; we read one book with the librarians, followed by a fun art or STEM activity.

Congratulations! Officer Dean, DeWitt Police Dept.

Please join me in congratulating our Town of DeWitt Police Officer James Dean. In October 2022, Officer Dean received the “Aggressive Criminal Enforcement Award.” The award is presented to a law enforcement officer within Onondaga County whose traffic stop(s) led to the arrest of a suspect or the solution of a crime. The award’s purpose is to highlight the importance of traffic enforcement as an effective crime-fighting tool. For more information, please see pg. 22.



New! Building Community with Bigger & Better Events!

Trunk or Treat

On October 29th, more than 2,000 kids, families, friends, and neighbors came together in community on a beautiful fall day to trick or treat at 70 decorated trunks with treats! The event also included 30 crafters & bakers, Town Police, Fire, and EAVES Departments, and plenty of cider and donuts for everyone.

Don't forget to see all the fun on the **inside back cover** of this newsletter from our 2022 “Trunk or Treat” event...you'll want to save the date in 2023.





Holiday Lighting & Happy New Year

Building community is about coming together “live and in-person:” neighbors, friends, families. Which is just what we did on December 9th at our Annual Holiday Lighting event at Town Hall and Ryder Park; fun was had by all, please see pg. 36 for more details.

When we say, “We’re building community” in our Town communications, it’s not only in reference to Town projects, programs, and services. Events like our Annual Holiday Lighting – Trunk or Treat and our Summer Concert Series – are just the kind of fun, family and friends oriented events where neighbors from all across the Town can come together to “build community.” As evidenced by all of the folks attending the Town events mentioned above, coming together for community events is something we all missed during the early years of the pandemic and perhaps no longer take for granted.

My sincere thanks to the Recreation Dept. and our Town Parks crew for creating and facilitating this event. In addition, my thanks to all of you who came together in the holiday spirit to “build community” in December.



Whether you celebrated Christmas, Kwanzaa, or Hanukkah last month – or will celebrate Ramadan in the spring – I wish you a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

Update: 2023 Town Budget

The Town budget is approximately \$20 million dollars per year; roughly 75% of the budget must go to labor costs – maintaining the workforce for Police, Courts, Highway, Water, Parks, Recreation, Planning and Zoning, and the offices of Assessor, Comptroller, Clerk and Tax Receiver – the services residents and businesses rely on every day.

Fortunately, over the last 15 years our Town budget has only increased at an annual average rate of 1.5% per year. As such, we have met the Governor’s 2% Tax Cap since its inception in 2012; every town and village in New York State, including the Town of DeWitt, is required to keep their annual budget below the Governor’s 2% Tax Cap unless the Town or Village Board votes to pass a local law to override the 2% cap.

What you may not know, is that for every property tax dollar you pay, only 15 cents goes to the Town of DeWitt; of the remainder, 50 cents goes to your school district and 35 cents to Onondaga County.

Given the low growth of our CNY economy since the Great Recession, maintaining the Governor’s Tax Cap for the past 10 years has served our residents and businesses well. This year however, due to the cumulative economic challenges caused by a prolonged pandemic – inflation and soaring prices, especially for fuel – and the volatility of the economy, the Town Board and I voted to break the Governor’s 2% Tax Cap for the 2023 budget. As such, the tax levy increase for 2023 is 7%; the tax rate has decreased by just under 1.5%.

Please see pages 26-27 for a detailed and comprehensive review of:

- Town staffing reductions and department consolidations
- The cumulative impact of staying below the Governor’s 2% tax cap for the past 10 years.
- An analysis of our Police calls for service – we have the third highest calls for service in Onondaga County – and the need for additional officers in the coming year.
- An explanation of how the tax rate and higher assessments impact the tax levy you pay.

Proposed Elimination of I-81

As you are likely well aware, NYS has determined Interstate I-81 through the city of Syracuse will be eliminated and a community grid plan will proceed. I have strongly and openly opposed this plan for several years; in addition to serving as Supervisor of DeWitt, I am also an environmental scientist by profession. In that capacity, I have served as President of the *Onondaga Environmental Institute* for 23 years, as former corporate sponsor to the *Onondaga Earth Corp.*, and the *Partnership for Onondaga Creek*.

As such, my opposition to the community grid is based not only on consideration for the needs, safety, and future well-being of the people of DeWitt, but also the greater community, especially those who live within our most underserved communities. The data is clear, the community grid is not the optimal solution for DeWitt, nor the broader Syracuse and CNY community.

Moreover, nineteen Town Supervisors and twelve Village Mayors signed letters voicing support for a hybrid solution – rather than a grid only plan – to replace the aging elevated viaduct and also in support of maintaining I-81's route through the city of Syracuse.

Additionally, based on the results of six public opinion polls, 67 percent of local residents favored preserving I-81's current route through Syracuse rather than re-routing traffic onto Interstate 481.

You may also be aware that late last year, the majority of the Town Board voted to join the lawsuit opposing the community grid. Our decision was based on a myriad of factors: verifiable data, common sense, the viewpoint of the majority of the greater community, and a shared commitment to the underserved south and north side and surrounding communities who will be directly impacted by the project.

The data clearly indicates the community grid option will not beneficially serve the public. As relayed to you in previous newsletters and public communications, in the fall of 2021 I provided a data-driven document (see link below) to New York State. This 30-page document outlines important issues in detail. These issues include, but are not limited to: failure of the state to perform a Regional Transportation Study – commonplace for projects of this nature, especially one with such a sizeable price tag – specific economic and defense considerations, critical calculations outlining lost travel time and lost productivity, fuel waste and costs, CO2 discharge,

toxic gas emissions, and several other key economic, social, and environmental concerns.

Late last year the newspaper published several letters criticizing the individuals and municipalities who joined the lawsuit opposing the grid. Some of those letters comparing our opposition to the grid to the nation's "election deniers." Sadly, the fact that data, expert opinion, and common sense is at the heart of our opposition – and that the majority of the community in fact opposes the grid plan – seems to have been lost. The failure of NYSDOT to address any of our concerns along with denial of data, facts, and realities is precisely why we joined the lawsuit.

Albeit, we are also mindful to plan ahead for the elimination of I-81. A very significant increase in truck traffic through DeWitt is inevitable, not to mention the additional impact of the coming Micron project. Consequently, I have been working closely with Bergmann Associates for more than two years – and with local stakeholders CSX Transportation, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, ESM School District, and the Town of Manlius – to secure support from NYS DOT to reduce our local truck traffic via a direct connection from Route 481 at the Kirkville Road exits directly into the CSX railyards. I will update you on this as soon as more details are available.

To see my most recent Letter to the Editor regarding the lawsuit, go to: <https://cms8.revize.com/revize/dewittny/FINAL%20Nov.%202022%20I-81%20Letter%20to%20the%20Editor.pdf>.

For links to the documentation and data submitted to New York State, go to: <https://www.townofdewitt.com/departments/supervisor/i-81.php>

Update: Town Marijuana Law

In 2021 the sale of marijuana became legal in New York State. As such, the Town of DeWitt will be allowing the sale of marijuana at appropriate retail businesses. With regard to allowable locations within the Town of DeWitt, we are reviewing town codes – which we plan to monitor and regulate strictly – to determine regulations for on premise use (commonly referred to as marijuana "lounges") of marijuana and marijuana products.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Update: Carrier Park

Our Carrier Park Recreation facility hosted Girls Softball and Boys Baseball tournaments last Fall, as well as scrimmage games, double headers, and little league rentals. Our thanks to all of the teams competing this Fall, with special congratulations to Girls 12u softball “Apple Classic” winning team CNY Monsters, Boys 11u baseball “Octobefrenzy” winning team Academy Baseball, Boys 12u baseball “Octoberfrenzy” winning team Sportszone, and Girls 12u softball “Boo Bash” winning team CNY Monsters!

Carrier Park hosted some 20 tournaments in 2022, both hometown and CNY teams; plus, Section III semi-final and final softball playoff games for all classes, and of course the 2022 NJCAA Division III Women’s Softball Championship Tournament; **we will host this exciting best-of-the-best women’s NJCAA championship tournament again this May 25th – 27th!**



Carrier Park is not only a “quality of life” recreational facility intended to serve the DeWitt community; it is also an economic development engine we are incrementally expanding year to year. Tournaments hosted at Carrier Park generate sports tourism spending – hotels, retail, restaurant, entertainment, and fuel dollars – and that supports the Town of DeWitt, as well as the whole of Onondaga County.

As we have relayed to you in past newsletters, based on Visit Syracuse data in a marketing report by Venue Strategies for the Town, with just 14 multi-day weekend events, Carrier Park will generate an incremental annual hotel revenue of \$945,000; an equivalent of \$200,000 in sales tax revenues, and \$66,150 in annual Room Occupancy Tax to Onondaga County, as well as a total business benefit in excess of \$5,000,000 annually.

Tournaments like the NJCAA Women’s Softball Championship, “build community” for the Town of DeWitt by providing hotel, retail, restaurant, entertainment, and fuel dollars to local businesses, as well as park business.

NEW! 2023 NJCAA Women’s Softball Championship Tournament, May 25th-27th

Carrier Park really is...more than you think! Our own Town of DeWitt Carrier Park facility will once again host the National Junior College Division III Women’s Softball Championship May 25th to the 27th.

Last year, teams from as far away as North Dakota and Illinois faced off against teams from Corning, Herkimer, and the Bronx. The Rock Valley Golden Eagles of Rockford, Illinois, seven-time champions of Division III, secured the championship once again – for a history-making eighth time – with a final score of 9 to 2.

This year however, Rock Valley has moved up to Division II; so, we look forward to an exciting and competitive series this year with every team vying for the championship that was held for so long by the Golden Eagles.

Please consider coming out to Carrier Park to watch these superb athletes, they are the best-of-the-best! Moreover, the athleticism of these young women is matched by the energy, comradery, and joy they bring to the field. As one player said, “This was the best five days of my life!” There will be plenty of fun and food, too.



Syracuse Challenger Baseball 2023

Dom Cambareri, Executive Director

Our own Carrier Park is the proud home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball Program; Syracuse Challenger is one of the largest and oldest single district Little League programs for special needs children and young adults in the country.

Challenger continues to celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2023. Executive Director Dom Cambareri is excited to share Syracuse Challenger is being considered – one of just two teams under consideration – to be invited to participate in the 2023 Little League International Challenger Division World Series Exhibition.

The World Series Exhibition will be held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania in August 2023. The two teams to participate in this exciting event will be announced in January 2023, so stay tuned!



New! Carrier Park Sign New Electronic Sign at Carrier Park

The Town of DeWitt has a new electronic sign at our Carrier Park Recreation facility, next to the Carrier Corp. campus. A big thank you to our highway and parks crews for constructing and installing the sign, including landscaping. To rent the Carrier Park sign, contact the Recreation Dept. at (315) 446-3910, ext. 9.

The Town now has 3 electronic signs available to rent by community groups and other organizations: Bishop Grimes, central DeWitt (across from the DeWitt Fire Station at the juncture of East Genesee St. & Erie Blvd.) and now also Carrier Park. To rent the central DeWitt or Bishop Grimes sign, go to: https://www.townofdewitt.com/departments/recreation/community_sign_rental.php



Carrier Park All-Inclusive Playground, Basketball Courts, Pavilion & Concession

All facilities at Carrier Park will open to the public during the day and early evenings May through October. Concessions are open for games, tournaments, and town events. To rent the pavilion at Carrier Park, please call the Recreation Dept. at (315) 446-3910, ext. 9

Carrier Park is Building Community

Carrier Park serves the quality of life not only of DeWitt residents, but also of the greater community. For more information about the potential economic benefits of Carrier Park, an overview of the project, as well the ways in which you can become a “Carrier Park Partner” and support this community asset providing DeWitt vital economic development opportunities via sports tourism dollars, go to: <https://cms8.revize.com/revize/dewittcarrierpark/about/UPDATED%2012.10.21C.P%20MKTG.%20INSERT.pdf>
Or, go to: <https://cms8.revize.com/revize/dewittcarrierpark/Sponsorship.pdf>

Are you a Carrier Park Partner?

Please consider becoming a “Carrier Park Partner.” Our state-of-the-art, all inclusive, multi-sport recreation facility for children and adults needs **your** partnership, go to: <https://cms8.revize.com/revize/dewittcarrierpark/Sponsorship.pdf>



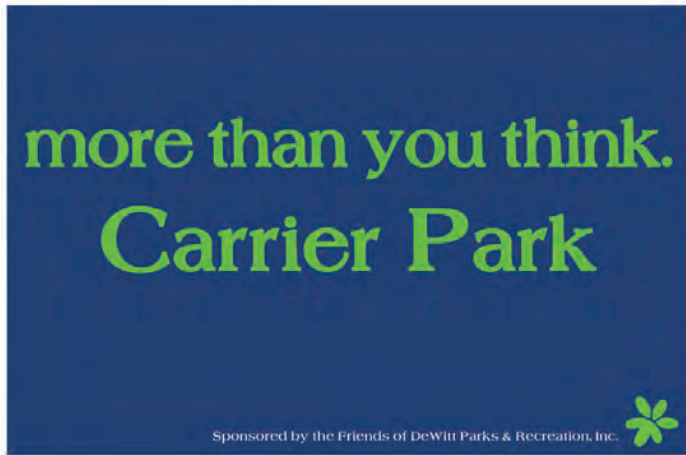
Update: Booking Carrier Park 2023

To book tournaments at Carrier Park, or with questions, please contact our Carrier Park Partner, Salt City Sports at: <https://www.saltcitysports.org/> or call (315) 256-8344

To book fields at Maxwell or Carrier Park, or with questions, contact Salt City Sports at: <https://www.saltcitysports.org/contact-us>

Carrier Park Events:

If you are interested in hosting an event – personal, company or corporate, community fundraising, etc. – please email us at: recreation@townofdewitt.com, or call (315) 446-3910, ext. 9



How can you support Carrier Park?

Carrier Park Lawn Signs

You can support our award-winning, multi-sport recreation facility right now by purchasing a couple of Carrier Park “**more than you think**” lawn signs. Just \$10, lawn signs are available at the Town Hall Recreation Office, 2nd floor.

A sign on your front lawn – or at your business – shows neighbors, colleagues, and passing motorists you are a part of “building community” by supporting Carrier Park; your contribution supports future park development.

For more information about Carrier Park, download a PDF at: <https://cms8.revize.com/revize/dewittcarrierpark/about/UPDATED%2012.10.21C.P%20MKTG.%20INSERT.pdf>

Syracuse Bottle & Can Return

East Syracuse Bottle & Can Return, located on East Manlius Street right next to the Thrifty Shopper in the Village of East Syracuse will accept your returnables and donate the proceeds to Carrier Park, home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program.

Update: Shoppingtown

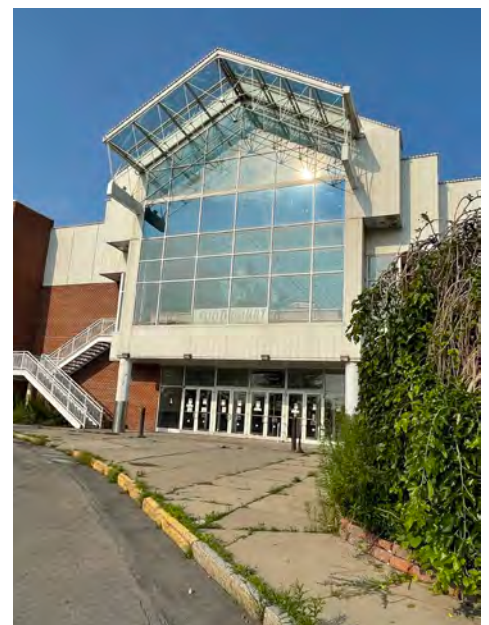
The Town is working directly with the developers of the Shoppingtown project. We are reviewing preliminary plans to ensure this highly visible and valuable central DeWitt commercial property – like all of our commercial properties – is redeveloped into a vibrant, profitable commercial center that will strongly support our tax base and our residents in both the short and long term.

The development team – Hueber-Breuer, DalPos Architects, Redev CNY, and Housing Visions – continues to seek acquisition of the Sears and Macy’s properties in order to move forward with the project. The Town has not been advised as to a timetable. As soon as we are made aware of important details, we will pass that information on to you.

A well-balanced mixed-use project at this pivotal location would allow seniors and other residents to live, worship, work, eat, shop, and recreate “right at home.” They would live within easy walking distance of Marshalls Plaza, Erie Blvd., as well as Ryder, Cedar Bay, and Butternut Creek Parks, the Erie Canalway Trail, and also the shops and businesses at the convergence of East Genesee Street and Jamesville Road.

Our own “Elevating Erie” project is an essential component of the Shoppingtown redevelopment. The Erie Boulevard corridor must provide safe routes for walkers, runners, and cyclists to enjoy all central DeWitt has to offer. As you may have observed, New York State completed the installation of new sidewalks along Erie Boulevard in late fall of last year, as well as repaving sections of the road from Bridge Street down to East Genesee Street.

The Elevating Erie walkway and greenspace within the median of Erie Boulevard, as well as extending sidewalks on both sides of the boulevard down to East Genesee Street – when the new plan for the former Shoppingtown mall property is well underway – will



strongly support our goal of a safe and “connected” commercial district.

We are also working with NYS DOT to continue the Elevating Erie center median greenspace – which now stops at Bridge Street – down to East Genesee Street. The extension will provide walkers and cyclists easy access to the myriad of stores, shops, and restaurants at the junction of Jamesville Road and East Genesee Street. DeWitt town government – and our planning and zoning staff and Board – recognize that in terms of both economic well-being and quality of life, Mom & Pop and boutique brick & mortar businesses are as integral to “building community” and economic stability as major companies.

Update: Elevating Erie - What’s Next?

As mentioned in the information above regarding the proposed Shoppingtown development project, we are planning to install new sidewalks on both sides of Erie Boulevard down to East Genesee Street when the new development of the Shoppingtown property moves forward. We also look forward to continuing with the planning stages of the Widewaters Pond component of the Elevating Erie project in 2023.

As outlined in previous newsletters, the Widewaters Pond Park – a large greenspace situated at the intersection of Erie Boulevard and Bridge Street – will feature trails, water fountains, benches and multi-colored, decorative lighting.

Erie Boulevard is an essential business district in the town, a key “connector” corridor in our community. As such, we want to ensure it is “pedestrian friendly.” Connecting residents and those who work on Erie Boulevard to our parks, greenspaces, and trail systems aligns with our ongoing goal of maximizing greenspace and creating safe pedestrian “link ups” all across the Town of DeWitt.

Elevating Erie is an on-going “building community” project for the Town of DeWitt; it is also a part of the Empire State Trail, which provides much needed economic development opportunities for our community, neighboring communities, tourism, business, the environment, and the overall economy of both Onondaga County and New York State.

For more information about Elevating Erie, go to:
Elevating Erie Video: <http://www.elevatingerie.com/spanning-the-gap-video>
Empire State Trail: <https://www.ny.gov/programs/empire-state-trail>

INSIDE TOWN HALL

New! Town Staff

We’re building community inside Town Hall, too with several new staff members: Kevin Hennessy, Clerk 1 in Planning & Zoning, Vicki Mihou, Clerk 1 in the Water Department, Kate Werner, Deputy Town Clerk in the Town Clerk’s Office, John Monaghan, Water Supervisor in the Water Department, and Tim Ganey, Code Enforcement Officer.



New! Planning & Zoning Staff

Welcome to Kevin Hennessy. Kevin is originally from Manlius; he graduated from F-M in 2010 and attended SUNY Oswego for undergrad, majoring in Public Relations. After college, Kevin worked in the commercial real estate industry, first in marketing for Anderson Partners and Longley Jones, then appraisal work for Cushman & Wakefield. Kevin also does freelance drone photography/ videography work.



New! Recreation Department Staff

Also, please join me in welcoming Brannndon Inman and Sandra Elsey to the Recreation Department. Brannndon comes to us from Oneida Nation Recreation and Sandy from the Village of Marcellus. For more information about Brannndon and Sandy, please see page 35.

Communications Build Community

Update: Town of DeWitt Website

Please be sure to sign up for email and/or text notifications on the Town website; help us better connect to you with important information, as well as meeting dates, special events, newsletters, before and after school and day camp updates, programming additions and changes, town hall closings, and seasonal and services news. For more information, go to: https://www.townofdewitt.com/e_notify/index.php



Sign up for RecDesk!

Receive Recreation news, announcements, classes & events like Trunk or Treat! Go to: <https://townofdewitt.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pageId=15974>



Rent a Town Sign

The Town now has 3 electronic signs available to rent by community groups and other organizations:

- Bishop Grimes
- Central DeWitt, across from the DeWitt Fire Station at the juncture of East Genesee St. & Erie Blvd.
- In addition, now also...Carrier Park.

To rent the Carrier Park sign, contact the Recreation Dept. at (315) 446-3910, ext. 9.

To rent the central DeWitt or Bishop Grimes sign, go to: https://www.townofdewitt.com/departments/recreation/community_sign_rental.php

Plus! We now also have Water Alerts:

https://www.townofdewitt.com/e_notify/index.php

Update: Town Board Meetings

The Town Board continues to hold meetings in-person and via Zoom. We also broadcast via Facebook. For more information, go to: https://cms8.revize.com/revize/dewittny/government/dewitt_town_board/index.php

Town of DeWitt Recreation

Upcoming fun!

- Holiday Photo Contest 1/8
- DeWitt Recipe Book 1/9
 - Sled Fest 2/11
- Father/Daughter Dance 2/18
 - April Break Camp 2/21-2/24
 - Mini Sports Camp 2/21-2/24
- Summer Day Camp Registration 2/27
- Bunny Breakfast & Egg Hunt 4/1
- Mother /Son Dance 4/8
- Summer Concert Series
- Town of DeWitt Farmers Market
- Year round Senior Programs
 - Monthly Food \$en\$e Menus

More fun to come!



Father Daughter Candy Land Dance!



Saturday, February 11

Dewitt Community Room

First Dance: 5:00P - 7:00P

Second Dance: 7:30P - 9:30P

\$15.00/Dancer



EVERYONE IS INVITED!



EASTER BUNNY BRUNCH AND EGG HUNT!

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Ryder Park at DeWitt Town Hall

11AM

\$10.00/participant



Office of the Assessor

Al Kerr, Assessor

The Assessor's office is now processing exemption forms for the 2023-2024 tax bills.

- All exemption renewal forms were mailed out at the end of October 2022. These forms must be completed and returned to our office **by March 1st 2023**, at the latest.

If you are filing for a senior citizen exemption, we will need a signed copy of your 2021 Federal Tax Return.

- If you do not file a tax return, we will need a copy of all year-end statements you receive for the 2021 tax year. These would be Social Security, pension, interest, dividends, etc.
- If you are applying for the senior exemption for the first time, you must turn 65 by the end of 2023.
- Applications can be picked up at our office or downloaded online: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp467_fill_in.pdf
- Please contact our office, (315)-446-3910, ext. 8 if you have any questions when you receive your renewal.

If you would prefer a family member or designated third party representative to receive your Exemption Renewal forms in order to ensure you renew promptly each year:

- Please contact the Assessor's office at (315)-446-3910, ext. 8.
- A change of address form will be required.
- Once the change of address goes into effect, **all Town of Dewitt mailings** will then go to the designated representative or family member.
- Change of address forms can be downloaded from the Town website or picked up at the Assessor's office.

The STAR exemption process has had several changes made by New York State over the past few years.

- **For New Homeowners Only:** If you purchased your home after March 1st 2015, you will no longer apply for the Basic or Enhanced STAR exemption at our office, you will need to apply through the State for the STAR Credit program.



You can apply online at www.tax.ny.gov or call at (518)-457-2036.

- **For Enhanced STAR exemptions:** Anyone on the **Basic STAR Exemption** that is turning 65 by the end of 2023, will have to pick up or download an application for the Enhanced STAR and IVP Program and submit it with proof of age and your 2021 federal tax return.
- To qualify, your adjusted gross income for 2021 must be under \$93,200 and turn 65 by December 31st 2023. You do not need to be 65 by March 1st, which is the deadline to apply.
- You can also switch to the **STAR Credit** which is a check that is mailed by New York State to property owners instead of a deduction off of your school tax bill.
- In 2019, the State froze the STAR exemption level, and the Enhanced STAR Credit is now about \$80 more than the STAR Exemption for the Enhanced portion of the program.

All Exemptions MUST be in our office no later than March 1st 2023.

- Any exemption forms received after that date, the exemption will be denied.
- For Senior Citizen and Disability, you will need to provide us with your 2021 income information.
- If you file a tax return, we will need a copy of that. If you do not file a tax return, we will need all year-end income statements, including Social Security.
- For Disability, as well as Veterans Disability, we require a current Award letter.
- **Be sure to return all renewal applications by March 1st 2023.**

To contact our office with any questions the number is (315) 446-0973 ext. 8

Office of the Town Clerk/Tax Receiver

Angela Epolito, Town Clerk/Tax Receiver

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: (315)446-3910 ext. 2

Email: clerk@townofdewitt.com

The Town Clerk's office is excited to introduce our new Deputy Clerk, Kate Werner. Kate is a DeWitt resident who loves dogs and is always happy when you bring your pup in for a visit – and always happy to help our customers and residents!

We hope you had a great autumn and enjoyed your holidays! The Town Clerk's office is open to assist you with any Town issues. Below is relevant information regarding common services:

Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, agendas, and minutes can be found online at: <https://ecode360.com/documents/pub/DE0337/Minutes/>.

Credit Card Payments

The Town Clerk's office is now accepting Credit Cards for in-person payments. You can also make online credit, debit, or electronic check payments for the Clerk, Tax or Water departments. All online and in-person credit and debit card payments are charged a merchant fee; the fees go directly to the merchant, a third-party processor, and are not retained by the Town.

Parking Permits for People with Severe Disabilities

Parking permits or hangtags, are issued to Town residents who meet New York State requirements. Application forms are available at the Town Clerk's office, can be mailed to the applicant, or found online at <https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv6641.pdf>. Please note: A new application form signed by a medical provider needs to be filled out **each time** a hangtag is issued or re-issued. Applicants must show their drivers' license or non-drivers' license ID if they have one.

Pay your Dog License Online

You may renew & pay for your dog license(s) online at: <https://dogs.egov.basgov.com/Dogs/Search?munirecid=148> by using your Credit Card, Debit Card, or Electronic Check. There is a convenience fee added to allow for this online service.

Please keep in mind you will first need to contact the Town Clerk's office if the rabies certificate is expired.

2023 Town & County Tax Bills

Tax payments can be paid in person, by mail, Dropbox, or online. Please include the **entire bill** when submitting your payment so a receipt can then be returned to you. If a payment is made online through the Onondaga County website, there is a merchant fee; these merchant fees go directly to the merchant, a third-party processor and are not retained by the Town.

The Tax Office will be open on special hours: Saturday, January 28, 2023, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm for Town & County tax bill collection.

The 2023 Town & County tax bills are mailed at the end of December 2022. If you do not receive your tax bill, please call our office at (315) 446-3910 x 2. You can also print a copy of your tax bill, print previous tax receipts, and pay your taxes by e-check or credit card directly from the Onondaga County website at:

<https://onondaga.go2gov.net/faces/searchBySitusAddress.jsp>.

The link above will allow you to search by property address, or if you wish to search by tax map number, you can select "New Property Search".

After you locate your property, click on the **Tax Map Number**. From there you can view your tax bill, previous payments, or print receipts, all located directly above "Ownership Information" (View is shown below.)

Onondaga County Department of Finance

Real Property Tax Services

421 Montgomery Street, 15th Fl.
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315)435-2426

Tax information for properties located in the City of Syracuse can be found [here](#) or by calling (315) 448-8310.

MENU

- Home
- Research Taxes
- Assessment Search (SDG Image Mate)

NEW PROPERTY SEARCH | SEARCH RESULTS | **RECEIPTS** | PAYMENTS | VIEW TAX BILL

OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

Tax Map Number	Owner Name	Mailing Address
312689014.-03-10.1	TOWN OF DEWITT	ATTN: HIGHWAY DEPT 5400 BUTTERNUT DR E SYRACUSE, NY 13057

Town of DeWitt Police Department

Chase L. Bilodeau, Chief of Police

Officer Receives Onondaga County Award

In October of 2022, Officer James Dean of the DeWitt Police Department was presented the Aggressive Criminal Enforcement Award at the Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board's Annual Awards Ceremony.



This award is presented to a law enforcement officer in Onondaga County whose traffic stop(s) led to the arrest of a suspect or the solution of a crime. The award's purpose is to highlight the importance of traffic enforcement as an effective crime-fighting tool.

Officer Dean was awarded this honor for multiple traffic stops that resulted in the criminal arrest of specific individuals to include:

- Arrests of suspects and the recovery of multiple stolen vehicles.
- Out of state fugitives.
- An individual wanted for kidnapping, weapons and drug charges.

Scam Prevention:

The DeWitt Police Department would like to remind the community that scammers are out there and are actively trying to obtain your information for financial gain.

There are several signs that indicate you may be dealing with a scammer. Always remember, if something does not seem right to you, you can always hang up or walk away; scammers often want you to make quick decisions without thinking about it.

Slow down, do your own research about the offer, or consult someone you trust. Here are some common warning signs of a scam:

- Calling or emailing you and claiming to be from the government; asking you to pay money or asking for your personal information (Date of Birth, Social Security Number, etc).

- Text messages claiming to be your bank or financial institution.
- Asking you to wire them money, send money by courier, or put money on a prepaid card and send it to them.
- Asking for access to your ATM cards, bank accounts, credit cards, or investment accounts.
- Asking you to pay up front to receive a prize or gift.

For more information about protecting yourself from scams/fraud:

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/fraud/>

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center
<https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

If you have been victimized by a scam, call 911.

Highway Department

Rocco Conte, Highway Superintendent

Notes from Superintendent Conte:



During the 2022 construction season, the Highway Department resurfaced and repaved over 12 miles of road/streets. The department has rebuilt and refurbished over 175 catch basins and storm sewers, as well as replaced many feet of drainage pipe and dug many ditches in order to keep the storm water system flowing freely!

The 2022 Brush Season has ended now and we have recycled to OCCRA & Clifton Recycling many thousands of cubic yards of yard waste (tree limbs & brush).

Over the next few months, plows will be in your neighborhoods clearing up the snow. Please have patience and consideration for our plow drivers during these winter months as they keep the roads cleared for everyone. This includes making sure cars are not parked in the street from 2:00am thru 6:00am so that the plows may clear the streets.

We will also continue to upgrade street signs, tend to asphalt repairs, water breaks, and potholes as they occur.

We want to thank the community for their support and we continue to be available to assist with any concerns you may have.

Rocco P. Conte

Snowplow Tips & Information

Staking Lawn

If you are concerned about the possibility of your lawn incurring damage from snowplows, we encourage you to stake your lawn so our plow drivers will be aware of the lawn's boundaries/edges and we can do our best not to damage the lawn. Staking your lawn greatly supports our plow drivers.



To better support our plow drivers, please keep the information below in mind through the Winter months:

- Plow routes within the Town take an average of 4 hours to complete; the drivers typically start around 3:30 AM.
- It is illegal to pass a vehicle using the shoulder of the road.
- **Don't crowd the plow**, please give them room to work; the plows are wide and may cross the centerline or shoulder.
- **Don't tailgate and try not to pass**; if you must pass, take extreme caution.
- **Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit**; please be patient.
- **A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted**; you may see them, but they may not see you.
- Please stay a safe distance behind the snowplow.
- Always keep your distance behind the plow and watch for **sudden stops, turns and backing up**.
- On multiple lane roads, watch for snowplows operating in **either** lane.
- Snowplows often throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you have to react; **never drive into a snow cloud - it could conceal a snowplow**.
- **Be aware of the extreme danger of snow tunnels built along the roadside, or in snow storage areas**; plow drivers cannot see children playing inside them and the force of additional snow accumulating may cause cave-ins.

Christmas Tree Collection

There is no set schedule.

- *The Town will collect Christmas trees **during the month of January**.*
- *Place your tree at the curb; the highway department will pick them up.*
- **No plastic bags, metal, lights, tinsel, tree stand, or ornaments on the tree.**



Wreath Disposal

How can I dispose of a wreath? Take the wreath apart. **NO METAL in the GREENERY**. You can put the greenery curbside with a Christmas tree or put it out in the spring with other lawn debris. The support structure can be disposed of in the trash or recycling depending upon what the material is.

Overnight Parking

Overnight parking (between the hours of 2:00am and 6:00am) on streets and roadways is prohibited in the Town of DeWitt from November 1st through April 1st. This regulation is not weather dependent or suspended during vacations.

If you see cars parked overnight, please report to Dewitt Police at 315-449-3650.

Mailbox Repair

Check your mailboxes before the snow flies to make sure they are stable.

As a courtesy, the Highway Department will assist with mailbox repair **if a Town Of Dewitt snow plow has hit the mailbox or post**. Please call the Highway Dept. at 315-437-8331 to report mailbox damage as soon as you notice an issue; we will visit the site as soon as the weather allows.

The Town **will not** make repairs to mailboxes which are unable to withstand the force of **snow or that are improperly installed**.

Also, mailbox posts that have rotted due to Mother Nature's influence, as well those that have been struck by other vehicles (esp. Private Snow Plow Contractors), are the responsibility of the homeowner. The Town is not responsible for replacing designer boxes, posts, or any style of newspaper boxes. (If you have such a mailbox, you may want to consider removing it for the winter months and replacing it with a standard box). **Contact your post office to make temporary arrangements for mail service.**

Pothole Repair

On Town streets, contact the highway department 437-8331. The "hole" will be temporarily repaired and placed on a list for permanent repair in the Spring. Please check the list of streets on the next page to make sure it is a Town road. If it falls under New York State DOT or County Roads, please call the corresponding phone numbers.

Yard Waste

2022 Brush Pickup ended in October. Placing brush and lawn debris curbside - outside of the established schedule - is a violation of Town code. **Please call Codes Enforcement to report this violation at 315-446-3910, ext 3.** These piles are a safety hazard; they interfere with the storm water system and are unsightly.

The 2023 brush and yard debris schedule will be available on the Town's website and in the Spring Newsletter.

New York State Roads:

Listing of New York State Streets/Roads within the Town
1-800-POTHOLE (1-800-768-4653)

- Route 5:** also referred to as **Erie Boulevard**
- Route 92:** also referred to as **E. Genesee St.**, and/or **Highbridge Road, or Lyndon Corners**
- New Court Avenue:** also referred to as Rt. 598
- North Midler Avenue** to Rt. 298
- Route 481**
- Route 173:** also referred to as **Seneca Turnpike**
- Route 290:** (also referred to as **James St., West Manlius St., Manlius Center Rd. or Bridge St.**)
- Route 298:** also referred to as **Collamer Road**
- Route 690**
- Route 90:** NYS Thruway
- Route 635:** is referred to as **Thompson Road, (Erie Blvd. to Carrier Circle)**

Onondaga County roads:

Listing of Onondaga County Roads within the Town
315-435-5452

- Barker Hill Road**
- Jamesville Road** also called **North Street.**
- Kimber Road**
- Gates Road**
- Nottingham Road**
- Quintard Road**
- Rockcut Road:** also called **Jamesville Toll Road**
- Route 91:** also called **Pompey Road**
- South Street:** also called **Apulia Road**
- Tecumseh Road**
- Exeter Street**
- Fly Road**
- Franklin Park Drive**
- Hartwell Avenue**
- James Street:** Section from Kinne Road to West Manlius Street
- Kinne Street:** James to Rt. 298 / 298 to Molloy Road
- Kirkville Road**
- Molloy Road**
- New Venture Gear Drive**

Northern Boulevard

Taft Road

Thompson Road (Carrier Circle to Malloy Road)

Townline Road (edge of the Town of Salina)

West Manlius Street

Water Department

Mathew Reynolds, Superintendent

John Monaghan, Water Supervisor

The Town of DeWitt's new **WATER ALERTS** feature allows you to check on the status of a water main break in your area – including estimated restoration times – by connecting to the Town of DeWitt website; go to the Water Department main page, click on the **WATER ALERTS** heading at the top of the left hand column under "Related Pages."

Given last Winter's frequent temperature fluctuations – from low to high and back again – this new feature has been helpful for residents, businesses, and our Water Department staff working in the field.

Over the last few weeks, we have been performing scheduled water tank maintenance: pressure washing, sand blasting, and painting. We thank you for your patience during this time.

If you are selling your home or business, please contact the Water Department **prior** to the sale. The department must transfer accounts and generate a final water bill for the seller. Your assistance in this regard allows us to keep accurate records and makes your sale – or purchase – easier for everyone.

The Water Department does not process bill payments; the Town Clerk's Office (located directly across from the Water Dept. on the 2nd floor of Town Hall) processes Water payments. Your payment can be:

- Mailed to the Town of DeWitt Water District, 5400 Butternut Dr., East Syracuse, NY 13057
- Placed in the Dropbox to the left of the Town Hall entrance; there are envelopes provided on the front of the Dropbox.
- Paid in-person at Town Hall during regular business hours; credit cards are accepted for in-person payments, see below.*
- Paid via the Xpress Pay online link under "Related Pages" on the left hand column of the Water Dept. main page of the website.

Thank you from the Water Department.

*Please note, all online and in-person credit and debit card payments are charged a merchant fee; the fees go directly to the merchant, a third-party processor, and are not retained by the Town.

DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission (DACC)

Dennis Payne, Chair

Save the date!

In the interests of planning ahead, the Town of DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission's participation in the Annual Earth Day Clean Up will take place on **Saturday, April 22, 2023.**

Although the ground may be covered with snow right now, there's lots of litter lurking under that frost! Please write the date down somewhere, so you don't forget! We're very much looking forward to coming together as a community to clean up our Town environment.

As always, our hosting locations will be the Ryder Park pavilion at Town Hall and Robbie T's Pizza in Jamesville. People usually get to one of those spots around 9:00am and we usually wrap things up by 12:00 noon. We will provide safety vests, garbage bags, and OCRRA stickers. Please bring work gloves, dress for the weather and to protect from ticks, which are very active in April. We will clean up, rain or shine.

I strongly encourage families – neighbors - to participate and bring the kids. Earth Day Clean Up is a great way for children to have hands-on experience working together in community and caring for their environment.

Our Earth Day Clean Up has become a great event for many organizations throughout town, who use the

activity to build unity within their own groups. Some folks who have participated during the last several years are the Bell Home Group (Widewater Parkway), Holy Cross Church (Erie Blvd near Bridge Street) and the Jamesville-DeWitt Boys Modified Lacrosse team (multiple areas around Jamesville). You may want to form a group, large or small, and identify a spot in DeWitt that you think should be cleaned up. Many people also work with a few family members, co-workers, or even individually; it is always a fun and friendly event and everyone who volunteers with us will be helping to keep our community clean.

A common question people have is, "I'd like to help but I'm busy on April 22nd." This situation is easily resolved. In such a case, please contact Dennis Payne directly at (315) 469-0565 or paynedennis1@gmail.com. Arrangements will be made so that you can receive necessary supplies for clean-up at another time.

Please, please, please help us "build community" and make our community more attractive.

Thanks,

Dennis Payne

Chair, Town of DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission (DACC)



The Town of DeWitt...we're building community.

DeWitt Tree Committee Helps the Library Plant a Tree

In September 2022, the Tree Committee and Town Supervisor Ed Michalenko celebrated Arbor Day by planting a new tree at the Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville. The Town partners with the Arbor Day Foundation to plant and maintain our beautiful canopy of trees along Town roads, in parks,



on trails, and public spaces; once a tree is planted however, the work is not done! New trees need watering their first year, ties and stakes removed their second year, pruning to "train" them for the growing conditions during the next three years, and protection from lawn mowers and weed trimmers until they have been in the ground 4-5 years. Be kind to your young trees and they will give you decades of shade and beauty in return!



The Town of DeWitt...we're building community.

Town of DeWitt Budget 2023

Ed Michalenko, Ph.D., Town Supervisor

The Town budget is approximately \$20 million dollars per year; roughly 75% of the budget must go to labor costs – maintaining the workforce for Police, Courts, Highway, Water, Parks, Recreation, Planning and Zoning, and the offices of Assessor, Comptroller, Clerk and Tax Receiver – the services residents and businesses rely on every day.

Fortunately, over the last 15 years our Town budget has only increased at an annual average rate of 1.5% per year. As such, we have met the New York State Tax Cap since its inception in 2012; every town and village in New York State, including the Town of DeWitt, is required to keep their annual budget below the Governor's 2% Tax Cap unless the Town or Village Board votes to pass a local law that overrides the 2% cap.

What you may not know, is that for every property tax dollar you pay, only 15 cents goes to the Town of DeWitt; of the remainder, 50 cents goes to your school district and 35 cents to Onondaga County.

Given the low growth of our CNY economy since the Great Recession, maintaining the Governor's Tax Cap for the past 10 years has served our residents and businesses well. This year however, due to the cumulative economic challenges caused by a prolonged pandemic – inflation and soaring prices, especially for fuel – and the volatility of the economy, the Town Board and I voted to break the Tax Cap for the 2023 budget. As such, the tax levy for 2023 is 7%; the tax rate has decreased by just under 1.5%.

Just like you and your family, over the past two – almost three – years, the Town has navigated inflated prices on everything from health insurance to fuel. Our highway and police departments cannot fulfill their duties without fuel; as such, we are unable to economize on many of the most significant – and essential – expenses in our budget. These factors, combined with an average budget increase of only 1.5 % for the last 15 years, meant we needed to seriously consider budgeting above the Governor's 2% Tax Cap for 2023.

After a careful and comprehensive review of our costs across the board, we determined the only way to stay below the 2% Tax Cap in 2023 would be to institute layoffs, a choice we do not feel we can make for myriad reasons. Moreover, as we looked to the 2023 budget it became clear, in order to meet a significant increase in demand for service, our community needs two additional officers in our Police Department.

It may surprise you to know the DeWitt Police Dept. has the third highest calls for service in Onondaga County; the highest calls for service occur with the Syracuse Police Department first, followed by the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, with the Town of DeWitt ranking third.

Our officers answered 24,178 calls for service from January 1 to November 1, 2022. Of that total, 7923 were traffic related.

While we are indeed fortunate to have many lovely and safe neighborhoods all across the Town of DeWitt – with beautiful parks and trails – we also have the largest portion of industrially zoned land in Onondaga County. In addition, our community stretches over almost 35 square miles, with 129 miles of roads within our borders. Moreover, as you know well, we also have several busy commercial districts within the Town, as well as direct access to the interstates and the NYS Thruway.

We also serve as a "pass through" community; approximately 100,000 commuters – who do not live in the Town of DeWitt – drive through our community every weekday. Per the information above, we had 5744 traffic stops, 1271 vehicle collisions, 516 disabled vehicles, 316 parking violations, and 76 stolen vehicles from January 1st through November 1st of last year. The Town also includes NYS Thruway exits

that require significant law enforcement intervention. In order to ensure our community remains safe, functional, and easy to navigate – in order to meet the needs of both residents and businesses – a well-trained, robust police force is critical.

Over the last 15 years, we have taken every opportunity to consolidate, downsize, and secure grant funding.

- Every department, with the exception of the Police Department, has decreased in size since 2007.
- We consolidated the Town Clerk and Tax Receiver's offices and also the Highway and Parks departments.
- We merged the DeWitt and Village of East Syracuse Police departments.
- We have received in excess of \$3 million in grants for myriad town projects – from Carrier Park and trail work, to Hydrogen Energy Projects and ADA compliant bathrooms – plus, our \$5 million Town Solar Array.

Also, some folks may not be aware, the stimulus funds the Town received from the Biden administration's American Stimulus Plan, can only be used for infrastructure projects; those funds are not available to help us make up for our \$750,000 deficit.

Please note, while you may hear of local property "tax rates" being lowered for 2023, be aware that most homeowners across the county may in fact end up paying the same – or more – in taxes in 2023 due to the steep rise in home prices and therefore, the corresponding increase in your home's assessed value.

As an example, our 2022 Town tax rate was \$5.11 per thousand. If your home was valued at \$170,000 in 2022, you paid approximately \$870 in Town property taxes. In 2023, the Town tax rate has been reduced to \$5.04 per thousand – but your home's assessed value may now be up to \$200,000 – therefore, you will pay approximately \$1008 in Town property taxes. In this example, although the Town "tax rate" per thousand has decreased, your home's value has increased by \$30,000, so you will pay more.

My sincere thanks to the Budget Committee – Deputy Supervisor Kerry Mannion, Police Chief Chase Bilodeau, Superintendent Rocco Conte, Comptroller Kerrie Fusco, Town Clerk Angela Epolito, bookkeeper to the Supervisor Melissa Rutter, and Town Board members Jack Dooling and Max Ruckdeschel – for their patience, hard work, and dedication to the budget and therefore to the whole of the DeWitt community.

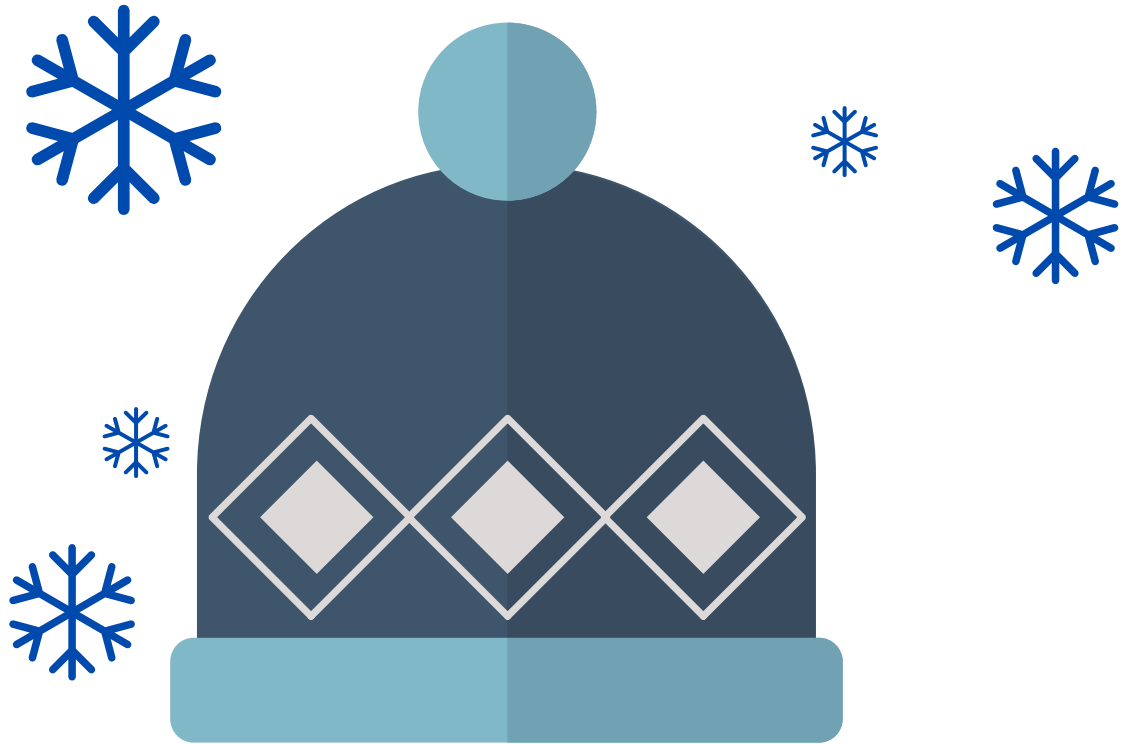
My thanks also to you for supporting us to continue to "build community" here in DeWitt despite the challenges of the last few years. Your volunteer time and energy on committees, commissions, and special events – voicing your concerns and sharing your ideas – are key to why the Town of DeWitt continues to be a highly desirable place to live, worship, learn, work, shop and play.

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and this New Year brings you and yours health, well-being, and prosperity.

Most sincerely,
Edward M. Michalenko, Supervisor



The Town of DeWitt...we're building community.



FE BURR ARY BREAK CAMP 2023

REGISTRATION

JANUARY 3

\$175-Resident

\$200-Non-Resident

CAMP DATES:

FEBRUARY 21-24

8AM-5PM

DeWitt Community Room

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION COMING SOON!

SIGN UP WITH RECDESK ACCOUNT OR COME SEE US!

Senior Activity Groups

**DeWitt
Community Center**

**Trinity Fellowship
Center**

**Young-at-Heart
Jamesville Center**

**148 Sanders Creek Pkwy
East Syracuse, NY 13057
315-446-3910 EXT: 9**

**1235 Old Stonehouse Rd
Jamesville, NY 13078
315-446-3910 EXT: 9**

**6661 E Seneca Tpke
Jamesville, NY 13078
315-446-3910 EXT: 9**

**Tuesday: 9:30a-2:30p
Wednesday: 9:30a-2:30p**

Monday: 9:00a-3:00p

**Tuesday: 9:00a-2:00p
Wednesday: 9:00a-12:30p**

1. **CARD PLAYING**
 - a. **PITCH**
 - b. **BRIDGE**
2. **P.E.A.C.E.**
 - a. **NUTRITION LUNCH SITE**
3. **HYPERTENSION SCREENING**
4. **MOBILE LIBRARY**
5. **FREE**

1. **MIXED MEDIA ART**
 - a. **WATERCOLOR**
 - b. **DRAWING**
 - c. **CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING**
 - d. **AND MORE!**
2. **HYPERTENSION SCREENING**
3. **MOBILE LIBRARY**
4. **\$25 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

1. **CERAMICS**
 - a. **PRE-POURED**
2. **GREETING CARD MAKING**
3. **STAMPING**
4. **HYPERTENSION SCREENING**
5. **MOBILE LIBRARY**
6. **\$25 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

VISIT OR CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Recreation Director

Peter Clark



The Recreation Chronicle

LATEST NEWS, UPDATES, AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM DEWITT RECREATION

2022 Holiday Lighting Event

Fun was had by all at the bigger & better Holiday Lighting event at Town Hall and Ryder Park on Friday December 9th! The East Syracuse Fire Dept. gave Santa a ride to Town Hall where there were 20+ Crafters and Bakers available to purchase holiday items...edible and otherwise!



Wishing you all a safe and healthy 2023!

Our thanks to JD Service Unit 137 of the Girl Scouts who came together with the JD Middle School Choir to sing some wonderful holiday tunes. Families, friends and neighbors from all over DeWitt enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies, plus holiday crafts for the kids, and fun photo opportunities with Santa and the Grinch.

Congratulations to Tara Fordyce, the 2022 Winner of the Town of DeWitt Ugly Sweater Contest! (Cue the confetti and balloon drop for Tara!)

Holiday Lighting was a genuine "building community" event with families, friends and neighbors coming together to enjoy...being together! The pandemic has made us all more aware of the value of being together "live and in-person!"

Our thanks to the Town Parks crew for supporting us to make this such a great event! Look to save the date

for 2023!

30

❄️ SEASON'S GREETINGS! ❄️

2022 has been a busy year! In 2023, we continue to build our team so we can provide better service and more varied programming to the community.

In fact, you can help us, on page 33 is a Link and a QR code to our Recreation survey, through which we hope to not only learn what programs and events you would like to see and support now, but also what programs you would like the Recreation Dept. to provide in the future. Paper copies of the survey are available in the Recreation office, 2nd floor Town Hall, too! We will also be hosting a Recreation Forum/Open House – we welcome and encourage your participation – on Thursday, April 13th, see more information on page 33.



"Weather" Family enjoying Town of DeWitt's First Annual Trunk or Treat!

Along with all town employees, we take pride in working to "build community." As such, irrespective of a special event's title, know that everyone is welcome! Thank you for all your support and feedback this past year, we look forward to seeing you in this new year.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy 2023!

NEW PROGRAM ALERT!



Interested in Chess? Learn the game or just play!

Beginning Tuesday, January 10 – Tuesday, February 14, we will have two different ways to play this great game, see the options below!

1. All ages are welcome at DeWitt Town Hall, on Tuesdays, between 2:30pm – 3:30pm (6 weeks).
2. Current JD students, grades K-5, are welcome to play at Tecumseh Elementary School on Tuesdays, between 4:00pm – 5:00pm (6 weeks). Students enrolled in PM Recreation may also join!

Registration Fees:

1. Town Hall Session: \$50
2. Tecumseh Session: \$25

Instructor: Jim Gonnella

To register, visit us in person, call 315-446-3910, ext. 9. or go online to: <https://townofdewitt.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pagelId=15974>

LEARN TO SKI

Four Seasons will provide six one-hour lessons for either downhill skiing or snowboarding for ages 6 and up.

Fee includes a Season Pass lift ticket for days of lessons. Equipment rental will be available.



Saturdays
January 7 – February 11
10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm OR 2:15pm.

Sundays
January 8 – February 12
10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm OR 2:15pm.

Ski with your kids pass: Parents can ski with your child on their lesson day. Passes only. Good for the entire season.

Residents:	\$175
Non-Residents:	\$180
Parent Pass Residents:	\$135
Parent Pass Non-Residents:	\$140

FALL SOCCER

We had a great turnout for Saturday Soccer, especially for our K-1 and 2-3 players. Teams were age based, with equipment, practice and game times geared for the age and enjoyment of the players.

As always, the program could not have happened without the parent/coaches who helped guide the players in their enjoyment of the game.



Saturday Soccer participant practicing like a future champion!

We are looking forward to offering a spring or summer program for those already involved or those wanting to volunteer a coaching clinic.

If you are interested in attending a coaching clinic or learning more about coaching soccer, contact Peter Clark (Director of Recreation) at the Town of Dewitt pclark@townofdewitt.com or (315) 446 3910 ext 9.



Recreation Director, Peter Clark, coaching the 2-3 grade Saturday Soccer participants!

\$ SAVE ON GROCERIES!

Food \$en\$e is a monthly food buying co-op for anyone who wants to stretch their grocery dollars. Food \$en\$e provides a monthly “staples unit/offering” of 12-15 staple grocery items at a discounted price, as well as special items also available to purchase separately in addition to the staples unit.



The Food Bank of CNY partners with a number of host sites across our eleven-county service area.

There are no qualifications, no subscriptions, and no income requirements to participate in Food \$en\$e.

Each staples unit costs \$20.50 and there are no limits on how many staples units you may purchase. While the items vary from month-to-month, the unit/package always includes:

- 4-5 meat items like chicken, ground beef, sausage or fish
- 4-5 staple pantry items like pasta, soup, and rice
- 2 fresh produce items like apples, carrots, or oranges

Rotating monthly specials like stuffed pork chops, American cheese, meatballs, lasagna, and chicken tenders can be purchased in addition to the staples unit.

Visit the DeWitt Recreation Office, 2nd floor of Town Hall to place your order or get signed up! Cash or EBT only.

Subscribe to our monthly menu! Available on our Town website and social media! Email us at recreation@townofdewitt.com or go to: https://www.townofdewitt.com/departments/recreation/food_sense.php



Food \$en\$e Food Units on pick up day at DeWitt Town Hall.

\$ SAVE ON CAR INSURANCE!

Branch's Driving School, Inc.

Be part of a program that sets the standard for accident prevention and vehicle safety in New York State. No formal testing is required and everyone passes! Participants receive the following benefits:

- Insurance Premium Reduction of 10% for 3 years (base rate of liability, no fault and collision premiums).
- *Principle Operator*
- Up to a 4-point reduction with NYS DMV

This class is for drivers of all ages!

Class Times offered:

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
9:00AM – 3:00PM

Tuesday, June 13, 2023
9:00AM – 3:00PM

Tuesday, September 12, 2023
9:00AM – 3:00PM

Tuesday, December 12, 2023
9:00AM – 3:00PM

Classes are held at DeWitt Town Hall, 2nd floor, in Meeting Room B.

Resident: \$50
Non-Resident: \$55



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Would you like to be more involved in our community?

We would love for **you** to volunteer with us!

Here is a list of ways to get involved:

1. David Klim Learning Center for literacy and homework help.
2. Town-wide events, such as Trunk or Treat.
3. Sports and League Programming and Coaching.
4. Before and After School Programming
5. Food Sense Order Pick Up Day

Contact the Recreation office if you are interested!

recreation@townofdewitt.com
315-446-3910 EXT: 9

» EMPLOYMENT « OPPORTUNITIES!

Believe it or not, Summer Day Camp will be here before we know it!

Who do you know that would make a great role model for kids?



S.T.E.M. Counselor, Alec, in his "element."

Send them our way! We would love to add to the Summer Day Camp Team; we're looking for creative, self-motivated people to make Summer Day Camp a blast again this summer! All ages are welcome to apply. Plus, high school and college age students get practical, tangible experience for future career aspirations!

To apply, submit your completed application packet to the Recreation Office. Application packets are available in the Recreation Office or online. **Scan QR code, below, too!**



If you are high school student, working papers - from your school's main office - are also required. To be considered for a Camp Counselor position, we require applicants be at least 16 years of age by July 5, 2023. If you are between the ages of 13-15, ask us about our Counselor-in- Training program!



Camp Counselor, Abi (left). Per camp tradition, counselors give their t-shirts to their campers, for memories, on the last day of camp.

📄 RECREATION SURVEY 📄

Attention residents and community members! To better serve you, we are seeking your input in 2023!

We have several ways for you to take the survey. The survey is available by QR code (below), online, mail, and at the Recreation office at DeWitt Town Hall, 2nd floor.

There is a QR code below available to scan with your smart phone. Please call with any questions. (315) 446-3910, #9

Directions:



1. Open phone camera. Note: you may need to adjust the distance between your camera and the code for your phone to recognize the image.

2. Hover camera over the code. Note: this may take up to 10 seconds.
3. On some phones, a link will pop up on your screen. Click the link to open the survey.
4. On other phones, the survey will open automatically.

NOTE: If you would like to fill out a paper copy of the survey, stop into the Recreation office or call or email to request the survey be mailed/emailed to you; we will need you to provide your name and address and email address with your request to receive a survey by mail or email. recreation@townofdewitt.com

👥 RECREATION FORUM 🗨️

In addition to a survey, we would also like the opportunity to meet with you directly.

On Thursday, April 13, at DeWitt Town Hall, we will be hosting two Recreation Forums, so we can get your thoughts and ideas, in person.

The first forum will be 11:00am – 12:30pm. The second forum will be in the evening from 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

During each forum, guests will have one minute to speak. After the minute, we will allow for questions and comments.

We look forward to your participation!!

SUMMER DAY CAMP 2023

Mark your calendars! Summer Day Camp is back in action in 2023! Dates of camp are from Wednesday, July 5 – Friday, August 11.

Camp registration begins Monday, February 27, 2023, at 8:00am.

We will release more detailed information about the registration process in the coming weeks. Look for the information on our Town website and social media. If you have a RecDesk account, we will also send the information via email. Be sure your login and profile information (especially your email) is up-to-date, so you have easy access to your account and receive Summer Day Camp updates.

FITNESS

See page 38 for information about Light Weight Training classes!

YOGA-LATES:

Pilates trains your core muscles (abdominal and back) and stretches your spine, whereas Yoga improves flexibility, balance and breathing. By fusing these two techniques you have a challenging workout that is adaptable to various levels of ability. To participate in this class, you must have the capability to lie in both supine and prone positions. Equipment needed for this class is a Yoga mat.

Mondays:

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Jan. 30 – April 24

DeWitt Town Hall Recreation Room

12 Session Fee: \$120.00

TNT:

TNT, also known as Tight-N-Tone, is a strength-based class. Using free weights and bands we will exercise specific muscle groups, including arms, shoulders, back, chest, legs, and core. This full body class will help achieve leaner muscles, burn calories, and increase muscular endurance and flexibility. Modifications and progressions will be provided to

accommodate all fitness levels.

Equipment needed for this class are a Yoga or exercise mat, light to moderate handheld weights (3lb to 8lb are recommended), and a loop band. *Instructor will have extra bands on hand.*

Tuesdays Sessions

6:00pm – 6:40pm

Jan. 31 – April 25

DeWitt Town Hall Recreation Room

10 Session Fee: \$105.00

or

Thursday Sessions

6:00pm – 6:40pm

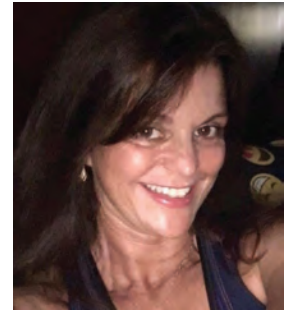
Feb. 2 – Apr. 27

DeWitt Town Hall Recreation Room

12 Session Fee: \$114

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR:

Tammy Panzironi owner of Pulse Fitness Studio, Former Fitness Columnist for Table Hopping Newspaper, Certified PiYo, P90X, Insanity, Strong Nation, and Licensed Zumba, Zumba Toning, Zumba Gold Instructor.



SENIOR ACTIVITY GROUPS!

Sr. Bowling 2022-2023 Season:

Wednesdays

September 14, 2022 – April 12, 2023

Green Lakes Bowling Alley 7930 E. Genesee St.,
Fayetteville, NY 13066

3 games/\$10.00

9:50am – Practice

10:00 am – Begin Bowling

Come join DeWitt Sr.'s for laughs, exercise, and tons of fun! Holiday party & Banquet following last day of bowling, April 12, 2023.

For more information, contact Kathy Santangelo, Sr. Director, at (315) 446-6335

or the Town of DeWitt

Recreation Office at

(315) 446-3910,

ext. 9.





TOWN HALL KNITTING

(Recreation Activity Room: 5400 Butternut Drive, DeWitt, NY 13057)

Mondays
1:00PM – 3:00PM

Would you like to learn how to knit?

Would you like to meet and socialize with people who also love knitting?

Come join our DeWitt knitting and crochet group!

RECREATION WHO'S WHO

MEET BRIE! (If you haven't already!)

Hello everyone! My name is Briana Hall-Bellamy but most know me as Brie. I am a JD graduate, from the class of '04. I was a student athlete participating in soccer, basketball, volleyball, track, and cheerleading.

Now, I have four children who also attend JD; a JDHS senior, JDHS freshman, JDMS 6th grader, and JDMS 5th grader.

In high school, I was a volunteer Saturday Soccer coach; that's where I discovered the Recreation department! Soon after, I became a Town of DeWitt employee (2012) for Summer Day Camp as a camp counselor. From there, I worked the PIA program, school breaks, before and after school, and special events.

This past year, I stepped into a bigger role of supporting department staff and public event planning. Our 2022 "Trunk or Treat" event had 2,000 visitors, so save the date for 2023! I love working with the community and all the families I have been so lucky to get to know over the years. I am looking forward to doing more fun events and making great memories!



MEET BRANNDON!

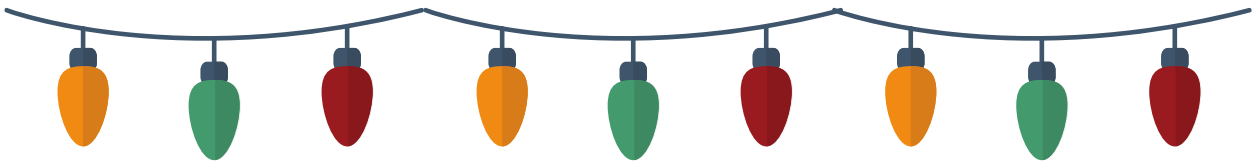
Brannndon Inman from Sylvan Beach joined our Town of DeWitt Recreation department recently; he will serve as Recreation Attendant. Brannndon has a degree in Sports Management and recently worked with the Oneida Nation Recreation program in Oneida, New York.

Brannndon is excited about working with the Town of DeWitt, looking forward to the opportunity to expand his knowledge of recreation and to "create some awesome memories for those who live in the town."



MEET SANDY!

Coming to us from the Village of Marcellus, Sandra Elsey is our new Recreation Leader; she brings 25 years of combined recreation and management experience to DeWitt. Sandy believes in providing an exceptional experience for every resident in the community - youth, adult or senior citizen – and looks forward to "getting to know the residents and collaborating with area businesses to continue to "build community."



DeWitt Holiday Lighting!





SAVE THE DATE!

Summer Day Camp

Registration!

Monday, Feb. 27, 2023

8:00am

More information coming soon!
Stay up to date! Scan here!



Light Weight Training

Maintain or even improve your basic strength to manage everyday tasks and to keep your independence by joining our Light Weights class.



The CDC states that strength training has been proven to “help build strength, maintain bone density, improve balance, coordination and mobility, reduce the risk of falling and maintain independence in performing activities of daily life”.



Come try a free class to see if it is for you!

This is not a body building class. We use light weights. The participant chooses how much weight they want to use. A pair of two pound and a pair of five pound weights (dumbbells) are recommended to start.

The exercises are led by a trained and certified fitness professional who has taught fitness classes for 48 years. She has a Masters Degree in Exercise Physiology and can provide modifications of the exercises for common issues.

Whatever your age or current level of activity you are likely a perfect candidate for this gentle but powerful program. Come try a free class to see if it is for you (*weights will be provided).

Call the office to sign up for a free class. If you feel it is what you need, you can register for a full session. The next session begins Tuesday, January 10. Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 am in the Activity Room at Town Hall.

Carrier Park is...more than you think!

What's planned? Willis Carrier Park is a \$12.5 million state-of-the-art, all inclusive, multi-sport facility for children and adults, including those with special needs. When finished, the park will be one of the first fully integrated, fully handicap accessible outdoor complexes in the CNY region. Conveniently located in the northern corridor of DeWitt right off the NYS Thruway at Exit 35, and next to the Carrier campus off Thompson Road and Kinne Street, the park sits on 20+ acres of land generously donated to the Town of DeWitt by Carrier Corporation.

The original design of the park includes up to 9 championship tournament quality fields, including 2 dynamically designed super turf fields which can be utilized for baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, football, field hockey and special events. An ADA compliant, refurbished pavilion and a walking trail are also planned, as well as additional parking.



What's completed? May 2016 marked the official unveiling of Phase 1 of Carrier Park with 2 completed playing fields, a beautiful state-of-the-art entry plaza and gateway building, walkways, concession and concession patios, extensive parking, and utility infrastructure.

Phase 2 of construction was completed in the Fall of 2020 and includes turf infields, an all-inclusive, cutting edge playground – the only one of its kind in Central New York - and three specially designed basketball courts, funded in part by the Jim and Juli Boeheim Foundation, with adjustable backboards and rims so that players of all ages and abilities, including those with special needs, can play basketball.

(continued on next page)

Carrier Park is also the proud home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program, the local division of Little League for children and young adults with physical and developmental disabilities. The special needs children of Syracuse Challenger Baseball represent one of the largest single districts of the Challenger Baseball program in the United States.

Who's involved? The Town of DeWitt has worked closely in partnership with the Friends of DeWitt Parks and Recreation, Inc. and Syracuse Challenger Baseball Inc. to develop Carrier Park. Both of these organizations have been integral in soliciting and securing contributions from foundations, corporations, local businesses, individuals, and families. The Town of DeWitt has also been successful in obtaining multiple grants from state and local agencies to support various components of the project.

For more information about Carrier Park, please email: supervisor@townofdewitt.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 5.

To book tournaments at Carrier Park, or with questions, please contact our Carrier Park partner, Salt City Sports at: <https://www.saltcitysports.org/>



We're building community.



Challenger Baseball 2023

We're building community with Challenger Baseball!

While building a thriving community for Town of DeWitt residents has been a driving force for the development of Carrier Park, what lay at the heart of the project is the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program.

Challenger Baseball is a Little League division that provides children with physical and developmental disabilities the opportunity to do something we all take for granted...play baseball. The special needs children of Syracuse Challenger Baseball represent one of the largest single districts of the Challenger Baseball program in the United States. Until 2016 however, those kids and their families did not have a "home" for their extraordinary program.



In 2008, through a relationship dating back to their childhood, Town of DeWitt Supervisor Ed Michalenko and Syracuse Challenger Executive Director Dom Cambareri came together and the dream of a home for the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program was born.

The "Field of Dreams" at Carrier Park fulfills the vision to provide the Challenger program a permanent home. Carrier Park is one of the first fully integrated, fully handicap accessible multi-sport, outdoor recreational complexes in the Central New York Region. It's an extraordinary place where children and adults of all ages and abilities can play together.

Key to making the dream of Carrier Park a reality has been partnership...the Town of DeWitt, Carrier Corporation, our Town of DeWitt Friends of Parks and Recreation, and Syracuse Challenger Baseball coming together to "build community."



We're building community.

Carrier Park Sponsorship Program

Help us build community now!

Multi-Sport Turf Field	\$250,000
Observation Pavilion	\$150,000
All-inclusive Playground	\$125,000
Grass Baseball Field	\$100,000
90' Turf Diamond	\$75,000
50-70' Turf Diamond	\$50,000
Meeting Pavilion	\$50,000
Score Board	\$35,000 each
Concession Stand	\$35,000
Entrance Message Board	\$25,000
Concession Food Patio	\$10,000 each
Batting Cages	\$5,000 each
Dugouts	\$5,000 each
Bleachers	\$4,000 each
Walkway Fence Banner	\$2,000 each (2-year sponsorship)
Outfield Fence Banner	\$2,000 each (2-year sponsorship)
Backstop Banner	\$1,500 each (2-year sponsorship)
Benches	\$1000 each

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for you, your family, business or corporation, contact us: supervisor@townofdewitt.com or 315.446.3910, ext. #5.



We're building community.

We're building community!

Trunk or Treat 2022! Yay! (Save the Date for 2023!)

Our Town of DeWitt "Trunk or Treat" was a great community event on a beautiful Fall day. If you missed it this year, save the date for 2023! More than 2,000 moms, dads, kids and friends attended "Trunk or Treat" with us on October 29th at the Heritage Landing next to Town Hall. From dinosaurs and devils to witches and wizards – and S.U.'s Otto, too – everyone enjoyed cider, donuts, and a beautiful, sunny day. Congratulations to all of the Pumpkin Carving contest winners, especially first place winners Julie & Jessica Emm.

Kids enjoyed candy from over 70 decorated Trunks & grownups enjoyed more than 30 Crafter and Baker vendors. Thanks to our Town Police, Fire and EAVES departments for being a part of this event and helping us build community.

Our thanks also to sponsors Beak & Skiff, East Syracuse Chevrolet, Kia Foundation and Wegmans. Also, much appreciation – and a big shout out – to our Parks crew and Recreation staff for genuinely "building community;" everyone went all-in to create and facilitate this great family event.

Sign up for RecDesk!

Receive news, announcements, classes & events like Trunk or Treat! Go to: <https://townofdewitt.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pageId=15974>



We're building community!



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more than you think

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Town Projects 2023

- ✿ \$600,000 in Grants for Hydrogen Power Projects
- ✿ Inland Port Highway Access
- ✿ Carrier Park Update: Salt City Mgmt. Partner, Fall Tournaments, NJCAA 2023
- ✿ 2.66 Megawatt Solar Array
- ✿ Elevating Erie/Widewaters Pond
- ✿ Fiddlers Green Park Expansion; Ryder Park Trail Improvements
- ✿ Grants: \$32,000 EV Charging Stations, \$237,000 ADA Bathrooms & \$200,000 Boardwalk Repair
- ✿ Shoppingtown Redevelopment
- ✿ Waterfront Revitalization Planning
- ✿ Update: Trunk or Treat 2022 (Save the Date for 2023!)
- ✿ PIA, Before & After School, Klim Center Programs & Library Partnership Programs
- ✿ Tree Program & Tree Stewardship
- ✿ Sewer Offset Plan & Storm Water Programs
- ✿ Ley Creek Naturalization/Flood Control Projects
- ✿ Jamesville Masterplan Projects & Hamlet Mixed-Use Expansion
- ✿ Water System Improvements, GIS & Inventory Mapping, Interactive Public Notification
- ✿ Town Hall Net Zero Energy Efficient Designs

We're building community!

