

FALL 2020 Newsletter

Town of DeWitt

Meeting the challenges of COVID-19
with the people, projects, and parks
that continue to build our community.

**SEE BACK COVER FOR OUR FIDDLERS
GREEN FEATURE...**

*(see pgs. 2 to 15 for more projects & people + inside
back cover for details about our DeWitt Photo Contest,
"Focus on Community!")*



parks



community



business

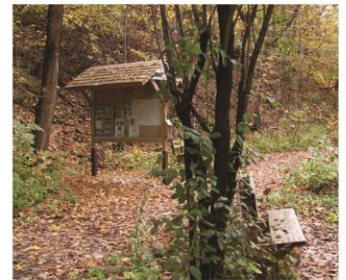
Projects

The projects that continue to build our community...

- Elevating Erie/Widewaters Pond
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning Documents
- Activation of 2.66 Megawatt Solar Array at Former Town Landfill Site
- Community Solar Programs
- Sewer Consolidation and System Offset Plan
- Inland Port Development
- In-house HR & Management Training
- New Town Website
- Town Hall Net Zero Energy Efficiency Designs
- Carrier Park: Playground, Basketball Courts, and Turf Fields
- Sidewalk Snow Removal Program
- Klim Center Remodeling
- Fiddlers Green Park Expansion
- Butternut Trail Park System Expansion
- Empire State Trail Enhancements
- Franklin Park & Dunrovin Park Playground Renovations
- Jamesville Master Plan Projects: Community Room, Flower Shop, North St. Demos
- Zombie Home Program
- Deer Management
- Tree Program
- Water System Infrastructure Improvements, GIS & Inventory Mapping, and Interactive Public Notification
- Electric Cars and Charging Stations
- Storm Water Programs
- Ley Creek Naturalization/Flood Control Projects
- Hamlet Mixed-Use Zone Expansion



New Town Website and Fiddlers Green Park Expansion



New Carrier Park All-Inclusive Playground and Basketball Courts



Activation of 2.66 Megawatt Solar Array at Former Town Landfill Site



The Town of DeWitt...we're building community.



People

The people who continue to build our community...

Needless to say, you cannot facilitate successful projects - or “build community” – without people.

Many people – town staff, board and committee members, consultants, vendors, members of both our residential and business community – are jointly responsible for making the Town of DeWitt a highly desirable place in which to live, learn, worship, work, and play.

All of those people came together in cooperation and collaboration to meet the sudden – and significant – challenges and changes we faced due to the COVID-19 virus and its economic impact on our community and the workings of town government.

While I am thankful for the commitment of all of the folks above, I also want to acknowledge a few members of the town staff, as well as some community members, who have been recognized by their peers as stand-out supporters of the town, especially during these last few months...

Angela Epolito, Town Clerk

Chase Bilodeau, Chief of Police

Rocco Conte, Highway Superintendent

Barb Turner, Information Aide, Water Dept.

Linda Semeraro, Secretary to the Highway Superintendent

...these staff members worked “above and beyond the call of duty” through the many weeks Town Hall was closed and staffing was minimal. They worked long hours, made sure residents had someone to connect to on the phone, fielded inquiries, took care of plants and computers, worked – literally – on the streets of our community, supported many more departments than their own, made sure essential information from Onondaga County and NYS was updated and posted immediately, researched and acquired the structural and personal safety measures that needed to be put into place at Town Hall...and a whole lot more.

Three other people are well deserving of acknowledgement for their dedication to DeWitt: **Megan Ball, our acting Recreation Director, and Pam and Jack Dooling.** Jack is a Town Board member and Pam, his wife, has supported the town in myriad ways for many years. Please see my “Notes” on page 7 for details about Megan, Jack, and Pam and their ongoing and sincere commitment to our community.



Edward M. Michalenko, DeWitt Supervisor

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General Contact Information

DeWitt Town Hall
5400 Butternut Drive
East Syracuse, NY 13057

Phone: (315) 446-3910
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00am-4:30pm
Web: www.townofdewitt.com

Contact Information by Department

Town Clerk clerk@townofdewitt.com	x 2	Tax tax@townofdewitt.com	x 7	Court Judge Gideon (315) 446-9180 Judge Jokl (315) 446-7136
Planning & Zoning plan_zone@townofdewitt.com	x 3	Assessor assessor@townofdewitt.com	x 8	Police Administrative (315) 449-3640 police@townofdewitt.com
Water water@townofdewitt.com	x 4	Recreation recreation@townofdewitt.com	x 9	Highway (315) 437-8331 DeWitt Highway Department 5953 Butternut Drive East Syracuse, NY 13057 Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:00am-3:30pm highway@townofdewitt.com
Supervisor supervisor@townofdewitt.com	x 5	Parks (315) 432-1925 DeWitt Parks Department 5953 Butternut Drive East Syracuse, NY 13057 Hours: Mon-Fri, 7:00am-3:30pm		
Comptroller comptroller@townofdewitt.com	x 6			

A message from Supervisor Edward M. Michalenko, Ph.D.



First and foremost, I hope you and your family are safe and well and endeavoring to find creative ways, notwithstanding the limitations of social distancing, to stay connected with friends and neighbors, especially our seniors, who have been so significantly impacted by the virus. If I know anything about the people of the Town of DeWitt, it is that we always come together to meet challenges, make changes, and co-create solutions that serve the whole of the community.

“Building community” matters most during times of challenge and change; this newsletter is focused on the projects, people, and parks that are building our community despite the challenges of the COVID-19 virus.

Projects support our tax base, enhance our quality of life, create economic development opportunities, and make our community a desirable place to live, learn, worship, work and play. Parks, trails, and greenspaces are our “natural capitol;” numerous studies have shown that parks and greenspaces improve the standard of living and quality of life for surrounding neighborhoods, provide increased recreational opportunities and public health improvements, increase property values, and help maintain a strong tax base.

It is people however, who are at the heart of “building community.” People who make projects possible, who keep things running when the going gets tough, who maintain our greenspaces, who donate their time, energy and prosperity to improve our quality of life, and who go above and beyond to serve the community.

Page three of this newsletter features several people from inside Town Hall who went above and beyond during these last several months to be of service to their fellow staff members - and to the whole of the Town of DeWitt - meeting the challenges and changes of the COVID-19 virus with flexibility and determination; my sincere thanks to these staff members, and to all town employees and board members, for their commitment to the Town of DeWitt during this uncertain time.

Though she will not approve, I want to call out the person at the very center of support and service during this difficult time, our Town Clerk, Ms. Angela Epolito. Angela not only takes her responsibilities as Town Clerk seriously, she is a strong, smart, sensitive, indefatigable leader and supporter of staff, department heads, the Town Board and I. The tasks she performed and the time she spent ushering the town through the first few months of COVID-19 and sheltering in place are too numerous mention here.

I know I speak not only for myself and the Town Board, but for everyone on the payroll at Town Hall when I say to Angela...thank you for serving the town, and supporting all of us, with the sincerity, humor, and dedication you bring to the job every day.

The inside front cover of this newsletter features a list of on-going town projects. From the activation of our Solar Array at the site of our former town landfill, the opening of the pedestrian bridge across I-481, and addressing issues of racism, equity, and policing... to the expansion of our Fiddlers Green Park, new playground, basketball courts, and turf infields at Carrier Park, and Water System Infrastructure improvements...we continue to build community in the Town of DeWitt.

I also want to call your attention to the back cover of the newsletter, featuring Jamesville's Fiddlers Green Park. As a founding board member of the Fiddlers Green Park Association, I have been an advocate of the park for more than 13 years. During that time individual members of the community, community businesses and organizations, and the Town Board have worked in a positive, productive partnership to protect and preserve the unique natural character of Fiddlers Green and to make it accessible to our community and the greater community.

Further, last Fall Ms. Jackie Place reached out to me to offer to donate five acres of land and several hundred feet of waterfront along Butternut Creek, an area behind the former Glen Loch restaurant, to expand the Fiddlers Green Park. The donation is in memory of her late husband Bryan McNeil Place. I know I speak not only for myself and the Town Board, but for the whole community, in expressing our sincere thanks and appreciation to Jackie – and Bryan - for this extraordinarily generous gift that will contribute to the quality of life of DeWitt residents, and the broader community, for many, many years to come.

In other news, on June 8th the Town Board passed a resolution condemning the death of George Floyd and all acts of profiling, brutality or racism by police officers or any member of the public. I recommend you read the resolution, pages 25 and 26, created by Town Councilor Sam Young, it is beautifully written, strongly worded, and accurately reflects our sincere and strong commitment to address issues of equity, racism and policing head on. See more information about these issues in my "Notes" on page 5.

Also, see page 33 for a photo update of Challenger activities this past year; as you may know, our own Carrier Park is home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program.

When it is safe and appropriate for us to come together "in community" we will host special events to celebrate our new all-inclusive playground and basketball courts at Carrier Park – as well as new turf infields – the activation of the Solar Array, and Ms. Jackie Place's generous contribution of land for the expansion of Fiddlers Green Park.

God bless you, your family, our community, and our country. If there is any way we can assist, please let us know.

Most sincerely,
Edward M. Michalenko, DeWitt Supervisor

SUPERVISOR'S NOTES

We're meeting the challenges and changes of COVID-19 with the people, projects, and parks that support us to continue to build our community.



Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Supervisor Ed Michalenko and other officials

Elevating Erie & Empire State Trail Update: I-481 Pedestrian Bridge Opens



On August 7th we hosted New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS Senator Rachel May, Assemblyperson Pam Hunter, and several other state and town officials for a ribbon-

cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the new pedestrian bridge across Interstate-481; the bridge is a key component of the Elevating Erie Project and also an essential connector within the 750-mile Empire State Trail system.

This pedestrian bridge is a welcome benefit for families, walkers, runners and cyclists; it connects the Craige - Kinne Rd.-Towpath Rd. neighborhoods to Butternut Drive, Town Hall, Ryder Park, Butternut Creek Park, the Erie Canal, and the Erie Canalway Trail system. Before this pedestrian bridge, the whole of the

Town of DeWitt has been bisected by I-481, with few options for walkers, bikers, and runners to safely cross over I-481 to one of the most recreation rich areas of our community.

Connecting residents to our parks, greenspaces, and trail systems will become more important than ever in our post-COVID world. The virus and sheltering in place have reminded us all how fortunate we are, especially here in DeWitt, to be able to access nature and the great outdoors.

Just as significantly, numerous studies have shown that parks and greenspaces improve the standard of living and quality of life for surrounding neighborhoods, provide increased recreational opportunities and public health improvements, increase property values, and help maintain a strong tax base; greenspaces are our community's "natural capitol."

The Towpath Road trail is also completed; now runners, bikers, and walkers can travel from Erie Boulevard at Bridge Street over the new I-481 pedestrian bridge, visit Ryder and Cedar Bay Parks and continue along the Erie Canalway trail system.

Our thanks to NYS D.O.T. for all of their hard work to bring these two essential aspects of the Elevating Erie Project to fruition this year; as you are no doubt aware, work continues on the Erie Boulevard component of the project; construction of sidewalks and a bike path in the center median is expected to be completed in 2021. We also look forward to beginning work on the Widewaters Pond component of the Elevating Erie Project in the coming years as economic factors allow.

For more information about Elevating Erie, go to:

Elevating Erie

Video: <http://www.elevatingerie.com/spanning-the-gap-video>

Empire State

Trail: <https://www.ny.gov/programs/empire-state-trail>

Fiddlers Green Park

In line with improving our quality of life and property values with greenspaces, trails and parks, **please see the back cover of this newsletter** about our expansion of the Fiddlers Green Park in Jamesville. As we announced last year, Ms. Jackie Place has donated five acres of land - and several hundred feet of waterfront - along Butternut Creek in Jamesville, an area behind the former Glen Loch restaurant, to our Fiddlers Green Park. Ms. Place's extraordinarily generous gift to the town is in honor of her late husband, Bryan McNeill Place.

As mentioned above, parks are an integral way in which we sustain a balanced quality of life in DeWitt; sheltering in place due to the COVID-19 virus has reminded us that nature is one of the few ways many of us can get out and enjoy our community...while also staying safe and abiding by social distancing.

We are fortunate in DeWitt to have several beautiful parks, Fiddlers Green among them. If you have not yet visited Fiddlers Green I recommend you do so, it is a wonderful park, even more so now due to the generous gift of Ms. Place.

Going forward, when it is safe and appropriate for us to come together, we will host a special event to honor Ms. Place – and her late husband Bryan's – lasting contribution to the quality of life in the town of DeWitt and to celebrate being able to be together "in community" again.

For more information, see the back cover of this newsletter and/or go to:

<http://www.fiddlersgreenpark.org>



People Building Community



Chase L. Bilodeau has served with the Town of DeWitt Police Department since 2007. He has risen in rank over the years from road patrol officer, road patrol sergeant, road patrol lieutenant, criminal investigations lieutenant, and police captain.

This past April 30th, he was appointed to the position of Town of DeWitt Chief of Police and Public Safety. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Psychology from the State University of New York at Brockport and is a member of numerous law enforcement professional organizations. Across a wide variety of issues, Chief Bilodeau brings both excellence and empathy to the position of Chief of Police. Most recently, he has been active in addressing issues of equity and racism, marching with protesters to show his support of the need to address these issues and make wise and appropriate changes. He is also supporting our Police Commission in analyzing and implementing the Governor's executive order with regard to policing in NYS. Chief Bilodeau also actively supports the work of other town departments, projects, and staff; his presence and perspective is valued and appreciated. Chase is "building community" both inside Town Hall and out in the community.

The first public hearing regarding Policing in the Town of DeWitt is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th at 6:30pm at Town Hall.

Megan Ball is our acting Recreation Director. This Spring Megan was the recipient of two professional awards: the Central New York Recreation and Parks Society (CNYRPS) Young Professional Award, and the Young Professional Award at the state level from the New York State Recreation and Parks Society. The award "is presented to a current Parks and Recreation professional who exhibits the attributes of an emerging leader, as displayed through their initiative, innovation, and contributions to the parks and recreation field."

Megan began volunteering for the town at a young age as an elf for the Holiday Lighting Festivities and has been involved with the Recreation Department ever since; her mother, the late Kim Ball, was the Town of DeWitt Director of Parks and Recreation for many years. This Spring Megan led her department in efforts to re-think and recalibrate our recreation programming due to the COVID-19 virus - not only creating new programs to support children, parents, and seniors through the summer months (Stay Camp, the Recreation Virtual Resource Center, and a virtual basketball clinic among others), in the absence of our popular Summer Day Camp and other programs - but also supporting other town departments to meet the challenges and changes of the COVID-19 virus. Megan's dedication to the Recreation Department and to the children, families, and seniors of DeWitt is genuinely "building community."

See pages 37-43 of this newsletter for Recreation Department information.

Jack and Pam Dooling

Jack and Pam Dooling have served the DeWitt community – and the broader community – for decades. Jack, a Town Board member, retired from Crouse-Hinds after 38 years, and also previously served as a Town Board member from 2012 to 2015. He currently serves on the Board of Vera House where he has been an advocate and Victims Court escort for many years. He previously served on the Board of Directors of Loretto. Jack coached ESM Pop

Warner football and St. Matthew's CYO basketball for 30 years. He volunteers with codFISH and has served as Co-Chair, with his wife Pam, for DeWitt's annual 9/11 Ceremony.

Pam Dooling served as Co-Chair the town's annual 9/11 Ceremony and volunteers at both St. Matthew's church and the Assumption Food Pantry. She has organized, created, and maintained neighborhood and municipal flower gardens in several areas of DeWitt including: the garden area around the town's electronic sign at Erie Blvd., East and E. Genesee St., the DeWitt Community Room, and the garden at the corner of Kinne St. and Franklin Park Drive. Pam is also a volunteer for the Syracuse Rose Society, has chaired and judged several Rosarian events and contests, and has won numerous awards on the local, state, and national level for her roses. As mentioned above regarding greenspaces being our "natural capitol," Pam works hard to support the value of DeWitt's "natural capitol."

Enter the Town of DeWitt Photo Contest: Focus on Community

See the inside back cover of this newsletter for details; enter your favorite town photo – people, pets, nature or architecture – winners will be featured on the new town website, in our newsletters and on our social media!

9/11 Ceremony



The 9/11 Ceremony will take place on Friday, September 11 at 6:00pm.

To protect the health and safety of our community, we ask residents to view the ceremony from their homes via our Facebook live stream. Only participants and officials will be onsite for this event.

The live stream can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/TownofDeWittNY/> and a recording will be available after the ceremony has concluded.



Town of DeWitt Police Dept. News

The command staff of our Town of DeWitt Police Department above, is featured on the cover of this newsletter, from left to right they are: Chief Chase L. Bilodeau, Captain Chris Fuller, Lieutenant Jerry Pace, Lieutenant Brenton White. As you are well aware, policing and issues with regards to racism and equity are frequently in the headlines now; policing itself is undergoing significant challenge and change. The Town Board and I want you to know we're addressing those issues head-on; at the same time, we are also proud to support the dedicated men and women who serve in our DeWitt Police Department and put them "front and center" in our communications to you.

The Town Board has had in-depth discussions regarding issues of equity, racism and policing at two board meetings this past summer, as well as several "in-house" discussions and meetings. Our DeWitt Police Commission will be analyzing and implementing the Governor's executive order with regard to policing in NYS over the next few months. We take these issues seriously and welcome the public's input. **The first public hearing regarding Policing in the Town of DeWitt is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th at 6:30pm at Town Hall.**

Policing is an integral part of "building community" in DeWitt, especially during times of challenge or crisis; the men and women of the Town of DeWitt Police Department are working in partnership with the public - and the

Town Board - in seeking solutions to these critical issues.

SCAMS!

Please stay vigilant! Unfortunately, the challenges and changes in our communities - and our society - due to the COVID-19 virus and economic fallout, creates an opportune environment for people who seek to take advantage of fear and confusion...with scams. In fact, even prior to the virus outbreak scams were on the rise. With the addition of so much technological communication in our daily lives via the internet, email, and social media, scams have not only become more prevalent, they have also become more and more sophisticated. Protect yourself from scams:

Protecting yourself from scams/fraud

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/fraud/>

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center

<https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>

If you have been victimized by a scam, call 911.

Environmental & Energy Initiatives

Town Solar Array goes on line this Fall



We are excited to announce our Town Solar Array will be going online early this Fall.

Located on the site of our former town landfill, the array includes over 7,000 solar panels spread out over an 11-acre area. Taking the initiative to become less reliant on fossil fuels - and more respectful of the environment - is another important way we're striving to continue to "build community."

The 2.66 Megawatts of electricity produced annually by our Solar Array will totally free the Town from using fossil fuels for our municipal electrical needs; this includes all of our town buildings and facilities, street lights, and water and sewer pumps.

Over the next 20 years, projections indicate power generated from the panels will allow us to save approximately \$70,000 per year. Plus, we can expand the array in the future if DeWitt residents and businesses choose to become a part of the project.

I want my grandchildren and great grandchildren to view polluting fossil fuels - natural gas, oil, and coal – like we view using horses as a mode of transportation. This solar project supports our community to be respectful and responsible custodians of the environment in and around the former landfill site, provides for our municipal electric needs without the use of fossil fuels, and will save on municipal energy costs for years to come; it serves the budget, the bottom line, the residents, and the environment.

For more info. about the Solar Array project, see this link at:

<http://www.townofdewitt.com/documents/news/IMLaRlyF2zrcQZZqr1bZA==.pdf>

Earth Day & Drive Electric Day (cancelled)

Our Annual Earth Day Clean-Up, hosted by the DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission has been cancelled due to safety concerns and social distancing with regard to the COVID-19 virus. Also, “Drive Electric Day” has cancelled all of their in-person events, we are however, exploring the possibility of a virtual event later in the Fall. Stay tuned via the town website.

We hope to hold a Spring Clean-Up event on Saturday, April 24, 2021, mark your calendar!

Electric Vehicles & LED Lighting

We now use two electric vehicles for town business and electric charging stations are

available at Town Hall on Butternut Drive for use by both the Town and the public. Also last Fall, we completed installing all new LED streetlights throughout the Town. The conversion to LED street lighting will reduce our electric consumption and costs by two-thirds.

Assisting Residents with Energy Costs

If you would like information about how to save on your energy costs and/or bill payment options and financial assistance programs, contact the NYS Office of Consumer Services, at: <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/results>.

Deer Management Update

We completed our 3rd year of the Deer Management program earlier this year. Results of the cull can be found at <http://www.townofdewitt.com/WhiteTailedDeer.aspx>

This past year we removed 62 deer and 1,777 pounds of venison was delivered for donation, providing 6,828 meals for the local community. As food needs have significantly increased in recent months due to the COVID-19 virus and challenging economic circumstances for many families, we are happy to be able to support community food needs in this way

The Deer Management program did end early this year due to safety concerns with regard to the virus, but we will move forward with the program this year in the hopes of exceeding our donation to the CNY Food Bank in 2021. For more detailed information about the Town’s Deer Management program, please visit: www.townofdewitt.com/WhiteTailedDeer.aspx

Key to the success of our Deer Management program is gaining access to large parcels of land that meet the conditions of our NYS Department of Conservation permit. So, **we need your help with the program for 2020-21.**

If you are a property owner interested in supporting the town’s deer management efforts, please contact Nicholas Quilty-Koval at

nkoval@townofdewitt.com, Planning and Zoning Dept., or at (315) 446-3910, ext. 137.

Also, as a reminder:

- All town parks are closed from dusk to dawn.
- Be sure you have a property owner's **explicit permission** before entering private property; whether it is deer culling season or not, it is always advisable to have permission to enter private property.

Ticks

An essential aspect of “building community” is supporting you with important information as it relates to your health and well-being and our overall environment. As you are well aware, ticks are a significant concern in our community due to our large deer population.

On March 5th of this year, prior to the shutdown due to the COVID-19 virus, the DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission, in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension, held a seminar at DeWitt Town Hall.

I attended the seminar and it was an exceptionally informative event, with top regional professionals making presentations. For information on ticks, connect with <http://cceonondaga.org/environment/invasive-nuisance-species/terrestrial-animals/deer-tick>

As always, as the season progresses, please take extra care in avoiding tick bites and checking for ticks after time spent in natural areas.

**Carrier Park is Building Community
New All-Inclusive Playground, Basketball
Courts & Turf Fields**

Later this Fall we will be completing construction of our new all-inclusive playground and basketball courts, as well as the installation of turf to our two existing baseball infields.



All-Inclusive Playground at Carrier Park



All-Inclusive Basketball Courts at Carrier Park

The basketball courts, partially funded by the Jim & Juli Boeheim Foundation, are lighted and feature fully adjustable backboards and rims so children and adults in wheelchairs can also play one of Syracuse's favorite sports. The playground, the only one of its kind in the CNY region, is specially designed for children of all ages and abilities, including those with special needs; in addition to special playground apparatus, the playground area features a soft, ground-level membrane safe for all kids to tumble on, but firm enough for children in wheelchairs.

We are also installing turf on our two existing baseball infields. The installation of turf will allow teams to play even in inclement weather, thus allowing us to draw more games, practices, and tournaments to Carrier Park.

Tournaments hosted at Carrier Park can support us to keep our 28+ town hotels busy and provide revenue generating economic opportunities for retail, restaurants,

entertainment, and gas...not only within the town of DeWitt, but across Onondaga County.

In fact, earlier this year we were notified that Carrier Park was selected as host location for the 2021-2023 National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Softball Championship Tournament. We are excited about this event and the opportunities it will provide for our community and local businesses; we will keep you updated via the town's website and social media as details emerge.

Also, later this Fall we look forward to opening Carrier Park to the public during the day and early evenings; as soon as the surfacing, fencing, lighting, and turf fields are fully completed and installed, we will open up your community park...for your enjoyment!

For more information about the potential economic benefits of Carrier Park, an overview of the project, as well the ways in which you can become a "Carrier Park Partner" and support this community asset that can provide DeWitt vital economic development opportunities via sports tourism dollars, see pages 28-35 in this newsletter.

What's happening at Carrier Park?
Booking for the upcoming 2021 season starts now!



If you or your organization would like to schedule games, practices or tournaments for the 2021 season, please

contact us at: carrierpark@townofdewitt.com

Events - if you or your community organization are interested in booking an event at Carrier Park, please contact us at:
carrierpark@townofdewitt.com

Also, see page 33 of this newsletter for some great photos of Challenger players, and their families at some of last year's events.

How can you support Carrier Park?

Please consider becoming a "**Carrier Park Partner.**" Our state-of-the-art, all inclusive, multi-sport recreation facility for children and adults, including those with special needs...needs **your** partnership. (See pgs. 28-35 for more information.)

If you have ideas for a special or community event, or you'd like a tour of Carrier Park, just call the Recreation Department at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or email

carrierpark@townofdewitt.com.



Carrier Park Lawn Signs

You can show your support for our Carrier Park recreation complex now by purchasing a couple of Carrier Park "more than you think" lawn signs. Just \$10, lawn signs are available at the Town Hall Recreation Office, 2nd floor.

A sign on your front lawn – or at your business – shows neighbors, colleagues, and passing motorists you are a part of "building community" by supporting Carrier Park; your contribution also supports future park development.

For more information about Carrier Park see pgs. 28-35 of this newsletter.

Or download this PDF:

<http://carrierpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Carrier-Park-Marketing-Package.pdf>

To learn more about sponsorships and donations, go to: <http://carrierpark.org/story/>

East Syracuse Bottle & Can Return

East Syracuse Bottle & Can Return, located on East Manlius Street right next to the Thrifty Shopper in the Village of East Syracuse, will accept your returnables and donate the proceeds to Carrier Park, home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program. Just ask for Account #22.

Inside Town Hall

Update: Management Training for Town Staff & Key Personnel

At the heart of building community are...people. As such, we are continuing to “build community” inside Town Hall with on-going management training and the updating of our HR policies, procedures, etc. to better serve Town employees...so they can better serve you.

Our goal is “inter-dependence,” department heads and key staff members working as individuals - and as a collaborative group – to strongly support their own departments and staff, one another across departments, and also work in partnership with the Town Board, as well as the other town boards and commissions, consultants and vendors, that comprise town government.

We will continue to provide staff these in-house updating, training, learning, and growth opportunities so long as funds allow. Our objective is to better serve you, the taxpayer, but also to support staff to create a more supportive, empowered, efficient, inter-dependent work environment.

Town staff - not just elected officials - represent DeWitt’s “people capitol;” we invest in staff so they can better serve one another and you.

Update: New! Town of DeWitt Website

We will soon be launching an all new Town Website to better serve residents and visitors, and better support town staff to keep the public informed, create engaging stories, and work more effectively and efficiently. We expect the site to be up by mid to late Fall. The

new site will allow us to better serve both residents and businesses, and also to provide site visitors with helpful information, news, announcements, projects, events, and important deadlines or procedural changes.

New Playgrounds at Franklin Park and Dunrovin Park

The 25-year old playgrounds at Franklin Park and Dunrovin Park have both been replaced with all new playgrounds! My thanks to Town Board member Sam Young, who was instrumental in securing funds for these projects with the help of NYS Assemblyperson Pam Hunter. My thanks also to our own town Parks crew for site excavation and partnering with Titan Development to install the new playground equipment.

Shoppingtown Update

As of this date, the future of the Shoppingtown property is in the hands of Onondaga County; they are presently engaged in litigation with the owners of Shoppingtown.

As back ground, for several years the town offered Shoppingtown’s owners multiple, robust financial incentives: access to grants, energy incentive programs, specific mixed-use development concepts, cost-saving plans, a potential PILOT agreement, and other significant financial inducements to encourage them to rehabilitate – or fully redevelop – the property. Shoppingtown’s owners however, declined to take advantage of the opportunities above.

We want this valuable, strategically located property - like all of our commercial properties - to be vibrant and profitable.

For detailed information about the town’s efforts - along with links to comparable comprehensive large-scale mixed-use projects in other areas of the country similar to what the Town proposed to Shoppingtown’s owners, please see:

<http://www.townofdewitt.com/documents/news/gwB8rxjTO35W8xdphyg==.pdf>

Please pass along this information to friends, family, and neighbors...

Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville Sidewalk

Connecting our neighborhoods to one another - to our parks and trails, and to commercial districts - and to quality of life locations like the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville, is an integral part of "building community" in the Town of DeWitt.

Now that the sidewalk that extends along Jamesville Road to the Community Library of DeWitt & Jamesville is complete, residents are able to walk from the Orvilton, DeWittshire, and Cornwall neighborhoods – as well as all of the neighborhoods on the west side of Jamesville Road - past MPH school and the Andrews Road neighborhood, directly to the library.

Zombie Homes Update

DeWitt is one of the few municipalities in the area with an active - and successful - Zombie Homes program. Our office of Planning and Zoning continually monitors vacant and neglected properties throughout the town; we recognize abandoned and neglected properties can negatively impact neighborhood property values, as well as the aesthetics of streets and neighborhoods. **If you have an abandoned property in your neighborhood, please contact the Planning and Zoning Dept. at (315) 446-3910, ext. 3.**

Butternut Creek Trail Update

The new fishing platform was enjoyed by residents and visitors this past Spring and Summer. With the limitations of COVID-19, many more people desired to get out into nature; our parks and extensive town trail system provided them with multiple, enjoyable options! The boardwalk at the head of the trail is presently closed due to structural problems; the town is researching the best way to remedy the situation and we hope to re-open the boardwalk by early Spring 2021.

ASSESSOR

Over the last two years everyone who applied for the Enhanced Star Exemption has had to sign up for the IVP program, whereas the State will verify your income and eligibility going forward. Everyone who did this will not be receiving a renewal application this year. Anyone on the Basic Star Exemption that is turning 65 in 2021 will have to pick up an application for the Enhanced Star. To qualify, your income for 2019 must be under \$90,550 and turn 65 by December 31, 2021. You do not need to be 65 by March 1, 2021, which is the deadline to apply.

All other renewal applications will be mailed the first week of January. That includes Senior Citizens, Veteran's disability, Disability, Clergy and Non-Profit.

All Exemption Forms **MUST** be in our office no later than March 1, 2021. Any form received after that date, the exemption will be denied. For Senior Citizen and Disability you will need to provide us with your 2020 income information. If you file a tax return, we will need that, if not, we need your year-end income statements, including Social Security. For Disability, as well as Veteran's Disability, we need a current Award Letter. Be sure to return all renewal applications by March 1, 2021. We can wait for income information, but we cannot extend the deadline for receiving the application.

Please contact our office at (315) 446-3910 X 8 if you have a question about your exemption.

The STAR exemption process has been changed in New York State, for new property owners. If you have purchased your home since March 1, 2015, we can no longer accept applications from the homeowners for the Basic STAR or for the Enhanced STAR Exemption. You must apply online for the Star Credit through the New York State office of Tax and Finance at www.tax.ny.gov or call at (518) 457-2036.

For people with Questions about switching to the Star Credit from the Star Exemption, New York State has put this explanation out.

Why switch to the STAR credit from the STAR exemption?

If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive a check instead.

Beginning in 2019, the value of the STAR credit savings may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings cannot increase. The STAR exemption savings can never be higher than the STAR credit savings.

The STAR credit benefit can continue to grow.

By switching to the STAR credit, your benefit could grow by as much as 2% each year, and it can never be lower than the STAR exemption benefit.

For example, if your STAR exemption benefit was \$800 on your 2018-2019 school tax bill, that's the most you can receive in any future years, **unless** you switch to the STAR credit.

If you switch to the STAR credit, your benefit can grow by as much as 2% each year.

- *In the first year*, that could mean up to \$816—an extra \$16 in savings.
- *Five years later*, the STAR credit benefit could reach as high as \$900 due to the power of compounding,

STAR benefits can change each year.

Whether you're receiving the STAR credit or exemption, the benefit can change each year due to a variety of factors, including school tax rates, changes in property values in your community, and local assessment practices.

As a result, the STAR credit benefit may not always increase, and when it does increase, it may do so by 2% or less.

However, the STAR exemption benefit can *never* increase, even when the STAR credit benefit does increase. The STAR exemption benefit will *never* be higher than the STAR credit benefit.

How much will I save?

To determine how much you could save by switching to the STAR credit:

1. Find the amount of your STAR savings on your 2019-2020 school tax bill. (View [sample property tax bills](#).)
2. Multiply your 2019-2020 STAR savings by 1.02 to see how high your STAR credit benefit can be this year if you switch to the credit.

How to switch?

To get started see [Switching to the STAR credit from the STAR exemption](#) at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/switch.htm>

Contact our office at (315) 446-3910 x 8 for any questions concerning exemptions.

COURT

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all Town and Village Courts in the State of New York, including the Town of DeWitt Court, are presiding “virtually” over most matters. “In Person” appearances, when “virtual appearances” are not feasible, are scheduled by the court clerks, with notices sent to all of the litigants.

All Vehicle and Traffic matters are initially being held by mail and an explanation of plea options may be found on the Town of DeWitt website under Departments > Court, Plea Options link.

If an "In Person" appearance is required and/or requested, masks are required to be worn and social distancing protocols will be enforced. A full description of the Town of DeWitt Court Safety Protocols may be found on the Town of DeWitt website under Departments > Court, Safety Protocols link.

Civil matters, including small claims and eviction actions may be filed with the Court Office by mail or in person. Fine and surcharge payments may also be made by mail or in person at the Court Office.

Should you have any questions or wish to contact the Town of DeWitt Court, due to staffing limitations and call volumes, we suggest it be done in writing by either emailing your request to court@townofdewitt.com or by mailing your written inquiry to the Town of DeWitt Court at 5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse, New York 13057. Please be as specific as possible in your written request and be sure to provide your return address and telephone number. Court staff will address your inquiry upon their receipt. Please do not contact any other Town of DeWitt Department as they will not be able to assist you.

Thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented time. Please stay healthy and well.

Hon. David S. Gideon
Hon. Robert L. Jokl, Jr.

HIGHWAY

Brush Pick up

OCTOBER IS THE LAST MONTH for Town

Sponsored Brush pick up.

Collection dates are listed below:

Area 1: October 4th- October 9th

Area 2: October 11th – October 16th

Area 3: October 18th – October 23th

Area 4: October 25th – October 30th

DO NOT place brush curbside, after your

Scheduled pick up, it is a violation of Town code. These piles are a safety hazard and they interfere with the storm water system. The Town of DeWitt takes pride in offering this service; we need everyone's cooperation to have a successful program.

Brush pick up runs April - October.

The 2021 brush pick up schedule will be available on the Town's website after the New Year (March), as well as being published in the Spring/Summer Newsletter.

Leaf Collection

Pick up will start in November - December.

Unlike Brush pick up, there is **no set schedule** for collecting leaves. Vacuums and loaders are used to collect the leaves.

- **Leaves placed in cardboard boxes, paper bags, or plastic bags will not be collected.**
- **DO NOT MIX** sticks or other debris in the
- leaf piles, as these can cause damage to our equipment or our employees.
- **If the piles are mixed they will not be collected.**
- Leaves should be placed at the edge of your property, **NOT** on the pavement, or in the gutters.
- For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to play in the piles that are placed by the road.
- Please do not place leaf piles behind obstacles such as trees, cars, mailboxes, fire hydrants, light poles, etc.

Christmas Tree Collection

The Town will collect Christmas trees **curbside during the month of January**. There is no set schedule.

Place your tree at the curb – **no plastic bags, metal, lights, tinsel, stands, or ornaments** – and the Highway Department will pick them up.

Wreath Disposal

Take the wreath apart. You can put the greenery curbside in the spring with other brush pick up. The support structure can be

disposed of in the trash or recycling depending upon what the material is. **We cannot pick up wreaths when collecting the Christmas trees.**

Overnight Parking

Overnight parking (between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM) on streets and roadways is prohibited in the Town of DeWitt from November 1st – April 1st. This regulation is not weather dependent, or “suspended” during school vacations!

PARKS & FACILITIES

2021 Park and Facility Rentals will be available starting Monday, January 4, 2021. Rentals are done on a first come, first serve basis.

NOTICE: At this time we are only reserving facilities for groups of **50 or less** per State guidelines. We will update this policy in conjunction with updates from the State.

To check facility availability call the Recreation Office at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or visit townofdewitt.recdesk.com/Community/Facility

To access park and facility rental forms visit townofdewitt.recdesk.com and click on the Forms tab.

ONLINE FACILITY RESERVATIONS

The following facilities can be reserved online at townofdewitt.recdesk.com

- Cedar Bay Park
- DeWitt Community Room
- Maxwell Park Front & Back Pavilions
- Ryder Park

At the time of reservation you will need a RecDesk account and a credit card (VISA, Master Card or Discover).

Please note that the merchant charges 3.09% on all credit card transactions. These fees go directly to the merchant, a third party processor, and are not retained by the Town of DeWitt. Service fees cannot be refunded.

Park Safety Recommendations

Here are some tips for enjoying time outside while reducing the spread of the Coronavirus:

- **Avoid gathering in large groups.** Even outside, it is best to only interact with members of your immediate family.
- **Wash hands thoroughly after using shared amenities.** Public playgrounds, picnic table and other amenities are not routinely cleaned or disinfected.
- **Continue social distancing** by staying at least 6 feet away from anyone not in your immediate family.
- **Wear a mask** when social distancing cannot be observed.
- **Follow CDC guidelines for personal hygiene** before and after visiting parks or trails.
- **Do not use parks or trails if you are feeling sick, are in mandatory quarantine or may have been exposed to the Coronavirus.**



PLANNING, ZONING, CODES & SUSTAINABILITY

Deer Management

The Town needs your help with our Deer Management program for 2020 and 2021. We are seeking to connect with owners of large parcels of land who will partner with us to reduce our deer population. It is estimated that deer populations in DeWitt run as high as 85 deer per square mile in certain areas, which is nearly ten times higher than natural densities. While it is understood deer do not disperse in a uniform manner, the number of deer in DeWitt can be visualized as equating to one for every three parcels. Having access to large parcels of land that meet the conditions of the town’s NYS Department of

Conservation permit will support us to better cull the population. Last year, the town removed 62 deer, with 1,777 pounds of venison delivered for donation to local food banks. We are seeking suitable parcels of land within the Town that will meet all conditions of the permit set forth in Environmental Conservation Law. If you are a property owner in the Town or interested in learning more about the program, please contact Nicholas Quilty-Koval at (315) 446-3910 x 137 or email nkoval@townofdewitt.com

A Note From the DACC

The DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission (DACC) is one of the Town's leading advocates on environmental issues. Comprised of 9 volunteers from DeWitt, many with scientific backgrounds, the commission meetings are focused on examining environmental issues affecting the Town and its neighborhood communities and reporting to the Town Board and residents on these issues. Meetings are held the first Wednesday evening of each month at 6:30pm in Town Hall and are open to the public.

Meet Up to Clean Up 2020 Cancelled

Unfortunately, the Fall Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 is cancelled due to Covid 19 and ongoing concerns for health and public safety. We encourage everyone to continue their own cleanup efforts in your neighborhood while practicing safe social distancing and following all CDC guidelines.

We anticipate our Spring Cleanup event on Saturday, April 24, 2021, in conjunction with OCRRA's Earth Day event will be held. More information on this volunteer opportunity will be provided on the Town's website and future newsletters. We hope to see you there!

Tree Planting Best Management Practices

The Town is committed to planting the right tree in the right place and planting it in a manner that promotes future growth. Before planting begins a tree species must be chosen.

To determining the best tree species for any given site, it is important to consider the type of soils, overhead space, adjacent utilities, and other site conditions.

Once a tree is planted, it is imperative they are mulched properly, planted to the correct depth, and stakes are used as a support system. The Best Management Practices – Tree Planting Second Edition book depicts proper tree care procedures to ensure health and survivability of a tree.

Leaves and Lawn Maintenance

Maintenance of lawns and raking leaves is an ongoing task residents take on each fall. As a way to improve the health of your lawn and lower the time spent raking leaves, try mowing leaves into your lawn! Not only will this significantly reduce time spent raking leaves, it also provides nutrients from the leaves to your lawn and trees and lowers the number of leaves that block storm drains. As with regular lawn maintenance, this will require due diligence from property owners to ensure leaves are properly mowed into your lawn so they are not roaming through the streets when a strong gust of wind rolls through your neighborhood. When completed in an efficient manner, mowing leaves into your lawn can be a good alternative to raking them to the curb.

A friendly reminder, do not place raked leaves on the pavement or in gutters, they should be placed on the edge of your property.

CODES ENFORCEMENT

Yard and Garden Waste

As the fall season approaches, we would like to remind you to put your branches and yard waste out to the curb 2 or 3 days before your scheduled pick up. The schedule can be found online at:

<http://www.townofdewitt.com/documents/1447.pdf>

****Contractors are responsible for removing debris from your property. Debris generated from contractors will not be picked up by the Town.****

Electronics Recycling



Need to get rid of an old TV or other electronic device? **The Salvation Army on Erie Blvd. in Syracuse** will accept working and non-working TVs and monitors of any size. TVs and monitors cannot be physically broken. They will also accept other electronics*. **Call (315) 445-0520 before dropping items off.**

Best Buy locations and Battery World will accept TVs and monitors for a charge, pending size. They will accept other electronics for free. **Call ahead for details:**

- Best Buy, Destiny USA, (315) 426-1588;
- Best Buy, DeWitt, (315) 449-1784;
- Best Buy, Liverpool, (315) 622-1395;
- Battery World, East Molloy Road, Syracuse, (315) 437-1404.

Staples locations will accept electronics, excluding TVs. **Call ahead for details:**

- Staples, Camillus, (315) 488-4071;
- Staples, Clay, (315) 715-0112;
- Staples, East Syracuse, (315) 463-8040.

**Electronics include computers, monitors, keyboards, mice or similar pointing devices, fax machines, scanners, printers, and small electronic equipment (tablets, VCRs, DVRs, portable digital music players, DVD players, digital converter boxes, cable or satellite receivers, video game consoles, etc.).*

Heating Devices

Installing a heat producing device in your home? A permit is required from the Town of DeWitt to ensure proper installation and venting. Please call (315) 446-3910 x 3 or visit townofdewitt.com for information.

Trash Pick Up



Do not dispose of furniture, appliances, televisions, wood, bikes, demolition debris and other items on the roadside. The Town of DeWitt Highway

Department does not pick these items up, it's unsightly, and a road hazard. Please contact a junk removal service to obtain pricing and schedule a pick up. Butler Disposal can be reached at (315) 342-0832 or 1-800-794-8727.

Home Safety Tips

- Smoke detectors need to be placed inside every bedroom and sleeping rooms on the ceiling and outside in the hallway or immediate area. Every floor of the house including the basement needs to have a smoke detector. Please check the batteries in each detector to make sure that they are in a working condition.
- Carbon monoxide detectors need to be placed outside of bedrooms and sleeping rooms in the immediate area. Check the battery life of all carbon monoxide detectors.
- Combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors are allowed in lieu of carbon monoxide detectors. Heating devices such as furnaces, boilers, woodstove and fireplaces need to be inspected to ensure proper operation and exhaust ventilation to the exterior.
- Exterior wall vents and all fuel fired devices need to be checked during the winter months. Drifting snow may obstruct these vents during the winter months. If drifting occurs, please have the vents raised to a higher height for proper ventilation and air supply intake.

Recreation Vehicles

As a reminder, recreational vehicles and boats are only allowed in your driveway for 10 days in a calendar year; or in the rear yard, within five feet of the principal dwelling, and within the extended lines of the sides of the residence. Please call us at (315)446-3910 x 3 for further explanation.

POLICE

Over the past year, the face of the Dewitt Police's command staff has changed. Below you will meet our new administration. As always the Dewitt Police Department is dedicated to making your community a safe place to live, work and visit. Our commitment of service to the community remains foremost as we carry out our daily duties. We are a New

York State Accredited Agency and a CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) Accredited Agency, which means we are continually striving to meet professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management, training and police service.



Get to know our command staff, from left to right:

Chief Chase L. Bilodeau has served with the Town of DeWitt Police Department since 2007. Chief Bilodeau started his career in law enforcement with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department prior to working for the Town of DeWitt. Since coming to the department in 2007, he has served as a road patrol officer, road patrol sergeant, road patrol lieutenant, criminal investigations division lieutenant and police captain.

Chief Bilodeau holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology from the State University of New York at Brockport. Chief Bilodeau is a member of numerous professional organizations to include the Onondaga County Chapter of Chiefs of Police, Central New York Chiefs of Police Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Bilodeau is a resident of Onondaga County, is married and has two children.

Captain Chris Fuller was promoted to the rank of Captain in May of 2020. Captain Fuller graduated from Chittenango High School in 2003, and then later attended and graduated

from Oswego State University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Captain Fuller began his Law Enforcement career with the New York State Park Police as a Police Officer from 2007 August of 2009 when he transferred to the DeWitt Police Department. Captain Fuller was a patrol officer with the department from August 2009 until March of 2015. During that time he worked on both the afternoon and day shifts. Captain Fuller was the 2012 Officer of the year for the department and also received the dedication to service award in both 2012 and 2013. In October of 2013, he became a criminal investigator. In March of 2015 Captain Fuller was promoted to Sergeant and supervised the afternoon shift until being promoted to Lieutenant in October of 2017. As a Lieutenant he was in charge of the criminal investigations division and was the department's training coordinator.

Captain Fuller currently is in charge of police operations, the criminal investigations division, hiring, and the department's accreditation program. Captain Fuller is married to his wife of 8 years and has two young sons who make him proud every day!

Lieutenant Jerry Pace was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in May of 2020. Lieutenant Pace graduated from East Syracuse Minoa High School in 2003, and then later received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies from Cazenovia College. Lieutenant Pace began his Law Enforcement career for the Oneida City Police Department as a Police Officer from 2010 through 2014. In July of 2014, Lieutenant Pace transferred to the Town of DeWitt Police Department where he primarily worked the overnight (A Watch), shift as an Officer. In February of 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant where he supervised the overnight (A Watch) shift, and then later supervised the day (B Watch) shift.

Lieutenant Pace's responsibilities include the supervision of the department's Evidence Technicians, Evidence Custodian, Traffic Unit, and the department's vehicle fleet, Community Policing Unit, Public Information Officer, Social Media, Records Management, Grants, Quartermaster and the department's Employee Assistance Program. Lt. Pace is married and has two children.

Lieutenant Brenton White is the Lieutenant of Road Patrol for the Town of DeWitt Police department, where he has been serving since May of 2009.

Lt. White graduated from Roberts Wesleyan College in Chili, New York with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and minor in psychology in May 2007. After graduating college, Lt. White entered the New York State Park Police academy and graduated in June of 2008. He was a New York State Park Police officer stationed in Long Island until he transferred to the Town of Dewitt Police Department in May 2009.

White was promoted to Police Sergeant in 2016 and in 2018 was promoted again to his current position as Lieutenant. Lt. White is married and has three boys (3, 7, and 11).

TOWN BOARD

Members

Edward Michalenko, Supervisor
Joe Chiarenza
Karen Docter
Jack Dooling
Kerry Mannion
Kerin Rigney
Sam Young

Meetings

The DeWitt Town Board meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30pm in the DeWitt Town Hall, located at 5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse. Board meetings are open to the public. We welcome interested residents. Please wear a mask.

TOWN CLERK & TAX

The Town Clerk's office is happy to now be offering in-person services again! For everyone's safety, we also now have glass counters, require face masks, and social distancing. We have also added these services: a Drop Box in the front of Town Hall, an online dog license program, and we now accept credit cards for all transactions. Due to the large volume of in-person school tax payments, for your safety and ours, we recommend making your tax payment by mail, the new Town Hall Drop Box, or online. See more information below. As always, if you need assistance please connect with us and we will do all we can to support your needs. Stay healthy and well!

New - Pay your Dog License Online

You may renew & pay for your dog license(s) online* at:
<https://dogs.egov.basgov.com/Dogs/Search?munirecid=148> by using your Credit Card, Debit Card or Electronic Check. There is a \$1.75 convenience fee added to for this online service.

*Please keep in mind that you will need to contact the Town Clerk's office first if the rabies certificate is expired.

2020 – 2021 School Tax Bills

For everyone's safety we recommend making your tax payment by mail, in the new Town Hall Drop Box, or online. Please include the entire bill when submitting your payment by mail or Drop Box so a paid receipt can be returned to you.

The Tax Office will be open on Saturday, October 3, 2020 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm for School tax bill collection.

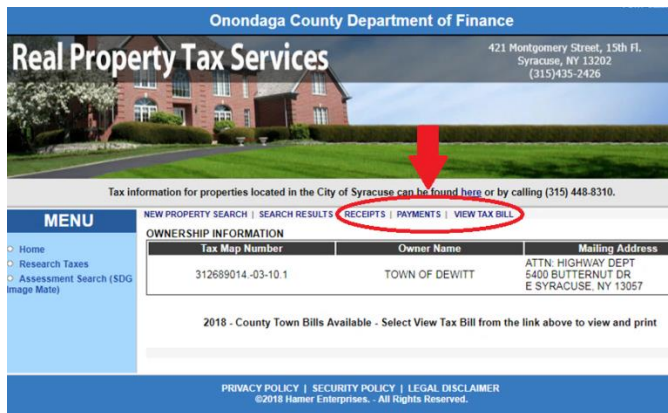
The 2020-2021 School tax bills are mailed in the beginning of September. If you do not receive your tax bill, please call our office at (315) 446-3910 x 2. You can also print a copy of your tax bill, print previous tax receipts and

pay your taxes by e-check or credit card on the Onondaga County website:

<https://onondaga.go2gov.net/faces/searchBySitusAddress.jsp>.

Please note that the Onondaga County Department of Finance has a new website for tax information. The link above will allow you to search by property address; if you wish to search by tax map number, select **"New Property Search."**

After you locate your property, click on the **Tax Map Number**. From here you can view your tax bill, payments, or print receipts located directly above **"Ownership Information"** (View is shown below)



Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, agendas, and minutes can be found on the Town of DeWitt website at: <http://www.townofdewitt.com/OpenMeetings2.aspx>.

Credit Card Payments

The Town Clerk's office is now accepting Credit Card payments for in-person payments. The merchant charges 2.45%, with a minimum of \$1.75. These fees go directly to the merchant, a third party processor and are not retained by the Town.

Parking Permits for People with Severe Disabilities

Parking permits or hang tags are issued to Town residents who meet the New York State requirements. Application forms are available at the Town Clerk's office, can be mailed to the applicant or found online at <https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv6641.pdf>.

Please note: A new application form signed by a medical provider needs to be filled out each time a hang tag is issued or re-issued. Applicant must show their drivers' license or non-drivers' license ID if they have one.

Dog Control Complaints

SPCA: (315) 454-0928
Emergency or After Hours: 911

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are required for all dogs over the age of four months and can be obtained through the Town Clerk's office. For more information, please visit our website at: www.townofdewitt.com/DogControl3.aspx

DeWitt Ordinances Concerning Dogs

- **Leash Law:** A dog is required to be on a leash "...and accompanied by and in full control of the owner or other responsible person" when the dog is off of its owner's property. Dogs must be leashed in all Town of DeWitt parks.
- **Pooper Scooper Law:** Owners are responsible for preventing their dogs from defecating on the property of others.
- **Barking Dogs:** DeWitt's noise ordinance states that "...a noise disturbance from a barking dog shall be defined as that created by a dog barking continually for ten (10) minutes or intermittently for thirty (30) minutes unless provoked."

WATER

Appointment Protocols

The day before the appointment you will receive a call from the Water Department Clerk. This is to check on the health of the individuals at the location of the person who will be there to allow access for the repair.

If anyone is not well, the appointment will be rescheduled. Please keep the social distance of six feet from the Water Department Technician at all times.

Due to COVID, we are asking the individual who will be in contact with the Water Department Technician to wear a **FACE MASK**. If unable to comply, **THE TECHNICIAN WILL NOT ENTER THE PREMISE**. The appointment will be rescheduled.

The Technician will be wearing the proper Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). He will be thorough and as quick as possible with the repair.

Repairs are scheduled Monday through Friday. The blocks of time are: 8-10am, 10-12pm and 1-3pm. Most repairs are done within an hour.

Thank you for your understanding with the protocol. Should you have to reschedule, or you have any questions, please call the office at (315) 446-3910 x 4.

Staying Connected in DeWitt Neighborhoods

In this trying time of global pandemic, we have all needed to find different ways of living life. The requirements of social distancing and face masks has made it especially challenging to see our friends, neighbors and family in the way we are used to.

Despite the need to keep each other safe, some neighborhoods in DeWitt have found innovative ways to keep in touch with their

neighbors and create community so that no one feels too isolated.

If you are interested in finding ways to stay social in your neighborhood safely, here are some activities you can try that some DeWitt neighborhoods have found to chase away the pandemic blues.

- Create a Facebook page or use [nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) as a means to communicate with neighbors.
- Organize food drives for those who are struggling to feed their families.
- Write encouraging chalk messages on the driveways.
- Organize grocery shopping for elderly neighbors.
- Paint rocks with inspiring messages and leave by the mailbox.
- Organize a 'Teddy Bear' walk. All the neighbors put a teddy bear in their window for young families to look for.
- Organize for a different food truck each week for the neighborhood.
- Birthday drive-bys.
- Outdoor movies with an ice cream truck.
- Start a "ding dong dash" where some neighbors put together a bag or box of items a neighbor might enjoy (puzzles, games, art supplies, toys, food, toilet paper, notes of encouragement, hand me down clothes, whatever is on hand that fits the person). Ring their bell and dash away before they get there to keep it socially distant.
- Organize a neighborhood art show.
- Place a little free library at the edge of your property and encourage neighbors to borrow and leave books.
- Have a 'beach day' with a themed car parade down the street while neighbors sit outside on beach blankets or with beach chairs on the lawns. Why not play corn hole, play beach boys and light up some fire pits?
- Organize a kayak day at Jamesville reservoir.

Motion made by Councilor Young,
Seconded by Councilor Docter

DEWITT TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF
GEORGE FLOYD IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, we, along with the entire country, were horrified to watch Minneapolis resident George Floyd, arrested and subdued, suffocated to death under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer while he cried out for help; and

WHEREAS, we are equally horrified by the knowledge that this was not an isolated incident in our country, and that Mr. Floyd joins a painfully long list of people of color who have been killed by police violence across our nation; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Town of DeWitt and Central New York have been devastated by this unnecessary loss of life, and, in their pain and grief, have come together to engage in peaceful protests and to exercise their First Amendment rights to speak out against racism and violence everywhere; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the incidents described above do not reflect the actions or values of the DeWitt Police Department, its officer or leadership, but, sadly, tarnish the image of law enforcement officers everywhere; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that most police officers, including all of those in the DeWitt Police Department, reject acts of violence, police brutality and the excessive use of force as a violation of the laws and constitutional rights which they have sworn to uphold; and

WHEREAS, we are justifiably proud of the DeWitt Police Department, and its record of strong community relations, and its progressive use of force policy, which includes a duty on officers to intervene and report if they witness an excessive use of force; and

WHEREAS, the DeWitt Police Department has committed to a practice whereby all on-duty officers will wear body cameras in order to keep officers safe and provide protection from false accusations of improper conduct, produce evidence for trials, enable situational awareness, improve community relations and provide accountability to the public;

WHEREAS, for many years the DeWitt Town Council has maintained a diverse citizen police commission consisting of elected Town Councilors, former

federal and state judges, prosecuting and defense attorneys, and civilians representing a broad cross-section of the community, in order to better guide and provide direct oversight, increased scrutiny, transparency, advance recommendations, and provide greater accountability and transparency to the public; and

WHEREAS, we know that many young people in our community, and especially young people of color, have viewed and been traumatized by the videos and events described above; yet, sadly, have been unable to connect with friends, extended family, religious leaders or counselors to adequately process their trauma and grief, due to the current public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the killing of George Floyd, and other people of color, has traumatized the residents of our Town, County, and State, and particularly our young people of color, and has threatened the health, mental health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, as public servants and representatives of the Town of DeWitt, the DeWitt Town Council has a moral obligation to unite and heal our community by protecting the civil rights and liberties of all people, and speaking out against violence and racism wherever it is found; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature is now meeting or will soon meet to consider legislation to improve the transparency and accountability of law enforcement throughout New York State;

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the DeWitt Town Council recognizes this somber moment in our history, and condemns the killing of George Floyd, as well as all acts of brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by police officers; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the DeWitt Town Council calls upon our State Legislators to consider and pass appropriate measures providing for police reform, accountability and transparency throughout our State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby is directed to send this resolution to the State Legislators representing the Town of DeWitt, and to the Governor of the State of New York.

Passed this 8th day of June, 2020, by a vote of 7-0.

Food \$en\$e Shopper

A Program of the Food Bank of Central New York

Order/Pick-Up Information

Order Deadline: Friday, Sept 11 by 4:00pm

Orders must be made in person

EBT Cards Charged: Friday, September 11

Pick-Up 12:30-2:30pm: Wednesday, Sept 23

Many items are perishable

Pick-Up Location: DeWitt Town Hall

Payment: Cash or EBT due at time of order.

Qualifications: None - Anyone can order!

Order Location/Times: *Excluding Holidays*

- Town Hall: Mon-Fri, 8:00am-4:30pm

Contact Information:

- DeWitt Town Hall: (315) 446-3910 x 9

September 2020

Food Unit: \$20.50

All Items Included

- Chicken Breast Kabobs, 1 lb.
- Italian Meatballs, 1 lb.
- Veal Patties, 12 oz.
- Italian Sausage, 1 lb.
- Ground Turkey*, 1 lb.
- Cheese Ravioli, 13 oz.
- Mozzarella Cheese*, 8 oz.
- Spaghetti Sauce, 24 oz.
- Broccoli Blend, 1 lb.
- Diced Tomatoes, 14.5 oz.
- Fresh Apples, 3 lbs.
- Fresh Carrots, 1 lb.

Specials Individually Priced

1. **Pork Loin, 8 lbs (avg), \$15.00**
 - center cut pork loin
2. **Stuffed Chicken, 2 lbs, \$8.50**
 - stuffed w/apples & cranberries
3. **Breaded Shrimp, 3 lbs, \$13.75**
 - 16-20 shrimp per pound
4. **Meatloaf, 2 lbs, \$7.00**
 - traditional, 100% ground beef
5. **American Cheese, 5 lbs, \$13.00**
 - sliced, not individually wrapped
6. **Macaroni & Cheese, 6 lbs, \$10.00**
 - family sized Stouffers' product

Food Sense News

- **Welcome back!** Thank you to all of our customers for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. We are very excited to have the program up and running again!
- **Curbside Pick-Up:** Due to COVID-19 concerns, Food Sense pick-up will continue to be **curbside only**. Please pull up in front of the Town Hall and provide your last name. One of our employees will place the order in your vehicle. Food must be picked up between 12:30-2:30pm; food cannot be held overnight.
- **Placing Orders:** All orders, including pick-up day orders, must be placed in person in the Recreation Office at the DeWitt Town Hall. **Please wear a mask while you are in the building.** Payment in the form of cash or EBT card is due when you place your order.



Carrier Park is...more than you think!

What's planned? The vision for Willis Carrier Park is a \$12.5 million state-of-the-art, all inclusive, multi-sport facility for children and adults, including those with special needs. When finished, the park will be one of the first fully integrated, fully handicap accessible outdoor complexes in the CNY region. Conveniently located in the northern corridor of DeWitt, right off the NYS Thruway at Exit 35 and next to the Carrier campus off Thompson Road and Kinne Street, the park sits on 20+ acres of land generously donated to the Town of DeWitt by Carrier Corporation.

The original design of the park includes up to 9 championship tournament quality fields, including 2 dynamically designed super turf fields which can be utilized for baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, football, field hockey and other special events. Basketball courts, an all-inclusive special needs playground, and a walking trail are also planned.



What's completed? May 2016 marked the official unveiling of Phase 1 of Carrier Park with 2 completed playing fields, a beautiful state-of-the-art entry plaza and gateway building, walkways, concession and concession patios, extensive parking, and utility infrastructure.

With Phase 1 now complete, Carrier Park has become home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program, the local division of Little League for children and young adults with physical and developmental disabilities. We have also welcomed many other groups to the fields including ESM Little League, ESM Softball, Section III Athletics and more!

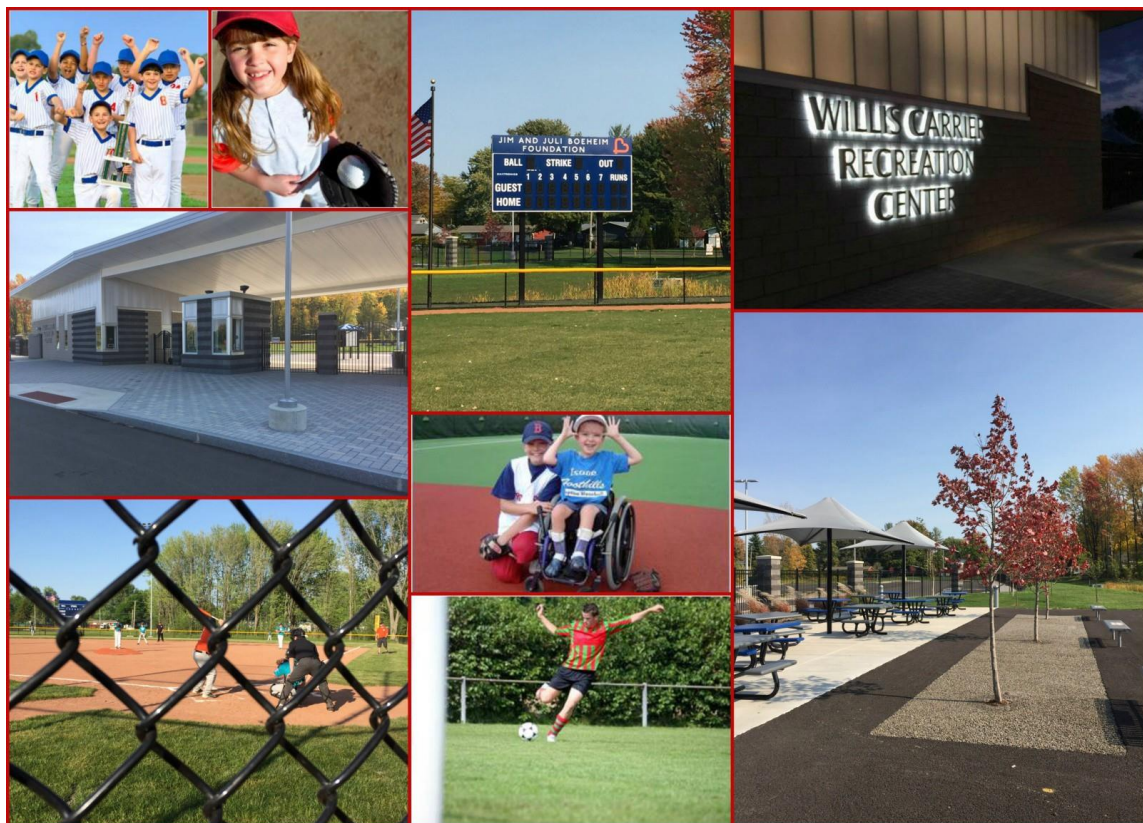
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What's next? Phase 2 of construction will be complete in the Fall of 2020 and includes an all-inclusive, cutting edge playground – the only one of its kind in Central New York - and three specially designed basketball courts, funded in part by the Jim and Juli Boenheim Foundation, with adjustable backboards and rims so that players of all ages and abilities – including those with special needs – can play.

Who's involved? The Town of DeWitt has worked closely in partnership with the Friends of DeWitt Parks and Recreation, Inc. and Syracuse Challenger Baseball Inc. to develop Carrier Park. Both of these organizations have been instrumental in soliciting and securing generous contributions from foundations, corporations, local businesses, individuals, and families. The Town of DeWitt has also been successful in obtaining multiple grants from state and local agencies to support various components of the project.

For more information about Carrier Park, please email: supervisor@townofdewitt.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 5.

For information about renting the fields at Carrier Park, please contact the Recreation Department at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or email carrierpark@townofdewitt.com.



We're building community.

Why is Carrier Park important to you? Your family? CNY businesses?

Carrier Park is a positive, proactive community project that's also providing economic growth opportunities for Town of DeWitt residents and businesses, while also enhancing the quality of life and economic growth of Onondaga County and the broader community. **Here's how:**

Carrier Park is an award-winning, state-of-the-art, multi-sport outdoor recreational facility for adults and children from all across the Central New York region.

Carrier Park also provides a "Field of Dreams" for special needs children, young adults and their families through the **Syracuse Challenger Baseball Program**.

The park was made possible by the extraordinarily generous donation of 28 acres of land by Carrier Corporation and is located next to their Thompson Road campus.

The park supports DeWitt's tax base; Carrier Park helps to keeps our 28 hotels occupied; **those busy hotels pay \$4 million in property taxes each year.**

That \$4 million in property tax dollars from DeWitt hotels provides approximately \$2 million to local schools: \$1.5 million to Onondaga County, with just \$500,000 to the Town of DeWitt.

A strong tax base strengthens the value of your home and makes DeWitt a highly desirable community for home buyers, businesses, and corporations.

Of the \$7 million Onondaga County collects in room occupancy taxes (ROT) **for the entire county**, town of DeWitt hotels contribute 30%+!

That means **the town of DeWitt pays a third of the total room occupancy taxes for the entire county**; our county hotel tax dollars support not only DeWitt, but Onondaga County and the CNY region, too.

Carrier Park draws tournaments from all over CNY and is projected to provide local businesses an additional \$2.5 million in economic activity.

Carrier Park provides DeWitt residents, and the greater CNY community, a state-of-the-art park and recreation facility for adults and children, including those with special needs; the park has the potential to strengthen DeWitt's tax base for many years to come.

Over the past 15+ years our tax base has lost more than \$100 million in assessed value due to the dramatic reduction of manufacturing jobs and thus, the exodus of many large manufacturing companies. DeWitt's 30+ hotels are helping to compensate for that shortfall; Carrier Park tournaments and special events can help keep those hotels busy.



We're building community.

All this and we've just gotten started. Plus, Carrier Park was recently named the host site for the **2021-2023 National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Softball Championship Tournament!** As more of the park is completed, more opportunities for robust economic growth and development are possible. Carrier Park is a positive, powerful, productive, progressive partnership – government, taxpayers, business, and the special needs community – that's serving the economic growth and quality of life of the residents of the Town of DeWitt, as well as families and businesses all across CNY.

For more information, please go to: <http://carrierpark.org/story/>

For more information about Carrier Park, please email:
supervisor@townofdewitt.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 5.

For information about tournaments & renting the fields at Carrier Park, please contact the Recreation Department at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or email
carrierpark@townofdewitt.com.

Follow us on Facebook for updates and information on upcoming events!
<https://www.facebook.com/carrierparkdewitt>



We're building community.



While building a thriving community for town of DeWitt residents has been a driving force for the development of Carrier Park, what lay at the heart of the project is the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program.

Challenger Baseball is a Little League division that provides children with physical and developmental disabilities the opportunity to do something we all take for granted...play baseball. The special needs children of Syracuse Challenger Baseball represent one of the largest single districts of the Challenger Baseball program in the United States. However, until 2016 those kids and their families did not have a “home” for their extraordinary program.

In 2008, through a relationship dating back to their childhood, Town of DeWitt Supervisor Ed Michalenko and Syracuse Challenger Executive Director Dom Cambareri came together and the dream of a home for the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program was born.

The “Field of Dreams” at Carrier Park fulfills the vision to provide the Challenger program a permanent home. Carrier Park is one of the first fully integrated, fully handicap accessible multi-sport, outdoor recreational complexes in the Central New York Region. It’s an extraordinary place where children and adults of all ages and abilities can play together.

Key to making the dream of Carrier Park a reality has been partnership...the Town of DeWitt, Carrier Corporation, and Syracuse Challenger Baseball coming together to “build community.”

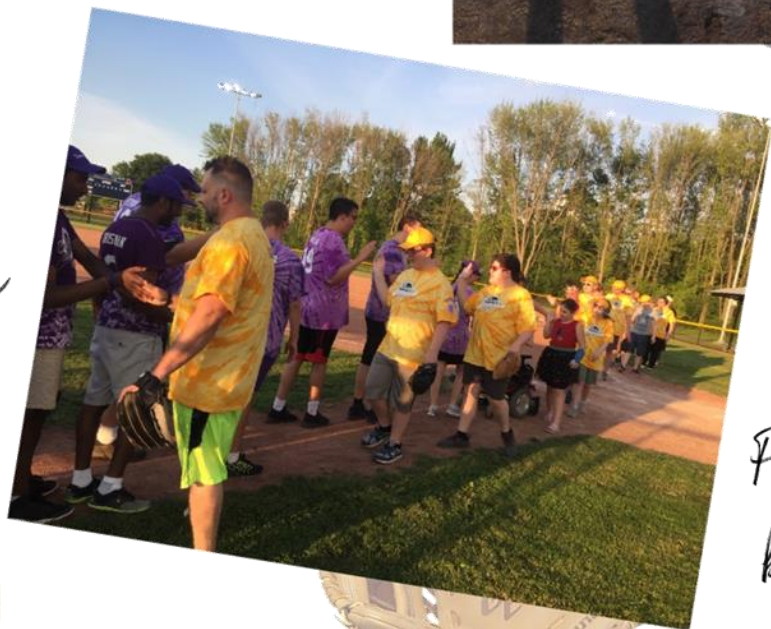


We're building community.

Yes we can!



Field of Dreams



Memories

Play ball!



We're building community.

How can you become a part of building community at Carrier Park?

Your business, family, or corporation can make a tax deductible donation.

You can sponsor/purchase everything from benches and bleachers, to turf fields and scoreboards.

In memorium gifts – or simply sponsoring an area of the park in your family or business name – are a permanent way to honor a family, family member, or business. Plus, your investment is **also** providing limitless fun, learning, and growth for young people – and grown-ups - including those with special needs.

Carrier Park can host your neighborhood, school, boy/girl scout troop, church, or service organization for a fun – or fundraising - event: a marathon, walkathon, dance-a-thon, fitness camp, carnival, health fair, an old-fashioned neighborhood group or family fun picnic, sports tournament,

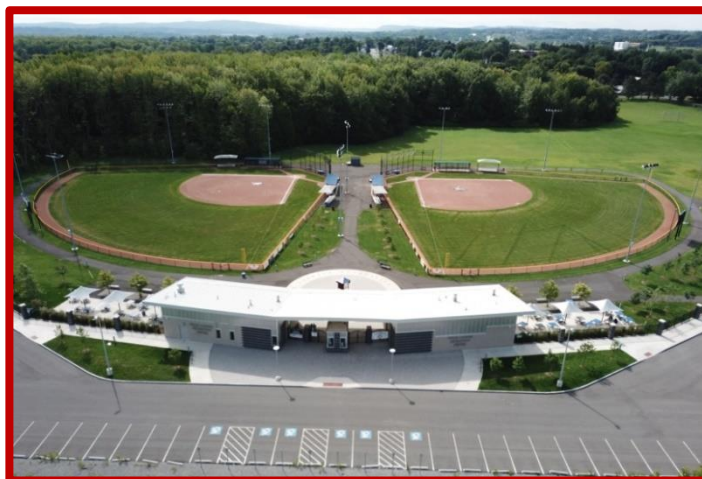
cook-off, yoga training, casino night, bbq...or kickball, softball or corn hole tournament! Whatever you can imagine! (Tent rentals are available.)

Host your neighborhood, business or corporate party, picnic, or sports event at the park. How about a fun rehearsal dinner or wedding venue? What about a bachelor, birthday, or anniversary party?

For more information, please contact the Recreation Department at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or email

carrierpark@townofdewitt.com

Did you know? **East Syracuse Recycling** on E. Manlius St., next to the Thrifty Shopper just over the bridge in the Village of East Syracuse, will accept your returnables and donate the proceeds to Carrier Park, home of Syracuse Challenger Baseball! Just ask for Acct. #22.



Carrier Park Sponsorship Program

Help us build community now!

Multi-Sport Turf Field	\$250,000
Observation Pavilion	\$150,000
All-inclusive Playground	\$125,000
Grass Baseball Field	\$100,000
90' Turf Diamond	\$75,000
50-70' Turf Diamond	\$50,000
Meeting Pavilion	\$50,000
Score Board	\$35,000 each
Concession Stand	\$35,000
Entrance Message Board	\$25,000
Concession Food Patio	\$10,000 each
Batting Cages	\$5,000 each
Dugouts	\$5,000 each
Bleachers	\$4,000 each
Walkway Fence Banner	\$2,000 each (2-year sponsorship)
Outfield Fence Banner	\$2,000 each (2-year sponsorship)
Backstop Banner	\$1,500 each (2-year sponsorship)
Benches	\$1000 each

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for you, your family, business or corporation, contact us: supervisor@townofdewitt.com or (315) 446-3910 x 5.



Town of DeWitt Rejects Racism

Acts of racism come from an underlying belief in the superiority of one race over another and its right to dominate.

On August 5th, 2020, over 70 residents, elected and appointed officials representing the Town of DeWitt met by Zoom to openly discuss our residents' experiences with racism in our town. All DeWitt residents were invited to attend the session, which was advertised on our website, on town signage, on various social media and by word of mouth. Again on September 2nd, the Village of East Syracuse hosted an in-person meeting with the same goal. It was attended by over 50 residents, officials and the Chief of Police.

Both events lasted over two hours and were moderated by the Onondaga County Human Rights Commission, residents shared stories and experiences that happened to them and people they know. Some of these experiences were not one-time events, but rather occurrences that they and their children have had to endure on a regular basis. While these experiences were difficult to relay and to hear, the act of sharing these stories was at once both tragic and powerful.

The DeWitt Town Board and the Village of East Syracuse Mayor called these meetings to discuss how to make the town and Village more welcoming and equitable for every resident and visitor. It was very disheartening to hear these ongoing experiences of harassment, suspicion, and name-calling, largely by other residents. Examples included neighbors calling the police simply for seeing a person of color in the neighborhood, or questioning people of color about what they are doing in the neighborhood, or misuse of social media to denigrate people of color. One person had her house egged and trash strewn on her lawn after she posted a 'Black Lives Matter' sign in the window of her house. It is shocking and disappointing that some of our residents would take such actions that cause unnecessary pain and suffering.

Racism is a discriminatory belief that has to be taught and learned. At its core, the belief promotes the idea that race is the key factor in determining a person's capabilities, thereby creating the false belief of racial superiority. **It is time to make the urgent and conscious effort to model anti-racist behavior, and to make clear that discrimination and harassment based on skin color or any other innate characteristic will not be tolerated in our town.** Our DeWitt neighbors of color just want to live and raise their children in a place which gives them every opportunity that white children automatically receive. Name calling is hurtful to adults but especially damaging to children.

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

As residents and leaders of DeWitt, we are all proud of our Town and want it to be a welcoming and inclusive place to live. In order to achieve the goals of racial equity and inclusion, we must call out acts of discrimination and microaggressions as unacceptable, whenever we see or hear of them. When we remain silent witnesses, we are granting tacit approval and permission to acts which should never be acceptable.

We cannot have a peaceful and just community while at the same time allowing peace and justice to be destroyed for people who look differently. No one should have to live with harassment and discrimination in their neighborhoods, schools or community. It's easy to close our eyes to discrimination, but we know from history that doing so is precisely what allows it to occur and increase.

Thanks to all the good people of DeWitt who treat their neighbors with respect and dignity. Let's all do our part to be the best community we can be.



How can I register for programs, classes and events?

Before You Register

All registrations including online, mail, and in person, require a RecDesk account. Setting up your RecDesk account is quick and easy. Visit townofdewitt.recdesk.com on your computer or mobile device and click "Create Account" to get started. If you don't have access to the internet, we can set up your account for you in person or over the phone.



Online Registration

Online registration is available for most programs, classes and events. Sign in to your RecDesk account at townofdewitt.recdesk.com and click on the "Programs" tab for a complete list of available programs, classes and events. Once you have added your items to your cart, you can check out using a credit card. Accepted cards include Visa, Master Card, and Discover. **Please note that there is a 3.09% service charge applied to all credit card transactions.**



Mail-In Registration

Mail-In Registration is available for most programs, classes and events. Complete the Mail-In General Registration Form that can be found at www.townofdewitt.com/RecreationParks.aspx. Be sure to include an email address on the form if you wish to receive a receipt. Send the completed form with check made out to *Town of DeWitt* to:

**Recreation Department
5400 Butternut Drive
East Syracuse, NY 13057**



In Person Registration

In person registration is available for all programs, classes and events at the Recreation Office in the DeWitt Town Hall. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm, excluding holidays.

NOTICE: For the health and safety of our customers, we recommend doing business **online, over the phone or through the mail/Town Hall drop box** whenever possible.

RECREATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Thank you to all of our residents for your continued understanding and patience as we navigate the new normal created by the Coronavirus.

As we move into the fall, we are looking to offer programs that allow us to follow current safety protocols set forth by the County, State and CDC. Programs will include some of your favorites with adjustments for safety, new “mini” programs for small groups and virtual programs.

As you know, this situation continues to be very fluid and can change at any time. With that in mind, **please note that any program, class or event listed in this newsletter is subject to postponement or cancellation** as dictated by the evolving COVID-19 situation. Additionally, new programs may be offered that are not included in this newsletter.

All program updates will be posted on RecDesk at townofdewitt.recdesk.com and our Facebook page at facebook.com/DeWittParksandRecreation

The Recreation Office is now open to the public, however, we recommend doing business **online, over the phone or through the mail/Town Hall drop box** whenever possible.

If you have questions regarding the best way to complete your registration or facility reservation, please contact us by phone at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or email at recreation@townofdewitt.com.

Stay Well,
Recreation Staff

DEPARTMENT NEWS

In March 2020 acting Director of Recreation, Megan Ball was awarded the Central New York Recreation and Parks Society (CNYRPS) Young Professional Award.

The Young Professional Award is presented to a current Parks and Recreation professional who exhibits the attributes of an emerging leader, as displayed through their initiative, innovation, and contributions to the parks and recreation field. Nominees should possess a record of career advancement, be engaged in professional and/or community organizations, and demonstrate outstanding service to their agency.

Megan went on to win the New York State Recreation and Park Society (NYSRPS) Young Professional Award in April 2020.

NYSRPS is the leading professional membership organization dedicated to promoting quality recreation, parks opportunities, and engagement for all citizens of New York State through education and training for local, county, state and federal recreation and park providers.

Congratulations Megan!



VIRTUAL RESOURCE CENTER



The Recreation Virtual Resource Center is your source for free, family-friendly activities, videos and project ideas!

Categories include arts and crafts, education, fitness, food, games, music and sports. You can also connect with other local parks and recreation departments through our CNY Community Connection.

We are continually updating our Virtual Resource Center, so be sure to check back often!

Visit the Virtual Resource Center at <https://sites.google.com/view/dewittvirtualresourcecenter/home>

SPECIAL EVENTS

11th Annual Youth Fishing Day

Saturday, September 26th

8:30 – 11:30am

Ryder Park – Rain or Shine

5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse

FREE!



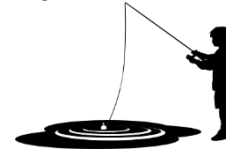
Visit townofdewitt.recdesk.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 9 to pre-register.

This **FREE**, non-competitive event is open to children ages 16 and under. All levels of fishing experience are welcome, including first time fishers! Pre-registered children will receive a door prize and be entered into a raffle for additional prizes. Event takes place outdoors - rain or shine. Dressing for the weather is highly recommended. Limited space is available. Pre-

registration is preferred. Walk-ins can register starting at 9:00am on a space available basis.

All participants must bring their own fishing pole and tackle. Worms will be provided.

Masks will be required for participants and parents attending the event. Masks can be removed while fishing as long as social distancing is being observed.



Holiday House Decorating Contest

It's time to break out the lights and lawn decorations to win bragging rights for the best decorated house in DeWitt!

The Town of DeWitt Recreation Department is hosting a house decoration contest for all Town residents! Decorate for your favorite winter holiday or simply to celebrate the winter season.

Judging will take place from the street and judges will be looking at theme/design, creativity and execution. All entries will be featured on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page where the community can vote on their favorite displays. The combined social media feedback and judges scores will determine the winners.

All winners will receive a commemorative certificate and will be featured on the Town website and in the Winter 2021 Newsletter.

Nominations/Entries will be accepted November 1 – December 4 at 12:00pm. To nominate a house send the name, address and phone number of the entrant to recreation@townofdewitt.com or call the Recreation Office at (315) 446-3910 x 9. If you are entering your own home, you can do so online at townofdewitt.recdesk.com.

Please get permission before nominating a neighbor's home.

Contest Rules

- Entries must be located within the Town of DeWitt
- Entries must be residential buildings (no businesses)
- Amateur decorations only, no professionals
- No people and/or live animals are allowed in the display
- Contest is limited to what can be seen from the street view of the house at night
- Entries must be lit the weekend of December 5th – 6th from 5:30 – 9:30pm for judging



30th Annual Holiday Lighting Festivities

Friday, December 4th

DeWitt Town Hall/Ryder Park

5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse

Bring the whole family to celebrate the holidays at the 30th annual Holiday Lighting Festivities! More information will be available closer to the event. Updates will be posted on the Town of DeWitt website, RecDesk and our Facebook page. Links are listed below.

www.townofdewitt.com

townofdewitt.recdesk.com

facebook.com/dewittparksandrecreation



**Don't forget to
keep an eye out for
Tod the Elf this
holiday season!**

YOUTH PROGRAMS

ACTIVITY KITS

Each month the Recreation Department will offer activity kits that will be available for pick up at the Town Hall. Kits will include crafts, games, recipes and activities. Additional resources will be available on the Virtual Resource Center. More information about each kit will be posted on RecDesk and the Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

CHILDCARE AND BABYSITTING SAFETY

This program covers child safety and basic care techniques. Created especially for kids and teens ages 11 and up who are interested in becoming babysitters. This class does include CPR training. Taught by American Heart Association and American Safety and Health Institute certified instructors. Held Saturday, November 14 from 9:00am – 12:00pm at EAVES, 6232 Fly Road, East Syracuse. Face Masks will be required when entering the building and temperatures will be taken.

Fee: \$50 Residents
\$55 All Others

LABRADOR FRIDAY NIGHT SKI CLUB

Kids in grades 5 – 12 can participate in this program, which includes six weeks of chaperoned transportation, skiing, and 4 weeks of lessons, January 8 – February 12. February 26 will be used as a make-up date if needed. Included in the package is a Labrador pass, which is good on Fridays for the entire season. For those renting equipment, the fee includes rentals on the six club nights only. Bus departs DeWitt Town Hall at 4:45pm and returns between 10:00 - 10:15pm. **A school photo is required upon registration for ski pass.** Registration must be completed in the Recreation Office – no mail-in or on-line registrations! Space is limited. Register early!

Fees: \$270 Pass, Bus
\$380 Pass, Bus, Ski/Board Rentals
\$130 Bus Transportation Only

LEARN TO ALPINE SKI OR SNOWBOARD

You're never too young or old to hit the slopes! Four Seasons will instruct six one-hour lessons for either downhill skiing or snowboarding for ages 6 and up. Fee includes a Season Pass lift ticket for day of lesson for remainder of season. Equipment rental will be available. Saturdays, January 9 – February 13 or Sundays, January 10 – February 14 at 10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm OR 2:15pm. *NEW- Ski with your kids pass: Parents ski with your son or daughter on their lesson day. Passes only. Good for the entire season.*

Fee: \$160 Residents
\$165 All others
\$120 Parent Pass Residents
\$125 All others

LEARN-TO-SNOWBOARD OR SKI CAMP

Learn how to hit the slopes with the latest craze, snowboarding and skiing! Four Seasons in Fayetteville will be offering a snowboard/ski camp for youth 7 years and up. This camp includes 2 1/2 hours of lessons a day, lift ticket, equipment rental. The camp runs four days, December 28 - 31 from 9:30am-12pm OR 1pm-3:30pm.

Fee: \$185 Snowboard Residents
\$190 All others
\$185 Ski Residents
\$195 All others

* Students who want both sessions will receive a discounted afternoon session at \$115 *



PEN PAL PROGRAM

Are you ready to make a new friend and brighten someone's day? Residents at The Nottingham and other local seniors are eager to hear from you!

This free program provides an opportunity for young people to connect with seniors in our community and work on writing and communication skills.

Visit townofdewitt.recdesk.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 9 to sign up. Once we match you with a pen pal, you will receive their name and a list of their interests. Return your completed letter to the Recreation Office and we will send it your pen pal. All mail goes through our department; no addresses will be shared.

Find your pan pal today!



SATURDAY SOCCER

This structured program, held at Maxwell Park in East Syracuse, will implement the fundamentals of soccer. **DRILLS WILL BE DONE ONLY. NO GAMES WILL BE PLAYED.** The program is for J-D/ESM Residents ONLY, in grades K-5 in the fall of 2020. Held Saturdays, September 12 – October 10 from 9:00-10:30am.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need adults who can act as coaches and assistants. If you like working with children or if you know someone who does, please call. The success of this program depends on volunteers.

Fee: \$35 (includes T-shirt)

ADULT PROGRAMS

DRIVING

Defensive Driving Class (Point and Insurance Reduction Program)

Branch's Driving School is pleased to offer this 6 hour Defensive Driving Class which is approved by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles and is sponsored by the Empire Safety Council. Be part of a program that sets the standard for accident prevention and vehicle safety in New York State. No formal testing is required, everyone passes. Participants receive these benefits: Insurance premium reduction of 10% for three years (base rate of liability, no-fault and collision premiums) *Principal operator* and up to a 4-point reduction with NYS DMV. This class is for drivers of all ages! Held Saturday, December 12 from 9:00am-3:00pm at the DeWitt Town Hall Activity Room.

Fee: \$35 Residents
\$40 All others

FITNESS

Live – Online T-N-T (Tight-n-Tone)

T-N-T can help you get your body in the best shape ever! We will concentrate on the thighs, hips, stomach and buttocks by using the most effective movements and we will also target the upper body arms, chest and back using hand-held weights. Every fitness level is welcome and there will be no complicated movements or choreography to worry about. Please bring an exercise mat and a set of hand-held weights (5-10lbs). Held Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 29 – December 17 (not 11/26) from 6:00-6:40pm.

Fee: \$79 Tuesdays Residents
\$84 All others
\$73 Thursdays Residents
\$78 All others
\$132 Tuesdays/Thursdays Residents
\$137 All others

Live – Online Yoga-Lates

Whether you're experienced at yoga or pilates or have always wanted to try one or the other, this is your opportunity to experience yoga-lates. Pilates trains your core muscles (abdominal and back) and stretches your spine, while yoga improves flexibility, balance and breathing. By fusing these two techniques together you have a challenging workout that is adaptable to all levels of abilities. Held Mondays, September 28 – December 14 (not 10/12) from 6:00-7:00pm.

Fee: \$85 Residents
\$90 All others

NOTE: When registering for online classes please be sure to provide your **email address**. Your class links will be emailed via Zoom. Each person participating must register separately even if they are using the same email and device. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tammy at (315) 436-3488.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

MESSAGE ABOUT SENIOR PROGRAMS

Due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19 and its effects on higher risk populations, most of our senior programs remain suspended until further notice. Senior Centers are closed until further notice unless listed otherwise in this newsletter.

We are continuing to explore ideas for alternative programming. If you have any questions or a program suggestion, please contact the Recreation Office at (315) 446-3910 x 9.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times.

Stay Well,
Recreation Staff

DEWITT SENIOR FAIR IN A BAG

Wednesday, October 14

11:00am-1:00pm

DeWitt Town Hall

FREE - Call (315) 446-3910 x 9 to sign up.

Community Living Advocates (CLA) and the Town of DeWitt invite you to participate in our Senior Fair in a Bag event! Bags will be filled with information previously collected in person at senior fairs and other fun activities. Pick yours up at the Town Hall, or we will deliver to any residence in DeWitt. Visit townofdewitt.recdesk.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 9 to sign up.

PEN PAL PROGRAM

Are you ready to make a new friend and brighten someone's day? Young people in DeWitt are eager to hear from you!

This free program provides an opportunity for you to connect with young people in our community and share interests and stories.

Visit townofdewitt.recdesk.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 9 to sign up. All mail goes through our department; no addresses will be shared.

SENIOR CENTERS

DeWitt Community Room – Lunches Only
(148 Sanders Creek Parkway, East Syracuse)

PEACE will be offering grab-and-go lunches at the DeWitt Community Room on Tuesdays starting in September and Wednesdays starting in October.

Meals will be available for curbside pick-up only. **Contact PEACE at (315) 470-3331 to order your lunch each week.**

CODFISH - OUT OF SERVICE

Due to the continued spread of the coronavirus, codFISH has temporarily closed its operations.



Our telephone line (315) 463-5158 is still open for anyone who would like to receive our services in the future or anyone who would like to volunteer. Clients will receive a letter when we are back in service. Please call for any additional information. Thank you for your patience.

ADDITIONAL SENIOR RESOURCES

Due to COVID-19 some programs may be closed or operating with limited hours.

Other Senior Programs in Your Area

CNY Kidney Foundation (315) 476-0311
Jewish Community Center (315) 445-2360
Manlius Assisted Living Program
(315) 682-6725
Oasis Senior Education Program
(315) 464-6555
Senior Companion Program (315) 449-3453
Senior Home Care Solutions (315) 469-1000
YMCA/Livestrong Program (315) 637-2025

Where to Turn For Assistance

- Alzheimer's Association, CNY Chapter (315) 472-4201
- Catholic Charities Elderly Services (315) 424-1810
- Elder Abuse Community Education (315) 425-0818
- Hiscock Legal Aid Domestic Violence Unit (315) 422-8191
- National Center for Elder Abuse (202) 898-258
- New York State Office for the Aging (800) 342-9871
- Onondaga County Department of Aging and Youth (315) 435-2362
- Onondaga County Human Services Info and Referral (315) 435-8300
- Onondaga County Protective Services for Adults (315) 435-2815
- Victim Resource Center (315) 422-7273
- Vera House 24 Hour Crises and Support Line (315) 468-3260



DEWITT PHOTO CONTEST

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

CONTEST RUNS:

SEPTEMBER 14 - OCTOBER 31

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

**PEOPLE
PETS
NATURE
ARCHITECTURE**

**- OPEN TO
PHOTOGRAPHERS
OF ALL ABILITIES,
AGES 5 & UP**

**- WINNERS WILL BE LISTED
ON THE TOWN OF DEWITT'S
WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA
ACCOUNTS AND IN THE
TOWN NEWSLETTER**

**FOR COMPLETE LIST OF RULES, PLEASE VISIT:
TOWNOFDEWITT.COM**



5400 Butternut Drive
East Syracuse, NY 13057
www.townofdewitt.com

Parks

Fiddlers Green Park expansion... building community in memory of Bryan McNeill Place

These last several months the COVID-19 virus has challenged us in ways we never imagined, but it has also reminded us of the priceless value of community...and of our parks and trails. Our community greenspaces can provide us the comfort of "home," while also allowing us to leave behind our man-made, technologically inundated world and connect instead...with nature.

"Reconnecting with nature by enjoying a creek side bench, a stroll along Butternut creek, a picnic, maybe some trout fishing, but certainly a chance to unwind - Fiddlers Green Park has this and much more to offer its visitors. As a community park founded by folks in Jamesville and working with Ed Michalenko and a very supportive Town Board in the early 2000's, this area near the center of Jamesville is for all - residents and visitors alike - to enjoy in perpetuity.

Since its inception in 2007, scouting and community organizations, individual contributors and visitors, have all helped to shape the character of the new Fiddlers Green Park. With ongoing support by all, Fiddlers Green promises to shine as a jewel for Jamesville and the whole DeWitt community for generations to come." **Gerald Aloj, Fiddlers Green Park Founder and FGPA Charter Board member**

Green spaces are our community's "natural capitol." Numerous studies have shown that parks and greenspaces improve the standard of living and quality of life for surrounding

neighborhoods, provide increased recreational opportunities and public health improvements, increase property values, and help maintain a strong tax base.

"Jamesville's Fiddlers Green Park is truly a jewel in the crown of our parks and trail system in DeWitt. Now, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Ms. Jackie Place, who has donated five acres of land and several hundred feet of waterfront along Butternut Creek, the unique natural character of Fiddlers Green will provide quality of life for DeWitt and the greater community for years to come. This gift is in memory of her late husband Bryan McNeill Place; I know I speak for the whole of our community in expressing our sincere appreciation to both Jackie...and Bryan.

We've experienced significant challenge and change these last several months. As our world changes and we grow with those changes, we must also preserve the things without which our quality of life would be forever diminished. Our parks, trails and greenspaces are the places that can provide the comfort, solace, and clarity we need to meet that challenging world." **Edward M. Michalenko, DeWitt Town Supervisor, FGPA Founding Board Member**

**For more information, go to:
www.fiddlersgreenpark.org.**



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