



Town of Torrey

PO Box 280

56 Geneva St

Dresden, NY 14441

Phone: 315-536-6376

Email: townclerk@townoftorrey.com

Website: townoftorrey.org

May 1- August 31, 2024

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, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
Colby Petersen	(Deputy Supervisor)	colby@ycsoilwater.com
315.536.1014	Term: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2025	
Grant Downs	(Councilman)	gjdowns1946@gmail.com
315.531.8441	Term: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2025	
Bruce Henderson	(Councilman)	blhenderson83@gmail.com
315.521.7108	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2027	
Kathy McGrath	(Councilwoman)	Kmcgrath2205@gmail.com
585.339.8300	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2027	
Betty Daggett	(Town Clerk)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.6376	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
Tim Chambers	(Hwy Supt.)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.3567	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
James Smith	(Town Justice)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.5655	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
Dwight James	(Code Enforcement Officer)	torreycodes@gmail.com
315.536.6376 (cell 315.730.3291)		
Stephanie Holtz	(Town Assessor)	townassessor@townoftorrey.com
315.536.7551		

An Update 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 five (5) bores under the railroad tracks have been completed



Bore being done on Caton Road

The Water District 1 has been officially completed as of September 1, 2024. The meter pits are being installed with the coordinated efforts of the Town of Benton Water Department (Jayson Hoovler and Casey Frankish) and the Town of Torrey Highway Department (Josh Wood and Doug Dekay)



Tapping into the mainline on Serenity Road



Meter Pit Installed on Serenity Road

- The Town of Torrey working with Congresswoman Claudia Tenney's office submitted a \$2.2 million grant application for the Perry Point Water District (WD2). We received notice in July the application was approved which will be applied to the approximately \$2.6 million cost of the WD2 municipal water project.
- The Town of Torrey also secured two grants through Hunt Engineering totaling \$2.67 million for culvert work on Perry Point Road.
- A Short Term Rental Law and a Water Law were adopted by the Town Board after a public hearing on June 11th.

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 Saturday, June 15th. It was very successful with many volunteers pitching in to help.
- A new phone system was obtained from SCT and installed in May.
- The Town Board at the May 9th meeting authorized the Town Highway Superintendent to sign a contract for a 2026 International 10 wheel truck for \$311,125.74. The delivery is expected in early 2027 at which time payment would be due.
- Set a Town 2025 Budget Workshop date for September 12,2024 at 9:00 am with a scheduled workshop set for October 22 at 1:00 pm.
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Town Historian Nancy Sarver effective September 30,2024.
- 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

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

- The Town Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am - 4:00pm. The office phone number is 315-536- 6376
- The Town of Torrey website is- www.townoftorrey.com
- Betty planned, organized, gathered the resources, and coordinated the 102nd Memorial Day Observance held on May 27th.
- 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- The Chronicle Express.
 - * 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.)
- * There is an app, **NIXLE**, alerting residents to infrastructure issues (power outages, potential flooding, etc.) specific to Yates County posted by the Sheriff's Department. Those interested should go to **NIXLE.COM** with your zip code to review current alerts and also signup to have alerts sent directly to you.

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

- Highway department phone number: 315.536.3567
- Off hours emergency callout number: 315-729-2706
- The Highway Superintendent used the services of Hunt Engineering to apply for grants to replace two (2) culverts on Perry Point Road. The grant applications were approved and \$1.5 million and \$1.17 million awarded respectively. The Highway Superintendent has been named the **Responsible Local Official (RLO)** to interface with the NYS DOT's Brian Anders.
- Proposed to the Town Board the purchase of a 2026 International 10 wheel truck for \$311,125.74. Delivery is expected in early 2027 when payment is due.
- The Highway crew has completed its mandatory annual OSHA training
- Normal Spring/Summer roadwork- clean ditches, clean and/or replace culverts, sweep roads, clear banks, mowing roadways, mowing cemeteries etc. is ongoing
- Torrey Town Cleanup Day was held on June 15th. Twelve (12) tons of household debris was collected including 31 tires. The sum of \$288.50 in fees was collected.
- Consolidated Local and Highway Improvement Program (**CHIPs**) monies (approximately \$81,000) will be used to pave Serenity Road once the meter pits for those residents getting municipal water are installed.
- The Highway Superintendent signed a contract with Riccelli Enterprises to pave Long Point Road for \$86,100. **State** monies will be used to reimburse the town.

- The Highway Superintendent recommended to the Town Board to extend the agreement with Schuyler County and various agencies & municipalities in Yates and Schuyler Counties for the shared use of the John Deere 85G excavator known as E-5. The Torrey Board agreed to do this.
- 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. This includes construction or alteration of any accessory structure, addition, or new construction.
- Year-to-Date there have been 87 permits issued and in excess of \$ 3744.44 permit fees collected
- Reminder all short term rentals must be registered with the Town of Torrey Code Enforcement Officer. The new Short Term Rental Law limits the number of short term rentals to approximately 50 (excluding those in the Village of Dresden).
- After Town Board approval, the Code Enforcement Officer accepted a proposal from Clark, Paterson, Lee (**CPL**) for engineering services fees for NYS Building Code review. These expenses are borne by the permit applicant.

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

- Town and Planning Board members attended a **LULA** Workshop on “Short Term” regulations on a local level. The input from this meeting was incorporated into the Town of Torrey’s Short Term Rental (**STR**) along with the resident’s input from the April 9th public meeting. The revised **STR** law was approved at the June 11th Town Board meeting
- 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”. A number of Cannabis “stores” have been licensed in the area.

From the Desk of Town Judge (Hon. James Smith)

- 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
- Yearly audit of the Town of Torrey Court’s accounts will be done this Fall.

From the Desk of Town Assessor (Stephanie Holtz)

- The Town Assessor, Stephanie Holz, completed a revaluation of town property effective June 1, 2024 for Town of Torrey including the Village of Dresden.
- The last revaluation was done in 2019. New York State requires a revaluation to be done every 4 to 5 years. The last couple of years has seen a significant increase in selling prices as shown by the Equalization Rate chart since the last revaluation:

2019	Assessment Roll	100 - Revaluation
2020	Assessment Roll	100
2021	Assessment Roll	94
2022	Assessment Roll	90
2023	Assessment Roll	75

The revaluation process examined property sales from the time period July 2, 2019 through July 1, 2023. During this time period there had 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. (Note: there were 9 sales in March 2024 where 1 of the sales involved 2 parcels that sold over the new assessed values).

- The revaluation process resulted in the Town of Torrey with a taxable value of \$287,133,158 with the town accounting for \$264,042,034 and the Village of Dresden \$23,091,124.
- NYS Tax and Finance approved the Town of Torrey to receive a score of 100 for the 2024 assessment roll! The Town of Torrey website www.townoftorrey.com has the **2024 Final Assessment Roll**.
- The Yates County website- www.yatescountyny.gov also has all the assessment rolls for each town in the county as well as from previous years. These rolls can be found at the website by going to **Government** → **Departments** → **Real Property**, then on the left locate assessment rolls.
- NYSTF has certified the **STAR** exemption amounts:
 - Basic **STAR** is \$33,400 - last year it was \$30,000
 - Enhanced **STAR** is \$90,680 - last year it was \$84,000
- Grievance Day was held Thursday May 30th 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 (2023) Flood Plain Map for Yates County. The result is 134 homes in the Town of Torrey have been *removed* from the designated Flood Plain.

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 10 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, 2024 - March 31, 2026)
 - 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 and Cathy Whitney is the Deputy Clerk. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 2:00pm. The office phone number is 315-536-2477 and email addr 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.
- The Village is applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$2 million to continue with the water infrastructure replacement project
- Held "MUSIC at the Gazebo" twice a month in June, July, and August. It should be noted that the 11 benches at the park were made possible by the generous donations (they cost \$500 each) from members of the community.
- The Washington Park Pavilion has been constructed



- On the weekend of July 19th and July 20th **Dresden Days Yard Sale** was held including a Chicken Barbecue on Saturday
- “Mr. Twistee” has been transformed into a tasting room for Bravery Wines by Corey and Jennifer Christman.
- 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.
- The Dresden Fire Department will hold a BREAKFAST Fundraiser on Saturday September 21st from 8:00AM - 11AM. The menu includes Pancakes, French Toast, Eggs, Sausage, Homefries, Toast, and Drinks. The cost is Adults: \$12.00 and those 12 & Under: \$6.00.
- The Dresden Fire Department meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. 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)

- Construction on the new County Highway and EMS Services in Benton Center is nearing completion. Yates County has applied for a grant to establish a county Fire Training Facility at the complex.
- 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.
- Civil Service exams will be given October 26, 2024 for Motor Vehicle Cashier and Personnel Assistant and on November 9th for Chief Wastewater Treatment Operator. Additional information regarding upcoming can be found at- nycivilservice.yatescounty.org/exams
- Yates County held a Hazardous Material dropoff in conjunction with Schuyler County in August. Next year this event will be held at the Yates County Fairground in the August/September timeframe. Those seeking information of how/where to dispose of such materials (e.g. paint) in the interim should contact Jeff Ayers, Yates County Planner, at 315 536 5153.
- A Hazard Mitigation Plan update has been delayed because of personnel changes at the contractor, Tetra Tech, who was awarded the contract to assist the County in its compilation. Brian Winslow, Director of the Emergency Operations Center, is the coordinator.

Community Events

- **YATES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH** has scheduled a number of **FLU CLINICS** at the County Building on Liberty Street on the following dates and times:
September 23, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 2:30 pm
October 11, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 2:30 pm
October 24, 2024 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- **YATES COUNTY Board of Elections (BOE)** will hold elections November 5, 2024. Votes in the Town of Torrey will be cast at the Town Office at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden. Early voting will be at the Yates County Office Building a week before election day. There is a need for election inspectors for this election cycle. Check website- www.yatescountyny-gov/310/Election-Inspectors ,

if you are interested.

- **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

On July 8, 2024, the DEC mailed a notice to those Town of Torrey Residents on Seneca Lake near the Dresden Delta at the mouth of Keuka Outlet will be treating this 10 acre area with a Lampricide Bayluscide, during the week of October 14, 2024, with an alternate treatment for the week of October 28th. This treatment will be applied the DEC sea lamprey control team with assistance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. During the treatment period lake water should not be used for drinking and cooking for four (4) days following treatment. In addition, bathing/washing, washing dishes or clothes, swimming, fishing, irrigation and livestock watering for two (2) days following treatment. Contact Brad E. Hammers, Senior Aquatic Biologist at DEC, at 585-226-4344 between 8:00 am - 4:00 pm if you have questions.

- **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 102st year of this observance!
- **Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO)** most recent meeting was held July 29th. This group is composed of the elected officials in the counties, towns, and villages located in the Seneca Watershed. Ian Smith is the Watershed Steward, who seeks out and implements grants to address issues outlined in the Seneca Watershed's 9E Plan.
- **Torrey Cleanup Day** was held June 15th. There were 5 dumpsters filled with household items, a recyclable "metal only" dumpster, a dump truck full of tires, and 5 large containers of electronics.

- **Auction for the New York State Haiti Benefit** was held on June 14 -15. 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 July 7th and will end on Sunday October 8th. Stream Sampling was conducted on June 4th, with a second sampling scheduled on September 24th. Check their website www.SenecaLake.org for additional information or to volunteer!
- **Friends of the Keuka Outlet (FOTO)** will hold the 4th Annual "Celebration of Cascade Falls" on Saturday September 21st from Noon to 4:00 pm. This is a *FREE* event with live music provided by **BLUE EYED SOUL**. There will be numerous local food and beverage vendors. Check the **FOTO** website www.KeukaOutletTrail.org for details of this and other events. Finally, **FOTO** is working with Greenidge to possibly 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 or to the editor, gjdowns1946@gmail.com.
- Newsletters will also be posted on the Town of Torrey website: www.townoftorrey.com
- Delivery of the Town Newsletter will be electronically only, although there will be a limited number available at the Torrey Town Office and Village of Dresden 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: _____