

The Town of Canaan NY

Your town - Your news



A Letter from Our Supervisor

The long awaited winter dormancy -- the in-between time -- never quite materialized this year as less snow cover and warmer temperatures quickened various activities such as planning, settling old questions and preparing for spring.

Emergency planning dominated the first quarter calendar as the town began a review of plans and policies associated with climate, emergency, and disaster preparations.

- The Climate Smart Task Force collaborated with the Columbia County Climate Smart Task Force, Cornell Co-operative

Extension, and town residents on a *Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (CARP)*. The plan identifies geographic areas, institutions, and local populations vulnerable to extreme weather incidents. The CARP will also identify potential strategies and resources to proactively alleviate or mitigate the impacts of more frequent and more intense storms. Almost a year in preparation, the plan is in the final stages of review and is expected to be published in late spring / early summer of 2024.

- Every municipality in New York State is required to have an *Emergency Preparedness Plan* that defines the town's response and staffing plan in a State of Emergency. In February the town appointed Esperanza (Epi) Sanchez and Elijah Falkner to key staff roles, Emergency Response Coordinator and Planning and Logistics Officer respectively, as part of its plan update. The current plan has been distributed to the Canaan, East Chatham, and Red Rock fire companies in preparation for a review and update meeting in April. Once comments from the fire companies and Columbia County Emergency Management have been considered and/or incorporated, the revised plan will come to the Town Board for adoption in May or June.
- The last piece in this equation has been the 2024 update of the *Columbia County* and the *Town of Canaan Hazard Mitigation Plans* with Columbia County and Tighe & Bond Engineers/Environmental Specialists. This plan, like the

Emergency Preparedness Plan, is a staple of most towns' emergency toolboxes, should be updated regularly, and is required in order to qualify for most FEMA or disaster funding. This project began in January with a Columbia County kick-off meeting at the CC 911 Center. Public comment was solicited through a survey that closed this week, over 75 Canaan residents responded to the survey. An updated plan is projected to be completed and adopted by late fall of 2024.

As storm seasons are extended, and the frequency and intensity of storms increase, many residents have requested guidance on how to better prepare. The Town of Canaan, partnering with the Town of New Lebanon and the Canaan Fire Company, has scheduled an *Emergency Preparedness Training*, at the Canaan Fire House in April. This event is open to all community residents, businesses, and organizations free of charge. Pre-registration is required; the flier below includes more details about the event and how to register.

Finally, on the subject of emergency planning and preparations, the town has purchased generators for the Town Hall and the Highway Garage, to provide a heating and cooling center for residents in the event of a power outage and to ensure continued delivery of road services throughout storms. Per the Highway Superintendent's request, the town has upgraded the highway crew's radios to facilitate internal and external communications with other highway

departments, repair crews, and emergency personnel during emergencies.

Lastly on the planning front, the town will consider two additional initiatives in the coming months; becoming a New York State Pro-Housing Community, a non-binding statement of intent that tracks housing development in a designated community and provides access to housing related funds; and undertaking an update of the town's 2003 Strategic Plan. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in these activities.

Under the heading of settling old questions is a perennial favorite, the spelling of Vandenburg / Vanderburg / Vandenberg / Vanderberg / Vandenberg Hill, etc, Road. Periodically residents of the road and/or other community members forward a request to the town board to correct the spelling of the road. To date there has been little consensus regarding the spelling. This past winter the town board requested that residents who wish to weigh in on this matter send documentation to support their choice of spelling to the town board. Information may be sent to supervisor@canaannewyork.org no later than April 30, 2024. A committee composed of the town historian and two town board members will review the material and make a recommendation to the town board in June.

Preparing for spring and summer, there are several interesting events and deadlines approaching.

The *Canaan Recreation Committee is seeking applicants for swim instructors for the Summer Swim Program*, see flier below.

Generations of Canaan children have learned to swim in beautiful Queechy Lake through the town swim program. This program is available to town residents' families at no cost. If you know of someone who is certified, or interested in becoming certified, available to work half a day / weekdays for six weeks, please share the flier below. Additional part-time lifeguard positions may also be available.

This year *Community Day is scheduled for June 15th from 12 to 3 PM*, rain date June 16th. We are currently seeking Canaan organizations, businesses, artists, musicians and volunteers to participate and to assist with planning and preparations. *The Notorious BITE* food truck has agreed to anchor the event. Please direct your inquiries to cwemple@canaannewyork.org. Last year's event was a great success, be there or be square!

The Columbia County Summer Youth Program application process is underway. Each town in the county is allowed to nominate one local resident 18 to 24 years of age, enrolled full-time in an undergraduate or graduate-level program, or a technical, trade, or mechanical school.

There are twelve vacancies for the 2024 program across various county departments. These paid internships are an excellent opportunity for young folks to gain work experience and exposure to the operations of county government. For more information contact the supervisor at supervisor@canaannewyork.org. Applications must be received by the town no later than April 24, 2024.

The Town Highway Department as well as NYS and CC crews have begun annual spring clean-up and maintenance projects on local roads. The Canaan Highway Department summer workday schedule will begin April 1st; Mondays through Thursday, 6AM through 4:30 with a half hour for lunch.

Please slow down and keep the roads safe for our highway crews.

You will see many other signs of spring awakening with the varied community offerings and events below. The town board and I hope you will join us in shaking off the last vestiges of this wimpy, weary, winter and get out and about with your family and neighbors. Our wish is that you will take a moment, each day, listen to the peepers, admire the returning red winged blackbirds and remember why we love this season and our beloved community.

As always, we remain grateful for the continued opportunity to serve the Canaan community.

Happy Spring!

Brenda Adams

Town Supervisor



Coming To The Canaan Town Hall
On Your Feet and Independent:
Adult Fall Prevention Outreach Program



Wednesday, April 24th, 2024
11am-12pm.

Contact Katharine West (518) 828-4258 for Reservations.
We look forward to seeing you there!

 **ALBANY MED Health System**

ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER
Injury Prevention and Outreach





Citizen Preparedness Corps



With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one Preparedness kit.

When: Friday, April 26, 2024
4:00PM

Where: Canaan Protective Fire Company
2126 Route 295
Canaan, NY 12029

*ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE

THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GOVERNOR IN CONJUNCTION WITH:

**Town of Canaan
Town of New Lebanon
Canaan Protective Fire Company**



To register and for additional information, visit www.prepare.ny.gov or scan the QR code





COMMUNITY GARDENING DAY

Saturday May 18th 2024
10:00 AM

At Canaan Town Park (Stoddard Field)
Rain date May 19th 10AM

Weeding garden beds, spreading mulch, and
doing other work to make our park beautiful!

Donuts provided!





From our Assessor

Many people confuse the **Low Income Seniors Exemption** with the **STAR** program. It is important that people know the difference. The two exemptions are not related.

STAR is a state funded exemption or credit and is administered mostly by the state. It is either found as an exemption on your school taxes, or as a credit check from the state around school tax time. It is *never* found on your January Town/County tax bill. There are two levels of STAR: Basic and Enhanced. There is no exemption called “SENIOR STAR.” Enhanced STAR is a step up from basic STAR and you must be 65 years old and have income less than \$99,700.

You do not need to reapply each year. On occasion, the department of taxation and finance will send you a letter requesting more information.

LOW INCOME Senior exemption is funded by *all other taxpayers*. It is

administered by the Assessor. As the name suggests, this exemption is only meant for low income Seniors. It is based on a sliding scale depending on your income. The amount of reduction is between 5% and 50%. It will come off of all of your taxes; Town, County and School. Most Towns, Schools and the County have increased the income limit to \$42,399. New Lebanon School District has not. Because it is income dependent, you *must reapply* each year. The assessor sends a renewal around December 1st. It is usually a pink form. This exemption can provide a significant reduction in your tax bills. It is suggested that you send in your renewal as soon as it is received each year to avoid missing out on this savings.

Information about all exemptions is always available on our website at:
canaannewyork.org/exemptions-offered-in-canaan/



IT'S FINALLY HERE! IT'S FINALLY HERE! IT'S FINALLY HERE! IT'S FINALLY
HERE!

BUFFET BREAKFAST
MAY 26, 2024/8 TO 12

ALL YOU CAN EAT! ALL YOU CAN EAT! ALL YOU CAN EAT! ALL YOU CAN EAT!

ALL YOU CAN EAT

\$15/ADULT, \$7/CHILDREN,
FREE/5 AND UNDER

IT'S FINALLY HERE! IT'S FINALLY HERE! IT'S FINALLY HERE! IT'S FINALLY |
HERE!

**CANAAN PROTECTIVE
FIRE COMPANY**

2126 STATE ROUTE 295
CANAAN, NY



Columbia County

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

8:00AM – 12:00PM

LOCATION: Columbia County Fire Training Center

Columbia County Commerce Park

50 GRANDINETTI DRIVE, GHENT, NEW YORK

ENTRANCE AT ROUTE 66 (BENDER BLVD.)

What May I Bring?

From the Workbench:

Latex Paint, Oil Based Paint –

DO NOT BRING EMPTY OR

HARDENED PAINT

Stains & Varnishes

Wood Preservatives

Solvents, Adhesives

Lighter Fluid

From the Garage:

Fuels, Gasoline, Kerosene

Antifreeze

From the House:

Rubber Cement

Fiberglass Resins

Photo Chemicals

Chemistry Sets

Furniture Polish

Floor & Metal Polish

Oven Cleaner

Drain & Toilet Cleaner

Rug & Upholstery Cleaner

Hobby & Art Supplies

Spot Remover

Engine Degreasers

Brake Fluid

Carburetor Cleaner

Car Wax, Polish

Roofing Tar

Driveway Sealer

Swimming Pool Chemicals

From the Yard:

Poisons, Insecticides,

Fungicides

Chemical Fertilizers

Weed Killers

Moth Balls

Flea Control Products, Pest

Strips

Aerosol Cans – NOT EMPTY

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

EMPTY CONTAINERS

EMPTY PAINT CANS

EMPTY AEROSOL CANS

Radioactive Waste

Commercial/Industrial Waste

Agriculture Waste

Fire Extinguishers

Infectious & Biological Waste

Prescription Medicines,

Syringes

Asbestos

Ammunition, Explosives,

Fireworks

Non-contaminated MOTOR

OIL, Antifreeze

NO 55 GALLON DRUMS

**RESIDENTS WITH LARGE QUANTITIES MUST CONTACT THE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT 518-828-2737 PRIOR TO**

PARTICIPATING. NO CHARGE FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS. PROOF OF RESIDENCY WILL BE REQUIRED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



**CANAAN REC
NOW HIRING**

Swim Instructors

MUST BE FIRST AID, CPR, AND LIFEGUARD CERTIFIED.
Water Safety Instructor Certification Preferred

SEND EMAIL OF INTEREST TO:
JSRUSTIN@HOTMAIL.COM



News from the Canaan Climate Task Force

The Canaan Climate Smart Task Force has been busy!

- Be sure to look at the new Native Plant gardens at Stoddard Park.
- To maintain their beauty, we would like to form a Canaan Garden Committee that will keep the beds weeded and replace plants as needed. Please contact Becky at beckyjmeier@gmail.com if you like getting your hands dirty with a group of great people.
- Join us for Community Gardening Day on Saturday, May 18, from 10-2 for a spring clean-up of the beds and other gardening tasks at Stoddard Park. Donuts will be provided.
- We are continuing our heat pump campaign. Last year we encouraged ten people to install heat pumps in their homes. If ten more households have installed heat pumps since June 1, 2023 and throughout 2024, the town will receive additional grant money. Please let Becky (beckyjmeier@gmail.com) know if

you install a heat pump. We will be offering another heat pump webinar soon. Stay tuned.

- We are engaging in a new electric vehicle campaign. Our goal is to identify five electric car purchases in the town of Canaan. We will be offering an electric vehicle webinar in the near future. If you buy an electric vehicle after March 19, 2024, please let Becky know (beckyjmeier@gmail.com).
- Come to Canaan Day on June 15 to learn more about our campaigns and work.



*Red Rock Historical Society Schoolhouse
Restoration Project enters final phase*

The Red Rock One Room Schoolhouse Restoration Project is now in its third year and the crew of volunteers is anxious to get to work this Spring. With the work on the exterior, including the roof and siding, now complete, the next step will be to paint the exterior and begin work on restoring the interior walls. Much of the interior material was stored after removal from the building and will be reinstalled.

With the help of generous donations from the community and several grants, including Quailwood Fund grants and a \$10,000 grant from HRBT Foundation, the completion of the project is funded almost completely. Co-Chairs Mary Keegan and David Cooper are now putting together a plan with the Restoration committee to begin the work and hope to have all phases complete by the end of 2024 when the doors can finally open to the public.



Canaan Historical Society Updates

Canaan Historical Society Seeks Volunteers to work in the areas of programming, membership, collections, special events, and social media. Please write a bit about yourself and your interest to Lauree Hickok at Canaanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars - Saturday June 22th is our Declaration Day Celebration! Did you know that Canaan may be *one of only two towns*

in NY State that had an early “Declaration of Independence”?

Nine States made declarations from April to July 1776. More than fifty towns in Massachusetts (including many familiar towns just across the border) took them up. The Founding Fathers encouraged local declarations as they wanted the July 4th Declaration to be part of a grass roots movement rather than a top-down event.

Plan to join the celebration of our special place in New York State and American history!!

CANAAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

13 Warners Crossing Road

P.P. Box 111

Canaan, NY 12029



The Canaan Mercer Burial Plot

An historian's research can be from many resources, but local cemeteries begin to tell the birth and death story. Sometimes an epitaph on the headstone will release insight into the person who is buried in the cemetery plot.

In January 2024, a request was made for information on the Mercer Burial Plot that was discovered by Chatham Town Historian Katherine Burgess in 1973. The Mercer Burial Plot is located on private property, so access requires property owner permission. There are 16 memorials in this cemetery. Several members of the Mercer Family are buried here but two Revolutionary War Soldiers were the main interest for research.

Ovid Drake was born in Sheffield, MA, on January 19th, 1744. He served in the Berkshire County Militia. Ovid was in the muster roll for the Ticonderoga Campaigns during the winter of 1776 through 1777. He is recorded as a Sergeant in the U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls. According to family, he was a prisoner of war for the British in New York City. Soldiers during the American Revolution would enter service under different commanders and serve 24 days. The next enlistment group served for 11 days, so men could return to their families and farms.

Ovid Drake purchased 100 acres from Solomon Blinn in 1800 in Green River, along the foot of the mountain. He died on February 15th, 1803. Bethiah Drake, his wife, is also buried in the Mercer Burial Plot when she died 16 days after her husband in 1803.

The Second Revolutionary War Soldier is William Lee, who was born in Lyme, CT in 1765. Private Lee served under Graham Levies' and William Bradford Whiting's Seventeenth Militia from King's District. The 17th Militia from King's District fought in the Battles of Saratoga in September and October 1777, which was the turning point of the American Revolution. William Lee received a United States Revolutionary War pension for his dedicated service. He died on November 21st, 1836.

There are 16 cemeteries located in the Town of Canaan and they contain our honored veterans who have served our community and protected our property.

Your Canaan Historian, Dodie Gearing



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

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