



Town of Torrey

PO Box 280

56 Geneva St

Dresden, NY 14441

Phone: 315-536-6376

Email: townclerk@townoftorrey.com

Website: townoftorrey.org

Newsletter

May 1- August 31, 2023

The Torrey Town Board is sending this newsletter to bring residents up to date on some of the issues the town has considered and/or is working on since the last newsletter (January 1 - April 30).

Town Officials -

Peter Martini	(Supervisor)	martinivms@gmail.com
315.536.9781	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2023	
Colby Petersen	(Deputy Supervisor)	colby@ycsoilwater.com
315.536.1014	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2025	
Larry Martin	(Councilman)	larmart64@gmail.com
315.759.3374	Term: January 1,2020 - December 31,2023	
Bruce Henderson	(Councilman)	blhenderson83@gmail.com
315.521.7108	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2022	
Grant Downs	(Councilman)	gjdowns1946@gmail.com
315.531.8441	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2025	
Betty Daggett	(Town Clerk)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.6376	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2023	
Tim Chambers	(Hwy Supt.)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.729.2706	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2023	
George Thompson	(Town Justice)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.5655	Term: January 1, 2022 - December 31,2023	
Dwight James	(Code Enforcement Officer)	torreycodes@gmail.com
315.536.6376 (cell 315.730.3291)		
Stephanie Holtz	(Town Assessor)	assessor@townofbenton.us
315.536.7551		

A Note from Town Supervisor Peter Martini:

- The Supervisor Receipt for Taxes Collected in 2023 totaled \$688,575.

This broke down to

General A Fund Account	\$ 262,650
General B Fund Account	\$ 12,495
Highway DA Fund Account	\$ 167,691
Highway DB Fund Account	\$ 142,073
Fire protection District	\$ 103,666

- The Town of Torrey is working with the engineering company (CPL) and the construction company (Nardozzi) to get Water District 1 on track for completion. CPL has obtained approval from the Army Corp of Engineers to use an open trench plan instead of directional drilling to resolve some issues in laying pipe. DEC approval is still needed. The NYS Department of Transportation has approved the moving of the underground crossing of Route 14 to the South. Railpros has submitted contracts to the Town Board for approval three (3) of the five (5) proposed railroad crossings.
- The Town is exploring changing the term of office for the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years through a public referendum in 2024.
- The Town is working with Yates County Office of Emergency Services to update its Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The kickoff meeting was held on August 22nd.
- The Town is reviewing and looking to update its Employment Policy

From the Desk of Town Board:

- The Town Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Town Building at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden, NY.
- Torrey Cleanup Day was held on June 17th
- The Town Board at the May 9th meeting authorized the Town Assessor, Stephanie Holz, to conduct a revaluation effective June 1, 2024 for Town of Torrey including the Village of Dresden
- The Town Board expressed its gratitude and appreciation for the efforts the Town Clerk, Betty Daggett, made to plan, organize, gather the resources, and coordinate for the 101st Memorial Day Observance held on May 29th

- Kathleen Bennett of the firm Bond, Schoneck, and King is representing the Town in Town Court regarding the owner of Torrey Station failing to comply with the terms of the Special Use Permit issued in January of 2021.
- The Town Board made the following (re)appointments

Robert Miller	Planning Board term to 2027
Robert Constantine	Zoning Board of Appeals term to 2028
Chris Hansen	Zoning Board of Appeals term to 2027
Pamela Dowse	Board of Assessment Review term to 2028

From the Desk of Town Clerk (*Betty Daggett*):

- The Town Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am - 4:00pm.
Call 315-536- 6376
- Through the efforts of the Town Clerk, Betty Daggett, a JCAP grant was awarded to the Town of Torrey leading to the installation of a security system throughout the Town Building.
- Betty planned, organized, gathered the resources, and coordinated the 101st Memorial Day Observance held on May 29th.
- Harlyn Gray has been hired as lifeguard for the Summer at the Torrey Town Park



Some recent visitors to the Torrey Town Park

- Services provided by the Town Clerk Office
 - * Notary Public - No Fee
 - * Fee collection such as building permits, fines & fees issued by Code Office, Watershed Inspection for property sales
 - * Places appropriate Public Notices for the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board in the newspaper of record.
 - * Registrar of Birth / Death Certificates Vital copies - \$10.00 fee.
 - * Handicap Parking Permits
 - * Hunting/Fishing Licenses are on sale during normal business hours. Fishing licenses are available any business day while hunting licenses Are available starting August 1st.
 - * Marriage License Requirements: Bride/Groom/Spouse must be present to obtain a license. The license is good for 60 days. There is a \$30 fee. Evening or Saturday appointments are available.
 - * Dog Licenses: State Law requires all puppies to be licensed at 4 months. At time of licensing, a rabies certificate and neuter/spay

certificate must be presented. Licensing Fees: Unspayed/Unneutered \$18 and Spayed/Neutered \$10.

(It is NYS Ag & Market law- **ALL dogs** harbored in the Town of Torrey must be licensed yearly at the Town Clerk office.)

From the Desk of Town Highway Superintendent (*Tim Chambers*):

- Off hours emergency callout number: 315-729-2706
- An Emergency Generator has been installed at the Town Building. It tests every Tuesday at about 2:00 pm without a problem.
- Torrey Town Cleanup Day was held on June 17th
- Consolidated Local and Highway Improvement Program (**CHIPs**) monies were used to pave Anthony Beach Road after last year's culvert work.
- Culvert pipe replacement and drainage work was done on Serenity Road in tandem with the installation of the municipal water line by the Nardozzi Construction Company.
- The Highway Department dug several test holes on July 11th and July 12th at the request of CPL engineering for Water District 1 (WD1).
- The DEC has been contacted because of mud on Long Point Road created by Riccelli Enterprises and its Clay Pit mining.
- Dug a test hole for the installation of a new septic tank for the town building. An engineering plan has been developed for the new septic system.
- Tim has submitted three (3) grants under the **Build New York** program for culvert work- two (2) on Perry Point Road and one (1) on Long Point. He said the towns and villages of Yates County will submit one (1) large grant application through Doug Rapalee, Yates County Highway Superintendent, then he will apportion the funds based on agreed upon project priority.
- The new mowing tractor was delivered at the end of July.



- A **safety** precaution- as we are approaching the time of year when snow plowing is possible, trash cans should **not** be placed on Town Roads, but rather on the right-of-way.
- *Reminder according to NYS law:*
 - + throwing trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or refuse on Highways and adjacent lands is prohibited
 - + the town superintendent of highways shall sue for and recover a penalty not to exceed \$100 from any person depositing ashes, snow, ice, stones, sticks, etc. upon a highway or on grass or loose stones adjoining a town highway

From the Desk of Town Code Enforcement Officer (Dwight James):

- Call the Town Office at 315-536-6376 (cell 315-730-3291) or email at torreycodes@gmail.com to inquire about permits.
When in doubt ask!
- Building permits are required for any electrical, plumbing, insulation, or structural work undertaken.

- Construction or alteration of any accessory structure, addition, or new construction requires a permit
- Year-to-Date there have been 77 permits issued and \$ 5141.75 permit fees collected
- Reminder all short term rentals must be registered with the Town
- With the Town Board's support a resolution is being pursued with the owner of Torrey Station on the expiration of his special use permit. Yates County Treasurer, Marsha Devine, is also moving forward to have the property placed back on the tax rolls.

From the Desk of Town Planning Board (*George Dowse*):

- Meets the third (3rd) Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Town Building
- Board members attended a **LULA** Workshop on "Short Term" regulations on a local level. Afterwards the Planning Board drafted and forwarded to the Town Board a revision of Torrey's Short Term Rental (STR) Law. This initial draft was presented to the Town Board at the August 8th meeting. There were comments/suggestions made by the Board and the public. The Planning Board will review and make changes as suggested. A public hearing will be held on the final draft before implementation.
- Reviewing the information provided by New York State on the new Cannabis Law as the program is implemented. The Town of Torrey did **not** opt out of participating in the sale and dispensing of Cannabis. The Planning Board is attending seminars on implementation of the evolving New York State regulations. New York State is aggressively looking to curb the illicit cannabis market, the so-called "Grey Market".
- Greenidge has contracted to have a Sound Study done this Summer in compliance with its Special Use Permit issued by the Town of Torrey Planning Board.

From the Desk of Town Judge (Hon. George Thompson)

- Court is held each Tuesday at 2:00pm on the West side of the Town Building. The phone number is 315.536.5655
- Criminal court is held the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm
- Received from Yates County Sheriff, Ron Spike, a listing of 2022 summary of events for the Town of Torrey handled by the Yates County Sheriff's 911 -

Dispatch Center and assigned to an appropriate first responder. Within the Town of Torrey there were 934 calls related to police, fire, or EMS, while separately the Village of Dresden had 213 for a total of 1,147.

- Yearly audit of Town of Torrey Court's accounts will be done in September by Town Board members Bruce Henderson and Colby Petersen.

From the Desk of Town Assessor (Stephanie Holtz)

- Stephanie attended training at Cornell during the week of July 17th.
- Yates County Legislature voted on August 14th to increase the income limits for the Senior Citizen Low Income Exemption. The range of the exemption currently is \$14,000 to \$22,399.99. The change to the range is \$20,000 to \$28,399.99.
- The last revaluation was done in 2019. New York State requires a revaluation to be done every 4 to 5 years. This last year has seen a significant increase in selling prices. It is hoped prices will have stabilized when the next revaluation is done in 2024.
- A summary of the Equalization Rates since the last revaluation

2023 Assessment Roll	75
2022 Assessment Roll	90
2021 Assessment Roll	94
2020 Assessment Roll	100
2019 Assessment Roll	100 - Revaluation
- Stephanie outlined the revaluation process at the May 9th Town Board meeting. The revaluation process will examine property sales from the time period July 2, 2019 through July 1, 2023. During this time period there have been 67 sales in the Town of Torrey and 13 sales in the Village of Dresden. The taxable value in the Town of Torrey has gone from \$194,445,468 in 2022 to \$199,358,392 in 2023. Also farmland has increased in value to approximately \$11,000 per acre.
- Stephanie will start the revaluation process June 1, 2023 and submit her preliminary results to the State in mid-December of 2023 for approval
- The Torrey Town Board appointed Mary Joan LeClaire, a town resident and recently retired assessor, to the vacant seat on the Board of Assessment Review (**BAR**) as well as reappointing Dani Eichas to the **BAR**.

- Grievance Day was held Thursday May 25th from 4:00 - 8:00 pm at the Town Building with no applications filed.

From the Desk of Town Watershed Inspector (*Yates County Soil & Water*)

The Town's inspectors can be contacted at the Yates County Soil and Water Conservation Department 315- 536-5188.

FEMA has produced a new Flood Plain Map for Yates County. The result is 134 homes in the Town of Torrey have been removed from the designated Flood Plain. A draft of the new flood plain map was made available to the public on August 16th from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Yates County Building Auditorium. This was an opportunity for the public to review, question, and/or raise concerns/objections.

The Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District provides the watershed inspection services for the Town of Torrey and Village of Dresden. Educating homeowners on the function of their wastewater treatment systems has proven to be a tremendous benefit.

In November of 2014, the Town of Torrey passed a local Wastewater Law effective January 1, 2015. Under the new law, any onsite wastewater treatment system within 200' of Seneca Lake or a DEC classified stream is required to be inspected every 5 years. The cost of the inspection is borne by the Town of Torrey (unless this is a property transfer. However any pumping of the septic or repair is a cost to the homeowner. We are now in year 9 of these inspections.

If any residents have questions regarding the watershed inspection program, they may call the office at 315-536-5188.

Soil & Water also continues to interact with all of our local farmers utilizing NYS's Agricultural Environmental Management program. This program has been utilized in the county since 1997. We have worked with local farmers on a suite of practices including soil erosion and field runoff, manure storage, barnyard runoff, and manure and nutrient management.

From the Desk of the Mayor of Dresden (*Bill Hall*):

- Mayor Bill Hall (Term: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025)
- Village Trustees
 - Brian Flynn (Term: April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2024)
 - Bret Siegrist (Term: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025)
- Village Board meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm
- Colleen Riviello is the Village Clerk. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 2:00pm, phone number 315-536-2477. Her email address is- villageclerk@villageofdresden.org
- The village is seeking to act as the lead agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (**SEQRA**) for the Village of Dresden Water System Main Replacement Project.
- Held "MUSIC at the Gazebo" twice a month in June, July, and August. It should be noted the 8 benches at the park were made possible by the generous donations (they cost \$500 each) from members of the community. If there is an individual or organization which wishes to "donate" a bench, there are a few still available!
- On July 15th, the Village of Dresden hosted a **Yates County Bicentennial Celebration** with a parade, music, games, food, and beverages.
- On the weekend of July 21st and July 22nd **Dresden Days Yard Sale** was held
- Unfortunately despite the efforts by everyone to improve the appearance of the village, there have been acts of vandalism. This includes graffiti on the new playground equipment as well as destruction of the concrete benches at the end of Seneca Street. The Yates County Sheriff Department advises residents that "**if you see something, say something**" and report the incident to their department.
- Dresden Fire Department meets the first Tuesday of the month. There is a need for volunteer firemen in Dresden. All residents of the Town of Torrey are encouraged to volunteer.

From Yates County Legislators (Terry Button, Richard Harper, Rick Willson)

- Work continues on the ReConnect Grant, a three(3) phase project to bring broadband internet capability throughout the County. Communication Towers have been installed.
- Construction on the new County Highway Building in the Town of Benton is underway. Replacing the fuel system is the first priority.

- Yates County is installing a county ambulance service including 24 hour ALS services.
- Yates County will hold a Hazardous Material dropoff at the Yates County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 16th. You must register if you wish to participate. Check with the Yates County Planning Department for details. See the attached brochure for a list of accepted and unacceptable items.
- A Hazard Mitigation Plan contract has been awarded to Tetra Tech. Brian Winslow, Director of the Emergency Operations Center, is the coordinator.

Community Events

- **Yates County Public Health** will hold the fifth annual **Sister's Day** providing breast cancer screening using the Rochester Regional Health mobile mammography bus. There are two days available for appointment
 First day is Tuesday, September 26th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Benton Fire Department at 932 Rte. 14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527
 Second day is Wednesday, November 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Himrod Fire Department at 3530 Himrod Rd. Himrod, NY 14842
Call 585-224-3070 to schedule your appointment (see separate attachment for additional information).
- **YATES COUNTY Board of Elections (BOE)** will hold elections November 7, 2023 for the following positions in the Town of Torrey. The following candidates are running unopposed:

Town Supervisor	Peter Martini
Town Councilperson	Bruce Henderson
	Kathy McGrath
Town Clerk	Betty Daggett
Town Highway Superintendent	Tim Chambers
Town Justice	James Smith
- **The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** puts out a weekly bulletin each week detailing proposals and actions throughout the State.

The Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) is available at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>

Yates County is in Region 8

- **Memorial Day Observance** for the Town of Torrey was held at the Gazebo in Dresden with a ceremony at the Evergreen Cemetery as well. This was the 101st year of this observance!
- **Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO)** most recent meeting was held July 31st. The next meeting will be in October. Currently one of SWIO's efforts spearheading the Keuka Outlet Engineering Project which was initially funded by Yates County to address issues with Crooked Canal. The purpose is to see if water can be diverted during storm events using natural systems engineering. A \$314k grant (with no match) was received from the USDA to support a full engineering development plan.
- **Torrey Cleanup Day** was held June 17th. There were 5 dumpsters filled with household items, a recyclable "metal only" dumpster, a dump truck full of tires, and 4 large containers of electronics. The Town collected \$142.60 in metal and \$146 in Mattresses and Tire fees.
- **Auction for the New York State Haiti Benefit** was held on June 16 -17. It was held at the Yates County Fairgrounds in Penn Yan.
- **Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA)** started monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on Monday August 7th and will end on Sunday October 8th. Check their website www.SenecaLake.org for additional information or to volunteer!
- **Friends of the Keuka Outlet (FOTO)** will hold a "Celebration of Cascade Falls on Sunday September 17th from Noon to 4:00 pm. Also **FOTO** is introducing new this year **Octoberfest Volksmarch**, a German-themed community walk on October 23,2022. Check the **FOTO** website www.KeukaOutletTrail.org for details of these events. Finally, **FOTO** is working with Greenidge to extend the Keuka Outlet Trail all the way to Seneca Lake.

- **Yates Transit Services** provides public bus service throughout the County including a route from/to Dresden and Penn Yan. Call 315.694.7700 or go to their website- **yatestransitservice.com** for additional information.

From the Desk of the Newsletter Editor (*Grant Downs*):

- The response to the town newsletter continues to be very positive. Additional feedback and/or comments are welcome and can be submitted by either calling 315-536-6376 or sending an email to: townclerk@townoftorrey.com
- Newsletters will also be posted on the Town of Torrey website: <https://townoftorrey.org>
- Delivery of the Town Newsletter will be electronically only, although there will be a limited number available at the Town Office. If you are forwarding or emailing the newsletter to a neighbor or friend, please encourage them to send me an email address. I will add them to my distribution list which is private and not available to the public.

Those wishing to have future newsletters sent by email should provide the following information to me at gjdowns1946@gmail.com

NAME: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

- If you are currently receiving the newsletter electronically but wish to unsubscribe, then send me an email and I will delete you from the distribution list.