



# COLONIE CHRONICLE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Dear Fellow Colonie Resident,

Once again, with a long winter and a year of the COVID pandemic behind us, what an exciting time for the residents of Colonie to get back outside and enjoy the great programs that Colonie has to offer. Some of the new facilities that we can look forward to are eight new Pickle Ball courts being constructed in the town, a new pavilion at the Mohawk River Park, and new bathrooms and seating at the West Albany Pocket Park. We have completed upgrades to the bike path and have installed a new playground and parking lot at the south end of The Crossings, which will ensure that The Crossings remains a premiere location for recreation.



**“ ... it goes without saying, the gratitude and appreciation I have for our Police, EMS and Fire personnel during these trying times.”**

I am proud that for six consecutive years, Colonie was voted the “Best Suburban Town” in the annual Times Union reader’s poll. This is an honor that we can all be proud of because the residents are the ones who make Colonie a great place to live. Congratulations to the Colonie Town Library as it was once again voted the region’s “Best Library.” The library has been undergoing major renovations and while there is still more to come, it currently boasts a new entrance, new restrooms and new reading rooms for children, teens and adults.

Of course, it goes without saying, the gratitude and appreciation I have for our Police, EMS and Fire personnel during these trying times. These individuals did not have the luxury of working from home and never hesitated in responding to any call or assisting those in need. Even though there was an increase in call volume, our police officers were able to meet this demand with professionalism and courtesy. Our Communications Division has recently implemented a new CAD and Records Management System that will better serve all first responders by being more efficient and allowing for improved data collection by all agencies. Colonie EMS had another banner year and I’m proud to acknowledge that for the fourth year in a row, they received the American Heart Association’s prestigious Lifeline Gold Plus Award. They were also selected as one of only 205 agencies nationally to participate in the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport model by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This model will allow greater flexibility of our department to address emergency health care needs of Medicare beneficiaries.

Finally, I am truly honored to be serving my fourteenth year as your Town Supervisor. This will be my last year in office as I have announced that I will be retiring at the end of the year. We will continue to move forward together and I welcome the challenge of keeping Colonie safe and the number one community in the Capital District.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan  
Colonie Town Supervisor



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### TOWN BOARD

**Paula A. Mahan**  
Supervisor

**Linda J. Murphy**  
Deputy Supervisor

**Brian Austin**  
Board Member

**Rick Field**  
Board Member

**Danielle Futia**  
Board Member

**Melissa Jeffers**  
Board Member

**Jill A. Penn**  
Board Member

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Global Youth Service Day

at Crossings Park

Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 1:00pm



### Mohawk River Park Opens

May 8<sup>th</sup>

### Farmers' Market

at Crossings Park

Saturdays

May 15<sup>th</sup> – September 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 1:00pm



### Town Pool Opens

June 18<sup>th</sup>

## SUPERVISOR MAHAN

### GIVES 2021 STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

Earlier this year Supervisor Paula A. Mahan delivered her annual State of the Town message to the Capital Region Chamber and at a Town board meeting. Key points are summarized below.

Colonie continues on its strong upward trajectory. New and existing homes are selling throughout the entire town and businesses continue to show a strong desire to locate in Colonie.

The Tax Collection system was replaced with a system that now allows a resident to view and/or print their tax bill information online as well as pay by credit card.

The Town also implemented Stay Connected, which is a public information system. By providing an active email account, residents can choose those areas of Town services that they are most interested in receiving updates.

Colonie EMS for the fourth year in a row received the American Heart Association's prestigious Lifeline Gold Plus Award. They were also selected as one of only 205 agencies nationally to participate in the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport model by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

As a result of Governor Cuomo's Executive Order #203, the Colonie Comprehensive Police Practices Review Committee was created requiring each local government to adopt a policing reform plan.

Through our Community Development Department, the Town has secured close to \$1 million in CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – COVID) funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

Since 2012, we have completed more than \$14M in capital improvement projects in the sanitary sewer collection and treatment systems. Every single project has been delivered at, or under budget with our average project completed 30% under the authorized amount. These investments are occurring while the Town of Colonie maintains sewer use charges at 54% of the national average.

The Latham Water Department had an active year in replacing infrastructure and completing our emergency connection with the City of Albany.

In 2010, we began our **Paving** (right) and Storm Water Improvement Program and we were funding it at \$2.5 million dollars per year. Last year I was happy to announce that we were able to add an additional \$250,000 in 2019 and \$500,000 in 2020.

Our Planning Department launched the first Temporary Outdoor Seating program to fast-track approvals to allow restaurants to create new outdoor seating spaces in response to decreased indoor capacity. In November, they were recognized with a "2020 Best Practice Award" by the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association.



Our Colonie Senior Resources Department moved to a new location at 12 Metro Park Drive. The new office space allows Senior Resources to better serve not only the human service needs of our town residents, but also to expand programming, offer increased special events, services and support groups.



All our parks trails and paths remained open with social distancing guidelines in effect. **The Mohawk Hudson Bike Path** (left) underwent major improvements with four miles of the bike path being paved and improving its infrastructure along with a new pavilion being built at The Mohawk River Town Park. We added a new inclusive playground in the back of the Crossings Park along with a new parking area. A new Memorial Bench program has been implemented where anyone can have a bench installed in our parks or the bike path in honor or memory of a loved one.

Last year I announced that the Town had entered into an agreement to purchase power from the Schuylerville Hydroelectric Facility. Since June 2019, the Schuylerville Hydro project has generated over 10 million-kilowatt hours and saved Colonie over \$280 thousand dollars.



Our **Town Library** (left) saw the creation of an additional meeting space, a new adult quiet reading space and a new roof. I am pleased to announce that the library again, won the Times Union Readers Poll as the best library in 2020.

Phase I of the restoration/renovation of the historic Pruyn House is complete. The windows have been completely refurbished, the new roof is finished, the chimneys have been repointed and all the drainage issues have been resolved. Repairs are also continuing in the Barn, the Carriage House, the Schoolhouse and the Tool Museum.

The State of the Town address is posted at [colonie.org](http://colonie.org).

## Colonie Parks Memorial Bench

The Town of Colonie Parks and Recreation Department offers you a special way to honor a loved one or friend by placing a commemorative bench in one of the Town's parks or along the Mohawk Hudson bike trail. This program offers you a chance to enhance the beauty of our community while honoring your loved one.

Each **bench** (right) is installed on a concrete pad and includes the installation of an attractive engraved plaque with the wording of your choosing. All wording must be approved by the Town of Colonie Parks and Recreation Department. Specific locations for bench placement within the parks system may be requested, however, final locations are subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Department. You may download the Online Memorial Bench Application or contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (518) 783-2760.



## Town of Colonie Citizen Communications

The Town of Colonie has implemented two new systems for improved communications for alerts, services, activities, and events. They are as follows;

### Stay Connected

Sign up for community news and events, DPW updates, Employment, Parks & Recreation, Safety, Senior News, Supervisor updates, and urgent alerts.

Visit [colonie.org/stayconnected](http://colonie.org/stayconnected)



### YakResponder

The Colonie Police Department has a new tool to communicate with the public in non-emergency situations. There is no need to download an app or sign up for this service as all the person has to do is call the dispatcher as they normally would and the YakResponder interface will handle the rest. For example, if a person calls at 5:00pm about an auto accident with no injuries and it is not blocking the roadway, this is a non-emergency call during a traditionally busy time for police calls. The YakResponder will allow dispatchers to notify, by text, an approximate time of arrival for an officer. If there is a report of a lost pet or a stolen item, the dispatchers can text the complainant when/if the pet or item is located.



#### This program is designed to:

- Help keep emergency lines open for real emergencies
- Help citizens feel connected during their non-priority call for service
- Provide citizens with excellent customer service

For further information on this program, you may contact Deputy Chief Robert Winn at (518) 783-2744.

## PGA HOPE at Colonie Town Golf Course



Colonie Town Golf Course will once again partner with the Albany VA Hospital and the Northeastern New York PGA to help facilitate our PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) Golf Clinics. These clinics are designed to teach US Military Veterans the game of golf and make golf a part of their post-military lives. Veterans of all abilities and disabilities are welcome to have fun in our program run in conjunction with the Albany VA and the NENYPGA. Session will be held in June and July and pre-registration is required. For more information, contact the Albany VA Hospital, the NENYPGA Office (518) 438-8645, or Colonie PGA Professional Noel Gebauer at (518) 374-4181.

## 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 Services	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 District	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

### The Colonie Chronicle

Paula A. Mahan, Supervisor

Tom Breslin, Jr., Editor

The Colonie Chronicle is published by the Town of Colonie to provide residents with information on Town happenings and services. For more information, call (518) 783-2728 or email the editor at: [BreslinTJ@colonie.org](mailto:BreslinTJ@colonie.org)

## 2021 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

### WHERE:

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

### 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!

We reserve the right to refuse any material which is not deemed acceptable to the managing chemist on site.

For more information call the Division of Environmental Services at (518) 783-6292 Or visit [colonie.org](http://colonie.org)



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

## 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.

## 2021 YARD WASTE BRUSH PROGRAM

### REGULAR WEEKLY PICK-UPS RUN APRIL 12<sup>th</sup> – OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

After October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Town will continue to collect yard waste, but not on the regular weekly schedule. Unscheduled curbside collection will continue through December 10<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

#### Program Guidelines

For ease of handling, we prefer yard waste to be packed in biodegradable bags. 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 compostable yard waste stickers purchased from the Town.

#### Place the bags and/or containers at the curbside for your pick-up day.

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

**Through June:** Monday – Friday 7am to 3pm., Saturdays 7am – Noon

**July, August, and September:** Monday – Friday 7am – 2pm., Saturdays 7am – Noon

*Residents may pick up free compost beginning May 6*

**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

Where a legal holiday falls on a collection day, pick up for all fire districts may occur on another day during that week.

#### Weekly collection is scheduled by Fire District:

<b>Monday</b>	Midway / Stanford Heights
<b>Tuesday</b>	Loudonville / Albany Shaker Road
<b>Wednesday</b>	Latham / Schuyler Heights
<b>Thursday</b>	Boght / Verdoy / Maplewood
<b>Friday</b>	Fuller Road / West Albany

## ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- Lawn Clippings
- Leaves
- Plant Debris
- Hay
- Branches & brush up to 3 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length, tied with string in manageable bundles (no wire) or in biodegradable bags



## UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- 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
- Garbage
- Yard waste containing rocks, sod, or dirt
- Yard waste frozen in reusable containers
- Treated wood
- Construction/demolition debris
- Non-organic material, including metal of any type

#### Town of Colonie

(518) 783-LEAF (5323)

#### Village of Colonie

(518) 869-7562

#### Village of Menands

(518) 434-2922



## Town of Colonie's Memorial Concert Band Performs at Carnegie Hall

There is an age-old question that asks, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" with the answer always being practice. Practice was certainly the answer for the Town's Memorial Concert Band as the band was selected Pre-COVID to perform with a contingent of Marist College musicians at Carnegie Hall. The concert's title, "America the Beautiful: A Veterans Day Celebration," provided a night of patriotic music honoring the nation's veterans. Arthur Himmelberger, who is the Music Director and Conductor of the Town Band, has also been affiliated with Marist College's Music Department since 1986 which allowed the musicians to join together to bring these songs to life. The 2,000-member audience which included veterans and active duty military members from all service branches, gave the band two standing ovations. "That's a rarity at Carnegie Hall," noted Himmelberger. Sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, the band is comprised of dedicated amateur musicians who perform more than 20 concerts a year free of charge at community venues. For more information, please visit: [memorialbandcolonie.org](http://memorialbandcolonie.org).

## Senior Resources Department has Moved!

The Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department has moved to their new office space located at 12 Metro Park Drive, Suite 103. The new office is a mere 400 steps from the Beltrone Living Center, located at the entrance to the Crossings Park at the corner of Metro Park Drive and Winners Circle. Ample, accessible parking will welcome visitors and the office space will provide our staff more suitable, private offices when meeting with seniors and caregivers. Our new location will offer community space that will enable Senior Resources and The Six Clubs of Colonie the opportunity to provide special events and programs.

Our phone number (518) 459-5051 and email addresses will remain the same. We look forward to assisting the residence of Colonie in our new location. For more information go to our website at: [colonie.org/departments/seniors](http://colonie.org/departments/seniors)





**Office of the Supervisor**  
**Town of Colonie**  
**Memorial Town Hall**

534 New Loudon Road  
Latham, NY 12110  
[visit colonie.org](http://visit.colonie.org)

## Colonie EMS Combats Covid-19

The Town of Colonie EMS Department has been on the forefront of the efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic since early last year. Our primary goal continues to be providing the safest top level emergency care to the residents of the Town of Colonie. The Department recognized early on that those at highest risk in our community should receive the COVID-19 vaccine as quickly and safely as possible. To meet this goal, the Department's EMTs and Paramedics have received training from the New York State Department of Health and the CDC on COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling and administration.

Having our own trained staff has allowed us to collaborate with several other entities to administer hundreds of vaccines in just a short time to those residents most at risk from COVID-19. In conjunction with the Albany County Sheriff's Office the Colonie EMS has been providing vaccinations at various senior living facilities within the Town. Thank you to the Albany County Health Department, the Albany County Executive's Office, and Caring Wellness Pharmacy for the reallocation of vaccines to The Town of Colonie, which has enabled our EMS Department to begin vaccinating homebound residents of the Town.

Moving forward, our plan is to distribute vaccines to the expanding list of eligible residents as larger quantities of vaccine become available to us. The Colonie EMS Department looks forward to the challenge of continuing to provide the best EMS care, while expanding our normal scope of practice.

