



TOWN OF

COLONIE CHRONICLE

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TOWN BOARD

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A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MAHAN



Dear Fellow Colonie Resident,

Colonie truly is an outstanding community. Last month a Siena College Poll found that 97 percent of the Colonie residents surveyed agree Colonie is “a great place to raise a family.” And Colonie was voted “Best Suburban Community” for the second year in a row in the latest Times Union Readers’ Poll.

These polls tell me that residents think the Town is on the right track. That’s something that makes me very proud, because I believe my most important job as Supervisor is to protect our quality of life – both for today and the future.

With the future in mind, we have continually worked to strengthen Town finances while providing an excellent level of resident services. Doing so has required a collective willingness to rethink the way the Town does business, and I want to thank everyone who has helped us realize this goal.

This year we will again meet the requirements of the Governor’s Tax Levy Cap – for the fifth year running. By meeting all the tax cap requirements, we’ve made it possible for our residents to benefit from the NYS Tax Rebate Program both for 2015 and 2016.

With the Town on sound financial footing, we’ve been able to begin making major investments to upgrade our drinking water and sewer infrastructure. These are investments that will serve us well far into the future. Last year, we also began our second five-year paving plan to continue the big task of upgrading the Town’s 320 miles of roads.

When we think of protecting our quality of life, it’s essential that we continue funding programs that benefit both our seniors and youth. I am proud that the Town has maintained these programs, even as other municipalities have cut such services.

Finally, when thinking of things that add significant value to our community, we cannot underestimate the importance of our Colonie Town Library. This has been a banner year as the library celebrates its 40th Anniversary in its beautiful Albany Shaker Road location. As part of that celebration, we’re featuring the library in this issue of the Chronicle, including an interview with Director Evelyn Neale.

Finally, it is a very great honor to have been re-elected as your Supervisor once again. Going forward, I pledge to continue my work to ensure that Colonie remains a great place to live and do business.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan

Paula A. Mahan
Colonie Town Supervisor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farmers' Market at The Crossings

Saturdays, May 21 – October 1
9 am to 1 pm

Town Band Concert

June 6, 7:00 p.m. (Free)
Pruyn House Barn

Library Start-of-Summer Concert

June 15, 6:30 p.m. (Free)
Michael Eck

Town Pool Opens

Saturday, June 25
Noon – 7 pm, Daily

Summer Enrichment Program

June 27– August 11
Arts, music, sports classes for K-12
783-2760 or colonie.org for info, registration

Learn-to-Swim, Guard Start & Water Safety Programs

June 27 – July 8
Colonie Town Pool
783-2760 or colonie.org for info, registration

Tennis Instruction Programs

July – August; Various Locations
783-2760 or colonie.org for info, registration

Pruyn House Concerts in the Barn

Wednesdays, July 13 – August 10, at 7:00 pm
\$5.00 adult donation; children 12 and under, free

Thursday Night Concerts at The Crossings

Thursdays, July – August, 6:30 to 8:00 pm (Free)
Sponsored by Joseph Vellano & Vellano Brothers, Inc.
456-2136 or colonie.org for info

Library End-of-Summer Concert

August 22, 6:30 p.m. (Free)
Sonny & Perley

Pruyn House Old Fashioned Sunday

Sunday, September 11 – Noon to 4 pm (Free)
Family fun for all ages. 783-1435 or colonie.org for info

Harvest Fest – The Crossings

Sunday, September 11 – 11:00 am to 4:00 p.m. (Free)
Family fun for all ages.

The Colonie Chronicle

Paula A. Mahan, Town Supervisor

Sara Wiest, Editor

The Colonie Chronicle is published periodically by the Town of Colonie to provide residents with information on Town happenings and services. For more information, call 518-783-2728 or e-mail the editor at: wiests@colonie.org



Much Loved: According to recent surveys, Colonie residents love their library, now celebrating its 40th anniversary. In 2015, the library averaged 20,000 visits per month, with 32,906 patrons attending 1,133 programs.

LIBRARY REPORTS 2015 WAS A BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

Each year the Colonie Town Library issues an annual report to update the Colonie community on its progress and activities, and 2015 was an eventful year. Some annual report highlights are presented below.

- After almost 30 years on the staff and more than a dozen years as director, Richard Naylor retired in May and Evelyn Neale became the new director at the end of June.
- In summer of 2015, 846 children joined the library's summer reading club and read 330,136 minutes.
- A major weeding project was begun for fiction, non-fiction, and reference materials that will continue into 2016. The reference collection will be reduced by two-thirds and moved to help with reorganization of the Access Services space.
- Teen volunteers are a big part of our summer. The library had 53 volunteers who volunteered 1,508 hours.
- A new four-week program added in 2015 called CyberKids was a huge success. A team of Shaker High students taught children to code and make video games.
- The Friends of the Library raised money for a new Circulation Desk installed in late August. A second information desk was created by the front entrance for patron convenience.
- Many great noon author talks were presented as well as two film series, the Chinese Film Series Discussion and American Cinema and WWII.
- The big event in the teen room was the Battle of the Bands. Eight bands competed for donated prizes. This program brought lots of new teens and parents into the library.

*Rosemary Armao, Board President
Evelyn Neale, Library Director*



Lost & Found: Joe Nash, head of collections at the Colonie Town Library, garnered press coverage in April when he featured books not checked out in years in displays. The result: a resurgence of interest in these forgotten but worthwhile titles.

NEW DIRECTOR DISCUSSES CHALLENGES, GOALS FOR LIBRARY

Last year, Evelyn Neale became the new director of the William K. Sanford Town Library. In this interview, she reflects on her goals for the library, its role in the community, and the library's busy 40th anniversary celebration.

Q. You've been here almost a year. How are you settling in?

A. I've been very warmly welcomed. I no longer think of myself as the new director, but I think I may always be seen as the new director because the others were here so long!

Q. You've been hosting community conversations as part of the library's 40th anniversary celebration. What have you learned?

A. Well, people love the library. That is very consistent. They love that it is centrally located and on a bus path. They love the park-like setting with the pond and garden, and they love the staff. And they definitely see the library as serving as a community center for technology training, working with seniors, and services to families.

Q. Have you heard any suggestions for improvement?

A. Well, what's really coming back to us is the need for outreach. This summer, we'll be doing a sports-themed program for children and families at the Village of Colonie Recreation Center, and in June we'll be offering Overdrive training there.

There is also a desire for more meeting space and for more collaboration with the business community, perhaps through creation of a business center where those working from home could meet with clients, make conference calls, and access other services.

Q. What is the library's biggest challenge?

A. Our biggest challenge is meeting the needs of the building and how much that is going to cost. We now serve 20,000 people per month. That's a lot of wear and tear, but in a great way. It's a happy problem to have, but it's definitely a challenge.

Q. What are the most pressing needs?

A. We need expansion or reorganization of space. Right now I'm looking at how we can reorganize so that the space is more conducive to how people want to use it, but still allows us to house all the materials we need. We also need new bathrooms, updated lighting, and new carpet.

Q. How has the digital age changed the library?

A. Interestingly, while library usage is going up, circulation is going down. We have more visits, more people attending programs, but fewer books are being checked out. We've seen a corresponding increase in digital usage – use of databases



At Your Service: Colonie Town Library's new director, Evelyn Neale (third from left, first row), with members of her staff. She says libraries can give people "access to conversations" in the isolation of the digital age.

for research and use of Overdrive to access ebooks, audio books, videos, and magazines. Libraries are always ahead of the curve in terms of technology.

Q. Will libraries remain relevant?

A. Technology makes libraries more relevant, not less. Not everyone has a computer or internet access. We provide free wifi and public access to computers. We provide the open exchange for health insurance. And we are a trusted source of information as people adapt to new devices. Today, we provide a tremendous amount of technology training for free, through group lessons and one-on-one sessions. Plus, we still provide all the traditional services.

Q. Tell us about your plans for the 40th Anniversary.

A. We've planned several events designed to involve the community in lots of fun ways. We've also set some ambitious goals – to raise \$40,000, to increase library card holders to 40,000 from 20,000 and to increase membership in our Friends of the Library group to 400 from 100.

Q. How are you doing so far?

A. We're off to a great start. We raised \$10,000 through our first event, our Great Gatsby Gala. I hope to write a library construction grant to match whatever we raise – perhaps to upgrade to LED lighting.

Q. Any parting thoughts?

A. The library has become more of a meeting place. Devices are isolating, so libraries can give people access to conversations. Our community conversations have been well received, and I'd like to continue those. I'm definitely community-minded and outward-minded. I think it's about letting people have a voice.

COLONIE TOPS IN DIGITAL CIRCULATION

Last year, Town Library patrons made Colonie the top circulator of digital content in the Upper Hudson Library System for the third year running – last year downloading more than 58,000 titles from the Library’s digital collection.

To help patrons get started, the library offers workshops and one-on-one sessions designed to help them get up-and-running with both their devices and the Overdrive app, the library’s one-stop shop for digital library checkouts.

It all starts with a library card. Stop by the library to register for a card or renew an expired card. While there, you can pick up helpful instructions for how to check out items online or sign up for one of our monthly e-book reader clinics.

With thousands of e-book and audiobooks titles, plus over a hundred magazine subscriptions and hundreds of streaming videos, the library has something for everyone.

Visit: digitalcollection.uhls.org to browse the digital catalog.

LIBRARY TO AIR SONDHEIM MUSICALS

The Town Library will hold a “Summer with Sondheim” Film Series at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in July and August. All selections are filmed live performances – the majority with the original Broadway cast.

TO BE FEATURED

JULY 5	Company (2007)
JULY 12	Follies in Concert (1986)
JULY 26	Sweeney Todd (1982)
AUGUST 9	Sunday in the Park With George (1986)
AUGUST 16	Into the Woods (1991)
AUGUST 23	Passion (2003)
AUGUST 30	Putting it Together (2001)

LEARN TECHNOLOGY SKILLS AT THE LIBRARY

Has the frantic pace of technological change left you in the dust? Never fear, the Town Library can help.

From one-on-one appointments, to computer basics, to the latest in apps, media, and mobile computing, the library offers a comprehensive array of friendly classes designed to help build vital work skills, access digital media, make sense of unfamiliar new technology topics, and gain confidence as a computer user.

For a full listing of computer classes, visit colonielibrary.org or stop by to pick up the library’s newsletter. Questions? Call the Information Desk at 810-0314.

LIBRARY OFFERS SUMMER FUN, ENRICHMENT

Once again this summer, Youth Services at the Library has a full slate of events.

The Summer Reading Club begins on Thursday, July 7 with a kick-off concert at the Pruyn House featuring River Jack Z. Thursday Family Nights continue through the first week of August, with performances by Hampstead Puppets, Pickle Pie Productions, and others.

Family story times are offered at The Crossings on Monday evenings. On Tuesdays, Youth Services offers Preschool Mornings and afternoon workshops for school-aged kids with the Pine Bush, Heldeberg Marionettes, and more.

Wednesdays are busy with the Treehouse Club and the new Fun & Fitness at the Colonie Village Recreation Center. Thursdays, young people can build with Legos, read to therapy dogs, or animate machines with the new WeDo Construction Kit. On Fridays kids can learn how to code at the Cyber Kids program.

Programs are free and most require registration. Go to the library’s online calendar at colonielibrary.org or call 810-0315.



Tell Me a Story: In addition to providing access to the digital world, the Colonie Town Library still provides all the traditional services – like the ever-popular children’s programs above.



May I Help You? The library now sports a new circulation desk made possible by the Friends of the Library.

FRIENDS WORK HARD TO ENHANCE TOWN LIBRARY

Walk through the Colonie Town Library and you will see the work of the Friends of the Library.

You will see it in the library's new circulation desk and the comfortably re-upholstered armchairs. You will see it outside, where the Friends sold commemorative bricks to help support the reading garden.

They also helped the library purchase shelving, computers, and library card key tags.

Becoming a 501 C3 in 2009, the Friends of the William K. Sanford Library is an all-volunteer organization that also strives to act as a "bridge" to the community by increasing public awareness and encouraging cultural activities.

As part of the library's 40th anniversary celebration, the Friends is working to increase its membership. Residents of all ages are welcome. Tax-deductible memberships are \$15.00 for families, \$10.00 for individuals, and \$8.00 for seniors. Business memberships are also available.

The Friends also sell reasonably priced used books every Saturday from their popular Book Nook stall at the Farmers' Market. Book Nook proceeds are donated both to the library and The Crossings.

For more information go to: <http://colonielibrary.org/friends/>



UPCOMING 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Giffy's BBQ and Family Festival
Friday, August 12

Pasta Dinner Fundraiser
Friday, October 14

COLONIE PHONE DIRECTORY

Main Line	783-2700
Animal Control.....	783-2711
Assessor.....	783-2701
Attorney.....	783-2704
Building.....	783-2706
Civil Service.....	783-2721
Community Development.....	783-2718
Comptroller.....	783-2708
Emergency Management & Planning.....	782-2609
EMS.....	782-2645
Environmental Svcs.....	783-2827
Fire Services.....	783-2712
General Services.....	783-2726
Highway.....	783-2795
Historian.....	782-2601
Human Resources.....	783-2720
Justice.....	783-2714
Landfill.....	783-2827
Latham Water Dist.....	783-2750
Library.....	458-9274
Management Information Services.....	783-2895
Planning & Economic Development.....	783-2741
Police (Non Emergency).....	783-2811
Pruyn House.....	783-1435
Public Works Engineering.....	783-6292
Pure Waters (Sewer).....	783-2766
Recreation.....	783-2760
Senior Resources.....	459-5051
Supervisor.....	783-2728
Tax Department.....	783-2730
Town Clerk.....	783-2734
Youth Bureau.....	456-2135



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2016

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-494-2273
MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 - 5 PM

*Reservations are accepted no sooner than 30 days prior to the scheduled drop off day.
Residents of the Town of Colonie will be accepted by appointment only.
Proof of Residency will be required at the time of disposal.*

DROP-OFF DAYS

WED. APRIL 20

4:00pm - 7:00pm

SAT. JUNE 25

3:00pm - 6:00pm

WED. SEPTEMBER 14

4:00pm - 7:00pm

WHERE

TOWN OF COLONIE LANDFILL
1319 LOUDON RD. (RT. 9)
COHOES, NY 12047

SPONSORED BY

TOWN OF COLONIE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
TOWN OF COLONIE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



PRACTICE POLLUTION PREVENTION

Stormwater runoff is rain that falls on roofs, lawns, or paved areas, and is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes or culverts and ditches. As it flows over the land surface, it can be contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. This untreated water is then discharged directly into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

What you can do to help:

- Recycle used motor oil
- Participate in Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
- Use hazardous substances in the smallest amounts possible

Please recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other fluids—Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains!

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

REMEMBER THE "BEST METHOD" FOR DISPOSAL OF UNRESTRICTED PESTICIDES IS PROPER USE. IF NOT BANNED, RESTRICTED, OR OUTDATED, USE ACCORDING TO DIRECTIONS OR GIVE TO A FRIEND TO USE.

Acids	Dry Gas	Muriatic Acid	Rat Poison
Adhesives	Dyes	Nail Polish	Rust Solvents
Aerosols	Epoxies	Nail Polish Remover	Solvents
Boric Acid	Flea Collars & Powders	No-Pest Strips	Spot Remover
Brake Fluid	Hair Removers	Oven Cleaners	Toilet Bowl Cleaners
Cements	Herbicides	Paints: Latex & Oil Based	Tub & Tile Cleaners
Charcoal Lighters	Inks	Paint Remover	Turpentine
Chlorine	Insecticides	Paint Thinner	Varnish
Cleaning Fluid	Insect Repellants	Permanent Solutions	Weed Killers
Corn & Wart Remover	Lacquers	Pesticides	Wood Pesticides (Some)
Degreasers	Lubricants	Photo Chemicals	Wood Polishes
Disinfectants	Moth Balls or Flakes	Pool Chemicals	Wood Stains

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

ASBESTOS
ANTI-FREEZE*
BIOLOGICAL OR MEDICAL WASTES
DIOXIN SUSPECT PESTICIDES
(2,4,5T, CERTAIN FORMULATIONS OF WEED-BE-GONE AND SILVEX)
ELECTRONICS (TV AND COMPUTER)*
EXPLOSIVES AND FLARES
PCB'S
PENTACHLOROPHENOL
PRESSURIZED TANKS AND GAS CYLINDERS
(PROPANE TANKS)*
RADIOACTIVE WASTE (SMOKE DETECTORS)
WASTE OIL*

* These materials can be brought to the Town of Colonie Landfill during regular business hours for recycling.

2016 YARD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Please Note

Regularly scheduled weekly pick-ups run from April 11 to November 4 in 2016. After November 4, the Town will continue to collect yard waste, but not on the regular weekly schedule. Unscheduled curbside collection will continue through December 9, weather permitting.

Program Guidelines

For ease of handling, we prefer yard waste to be packed in biodegradable bags. They can be purchased at local supermarkets, hardware stores, and home centers.

Yard waste may also be placed in reusable containers no larger than 32 gallons in volume and weighing no more than 40 pounds. It is no longer necessary to identify reusable containers with stickers purchased from the Town.

Residents may also bring compostable yard waste at no charge to the Landfill compost facility at 1319 Loudon Road, Cohoes, during normal business hours.

Residents may pick up free compost beginning May 7. (Note: Compost is not recommended for vegetable gardens, but can be used as mulch, a soil conditioner, to establish a lawn, or as an ornamental plant potting soil.)

Holiday Collection

When a legal holiday falls on a collection day, pick up for ALL fire districts may occur on another day during the week.

ACCEPTABLE YARD WASTE

- LAWN CLIPPINGS
- LEAVES
- PLANT DEBRIS
- HAY
- BRANCHES & BRUSH UPTO 3 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND 4 FEET IN LENGTH, TIED WITH STRING IN MANAGEABLE BUNDLES (NO WIRE)

UNACCEPTABLE YARD WASTE

- BAGS OR CONTAINERS OVER 40 LBS. IN WEIGHT OR 32 GALLONS IN VOLUME
- YARD WASTE IN PLASTIC BAGS (INCLUDING ORANGE PUMPKIN BAGS)
- WREATHS (BECAUSE OF WIRE)
- BRANCHES OR BRUSH NOT BUNDLED WITH TWINE OR IN BIODEGRADABLE BAGS
- BRANCHES STUFFED IN CONTAINERS
- YARD WASTE CONTAINING ROCKS, SOD, OR DIRT
- YARD WASTE FROZEN IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS
- TREATED WOOD
- CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION DEBRIS
- NON-ORGANIC MATERIAL, INCLUDING METAL OF ANYTYPE

WEEKLY COLLECTION IS SCHEDULED BY FIRE DISTRICT

**PICK UP
RUNS
APRIL 11
TO
NOV. 4**

MONDAY

MIDWAY & STANFORD HEIGHTS

TUESDAY

SHAKER ROAD/LOUDONVILLE

WEDNESDAY

LATHAM AND SCHUYLER HEIGHTS

THURSDAY

BOGHT, VERDOY & MAPLEWOOD

FRIDAY

FULLER ROAD & WEST ALBANY



Town of
Colonie
783-LEAF (5323)



Village of
Colonie
869-7562



Village of
Menands
434-2922.



Office of the Supervisor
Town of Colonie
Memorial Town Hall
534 Loudon Road
Newtonville, NY 12128
www.colonie.org

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A Near Perfect Score: Ninety-seven percent of Colonie residents surveyed in a recent Siena College Poll agreed that Colonie is a great place to raise a family. Ninety-three percent found Colonie's town parks and recreational facilities to be "excellent or good." Above left, the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Path alongside the Mohawk River in Colonie, and, at right, the ever-popular Crossings.

SIENA POLL FINDS MOST COLONIE RESIDENTS HAPPY WITH TOWN

A recent poll of Colonie residents conducted by Siena College concluded that an "overwhelming" 97 percent of Colonie residents agree Colonie is a great place to raise a family.

"I was so proud to learn this, because I truly believe the most important part of my job as Supervisor is protecting our quality of life," said Supervisor Paula A. Mahan.

Seventy-three percent of respondents say they believe the Town "is on the right track," with 70 percent stating they feel they pay "about the right amount" of taxes for the services they receive.

Residents also report feeling safe and secure in their neighborhoods – with 91 percent rating local police and 96 percent rating local firefighters as providing good or excellent service.

Ninety-three percent of residents surveyed reported that the quality of town parks and recreation facilities was good or excellent, with 72 percent having visited The Crossings "very often or somewhat often" in the past twelve months.

Eighty-eight percent rated the quality of library services as excellent or good. A substantial margin of respondents – 65 percent – said they preferred the library not be reconfigured into smaller libraries.

Fifty-six percent of respondents reported the job performance of the Town's elected officials as either good or excellent, and 54 percent rated local government's responsiveness as good or excellent. However, only 17 percent of residents reported attending public meetings "very often or somewhat often."

While 70 percent of Colonie residents said that the statement that recent economic development had improved the quality of life was "completely or somewhat descriptive of the Town of Colonie," 52 percent of residents said the community has lost "that small town feel."

Residents also reported concerns about traffic congestion (80 percent), commercial development (50 percent), taxes (49 percent), and affordable housing (46 percent). They reported infrastructure (27 percent) and traffic congestion (22) percent as the most important issues to address.