Town of Yates Newsletter

March 2025

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

Town Updates

Street Dance! *MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!*
Our 4th Annual Street Dance will be held on Friday, August 15th, 5-9pm in the Village of Lyndonville. This family-fun event will feature a live band, great food trucks, craft vendors, a bounce house and more. This year, instead of blocking Main St in the village, we will have the party in the large parking lot behind (to the west of) the Town Hall. There will be multiple tables and chairs for families to eat. And, of course, there will be dancing!

The Code of the Town of Yates We are proud to unveil our new, completely digitized, Code of the Town of Yates. There is a prominent link to the Code on the main webpage for the Town. There are also paper copies available in the Town Hall. In the process of digitizing our Code, we updated over 80 items over a more than 2-year effort of our town board, planning board, zoning board of appeals, code enforcement officer, and town clerk. The new Code is a searchable compilation of all active local laws and regulations for the Town of Yates. Check it out!

Water Rates Increase The Town of Yates once again needed to increase the water rates for most water customers starting January 1, 2025. The Town held several meetings with the Village wherein we learned that the Village had not covered the costs of producing water for us over the last few years. The rate increases in Water District 4 and will be reflected in our April water bills. In addition to an increase in the costs to produce clean water, the Town and the Village want to ensure that water reserve funds grow to sustain the village's water supply and infrastructure. As mentioned in last year's newsletter, 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.

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 130 children, ages 5-12, participated in a wide-range of fun physical fitness programs – including swimming - as well as some arts, crafts, games and academic skills development. For more info please contact Karli Sturtevant (ksturtevant@lcsdk12.org)

Lyndonville Lions Club will provide a pop-up eye clinic for free exams / glasses on Saturday, April 26th, 10am-4pm, @ the White Birch Golf Course.

Town Park Update

In June of 2024, Yates town voters voted against the Town purchasing the 153-acres surrounding the park. Before that special election, NYSEG made it clear that they intended to sell the land either to the Town or to another person or organization. The Town Supervisor received multiple inquiries - from private citizens to non-profit groups - regarding the land, and he referred them all to NYSEG. As it turned out, NYSEG sold the land to the Western NY Land Conservancy (WNYLC).

In discussions with the WNYLC, the Town Board is pleased to learn that the conservancy plans to remediate invasive species, conduct flora and fauna management, and build a walking nature trail that connects to the Yates Town Park! Since the WNYLC is a non-profit organization, the land will come off the tax rolls, but the Town Board believes that the investment the conservancy will make into this nature preserve will make for an attractive enhancement to the town park and the lakeshore.

Town Clerk Update

2025 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

The Assessor is available on Tuesdays from 9-4:30. If you have questions regarding exemptions, property assessments, are seeking general assessment information or in need of a tax map please reach out. The Assessor can be contacted by phone at 585-765-9146 or email at assessor@townofyates.org. Please note that phone messages and emails are responded to once a week.

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.

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 Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9am – Noon.

Code Enforcement Update: In 2024, the Town of Yates Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Reese, approved and oversaw 63 building permits including 7 new homes, over a dozen barns and garages. Our town residents and businesses invested over $3,400,000 dollars in properties in Yates!

Did you know? Here are some facts regarding our annual budget for the Town of Yates…

- For the current fiscal year (2025):
    - The total amount of taxes raised by the Town of Yates was $1,247,957 (Total Town Tax)
        - $500,187 of the Total Town Tax is earmarked for the General Fund (covers townwide expenses and expenses specifically outside the village)
        - $336,981.89 of the Total Town Tax is earmarked for the Highway Fund (covers townwide expenses and expenses specifically outside the village)
        - $214,000 of the Total Town Tax is actually a pass through amount that goes directly to the Lyndonville Joint Fire District
        - $196,788.11 of the Total Town Tax is earmarked for Water District funding