Town of Yates Newsletter

February 2024

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

Town Updates

Street Dance! Our 3rd Annual Street Dance will be held on Friday, August 23rd, 5-9pm in the Village of Lyndonville. This family-fun event will feature a live band, great food truck food, craft vendors and more. The Main St in the village will be closed from Maple to Eagle streets, and there will be multiple tables and chairs for families to eat. And of course there will be street dancing!

eCode360. The Town of Yates hopes to have a completely updated, digitized and searchable compilation of all active town local laws and zoning regulations by the summer of 2024. This effort is being done via the *eCode360* company and their software. Once the current phase of editing is completed, we will be sending out all of the updates and revisions in one lengthy local law change for public review and for the Orleans County planning board review. We look forward to the completion of this process since it will provide everyone an up-to-date zoning code.

Water Rates Increase. The Town of Yates increased the water rates for most water customers starting January 1, 2024. The rate increases are in Water District 4 and will be reflected in our April water bills. The increase in the water reserve funds will ensure the town's water supply and infrastructure - provided by the Village of Lyndonville - is sustained. For instance, the village water tower will need to be repainted eventually, and the town and village will want to be in a position to cover any costs that won't be covered by state grants. Some residents are served by Water District 2, however rate increases for these customers are based on whatever the town is charged by the Town of Somerset since the water comes through them from Niagara County.

Town Park Expansion?

The Town Board approved a purchase agreement with NYSEG to possibly purchase the 152-acres surrounding the Town Park on the lake. The purpose of the purchase is to expand the town park and to preserve the land and wildlife. The purchase agreement stipulates that the town requires an environmental assessment of the land, and that it will only purchase the land if it can garner grant funding by January 2026.

Town Park Update

The Town Park is done! Since our last newsletter, we finished installation of the hands-free water fountain, the large grill next to the new pavilion, horse buggy tie-downs, security cameras, 3 more fixed benches, several new park signs, the staining of pavilion and picnic tables, and the sealing of all new cement.

Town Board

Local Law Moratoria. In January 2024, the Town Board adopted 6-month moratoria to give us the opportunity to update the local laws for *Solar Energy Systems, Wind Energy Systems, Short-Term Rentals, and Farm Migrant Housing*. A moratorium is adopted in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of town residents, educate the town board and the constituents, and to update laws appropriately. This is especially true regarding farm migrant housing.

Despite what you may have heard, this moratorium does not apply to farms that request special use permits that comply with all NYS Agriculture & Markets "farm operations" as defined by Section 301(11) of the NYS Ag & Markets Law. The Yates town government supports farmers and their housing needs in numerous ways – from ensuring safe roads and water supply to approving building permits and upholding our farmers' rights as a Right-to-Farm community.

Lyndonville Lions Club will provide a pop-up eye clinic for free exams / glasses on Saturday, April 13th, 9am-4pm, @ the White Birch Golf Course.

History Fun Fact! The Town of Yates, established in 1822, was originally called Northton by the Holland Land Company surveyors, but a few months after organization the name was changed to Yates in honor of the governor of New York State, Joseph C. Yates.

Town Clerk Update

2024 Town and County Tax Payment Information. If your taxes are not held in escrow, you should have received your Town and County tax bill by January 10th. If you have not received it you may view a copy on the Town of Yates website: townofyates.org, or contact our office at (585)765-9716 to obtain a copy. We receive all payments at the Yates Town Hall, 8 S. Main St., Lyndonville, NY 14098, until May 1st. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Yates Tax Collector. We accept cash, checks, and debit/credit cards. Online payments may be made at townofyates.org. The payment portal is located on the homepage at the bottom right-side of the page. As a reminder, there is a mail-drop located in the South Door of the building to enable payments after hours and on weekends.

Dog Licensing. The Town Clerk's Office is responsible for issuing dog licenses, processing license payments and updating dog status. New York State requires that all dogs over the age of 4 months be licensed. The Town Clerk's Office issues dog licenses under the authority of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. To obtain a license, the owner must provide the following veterinary documentation:1) Proof of Current Rabies Vaccination and 2) Proof of Spay or Neuter (only if the dog is spayed or neutered). Dog licenses must be renewed on an annual basis. Renewal notices will be sent out the month prior to the dog's renewal month. If you move out of Town, please notify the Clerk's Office so that we can remove the dog from our renewal list. License fee schedule: Spayed/Neutered Dogs: $7.00, Intact Dog (Not spayed or neutered): $15.00, Late Fee $2.00, Replacement Dog Tag: $3.00

Town Assessor Update

Agricultural Exemptions. AGED/Senior Exemptions and Disability Exemptions must be applied for or renewed before March 1, 2024 for the 2024-25 tax cycle. If you have not renewed or believe you may qualify for one of these exemptions please contact the office at 585-765-9146 (Tuesdays).

2024 Townwide Reassessment project is underway. This update will take place and will not be postponed. Notices of change of assessment will be sent to all property owners in the Spring of 2024. When you receive your change notice please review and if you have questions regarding the new value please contact the office. Reminder: The assessment of your property should be the full market value. What would your property sell for on the open market? This amount may not be what you deem accurate, so ask for the comparable sales used to determine the value. An increased property value does not automatically equal an increase in property tax. There is information available regarding assessments on the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services website at www.tax.ny.gov

Please Note: The process for reassessing property is set by NYS Real Property Tax Law. It is not a process that is controlled by the Town. The Taxable Value of each property is determined before the Town budget is adopted. The Town has no control over the assessed values nor does the Town dictate the new total town taxable value.

Summer Youth Recreation Program

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

Highway and Water Request!

Please ensure that your house or business has visible address numbers on the building. This is not only important for first responders like Fire and Ambulance, but also helps our highway / water personnel identify and support all locations.

Code Enforcement Update: In 2023, the Town of Yates Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Reese, became NYS Certified. During that time period, he also approved and oversaw 58 building permits including 5 new homes, over a dozen barns and garages, and a telecommunication tower. Our town residents and businesses invested over $5,000,000 dollars in properties in Yates!

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