



A Letter from the Town Supervisor

Greetings all,

The calendar says it's spring today and nature is priming the pump. The redwing blackbirds have returned and established their territory in the tall grasses along ponds and wetlands. The black bears are roaming *and* raiding bird feeders, the ice is out of Stoddard Pond. The lake remains ice-bound, but it won't be long before it too will be open water. Just as nature has been busy so have we.

Comprehensive Plan

Why a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan provides a long-term roadmap for how a community wants to grow and evolve. Without one, decisions tend to be reactive and inconsistent; with one, they become intentional and aligned with shared goals.

Where are we with our Comprehensive Plan?

The Town of Canaan Comprehensive Plan is nearing completion with a Public Hearing in March. You may remember the plan was scheduled to be completed in December of 2025. The sale of the Together for Youth property, formerly Berkshire Farm, prompted resident concerns around potential development of the lake area and the impact on natural resources and quality of life. As a result, the Town Board returned the plan to the Comprehensive Plan Committee for another look. An updated plan has been posted on the town website, link below:

<https://canaannewyork.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Town-Of-Canaan-Final-Draft-Comprehensive-Plan-Draft-3-2-26.pdf> .

A Public Hearing will be held on March 28th at 10AM, in person or online, link

below: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84323978704?pwd=VxlJknrYmospnIh9qbe9NsNVORHTyON.1> .

Stoddard Park Grant

The town has been awarded a \$15,000 grant by the Hudson Valley Greenway Fund to prepare a Stoddard Park Masterplan. The masterplan project is in response to resident and community organizations' requests to provide a more functional and accessible park for all town residents, including the elderly. The park planning committee has recommended Baron & Loguidice be hired as planning consultants for the project. There will be multiple opportunities for public input; please stay tuned and join us as we think and plan for a better park for all.

Acquisition of Adams Point Beach

The donation of the Adams Point Beach parcel to the town is slowly moving forward. The land has been purchased and subdivided; the next steps to donate the parcel to the town are underway. For many years the Adams Point Beach Association has operated a swimming beach at the site through a lease with Together for Youth (Berkshire Farm). The town plans to continue that lease this year so that swimming at the site will not be interrupted.

The town Recreation Committee also plans to provide swimming lessons for local children again this year at the beach.

Recently there have been questions about whether APBA or the town will allow boats to be launched from the beach. APBA has assured us they have no plans to expand their operations, nor will the lease with the town allow for expansion. APBA will continue to operate as they have in years past.

Town of Canaan and Trout Unlimited Partner to Restore and Reconnect the Stony Kill

The Town of Canaan, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, Inc, will replace a failing, undersized culvert with two larger structures designed to meet New York State flood resiliency standards, restoring natural stream function and improving habitat connectivity along 1,000 feet of the Stony Kill.

The infrastructure improvements will increase flood resiliency, improve road safety, and enhance aquatic organism passage, while reconnecting nearly five miles of high-quality brook trout habitat. Designed to meet New York State standards, the project will reduce future maintenance needs and support long-term ecological health in the watershed.

The partners have been awarded \$601,147 through the DEC WQIP program to complete the Stony Kill Reconnection and Restoration Project. This collaborative effort reflects a shared commitment by Trout Unlimited and the Town of Canaan to protect critical infrastructure while restoring natural stream function for the benefit of residents, wildlife, and the local environment. Planning for the project will take place in 2026; construction is expected to take place and be completed in 2027.

Town email and website updates

The town has completed the move to **.gov** email addresses for staff and key volunteers. Emails sent to old addresses will be forwarded for 6 months but we strongly advise that you update your contacts as soon as possible. The website committee is finalizing the new website design that it hopes to present to the Town Board in April. Cyber security risks have prompted new NYS requirements to move websites and mail to the **.gov** site and provided the opportunity for important website upgrades and more efficient navigation.

The Columbia County Summer Youth Program

The application process for the Summer Youth Program is now open! Each Town Supervisor has one nomination, and applications are due by

April 24th, 2026. Qualifications are listed below; if you, or someone you know, may be interested, have them give me a call. Criteria include:

- Must be 18 yrs of age and under the age of 24 years
- Must be enrolled **full-time** in an undergraduate or graduate-level college or university, or a technical, trade or mechanical school for the Fall Semester directly following the summer of employment. It does **not** include those that are enrolled in on-the-job training, correspondence school or schools offering Internet-only classes
- Must be a resident of the County of Columbia
- **Twelve (12)** vacancies for the 2025 SYEP are in:

One (1) to Highway

One (1) to Solid Waste

One (1) to Facilities

Nine (9) to all other departments

- Must have transportation to and from the worksite
- HR will notify the nominee of their assignment on April 27, 2026. Any nominees after this date will be placed in any remaining vacancies.

Last year, town resident and student Ava Powers worked in the Tourism Department. Staff are still talking about how much they enjoyed working with Ava.

Community Day coming June 20th

Community Day 2026 activities will expand to include a local celebration of the America 250th anniversary. We hope that all local residents,

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businesses, and organizations will participate this year. Please see flyer below for more information.

Finally, on behalf of the Town Board, thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

Brenda Adams
Town Supervisor



**CANAAN, NEW YORK
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING**

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

10:00 AM

CANAAN TOWN HALL

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has been working on an update to the Draft Comprehensive Plan based on public input received. The Plan is an official municipal document which outlines the specific goals, policies, and desired future direction of the community. Your feedback and input have guided the process to create this current draft.

*View the draft of the Comprehensive Plan at
CanaanNewYork.org*





Welcome Sandy Bevens to Town Hall!

A very warm welcome to our “new” Town Clerk, Sandy Bevens. Sworn in on January 2nd, Sandy hit the ground running. In fact, “activity,” might aptly be Sandy’s middle name. In speaking with her earlier this month, I was impressed by all her past activities, and those in which she continues to be engaged.

Sandy grew up in New Lebanon and graduated from the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology in Morrisville with a degree in Equine Science. She subsequently was employed by several horse racing farms. Next, Sandy worked as a veterinarian tech, a pet groomer, and in customer relations.

Twenty-five years ago, Sandy returned to Columbia County initially settling in Canaan, but moved around the County until making Canaan her permanent home in 2014. In the past two decades, Sandy has operated a home day care center and a housekeeping service; and started a cake

decorating business. See Sandy's amazing baked goods at www.facebook.com/CakefullyYoursBySam/

Along with the above enterprises and raising her two boys, Sandy looks after two horses, two cats, an ever-growing flock of chickens, and three dogs. Val (Valkyrie), six months old English Mastiff and 70 pounds, is the newest member of Sandy's family. Val joined Sandy for the interview and Sandy's photograph.

Sandy likes challenges. As such, the Town Clerk position provides Sandy with a part-time scheduled job, as well as an opportunity to use and expand her multiple skills. Sandy brings to the clerkship proven multi-tasking and time management skills that have served her well in building and running multiple concurrent home-run businesses. Sandy is an initiator, and a quick and adaptive learner. Already, in the first weeks of her tenure, Sandy has gone through the town's files to learn as much as she can about the functions of a Town Clerk, and how our small town works. Additionally, Sandy is participating in training workshops for newly elected town officials provided by the New York Association of Towns. Further, she is studying to become a public notary. When certified later this spring, Sandy will be the first Canaan Town public notary since Charlotte Cowan retired, December 2022.

Sandy describes the function of Town Clerk as the "*window to the town for the people who live here*" - serving the needs of town residents, building relationships, and listening to residents' ideas and their explicit and implicit concerns about the town. Being apolitical, Sandy feels she and her colleagues in the clerk's office can serve as on-the-ground "*eyes and ears*" that can

further communication between residents, the town supervisor, and members of the Town Board.

Sandy's warmth, humor, energy, curiosity and work ethic have already recharged the atmosphere of the office of the town clerk. We wish her well in the months and years ahead.

Again, welcome!
Suzanne Michael



*Canaan Congregational Church Partners with
Columbia County Office for the Aging in Offering
Recharge & Renew Respite Through March!*

The program will be held four consecutive Fridays on March 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 10 AM to 2 PM @ 1670 County Route 5, Canaan 12029.

Registration is required. Simply, call 518.828.4258.

Columbia County Office for the Aging
With Financial Support from NYSCRC and Assemblymember Didi Barrett

Recharge & Renew Respite

A Community Program Supporting Caregivers and Their Loved Ones

Recharge and Renew Respite provides a safe, welcoming environment for older adults with mild to moderate memory loss or physical/cognitive conditions requiring supervision. Participants enjoy enriching activities and social interaction, while caregivers gain time to rest, run errands, or simply recharge—confident their loved ones are well cared for.

Program Overview:

- Structured yet flexible daily schedule tailored to participants' needs
- Activities include Coffee & Conversation, Chair Exercise, crafts, games, puzzles, music, Zumba, floral arranging, and more
- Participation is optional, with volunteers available for companionship or quieter alternatives

 **Office for the Aging** 
New York State Caregiving & Respite Coalition

*Recharge and Renew Respite is a **free program** and registration is required. Call **518-828-4258** and ask for the Intake Department.*





Brenda Adams honored by New York Association of Towns

Our own Brenda Adams was recently honored by the New York Association of Towns (NYAOT) with its Public Servant Meritorious Award for 2025-2026. The award celebrates local officials across New York State

who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to their communities. According to NYAOT, Supervisor Adams was honored for her sustained commitment to community leadership, collaborative problem solving and hands-on public service: “Known for her empathy and accessibility, Adams routinely goes beyond her official duties to personally check on residents and foster inclusive civic participation.” Read more in this [article in the Columbia Paper](#). [Congratulations](#) to Supervisor Adams on this well-deserved recognition!



**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**



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Your Canaan Protective Fire Department

Just an update from us. Your Canaan Firefighters on average respond to 150-200 calls and training drills per year. These calls range from structure fires, fire alarms, and car accidents, to fallen trees in a road way.

We Need You! We are still accepting applications for more members. If you are interested please feel free to contact us on Facebook or leave a message. We also have a junior firefighter program for teenagers 16-18 with parental consent.

Some events to look forward to in the future are the Sloppy Joe Saturdays, Canaan Community Day and our Belly Bustin' Breakfast. When dates and times become available we will make sure the public is aware.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you and serving you.

Elijah Falkner

President
Canaan Protective Fire



Canaan Community Day – Call for Vendors

The Town of Canaan will hold its annual *Community Day on Saturday, June 20th* from 3 to 6 PM at the Stoddard Field Park.

The community event is a celebration of local artists, vendors, community groups and services available to local residents. Admission to the event is free to all. Donations to the Columbia County Veteran’s Food Pantry are

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welcome but not required.

Food will be available for purchase from The *Notorious BITE Food Truck* along with hot dogs, cupcakes, watermelon and other summer favorites. Other activities will round out the afternoon as we catch up with old friends and make new ones.

For more information contact Christine Wemple
at cwemple@canaannewyork.org or 518-781-4455.



Canaan residents at Community Garden Day, 2025

Photo credit: Dylan Cipkowski

Lots of Spring Climate Smart Updates!

Celebrating Earth Day in our Community

April 22nd is Earth Day! The [Climate Smart Task Force](#) is planning two community events to honor the occasion. First, Canaan will participate in a multi-town [Earth Day Festival](#) on Saturday, April 18th from 11am-3pm at Spencertown Park and Spencertown Academy. Then, Canaan will host our own tree planting and garden clean-up at Town Hall on Saturday, April 25th from 1-3pm. Please join us for one or both events and stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

[Photo caption]: Canaan residents at Community Garden Day, 2025

Photo credit: Dylan Cipkowski

Waste Reduction Tips and Resources

A helpful way to think about reducing waste is the *Five Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose (or Repair), and Recycle*. Start by refusing what you don't need —such as single-use plastics, junk mail or promotional giveaways — so waste never enters your home. Reduce by buying less and choosing durable goods with minimal packaging. Reuse containers and bags, repurpose items creatively, and repair what you can rather than throwing it away. Recycle as a last step.

Try adding one new habit each month: compost food scraps, buy secondhand, choose products with less packaging, carry reusable bags and

water bottles. Audit your trash to see what can be recycled or composted instead. Learn more about waste reduction here:

- [Columbia County Solid Waste](#)
- U.S. EPA: [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#)
- The Nature Conservancy: [Eight Ways to Reduce Waste](#)
- Ecocycle: [How to Stop Junk Mail](#)



Toss it? No Way...Bring it to the Repair Cafe

The [Climate Smart Task Force](#) is continuing our collaboration with the [Columbia County Northeast Repair Café](#) network on a series of repair cafés in 2026. The first one is Saturday, April 11th in Austerlitz. Save these dates, and we hope to see you there!



REPAIR CAFE
2026 SEASON

Brought to you by the NE Columbia County Repair Cafe

2026 SCHEDULE

- **April 11** — Austerlitz Town Hall
- **May 30** — East Nassau, Hoag's Corner Fire Co.
- **July 11** — New Lebanon Community Center
- **Sept 26** — Chatham Firehouse
- **Nov 14** — Canaan Firehouse

All Saturdays, 10am–2pm

Want to be a FIXER? Email:
ColumbiaNERepairCafe@gmail.com

More info: repaircafehv.org

The poster is orange with white and purple text and icons. It features icons for a lamp, sewing machine, bicycle, wrench and screwdriver, stethoscope, toaster, and jacket.



Come Out of Hibernation!

Check Out these Opportunities

Your town has some Vacant Positions to fill that might be right up your alley.

The Planning Board / Zoning Board is seeking a clerk. This is a paid position and is open now.

Volunteer positions that are open now include:

- Ethics Committee
- Senior Advisory Council
- BAR
- Housing Committee
- Climate Smart Task Force



Calling Square Dancers!

We are looking for people with square dance experience on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 PM, to join us and help us grow our group in Canaan, NY.

Teaching/calling is provided by Cliff Brodeur.

Please call or text Stephanie at 518-369-9897 or at sguelpa@gmail.com for more information.

EAST CHATHAM LADIES AUXILIARY PRESENTS
BROOK'S BBQ
Only \$14 per meal!



PICKUP BETWEEN 12PM AND 3PM
\$14/MEAL - \$9/HALF CHICKEN ONLY - \$1 DESSERT TABLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 @ 12PM
14 FRISBEE STREET, EAST CHATHAM, NY



The *Red Rock Volunteer Fire Company* is always looking for new members to join our team and serve the community. Volunteer firefighters play a vital role in protecting our neighbors, responding to emergencies, and supporting one another through training and

teamwork. No prior experience is required, training and equipment are provided and members gain valuable skills while making a real difference locally. If you have ever thought about serving your community, we encourage you to learn more. Stop by the Red Rock firehouse on *Monday evenings at 7:00 PM* during our weekly training to meet members and see what we do, or reach out to our president, *Steve O'Donnell*, at president@redrockfire.org to learn how you can get involved. Your community needs you.



Don't Forget The Memorial Day Big Breakfast!

Come join us

May 24

8am until noon

Canaan Fire House

2126 State Route 295

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website <https://canaannewyork.org/> [You may unsubscribe here.](#) [View this email in your browser](#)



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