

The Town of Canaan NY

Your town - Your news



A Letter from the Town Supervisor

Greetings,

Labor Day events are a harbinger; the county fair, book and yard sales, family picnics, cookouts, reunions, and the fire company Belly Bustin'

breakfast, all signal the end of summer and the beginning of fall. It's a joy to be outside these bellwether days whether you're sitting on the porch basking in the sun or laboring in the garden. Those of us with plenty of outside chores left to do are aware of the waning daylight and cooling temperatures as we scramble to get the firewood stacked and the last of the outside painting completed before the onset of fall chores like closing the garden and raking leaves.

The town is preparing for the new season too, finishing projects and preparing for new ones. Here are several updates:

Hooray, the **Broadband Buildout** is now complete in the town of Canaan. Fidium, formerly Consolidated Communications, can now offer high speed internet services to approximately 100 homes that were previously underserved or unserved. Residents, most of you know who you are, should now contact Fidium to request a service upgrade. This five-year infrastructure upgrade, completed at no cost to the town, has several unsung heroes including Congressman Antonio Delgado for his support and funding, Ghent Town Supervisor Craig Simmons who served as the grant executor, and Dave Berman the technology consultant, who navigated the numerous, onerous, federal regulations. Heartfelt thanks to Antonio, Craig, and Dave. To those residents who have long awaited this day, welcome at last to faster internet speed, improved capacity, and uninterrupted streaming!

Stoddard Field Park Masterplan: Data gathering, community engagement, and public response to the initial concepts for the park have yielded a draft Masterplan. The Barton and Loguidice plan, substantially funded by a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway, will be presented to the Town Board at the September 14th board meeting. Join us for the review and one last chance to comment on the plan before it is adopted. Once the plan is adopted, Suzanne Michael of the Recreation Committee will work with the town to identify funding opportunities for the phased components of the project.

As a corollary, several residents / organizations have expressed interest in making a charitable contribution to the park project. The town is in the process of forming a not-for-profit organization to fundraise for this or other town “quality of life” projects. If you are interested in serving as a member or volunteer, please send a letter of interest and resume to cwemple@canaanny.gov.

The Recreation Committee successfully concluded another **Summer Swim program** with 35 children, ages 3 to 15, participating in the program. Thanks to our swimming instructors Caroline, Benjamin, Lila, Logan, Oliver and Anna for providing inspiration and instruction, and to Adams Point Beach Association for their collaboration and use

of their facility.

The last of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects, **digitization of the town code**, has reached another milestone with a recent staff review of final questions from the vendor. The town is digitizing its code to provide easier and more efficient access to town laws. The move from paper to searchable digital files has been a long and challenging task but will be welcomed by staff, officials, residents, and anyone who has tried to research a topic related to town laws or policies. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Communications: The town completed its move to *.gov* email addresses earlier this summer. Emails to the old town email addresses have been automatically forwarded for several months to the new address; that transition will end later this fall. Please make sure you have updated your contact list accordingly.

Thanks to the efforts of our Website Committee and web designer Shari Franks, the town will debut its new website later this month. The new website will be better organized, easier to read, easier to navigate, and provide real-time access to more information and archived material. It's an amazing transformation that will eloquently present our vibrant and beautiful community. Stay tuned.

The town recently negotiated a three-year contract extension with the Teamsters for its Highway Department employees for 2027-2029.

Hourly increases are modest, reflecting the town's resources, but will provide a living wage for our competent and dedicated employees. We hope the wage increases will assist with retention of our workforce in a highly competitive job market and be of interest to new hires should an employee retire or leave our employment.

The town's first **Comprehensive Plan** was adopted in July. A corresponding **Development Moratorium**, Local Law #2 of 2026, was also passed in July to allow time for the town to align its Zoning Laws with the adopted plan. For more information the adopted plan and the local law are posted on the website.

Next steps, the implementation of the plan, will unfold in two phases. First, the planning process and the digitization of the code identified some inconsistencies, gaps, and non-compliant (dated) issues in the town Zoning Laws and code. These "housekeeping" issues will be addressed by the Town Board in the coming months. The second phase, the process of aligning the Zoning Laws with the Comprehensive Plan, is a longer and more involved public process. A Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) of town residents will be appointed by the Town Board to work with the community and consultants to perform this task. The town has applied for a NYS grant to fund the

project and expects to learn in December if the project will be funded and at what level. Once funding is established, the ZAC will be appointed and consultants identified. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please send a letter of interest to cwemple@canaanny.gov.

Speed reduction requests for SR 295 and SR22 are underway. The Town Board adopted two resolutions, one for each speed zone, with a formal request for a state review and speed reduction in specific areas. The resolutions, along with an 18-month accident report supplied by 911 and a petition signed by over 150 residents, will be submitted to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board this month. Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblywoman Didi Barrett have voiced their support for the requests and offered to assist with the follow-up.

The Senior Lunch Group meets weekly at the Town Hall for lunch and socialization. They regularly take on small community projects such as adopting a local family for Christmas or writing holiday cards for our servicemen and women overseas or in veterans' hospitals. This year they are soliciting donations of holiday cards for their project. If you have surplus cards from prior years or would like to donate funds to purchase cards, please contact Stephanie at sguelpa@gmail.com as soon as possible. Cards must be completed by mid-October to arrive in

time for the holidays.

Darrow School Lakeside has opened its inaugural school year on the former Berkshire Farm / Together for Youth campus. Beginning this academic year, they will expand their capacity and programming over two sites, the Mount Lebanon or Mountainside site and Lakeside. Lakeside will host 100 plus students, providing residential life, academic programming, athletics, and co-curricular activities. It also creates space for summer programs and experiential learning that were previously limited by capacity.

In her first months as **Town Clerk, Sandy Bevens** has expanded the services available in the clerk's office. Sandy completed the Notary Public course last month and can now notarize documents at the Town Hall during business hours. There is no charge for this service. To better meet the needs of working and part-time residents, Sandy is experimenting with extending office hours to include one night a week, Mondays from 5 PM to 7 PM. The trial period will start Monday, September 21 and run through Monday, November 16 (hunters take note) excluding holidays and town board meetings. If there's sufficient traffic, she'll consider extending the practice.

The Town of Canaan in partnership with Trout Unlimited has been awarded a NYS grant for the replacement of an aging and undersized

culvert on North Valley Road. A six-figure expense and a daunting financial challenge for the town will largely be funded by the grant. Right sizing the culvert will enhance public safety, reducing the number of road closures during storms, and substantially reduce long-term maintenance costs. The pre-construction planning for the project will start this fall; actual construction is projected for 2027.

Highway Superintendent Harry McMann is pleased to announce that **Brandon Berninger** has been hired to fill a vacancy at the Highway Department. Brandon comes on board as an MEO and will fill the vacancy created by Doug Wadsworth's retirement. More on Brandon in the next newsletter.

For the next few weeks, the town board will be focusing on the **2027 town budget**. Challenges abound, health insurance costs have risen 17%, retirement costs 9%, diesel, fuel oil, road salt and sand all have risen dramatically before we get to capital projects such as the salt shed roof, pole barn repair/replacement and truck replacement. The town has been committed to a lean budget for many years, balancing basic town services with careful management of town taxes, reserves, and the use of grant funds. For the last six years, discretionary projects like the Park Masterplan, Comprehensive Plan, heat pumps and solar panels at the Town Hall and garage (which also reduce operating costs), have been paid for with grant funds, moving projects

forward without increasing the tax burden on our residents or going above the tax cap. As you can see, we're continuing that practice in 2027. Stewardship of town funds, use of grant funds and careful budgeting will continue to define priorities as we develop this year's budget.

The October 13th Town Board meeting agenda will include a **presentation by the Assessor** who will explain the new NYS tax exemption thresholds for low income senior and disability exemptions. The exemptions are discretionary and are decided by each municipality.

As I finish this letter the sun is nearing the horizon and the shadows are lengthening over Stoddard Park. A Great Blue Heron is perched on the bulkhead of the pond, a group of 30 somethings is playing basketball, and the fish are rising on a new insect hatch. A cool breeze is swirling cut grass and the first whisper of fallen leaves. I encourage you to take a moment to enjoy these things and to experience, as often as possible, the simple pleasures of life in a small town.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

Brenda Adams
Town Supervisor





Red Rock Historical Society Presents:

Ghent's One-room Schoolhouses

Saturday, September 19th at 3 pm

For over one hundred and twenty years, one-room schoolhouses were a part of rural childhood. The schoolhouses themselves were centers of community life, with each district a community within a community. Join Ghent Town Historian Gregg Berninger for a look into Ghent's ten one-room schoolhouses and beyond.

Red Rock's One-Room Schoolhouse will be open to the public after the presentation. See what a schoolhouse looked like in 1840!



Free and open to the public—refreshments will be served.
RRHS, 407 County Rte 24, East Chatham, NY



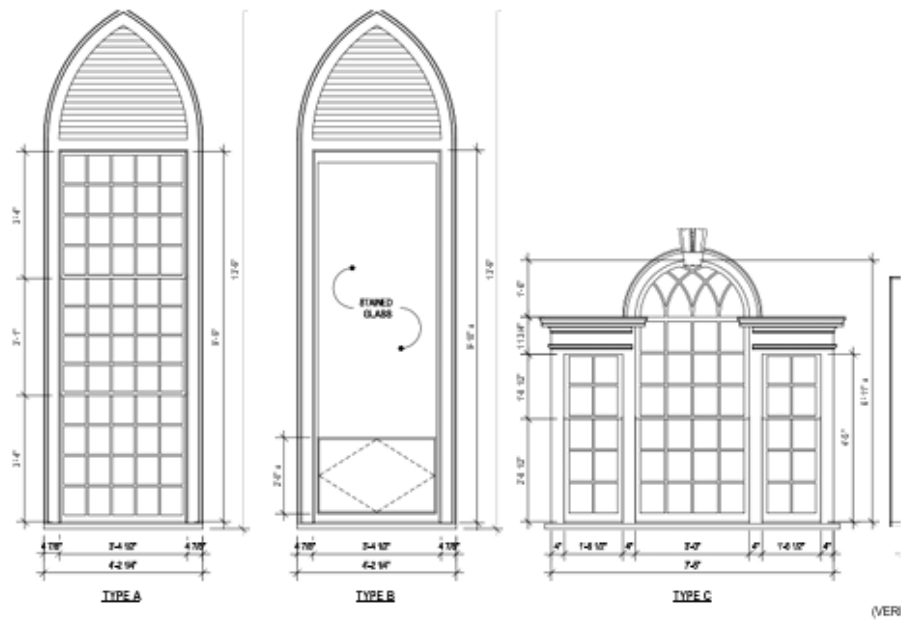


Looking to hunt this upcoming season?

Hunting is an important way to connect with the land and contribute to healthy ecosystems. Select Columbia Land Conservancy properties (Overmountain, Schor, and Hand Hollow) are open for deer hunting to permit holders.

For those interested in hunting on CLC properties, permits are managed through [HuntStand](#), a mobile app that hunters can download to participate in the program. The 2026 permit process will open in September. Visit the [CLC hunting page](#) to learn more about the program and register for a permit.





Canaan Historical Society Receives \$10,000 Grant for Window Restoration

The Canaan Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Society has received a \$10,000 matching grant from the Veillette-Nifosi Foundation of East Chatham to support window restoration, which is the next major phase of the restoration for the Society's 1829 Meeting House. The Meeting House serves as a museum, exhibiting Canaan historical family and business artifacts and as a gathering place for historic programs.

This grant will be used to help reach the \$75,000 goal for partial window restoration. The windows involved are six triple-hung small paned glass windows and the Palladian window over the Meeting House front door. The building's stained- glass windows will be part of a future contract.

The Historical Society will have to raise \$10,000 to earn the matching grant. Therefore, we are soliciting funds from the community to meet the match. Contributions can be made online at CanaanHistoricalSociety.org or checks can be mailed to Canaan Historical Society, Post Office Box 111, Canaan, NY 12029.

The Society has a goal of finishing the exterior restoration by the building's bicentennial in 2029.





CANAAN
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



A COMMUNITY EVENING

Circling Our Common Home

A shared meal, three short films from the Climate Future Film Festival,
and drawing activities for children.

Open conversation to follow the films

All films are kid-friendly — children are warmly encouraged to join the
conversation!



Shared Meal
*Pizza & salad
provided*



**Three Short
Films**



**Open
Conversation**



**Drawing
Activities for
Kids**

WHEN

**Thursday
September 24**

6:00 – 8:00 PM

WHERE

**Canaan Congregational
Church**

1670 County Route 5
Canaan, NY

Free and open to the community.

If you'd like to bring a dessert or cookies to share, that would be wonderful!

All are welcome.

Parking at the church is limited. Additional parking is available across the street and at Stoddard Field.



Columbia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Event

**50 Grandinetti Drive
Ghent, NY**

**Saturday, October 10, 2026
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

➞ What to Bring...

- Adhesives
- Aerosols (Not Empty)
- Antifreeze
- Cleaners
- Flammables
- Herbicides & Pesticides
- Hobby & Artist Supplies
- Insecticides
- Lawn Care Products
- Mercury
- Latex & Oil-Based Paints
- Photo Chemicals
- Swimming Pool Chemicals

➞ What NOT to Bring...

- Agricultural Waste
- Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks
- Biohazardous Waste
- Biomedical Waste
- Pharmaceuticals
- Radioactive Materials
- Asbestos
- Commercial/Industrial Waste
- Fire Extinguishers
- Motor Oil

➞ For More Information:

**Columbia County Solid
Waste Department
518-828-2737**





Chatham
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
"Where Character Counts"

Dear Chatham CSD Community,

The Chatham Central School District is seeking parents and community members who are interested in serving on our Future Planning Committee.

As you are probably well aware, our District has experienced a decline in student enrollment, a trend that has shown no signs of reversing. Combined with rising costs and decreases in state aid, it is our obligation to plan for a future with fewer students so that we can continue to meet their changing needs in an effective and efficient way. Preserving the opportunities, extracurricular activities, traditions, and overall educational quality we offer our students will remain the District's top priorities throughout this process.

The Future Planning Committee will play an important advisory role in evaluating how our declining enrollment may impact the District's

long-term operational needs, use of facilities, and costs. The Committee will also be tasked with exploring and prioritizing several possible scenarios - from maintaining the current school building footprint to consolidating programs or repurposing space.

From there, school officials will share the scenarios with all community members for feedback. Ultimately, any decision that gets made will be that of the Board of Education based on the data and feedback we receive.

We are seeking four parents as well as four representatives from the greater community to serve on the Committee, which will also include school leaders, teachers, support staff, and students.

The Committee is expected to meet once each month from October, 2026 through June, 2027, generally from 6:00–7:30 p.m. Members should be committed to attending meetings regularly, reviewing materials between meetings, and participating in respectful, collaborative discussions.

We invite parents and community members interested in serving to submit a Letter of Interest to the Office of the Superintendent by emailing administrative assistant Kelly Hodges, at hodgesk@chatham.k12.ny.us no later than September 18.

Letters of Interest Should Include The Following:

- Name
- Address (or municipality)
- Phone number
- Email address
- Category (Parent/Guardian, Community Member, Business Owner, Senior Citizen, Alumni, Other)
- Why are you interested in serving on the Future Planning Committee?
- The perspectives, experiences, or skills you would bring to the committee.
- Your ability to attend monthly meetings from October through June (6:00–7:30 p.m.)
- Anything else you would like us to know.

Applicants will be considered based on their responses, ability to meet the expectations of committee membership, and the goal of creating a balanced committee that reflects the communities, experiences, and perspectives within the Chatham Central School District. Final appointments will be made by the Superintendent.

If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of available positions, the Superintendent may use a brief interview process to

assist with final selection. If interviews are conducted, those interviewed will be asked the same questions and considered using consistent criteria. This approach is intended to provide a fair and transparent selection process.

The School District looks forward to this work with our entire community. Please don't hesitate to contact Superintendent Andrew Kourt with any questions at kourta@chatham.k12.ny.us.

Andrew Kourt
Chatham CSD Superintendent



2026

Columbia County DOH Free Drive-Thru Rabies Clinics

Pre-registration required

Mark your calendar! The registration link will go out 30 days before the clinic.

Clinics are for dogs, cats, and ferrets at least 3 months of age.
Breeders must use their own Veterinarian for rabies vaccine.
Donations are accepted.



Saturday, May 30th
102 Harry Howard Ave,
Hudson, NY 12534
10AM-12PM

Wednesday, June 17th
182 Hudson Ave,
Chatham, NY 12037
4PM-6PM

Saturday, September 12th
50 Grandinetti Dr,
Ghent, NY 12075
10AM-12PM

Saturday, October 17th
9091 NY-22,
Hillsdale, NY 12529
12PM-2PM



(518)-828-3358



www.columbiacountynyhealth.com





Town of Canaan Purple Heart Ceremony

August 7, 2026

The Town of Canaan honored five Purple Heart recipients on August 7th 2026. U.S. Marine Corporal Charles N. Girdler, U.S. Army Private Stanley Gawron, Jr., U.S. Army Private Richard Hatch, U.S. Marine Private Vernon Warren from World War II and U.S. Army Private Walter Henry Berger from World War I. Rachel Hamilton from the Office of Veterans and Canaan Town Supervisor, Brenda Adams, spoke on behalf of these honored Veterans. Elizabeth Chapman represented the American Legion Post from Chatham.



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

You are receiving this email Newsletter because you signed up or opted in via our website. Share with a friend or encourage them to sign up at the Town of Canaan website <https://canaannewyork.org/> [You may unsubscribe here.](#) [View this email in your browser](#)



Copyright © 2026 Town of Canaan, NY, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Town of Canaan, NY
PO Box 459
1647 County Route 5
Canaan, NY 12029-0459

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list.](#)

