

The Town of Canaan NY

Your town - Your news

Will Spring Be Soon?



A letter from the Supervisor

Greetings,

The usual snow and really cold weather, key components of a northeastern winter, appeared only sparingly the first weeks of this year. The absence of a traditional winter could be responsible for the high activity levels across town. Since the last newsletter the Town Board has completed a number of tasks to close out 2022 and get the new year underway. The 2022 fiscal year came in just under budget with unexpended balances used to reduce 2023 taxes and to add to

cash reserve accounts. Key staff and volunteers met 2022 training requirements with improved access from new online sources. At the annual organizational meeting in January, over a dozen community members were appointed to boards, committees and work groups to support and extend the work of elected officials and staff. We welcomed Margaret Norway as the new Assessor's Assistant, leaving us with one remaining staff vacancy, Deputy Highway Superintendent.

A new pilot program, allowing two stickers per household address for Municipal Solid Waste, began January 1st. The pilot program requires that stickers be attached to the vehicle window making it easier to monitor and limit residential use of the station to town residents. Town Board members will monitor stickers again this year for compliance with residency requirements.

In February, the Town Board completed the mandatory, annual audit of its cash accounts and filed its 2022 Annual Update Document (AUD) with the New York State Comptroller's Office.

Recently completed projects included the installation of a long-awaited microphone system at Town Hall, new membership in the New York State Planning Federation to increase the number of training opportunities for staff and volunteers, and approving a contract with NYSEG to replace existing halide or halogen streetlights with LED

lights, reducing energy consumption and costs for the local streetlight districts. There is a six month waiting list for the change-out; replacement is expected to take place in the next 3 to 4 months.

Two constituent issues have been concluded. The long-standing flooding / water management issue on 295 in East Chatham has been addressed with the replacement and extension of an undersized culvert by the New York State Department of Transportation. Recent resident concerns about the expansion and upgrade of lights at B3 businesses were reviewed by the Code Officer, and where appropriate, sent to the Planning Board for Site Plan review.

Thanks to our partnership with Columbia County Economic Development and David Berman representing the Town of Ghent, broadband data (un/underserved roads / project costs) has been reconciled and updated with various agencies' lists and submitted to ReConnect/USDA for funding approval. Upon approval we can move to contract and project implementation in the coming weeks. We are still hoping for project buildout to start in late spring/early summer with an anticipated completion by the end of the year.

As expected, the Canaan Climate Smart Task Force has accumulated more than enough points to apply for Bronze Certification; an announcement regarding the application is expected in early

March. Task force member Becky Meier has led the planning and implementation of the Canaan Energy Efficiency or Heat Pump campaign now underway; see below for more information. And, more good news, the task force successfully applied for a Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley grant to continue the ecological enhancement and restoration of Stoddard Park begun last year. The \$6,000 grant will include renovation and replanting of two additional, large neglected beds, native tree plantings, and removal of the European Water Chestnut from Stoddard Pond. The garden bed and chestnut removal projects will be accomplished through a series of Community Gardening Days this summer.

This month we will begin working with staff, committees and community members to understand the needs and aspirations for a website redesign. If you have any thoughts about the current website, or what you would like to see in the future, please email supervisor@canaannewyork.org with your comments or suggestions.

Lastly, with various events in the planning stages, I ask you to think of joining us for one or more of the upcoming events; Earth Day on April 23, a series of Community Gardening Days soon to be scheduled, Memorial Day on May 29, and / or for Canaan Community Day on June 17. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, build community, and get things done! Please email supervisor@canaannewyork.org if

you are interested in more information about any of these events.

It is truly an honor and pleasure to work with the Town Board, staff, volunteers, and many caring members of our community on so many projects. We're off to a strong start for the year, let's keep it going!

Brenda Adams

Supervisor





Earth Day

The Town of Canaan Canaan Climate Smart Task Force is sponsoring the second annual Earth Day event on Sunday, April 23, from 1 to 4PM. Volunteers are needed and there are tasks for all skill levels and physical abilities. If your organization has programs around the environment, sustainable land use and conservation, native plants,

climate change, energy conservation and efficiency, etc., we hope you will consider joining us as a participant. *The primary work of the day will be a volunteer-led park clean-up day; the Canaan Climate Smart Task Force will also be there to talk about its ongoing activities.*



Here Comes Summer and a Cool Job!

Summer will be here before we know it! Adams Point Beach Association is now hiring lifeguards for its 2023 season and for the Town Swim Instruction Program. If you're interested in becoming a part-time or substitute guard, please reach out to us at adampointbeach@gmail.com



Notes from the Highway Department

The Highway Department is in full swing! Even with less snow, there has been plenty of weather-related road maintenance as the crews have responded to a mix of unseasonably warm and single-digit temperatures with everything in between. As the ground has not really frozen this winter, the department purchased rubber blades for the snow plows to remove excess water from the roads and to better preserve the soft roads.

Additional news includes the replacement of an 18-year-old pickup truck assigned to the Highway Superintendent with a new Chevrolet 3500 HD. This is the vehicle you will see around town in advance of and during bad weather, doing road checks, responding to emergency

calls, and of course, the usual plowing and sanding.

With the nicer weather, the highway crews have resumed seasonal activities such as tree removal and trimming of hazardous trees along various town roads and intersections, improving line-of-sight and general visibility issues. As always, we ask that you slow down when you see highway crews on the road.



Calling for Volunteers!

The Canaan Protective Fire Company is currently recruiting volunteers to increase membership of volunteer firefighters. All are welcome. Those wishing to be firefighters must be 18 years old or older. If you would like to see or meet your volunteers, please call us and we can schedule you to attend one of our drills to witness the work we do to serve the community.

Other ways volunteers and the community support the Canaan Protective Fire Company include helping out at Sloppy Joe Saturday's, and the Belly Bustin' Breakfast.

Please join us on April 25th at the firehouse starting at 5pm for a Community Narcan Training. We also hope to see you at the Canaan Memorial Day Parade, which begins at noon at the firehouse and ends at Stoddard Field.

***Contact: Fire Chief Frank Lill or
President Elijah Falkner
518-781-4787***



Start Saving to Heat & Cool Your Home

SHOCKED AT FUEL PRICES?

THINKING ABOUT AIR CONDITIONING FOR THESE WARMER SUMMERS?
CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING?

CONSIDER HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING YOUR HOME WITH HEAT PUMPS!

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS:

- \$10,000-\$25,000 investment
- Usually paid off by savings in 7-10 years
- Rebates and tax credits currently available
- Most homes require 3-5 heat pumps
- Heat pumps use electricity, not fossil fuels
- One day installation

NYSERDA APPROVED INSTALLERS:

<https://www.rycorhvac.com>
<https://www.dellsplumbing.com>
<https://www.theradiantstoreinc.com>
<https://choiceheatcool.com>
<https://ridgelinecomfort.com>

GEOHERMAL HEATING AND COOLING:

- Best for homes with air duct heating
- Best savings if currently using oil
- \$20-\$40,000 cost
- Usually paid off by savings in 7-10 years
- Rebates and tax credits currently available
- Heat pumps use electricity, not fossil fuels

NYSERDA APPROVED INSTALLERS:

<https://dandelionenergy.com>
<http://aztechgeo.com>



For more info contact: Becky Meier, beckyjmeier@gmail.com or 518-929-4664

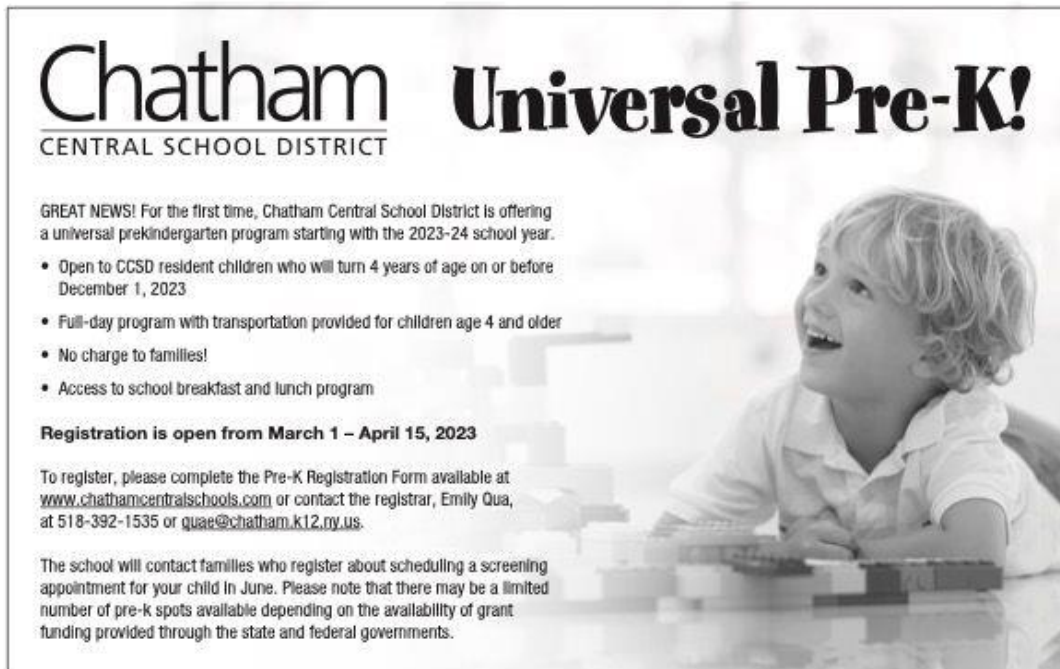


*Canaan Neighbors Helping Neighbors
A Much-Needed Resource*

Struggling to make ends meet? CNHN is here to help! Canaan Neighbors Helping Neighbors has provided 27 grants totaling over \$13,000 to families in 2022, and has already supplied 7 more grants for 2023. Anyone who lives, works or volunteers in Canaan is eligible for financial assistance. Grants are applied directly to bills, such as a fuel bill, electric bill or to pay rent. Gas cards or grocery gift cards are also available.

Grants are available during three periods of the year; January to April, May to August and September to December. Applying is easy. Email the CNHN committee at CNHN@canaannewyork.org or mail a letter to CNHN, PO Box 459, Canaan NY 12029.

The CNHN committee welcomed new member Roseanne Mistretta of Mercer Mountain in January, who joins Wayne Gearing, Pat Liddle, Erin Moore, Ginny Nightingale and Kristen Van Note.

A flyer for Chatham Central School District's Universal Pre-K program. The title "Chatham Universal Pre-K!" is prominently displayed at the top. Below the title, the text reads "CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT". The main body of the flyer contains the following information: "GREAT NEWS! For the first time, Chatham Central School District is offering a universal prekindergarten program starting with the 2023-24 school year." This is followed by a bulleted list of program details: "Open to CCSD resident children who will turn 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2023", "Full-day program with transportation provided for children age 4 and older", "No charge to families!", and "Access to school breakfast and lunch program". A registration deadline is stated: "Registration is open from March 1 - April 15, 2023". Contact information for registration is provided: "To register, please complete the Pre-K Registration Form available at www.chathamcentralschools.com or contact the registrar, Emily Qua, at 518-392-1535 or quae@chatham.k12.ny.us." A final note states: "The school will contact families who register about scheduling a screening appointment for your child in June. Please note that there may be a limited number of pre-k spots available depending on the availability of grant funding provided through the state and federal governments." The flyer features a background image of a young child with blonde hair, smiling and looking to the right, sitting at a table with educational toys.

Chatham **Universal Pre-K!**
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREAT NEWS! For the first time, Chatham Central School District is offering a universal prekindergarten program starting with the 2023-24 school year.

- Open to CCSD resident children who will turn 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2023
- Full-day program with transportation provided for children age 4 and older
- No charge to families!
- Access to school breakfast and lunch program

Registration is open from March 1 - April 15, 2023

To register, please complete the Pre-K Registration Form available at www.chathamcentralschools.com or contact the registrar, Emily Qua, at 518-392-1535 or quae@chatham.k12.ny.us.

The school will contact families who register about scheduling a screening appointment for your child in June. Please note that there may be a limited number of pre-k spots available depending on the availability of grant funding provided through the state and federal governments.

*Connect with Your Local Library Community on
FaceBook*

Help us get the word out!

**The Chatham Public Library
has a new Facebook Page.**

**Like and Follow to see news of
upcoming events!**

 **FOLLOW**
US ON FACEBOOK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CHATHAMPL



Call for Volunteers for Coming Events



Earth Day

The Canaan Climate Smart Task Force is sponsoring the second annual Earth Day event on Sunday, April 23, from 1 to 4PM. If your organization has programs around the environment, sustainable land use and conservation, native plants, climate change, energy conservation and efficiency, etc., we hope you will consider joining us as a participant.

The primary work of the day will be a volunteer-led park clean-up day; the Canaan Climate Smart Task Force will also be there to talk about its ongoing activities.



Community Day is Back

Two enterprising members of our community, Carrie Whiteman and Elijah Falkner, have agreed to lead the effort to bring back ***Canaan Community Day***. Canaan Community Day is an opportunity for community members and businesses to get to know each other again after the pandemic. The event will be held on ***June 17 at Stoddard Park***. All local organizations are invited to participate but must sign

up in advance. A reply to this email will serve that purpose. We hope you will save the date and make plans to join us. The event will be free to the community and to exhibitors; space will be available on a first-come, first serve, basis.

In addition to local businesses, we are seeking local musicians, food vendors, artists and craft persons as exhibitors. Please spread the word among the members of your organizations. We know there are lots of hidden treasures in Canaan!



Canaan Schools in History

On April 9, 1795, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors enacted legislation to raise taxes for the encouragement of schools.

The Town of Canaan at their annual meeting on April 5th 1796 elected five Commissioners of School for the school districts established. The first five commissioners were William Lusk, Philip Frisbee, Jonathan Warner, William Spire and Samuel Janes and each was paid eight shillings per day.

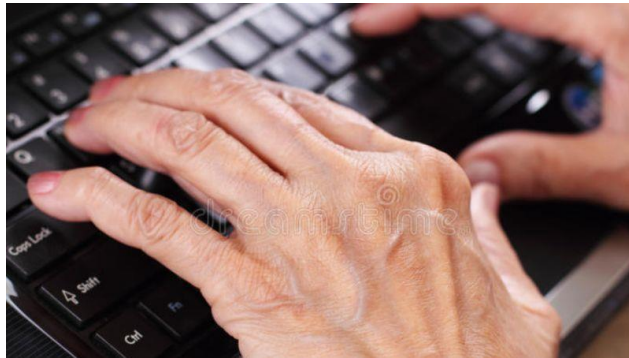
Schools were established in Flat Brook, Canaan Center, Red Rock, Frisbee Street, Schilling's Crossing, Canaan Four Corners, and Beebeville. Early schools were maintained with two terms. The summer sessions were usually taught by women and poorly attended. The winter terms found school buildings crowded and usually a male teacher in charge. The school day started at 8:00 AM and ended at 5:00 PM.

In 1914 School District Number 8 created the Berkshire Farm for Boys. The attached photograph is the Canaan Four Corners School photograph from 1921. In 1800, the teachers were usually paid \$1.00 per week and school was in session in winter terms for six days a week.

In addition to education, school buildings were an important part of every community as centers for gatherings and events.

Dodie Gearing

Canaan Town Historian



KISS Program at Town Hall

The Columbia County Kiss Program (*Keeping the Identities of Seniors Safe*) is next available to seniors from March 13 through March 24. Founded by Columbia County Clerk Holly Tanner in 2015, the program is designed to protect the identities of seniors through the collection and shredding of secure documents. Locked bins will be located in the Town Hall, across from the Town Clerk's office, during normal clerk's office hours. Additional collection cycles are scheduled for June, August, and November of 2023.

Since its inception, the program has shredded and recycled over 95,000 pounds or 48 tons of documents. Pounds collected over the last two years have increased dramatically as identity thefts have risen and

more seniors become aware of this exposure.



Red Rock Historical Society Receives Pomeroy Grant

The Red Rock Historical Society has received \$1,550 from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to purchase a sign commemorating the listing of the Red Rock Schoolhouse on the National Register of Historic Places. The sign will be delivered in the early fall and a ceremony will

be held when it is installed and ready to be revealed to the public.

Several grants are pending that will support the continued restoration of the building. The next steps are to install a new roof and replace the siding. The Red Rock Historical Society had a very successful fundraiser at the end of 2022 and would like to thank the community for all of their support. It is hoped that the Schoolhouse will be open to the public in the summer of 2024.



Editorial services on the Town of Canaan New York Newsletter provided by L. Spencer Humphrey and Donna Mattoon.

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