



WILLIS CARRIER
RECREATION
CENTER



Winter 2021 Newsletter

Town of DeWitt

Continuing to build community
in the face of challenge and change.

NEW: TOWN WEBSITE & SOLAR ARRAY!

**NEW: PLAYGROUND, TURF FIELDS AND
BASKETBALL COURTS AT CARRIER PARK!**

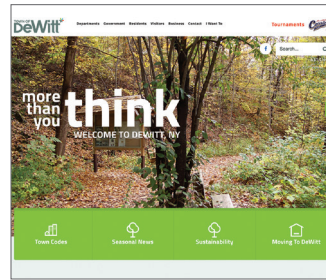
(see inside back cover for Photo Contest winners!)




Projects 2021

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 Activation of 2.66 Megawatt Solar Array at Former Town Landfill Site



 New Carrier Park All-Inclusive Playground and Basketball Courts



 Elevating Erie/Widewaters Pond Project



 Carrier Park All New Turf Infields

We're building community!



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



Without question, 2020 has been the most difficult year most of us can remember. The COVID-19 virus and the economic fallout as a result of the virus have challenged us in ways we could not have imagined one year ago.

Despite this, I am heartened by the words of 11-year old Lainey Lobdell. Lainey, inspired by the Challenger Baseball program, which makes its home at our Carrier Park recreation facility, is a 6th grader who recently donated her \$200 savings to Carrier Park. She writes "I have a special place in my heart for autistic people. And I would like to donate \$200 to the Field of Dreams. I think that is the right thing to do. And I want everyone to have a chance to play sports because it's a great opportunity, and no matter what size or shape you are, you don't know how far it could bring you." My thanks to Lainey for her very generous donation. Lainey closed her letter with these words, "Life is tough but so are you. You are beautiful inside and out." Words to live by.

See a photo of Lainey in my "Notes" on page 11. My thanks also to Dom Cambareri, Executive Director of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program, for bringing Lainey's contribution to my attention and for doing the extraordinary work he does for the Challenger kids and their families; DeWitt is proud Challenger makes its home at Carrier Park.

Lainey is just one example of the spirit of generosity I have witnessed throughout our community as Supervisor of DeWitt these past 13 years; that same spirit of generosity has been present this past year inside town hall and across the community as we navigated the changes and challenges the virus wrought on our society.

I want to acknowledge all of our Town of DeWitt staff for their focus, flexibility, and willingness to do what it took to essentially re-orient almost everything we do here at town hall – on the streets of our community - during the weeks of sheltering in and the months that followed.

That same spirit of unity and partnership was present with the folks here who tackled our 2020-2021 budget challenges. I want to specifically thank our Town Comptroller Kerrie Fusco, Town Board members Kerry Mannion - who is also Budget Committee Chair - and Sam Young, as well as Police Chief Chase Bilodeau, Town Clerk Angela Epolito, and Highway Superintendent Rocco Conte for their herculean efforts working on the budget.

Due to the shortfall – and additional expenses – associated with the COVID-19 virus, we were faced with a \$2 million budget deficit and negative fund balances at the close of 2020. Thanks to the efforts of the people above, our final budget for 2021 represents a tax increase of only 2%; we remain under the New York State's tax cap. For details about how we accomplished this, please see my "Notes" on page 7.

Inside Town Hall we welcome two new officers to our police force, we continue to support staff with on-going management training, and we expect to launch our all new town website in early 2021; I recognize better communication is key to "building community." The new website will allow us to better serve both residents and businesses, and to provide site visitors with

engaging and helpful information. See the back cover of this newsletter for more about the new website.

Onondaga County recently announced they have reached a settlement with Moonbeam, the owners of Shoppingtown. The Town began working with Moonbeam to support rehabilitation or redevelopment of the property in 2016 to no avail; instead, the owners chose to litigate. We are pleased the county will now be acquiring this vitally important DeWitt property.

Shoppingtown is ideally suited as a mixed-use development property; once the agreement between the county and Moonbeam is completed, the Town would like to see Shoppingtown redeveloped as a combination retail, professional office, cultural, entertainment, food, and living facility...including for seniors. See my "Notes" on page 7 for more information, or my detailed letter on the town website. <http://www.townofdewitt.com/documents/1511.pdf>

Our new Town of DeWitt Solar Array went online this past fall. 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, our all new LED street lights, and water and sewer pumps. Plus, the new LED streets lights will reduce our electric consumption and costs by as much as two-thirds. I want my grandchildren and great grandchildren—and yours – to view polluting fossil fuels (natural gas, oil, and coal) like we view using horses as a mode of transportation. The Solar array serves the budget, the bottom line, residents, and our environment. See my "Notes" on page 10.

We now have two all new turf infields for youth baseball and all levels of Fastpitch softball at Carrier Park; tournaments hosted at Carrier Park keep our 28+ town hotels busy and generate economic opportunities for retail, restaurants, entertainment, and gas... not only for the Town of DeWitt, but for Onondaga County and the CNY region. Staff is booking games, practices, and tournaments now for 2021. See the inside front cover of this newsletter or our website for more information.

We also completed construction of three all-inclusive basketball courts and children's playground (featured on the front cover). The basketball courts are lighted and feature fully adjustable backboards and rims so children and adults in wheelchairs can also play. 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. We hope to open Carrier Park to the public during the day and early evenings this spring so everyone can enjoy the new facilities. More significantly, we hope our recovery from the challenges of the COVID-19 virus is well underway by spring so we can do just that, and the whole of our community – and the broader community – can enjoy the park.

A list of many of the major projects underway in our community for 2021 is on page 3.

As always, God bless you, your family, our community and our country. Please join me in "building community" in 2021; together in partnership there's nothing we cannot endure or accomplish.

Most sincerely,
Edward M. Michalenko, DeWitt Supervisor

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General Contact Information

All in-person business at the Town Hall is currently by appointment only. Please call (315) 446-3910 and select a department extension from the list below to make an appointment.

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

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

SUPERVISOR'S NOTES

The best way to build community is better communication...

New! Town of DeWitt Website will launch in early 2021

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. The new site will allow us to better provide residents, businesses, and website visitors with helpful information: news, dates, announcements, projects, programs, stories, events, and important deadlines or service changes. For more information, see the back cover of this newsletter.



Update: Shoppingtown

Onondaga County recently announced they have reached a settlement with Moonbeam, the owners of Shoppingtown. I want to take this opportunity to let the public know there is a both a history of aggressive effort on the Town's part to redevelop Shoppingtown...and also a bright future working in partnership with Onondaga County now to redevelop the property to serve both the Town of DeWitt and the greater Onondaga County community.

Most folks are not aware that for the last 6 years DeWitt has been persistently working behind the scenes with Moonbeam to redevelop the site to serve the whole of the community: residents, business interests, and

economic development opportunities for both the town and county.

We are pleased the county will be acquiring this vitally important property; we want this valuable, strategically located commercial property - like all of our commercial properties - to be vibrant and profitable and to strongly support our tax base, our resident's needs, and the broader community.

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 my letter at:

<http://www.townofdewitt.com/documents/1511.pdf>

INSIDE TOWN HALL

Update: Ongoing Management Training for Town Staff & Key Personnel

We continue to build community and better communication inside Town Hall with management training for department heads and key staff. The heart of town government is more than elected officials; it's all the people inside Town Hall who support me, the Town Board, and you. We want to ensure staff get the "tools" they need to communicate more effectively, support their own staff, and work in partnership with other departments, as well as with residents and businesses. This in-house support and training has been especially valuable as we have navigated the challenges and changes due to the COVID-19 virus. We will be continuing these in-house learning and growth opportunities in 2021; our objective is to better serve you, the taxpayer, but also to support staff to create a more supportive, empowered, efficient and interdependent work environment.

Town Budget 2021

Again, my sincere appreciation to our Town Comptroller Kerrie Fusco, Town Board members Kerry Mannion - who is also Budget Committee Chair - and Sam Young, as well as

Police Chief Chase Bilodeau, Town Clerk Angela Epolito, and Highway Superintendent Rocco Conte for their hard work on the budget.

The COVID-19 virus created both a shortfall and additional expenses for the town; at the close of 2020, we were faced with a \$2 million budget deficit and negative fund balances going into 2021. Thanks to the efforts of the folks above who represent the Budget Committee, our final budget for 2021 represents a tax increase of only 2%; we remain under the NYS tax cap.

The Budget Committee went over the budget line by line with the objective of making as many non-labor cuts as possible without impacting the workforce. Also, beginning last spring the Town Board made the difficult decision to decline to bring back our regular part-time workers – my sincere thanks to those folks for their understanding and their devoted service to the town – and to require department heads to come before the Board for approval of any hiring of part-time workers; this policy still stands going into 2021.

I also want to thank town staff for working in partnership and collaboration – and being flexible – throughout these last nine months about hours, job responsibilities, supporting other departments, etc.

Fortunately, as you can see, commercial development projects throughout the town continue to move forward; we hope that will support us to sustain personnel and services throughout 2021.



Update: Limited Town Hall Access - Town Clerk & Other Administrative Services

Due to the COVID -19 virus, and with special consideration for seniors and high risk members of our community, Town Hall enacted “appointment-only” in-person procedures in March of last year and again in late November; those procedures remain in place until further notice.

Going forward in 2021, and in order to limit the spread of the virus, we strongly encourage residents to conduct as much business as possible online, by mail, or using the Drop Box to the left of the front door to Town Hall. Generally, only marriage licenses, passports, Food Sense, and planning and zoning board business need to be handled in-person. For more information, go to: <http://www.townofdewitt.com/News.aspx?NewsCategoryID=26&NewsID=434>

With regard to tax payments, if you are mailing in your tax payment – or using the Drop Box – **please send the entire bill and we will mail your receipt back to you.** If you are paying online, you will receive a confirmation of your payment. In all cases – mail, Drop Box, or online – as soon as your payment is entered with Onondaga County you can print a receipt at: <https://onondaga.go2gov.net/faces/search.jsp>

Update: DeWitt Police Dept. 2020-2021

Please see pgs. 20-21 for detailed information about how our Town of DeWitt Police Department is progressing on complying with Governor Cuomo’s NYS Executive Order 203 requiring all New York State police departments to adopt a policing reform plan by April 1, 2021.

Among several measures, the department now has body worn cameras for every patrol officer; body worn cameras assist in gathering evidence, promoting transparency, and providing an objective record of an incident.

Also, we welcome Officer Susan Schoff and Officer Damien Parker, both hired in September of 2020. Officer Schoff comes to the Town of DeWitt from the Little Falls Police Department where she served as a Police Officer since 2015. She joins 8 other female officers within the DeWitt police department. Officer Parker was hired by the Town of DeWitt Police Department and is currently attending the Cazenovia Police Academy; he is set to complete the academy in June 2021. Officer Parker is also an active member of the Army National Guard.

For more about these two new officers, see page 21.



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.

Recreation Department

Please see the inside back cover of this newsletter for the winners of the "Focus on Community" photo contest. Thank you to all who submitted photos!

Due to the virus, the Recreation Department has had to "re-tool" much of its programming. In the meantime, staff have been helping out other departments, supporting Carrier Park, and creating projects for spring 2021. These include: a neighborhood beautification event, and softball, baseball and basketball clinics and tournament planning for Carrier Park, including the National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Softball Championship Tournament.

Update: See the winners of the Focus on Community Photo Contest!

See the inside back cover of this newsletter for winners of the contest!



Environmental & Energy Initiatives

Update: Town Solar Array went on line fall 2020



Our Town of DeWitt Solar Array went online in the fall of 2020. Located on the site of our former town landfill, the array includes over 7,000 solar panels spread out over an 11-acre area. Proactively reducing our reliance on fossil fuels - and being more respectful of the environment - is another important way we're striving to "build community" in DeWitt.

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, (our newly installed energy efficient LED 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 saves 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/IMLaIRlyF2rzcQZZqr1bZA==.pdf>

HeatSmart CNY campaign extended for another 2 years; [join](#) now!

HeatSmart CNY is a community-based campaign that helps owners of residences (single & multi-family), commercial, and community buildings learn about and install renewable technologies for heating/cooling and energy efficiency/weatherization measures. HeatSmart CNY offers virtual tours and workshops to share information about the technologies that are helping us move the heating and cooling of our buildings away from on-site combustion of fossil fuels to ground source ("geothermal") and air source heat pumps designed for cold climates; heat pump water heaters; and home envelope improvements/insulation. These heating and cooling technologies make living more comfortable and environmentally sustainable, while in many cases slashing energy costs.

Now is a very favorable time to [enroll in the HeatSmart campaign](#); various federal, state, and utility incentives can be combined to bring down costs. For more information about the technologies, incentives, and upcoming virtual events please visit [the HeatSmart CNY website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Electric Vehicles & LED Lighting

The Town of DeWitt now uses two electric vehicles for town business. Also, electric charging stations are available at Town Hall on Butternut Drive for use by both the town and the public. We anticipate installing a minimum of two additional charging stations at our Carrier Park recreation facility early this year.

Also, 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>.

Earth Day & Drive Electric Day 2021

Depending on safety concerns with regard to the COVID-19 virus, we hope to schedule both our town of DeWitt Annual Earth Day Clean-Up, hosted by the DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission, and also "Drive Electric Day." Stay tuned via the town website; better yet, sign up to receive alerts from the town at: <https://townofdewitt.recdesk.com/Community/Member/Signup> or contact the Recreation Department at (315) 446-3910 x 9.

Carrier Park is Building Sports Tourism Economic Development Opportunities



New: All-Inclusive Playground, Basketball Courts & Turf Fields

This fall, the town completed installation of two turf infields and the construction of three all-inclusive basketball courts and children's playground.

We now have two all new turf infields for youth baseball and all levels of Fastpitch softball! Artificial turf fields are more durable and offer greater playability. That means more games, practices, and tournament bookings; tournaments hosted at Carrier Park keep our 28+ town hotels busy and generate economic opportunities for retail, restaurants, entertainment, and gas not only for the Town of DeWitt, but for Onondaga County and the CNY region.

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 hope to open Carrier Park to the public during the day and early evenings this spring; more significantly, we hope our recovery from the challenges of the COVID-19 is well underway by spring so we can do just that and the whole of our community – and the broader community – can enjoy the park.

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 27-35 in this newsletter.

New: Our most recent "Carrier Park Partner" Lainey Lobdell!



Lainey Lobdell is an 11-year old 6th grader who recently donated her savings of \$200 to the "Field of Dreams" at Carrier Park. Lainey wanted to support the park and the Syracuse Challenger

Baseball program which makes its home at Carrier Park. For folks not familiar with Challenger, Syracuse Challenger Baseball is a

Little League division that provides children and young adults with physical and developmental disabilities the opportunity to do something we all take for granted...play baseball. Please read about Lainey's donation – and her inspiring words – in my "Message" on page 4.

The Town Board and I want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Lainey for her thoughtful and generous contribution and her partnership in helping the Town of DeWitt to "build community" at Carrier Park. Lainey Lobdell is truly...a "Carrier Park Partner." If you would like to become a "Carrier Park Partner," please see the information below.

Become a Carrier Park Partner

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. 27-35 for more information.)



Update: Booking Carrier Park for the 2021 season

If you or your organization would like to schedule games, practices or tournaments for the 2021 season, please contact us at: <http://carrierpark.org/tournaments/>

Carrier Park Events:

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

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.

Update: NJCAA Women's Softball Championship Tournament

This May, Carrier Park will host 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 are also excited to be host for an event that can serve as an inspiration for girls and young women looking to participate in this popular, empowering sport. We will keep you updated on the event via the town's website and social media.



How can you support Carrier Park? 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. 27-35 of this newsletter. Or download this PDF: <http://carrierpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Carrier-Park-Marketing-Package-PDF.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.

Update: Elevating Erie & I-481 Pedestrian Bridge

The new pedestrian bridge across Interstate-481 was completed and opened in August; the bridge is a key component of the Elevating Erie Project and also an essential connector within the 750-mile NYS Empire State Trail system.



Before this pedestrian bridge, the whole of the Town of DeWitt was 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. It is a welcome benefit for families, walkers, runners and cyclists, connecting our Craige - Kinne Rd.- Towpath Rd. neighborhoods to Butternut Drive, Town Hall, Ryder Park, Butternut Creek Park, Cedar Bay Park, the Erie Canal and the Erie Canalway Trail system.

As you can see when you drive around town, the Elevating Erie project progressed significantly this past spring and summer! The center median – which will include a bike path and sidewalks for walkers, runners, and cyclists – will also include trees (many planted

this fall) and greenspace creating a sustainable naturalized environment on the boulevard.

Connecting residents and those who work on Erie Boulevard to our parks, greenspaces, and trail systems is a priority, more so now than ever. 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. Also, a myriad of 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 was completed in 2020; now runners, bikers, and walkers can travel from Erie Boulevard at Bridge Street over the new I-481 pedestrian bridge, visit Ryder, Butternut Creek, and Cedar Bay Parks and continue along the Erie Canalway trail system.

Once again, our sincere thanks to NYS D.O.T. for their hard work and partnership in bringing the Elevating Erie Project to fruition and helping to improve the quality of life in the Town of DeWitt. 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>

Update: Fiddlers Green Park

We are fortunate in DeWitt to have several beautiful parks, Fiddlers Green in Jamesville among them. If you have not yet visited Fiddlers Green I recommend you do so, it is a wonderful park in any season.

As we announced last year, thanks to the generosity of Ms. Jackie Place, Fiddler's Green has expanded. Ms. Place 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.

We hope to 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 sometime this spring or summer.

As mentioned above, parks are an integral way in which we sustain a balanced quality of life in DeWitt; the COVID-19 virus has reminded us 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. **For more information about Fiddlers Green, go to: <http://www.fiddlersgreenpark.org/>**



New: Playgrounds at Franklin Park and Dunrovin Park

My thanks to Town Board member Sam Young and NYS Assemblywoman Pam Hunter who were instrumental in securing funds for all new playgrounds at both Franklin Park and Dunrovin Park. My thanks also to our own town Parks crew for site excavation and partnering with Titan Development to install the new playground equipment this past summer.

Update: Deer Management 2021

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. Results of the cull can be found at <http://www.townofdewitt.com/WhiteTailedDeer.aspx>

The Deer Management program did end early in 2020 due to safety concerns with regard to the virus. 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, **it's not too late to help in 2021**. 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, important reminders, especially during the deer culling months:

- All town parks are closed from dusk to dawn.
- Be sure you have a property owner's **explicit permission** before entering private property; it is always advisable to have permission to enter private property.

Update: Butternut Creek Trail

The fishing platform was enjoyed by residents and visitors this during the spring, summer and early fall. The boardwalk at the head of the trail remains closed due to both a structural problem and budget limitations; budget permitting we hope to re-open the boardwalk sometime in the latter half of 2021.



Update: Zombie Homes

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.

Moving into 2021, we are focused on abandoned or neglected homes in the Ely-Edwards Drive, Genesee Hills, Park Hill, and Franklin Park neighborhoods.

We are also looking at possibly expanding our Zombie Homes Program to include coordinating with realtors and creating a registry. **If you have an abandoned property in your neighborhood, please contact the Planning and Zoning Dept. at (315) 446-3910, ext. 3.**

ASSESSOR

The Assessor's Office is preparing for "exemption time." All exemption renewal forms will be mailed by the first week of January. These forms must be completed and returned to our office by March 1, 2021 at the latest. Any exemption form submitted after March 1st will be rejected; the exemption will not be granted. If you are filing for a senior citizen exemption, we will need a signed copy of your 2020 Federal Tax Return when you have it completed. If you do not file a tax return, we will need all year-end income statements you receive for the 2020 year. Although we cannot process your application without your income, we will wait a bit for the income, but we **MUST** have your application completed, **SIGNED** and returned to our office by March 1st. Please contact our office if you have any questions when you receive your renewal.



The STAR exemption process has several changes made by the New York State.

For New Home Owners Only: If you purchased your home after March 1st 2015, you will no longer apply for the Basic STAR exemption at our office, you will need to apply through the state. You can apply online at www.tax.ny.gov or call at 518-457-2036.

For Enhanced STAR exemptions: There have been a lot of changes with exemptions this past year. For the past couple of years everyone who applied for the Enhanced Star Exemption was required to sign up for the IVP program, whereas the State will verify your income and eligibility going forward. Everyone who did this did not receive 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 and IVP Program. To qualify, your income for 2019 must be under \$90,550 and turn 65 at any time during 2021. You do not need to be 65 by March 1st, which is the deadline to apply.

All Exemptions 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 a copy of 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 1st. We can wait for income information, but we cannot extend the deadline for receiving the application.

Contact the Assessor Office with any questions at (315) 446-3910 x 8.

HIGHWAY

Notes from Superintendent Conte:

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have the leaves collected, and the plows will have already visited your neighborhoods. We will continue to upgrade street signs, tend to asphalt repairs (water breaks and pot holes.)

During the 2020 construction season, the Highway Department resurfaced and repaved over 12 miles of road/streets. The department has rebuilt and refurbished over 120 catch basins and storm sewers, as well as replaced many feet of drainage pipe in order to keep the storm water system flowing freely.

The 2020 Brush Season has come to a close and we have recycled to OCCRA and Clifton Recycling 20,000 cubic yards of yard waste (tree limbs & brush). It happens to be equivalent to filling 50 Olympic size swimming pools.

Let us hope during these times we have patience and understanding for our plow drivers during these winter months as they keep us safe on the roads.

I appreciate the community support of our efforts and continue to be available to assist with any concerns you have.

Rocco P. Conte

Christmas Tree Collection

The Town will collect Christmas trees during the month of January. Place your tree – **no plastic bags, metal, lights, tinsel, stands, or ornaments** – at the curb, and the highway department will pick them up. **There is no set schedule.**

Wreath Disposal

How can I dispose of a wreath? Take the wreath apart. **NO METAL in the GREENERY.** You can put the greenery curbside with a Christmas tree or put it out in the spring with other lawn debris. The support structure can be disposed of in the trash or recycling depending the materials.

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, through April 1st. This regulation is not weather dependent, or suspended during vacations.



Snow Plow Tips & Information

- The plow routes within the Town take an average of 4 hours to complete, and the drivers typically start around 3:30 AM.
- It is illegal to pass a vehicle using the shoulder of the road.
- **Don't crowd the plow**—give them room to work. The plows are wide and may cross the centerline or shoulder.

- **Don't tailgate and try not to pass**, If you must pass, take extreme caution.
- **Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit**—be patient.
- **A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted.** You may see them but they may not see you. Please stay a safe distance behind the snowplow. Keep your distance and watch for **sudden stops, turns and backing up.**
- On multiple lane roads, watch for snowplows operating in **either** lane.
- Snowplows can throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. Never drive into a snow cloud - it could conceal a snowplow.
- Be aware of the extreme danger of snow tunnels built along the roadside, or in snow storage areas. Plow drivers cannot see children playing inside them and the force of additional snow accumulating may cause cave-ins.

Mailbox Repair

As a courtesy, the Highway Department will assist with mailbox repair if our snow plow has hit the mailbox or post. Call Highway at (315) 437-8331 to report as soon as you notice an issue and we will visit the site as soon as the weather allows.

The Town will not make repairs to mailboxes which are unable to withstand the force of snow, *that are improperly installed*, mailbox posts that have rotted due to Mother Nature's contribution, or those that have been struck by other vehicles (esp. Private Plow Contractors).

The Town is not responsible for replacing designer boxes, posts, or any style of newspaper boxes. (If you have such a mailbox, you may want to consider removing it for the winter months and replacing it with a standard box). Contact your post office to make temporary arrangements for mail service.

Yard Waste

The Brush pickup ended in October. Placing brush and lawn debris curbside, outside of the established schedule is a violation of Town Code. These piles are a safety hazard; they interfere with the storm water system, and are unsightly. The 2021 Yard and Brush Schedule will be available on the Town's website and in the Spring/Summer Newsletter.



Pothole Repair

On Town streets, contact the Highway Department at (315) 437-8331. The "hole" will be temporarily repaired; and placed on a list for permanent repair in the spring. Please check the list of streets to make sure it is a town road. If it falls under New York State DOT or the County Roads, Please call those corresponding numbers.

New York State Roads:

1-800-POTHOLE (1-800-768-4653)

- **Route 5:** also referred to as **Erie Boulevard**
- **Route 92:** also referred to as **E. Genesee St., and/or Highbridge Road, or Lyndon Corners**
- **New Court Avenue:** also referred to as Rt. 598
- **North Midler Avenue** to Rt. 298
- **Route 481**
- **Route 173:** also referred to as **Seneca Turnpike**

PARKS & FACILITIES

- **Route 290:** (also referred to as **James St., West Manlius St.; Manlius Center Rd. or Bridge St.**)
- **Route 298:** also referred to as **Collamer Road**
- **Route 690**
- **Route 90:** NYS Thruway
- **Route 635:** is referred to as **Thompson Road, (Erie Blvd. to Carrier Circle)**

Onondaga County Roads: (315) 435-5452

- **Barker Hill Road**
- **Jamesville Road** also called **North Street.**
- **Kimber Road**
- **Gates Road**
- **Nottingham Road**
- **Quintard Road**
- **Rockcut Road:** also called **Jamesville Toll Road**
- **Route 91:** also called **Pompey Road**
- **South Street:** also called **Apulia Road**
- **Tecumseh Road**
- **Exeter Street**
- **Fly Road**
- **Franklin Park Drive**
- **Hartwell Avenue**
- **James Street:** Section from Kinne Road to West Manlius Street
- **Kinne Street:** James to Rt. 298 / 298 to Molloy Road
- **Kirkville Road**
- **Molloy Road**
- **New Venture Gear Drive**
- **Northern Boulevard**
- **Taft Road**
- **Thompson Road** (Carrier Circle to Malloy Road)
- **Townline Road** (edge of the Town of Salina)
- **West Manlius Street**



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

NOTICE: Group sizes will be dictated by State guidelines in place at the time of your event. Please plan accordingly. Cancellations made at least 30 days prior to your reservation will receive a full refund. Refunds are not guaranteed for cancellations made less than 30 days from your reservation date.

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.



PLANNING, ZONING, CODES & SUSTAINABILITY

Tick Management

While there may be snow on the ground, it is important to still protect yourself from ticks. When exploring the great outdoors please consider the following points:

- Cover all exposed areas of your skin
- Wear light colored clothes
- Use specified insect repellent
- Inspect yourself for ticks

For more information on personal protection please visit the DEC website.

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/111538.html>

Deer Management Update

In areas of DeWitt where white-tailed deer populations are thriving and control methods are limited due to land use, a deer cull will occur on both public and private sites from January through March 2021. For public safety, we remind residents that Town owned parks are closed between dusk and dawn during this time period. It is imperative to obtain express, implicit, and current property owner permission before entering private property during this period of time. Please contact individual property owners to inquire as to their participation in the program. If you are interested in learning how to participate in next year's Deer Management operation, please contact nkoval@townofdewitt.com. For more information visit:

www.townofdewitt.com/WhiteTailedDeer.aspx

Elevating Erie Update

In the Spring 2018 newsletter we shared the news of the State's commitment to complete the Empire State Trail by 2020 – an exciting State-wide investment in recreational trail connections that proposes to bring pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure through the center of DeWitt via Erie Boulevard. Among the following upgrades to our local trails beginning spring 2019:

- New bicycle and pedestrian trail and infrastructure along Towpath Road

- New pedestrian bridge crossing 481, parallel to the Kinne Street bridge, which will connect our existing Erie Canal trailhead to the Towpath
- Road improvements.

The Town is staying engaged in the State's project planning through our ongoing work with Elevating Erie, our collaborative project with the City of Syracuse to close the gap in the Erie Canal Trail between DeWitt and Camillus. We're continuing to pursue projects that raise the bar on the State's current proposal, including a new park near the intersection of Bridge Street and Erie Boulevard to improve our existing Widewaters Pond and a public art installation near the current Erie Canal trailhead. Up-to-date project information is always available at www.elevatingerie.com or www.facebook.com/ElevatingErie.

Tree Planting & Workshop Initiatives

We want to thank the homeowners, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Town of DeWitt Parks Department, and the Town of DeWitt Tree Committee for their continued support to plant trees throughout the Town of DeWitt. The community urban forest is a valuable resource that provides many benefits to human health, the environment, and the economy. This fall we planted over 20 trees in Town right of ways and we hope to plant more in the future! If you are interested in receiving a free tree, please contact Nicholas Quilty-Koval at (315) 446-3910 x 137.



To improve our planting techniques and knowledge of trees, Jim Maloney and his team from National Grid generously provided a hands-on workshop to plant two trees in Ryder Park in DeWitt. Members from the Tree Committee, DACC, and local Parks Departments including Manlius, Fayetteville, and DeWitt gained valuable insights to properly plant trees. We also want to give a big thank you to Aspinall's for providing the trees!

Be sure to check the Town's website for future community planting events!

Cutoff Date for Fertilizing Lawns is December 1st

If you plan to fertilize your lawn, remember that it is against New York State law to fertilize lawns between December 1 and April 1. Visit the DEC's Lawn Fertilizer webpage www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html for more information. The law does not apply to agricultural fertilizer or fertilizer for gardens.

Choose a lawn fertilizer with no phosphorus.

Lawn fertilizer can have unnecessary phosphorus that runs into waterbodies. Excess phosphorus in freshwater lakes and ponds can cause algae overgrowth, with serious impacts to the environment and public health.

Earth Day Clean Up – Tentative

Saturday, April 24
9:00am - 12:00pm

Cleanup for Saturday April 24th pending the status of COVID-19 subject to change.

Pending the ongoing health situation due to Covid-19, the Town of DeWitt is hopeful to conduct our annual Earth Day Clean Up on April 24th, 2021. We will be closely following all health updates and requirements as we approach the clean up date. Information will be continually updated on the Town website, including changes of dates or cancellation.

Volunteers should meet at Town Hall or Robbie T's Pizza on North Street in Jamesville. We will

supply bags, safety vests and OCRRA stickers. Volunteers should bring their own work gloves and should dress for the conditions. We ask you to include clothes that protect against ticks, since most litter is found in the same roadside weeds that are home to ticks.

Refreshments will be available at both of our headquarters locations. At Town Hall, bagels, donuts, coffee, and juice are always donated by Wegmans. Of course, Robbie Thompson always gives free pizza to everyone who cleans in Jamesville.

Everyone should remember that you may also clean on an alternate day. Just contact Dennis Payne at (315) 469-0565 or paynedennis1@gmail.com so you may receive clean up materials.

We need every DeWitt resident to pitch in to help clean up our community. Please consider organizing a group of neighbors, friends, family members, business or other associates and identify a location of your choice to clean. Perhaps a street in your neighborhood or a series of storm drains needs attention. Please join us. Thanks, from the DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission (DACC).



POLICE

The Town of DeWitt has purchased and received a sufficient supply of cameras to deploy a body worn camera with every officer who is working in a patrol function on a daily basis in the Town of DeWitt. It is the policy of the Town of Dewitt Police Department to utilize body worn cameras to document enforcement related activities of its officers. Body worn

cameras will also assist in gathering evidence, promoting transparency and providing an objective record of an incident. The Town of DeWitt is committed to allocating appropriate funds to ensure that the police department is able to budget for an appropriate replacement plan to ensure that there continues to be a sufficient supply of cameras and other hardware/software to keep each patrol officer outfitted with a camera while on duty. In September of 2020 the DeWitt Police hired two officers, both of whom will begin the lengthy training process in order to become DeWitt Police Officers.

Officer Susan Schoff

Officer Susan Schoff came to the Town of DeWitt Police Department as a Lateral Transfer from the Little Falls Police Department where she served as a Police Officer since 2015. Prior to her career in Law Enforcement, she earned her Bachelors of Arts Degree in Public Justice from the State University of New York at Oswego where she also was a member of the women’s Softball Team.



Officer Damien Parker

Officer Damian Parker was hired by the Town of DeWitt Police Department and is currently attending the Cazenovia Police Academy. Officer Parker grew up in Onondaga County and received his Associate in Science Degree in Business Administration from SUNY Broome Community College. Officer Parker is an active member of the Army National Guard and previously played Semi Professional Football

for the Broome County Stallions and NEPA Shock. Officer Parker is set to complete the Police Academy in June 2021.



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. Due to changing COVID-19 regulations, meetings may be held virtually. Visit www.townofdewitt.com to get the most up-to-date meeting information.

TOWN CLERK & TAX

Due to the large volume of in person Town & County tax payments, for your safety and ours, we recommend making your tax payment, dog license or water bill payments by mail, drop box, or online. More information can be found below. As always, if you need assistance, please reach out and we will do our best to accommodate you.

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 Cards, Debit Card or Electronic Check. There is

a \$1.75 convenience fee added to allow 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.

2021 Town & County Tax Bills

For your safety and ours, we recommend making your tax payment by mail, drop box, or online. Please include the entire bill when submitting your payment so a receipt can be returned. If a payment is made online through Onondaga County, there is a merchant fee. These merchant fees go directly to the merchant, a third party processor and are not retained by the Town.

The Tax Office will be open on Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm for Town & County tax bill collection.

The 2021 Town & County tax bills are mailed at the end of December. If you do not receive your tax bill, please call the 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 from the Onondaga County website:

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

The link above will allow you to search by property address or if you wish to search by tax map number, you can 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)

Onondaga County Department of Finance
Real Property Tax Services
421 Montgomery Street, 15th Fl.
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315)435-2426

Tax information for properties located in the City of Syracuse can be found [here](#) or by calling (315) 448-8310.

NEW PROPERTY SEARCH | SEARCH RESULTS | **RECEIPTS | PAYMENTS | VIEW TAX BILL**

Tax Map Number	Owner Name	Mailing Address
312689014-03-10.1	TOWN OF DEWITT	ATTN: HIGHWAY DEPT 5400 BUTTERNUT DR E SYRACUSE, NY 13257

2018 - County Town Bills Available - Select View Tax Bill from the link above to view and print

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Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, agendas and minutes can be found online at:

<https://ecode360.com/documents/pub/DE0337/Minutes/>.

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 Issues to Town residents who meet 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.



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

The history and future development of Shoppingtown...

Onondaga County recently announced they have reached a settlement with Moonbeam, the owners of Shoppingtown. We are pleased the county will be acquiring this vitally important property and I want to take this opportunity to let the public know there is a both a history of aggressive effort on the Town's part to redevelop Shoppingtown...and also a bright future working in partnership with Onondaga County now to redevelop the property to serve both the Town of DeWitt and the greater Onondaga County community.

People often ask me **"What happened to Shoppingtown?"** Most folks are not aware that for the last 6 years the Town has been persistently working behind the scenes with Moonbeam to redevelop the site to serve the whole of the community: residents, business interests, and economic development opportunities for both the town and county.

We have steadfastly sought to partner with the mall's owners to support the redevelopment of the property; we want this valuable, strategically located commercial property - like all of our commercial properties - to be vibrant and profitable and to strongly support our tax base and our resident's needs.

To that end, we offered Shoppingtown's owners multiple, robust financial incentives. We pro-actively provided them with access to grants, energy incentive programs, specific redevelopment concepts, cost-saving plans, a potential PILOT agreement, and other financial inducements to encourage them to rehabilitate – or fully redevelop - the property.

Most of you are aware, over the last few years as the Destiny complex expanded, suburban shopping centers in and around the Syracuse area declined. This phenomenon is not unique; indoor malls all across the country have suffered as on-line shopping has gathered greater market share and big-box and brick and mortar sales have declined. In response, retailers have been steadily relocating to strip malls where rents are significantly lower for a variety of reasons outlined below. These factors combined with the COVID-19 virus, is presenting challenges for the viability of the Destiny complex now as well.

Shoppingtown is ideally suited as a mixed-use development property...

Shoppingtown is ideally suited as a mixed-use development property; once the agreement between the county and Moonbeam is completed, the Town would like to see Shoppingtown redeveloped as a combination retail, professional office, cultural, entertainment, food, and living facility...including for seniors.

Onondaga County would benefit from sales tax revenue and seniors and other residents would be able to live, eat, shop and recreate "right at home" and within walking distance of Marshalls Plaza, Erie Blvd., and Ryder, Cedar Bay, and Butternut Creek Parks and the Erie Canalway Trail.

There are links to beautiful and successful examples of this kind of mixed-use development below.

Historically, the Town of DeWitt took aggressive action to support Moonbeam...

Over the last 6 years, the town took aggressive action to support the redevelopment of Shoppingtown:

- As part of the Town's evolving Comprehensive Plan, we included Shoppingtown in our mixed use overlay district, thereby permitting mixed-use development on the mall property.
- The Town also offered Shoppingtown's owners a \$250,000 marketing grant enabling them to choose their own marketing consultants and develop a comprehensive marketing needs assessment and redesign plan...all for just \$80,000 in matching funds.
- The owners declined the offer; the Town went back to the owners and further agreed to split the match requirement and provide an additional \$40,000 toward the grant; again, Shoppingtown's owners declined to take advantage of the marketing grant.

Supporting Shoppingtown – and tenants – by reducing utility costs...

We also developed several strategies to help Shoppingtown significantly remediate their utility costs. As outlined above, indoor malls are declining due to the competition of on-line sales. As such, indoor mall space has become cost prohibitive for retailers and businesses due to the additional "common space" costs. Most indoor mall space leases demand that renters not only pay their rent, but also bear a portion of the cost of the mall's "common spaces."

"Common space" costs – heat, air conditioning, lighting, and also maintenance – for indoor malls can be significant. This adds an extra financial burden for businesses and retailers seeking to lease mall space. As a result, the tide favoring indoor malls turned a few years ago; the current trend is to lease space/stores in strip malls. (This was Shoppingtown's original configuration when I was growing up here in DeWitt.)

- Given these market realities for indoor malls, we offered to support the owners of Shoppingtown to enroll in a program with the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA).
- The NYSERDA program would have supported Shoppingtown to significantly reduce their overall utility costs via re-working the mall's heating, air conditioning, and lighting with modern, high efficiency systems and roof-mounted solar panels.

We also presented owners with a plan to re-develop Shoppingtown as an indoor-outdoor facility. An indoor-outdoor complex would have many of the advantages of an indoor mall, but without the disadvantages of the high utility bills that come with indoor space.

By raising the "greenhouse glass" over the hallways, allowing open air exchange and converting store-front facades with exterior walls, visitors and shoppers would be sheltered from rain and snow, but still warm enough in winter - and cool enough in summer – to enjoy the mall, but also be protected from our CNY weather.

- This archetype would be a return to the arcade architecture popular in large cities in the 1930's and 40's, but most importantly would eliminate common space heating and cooling costs for individual store owners and retailers.
- Had Shoppingtown chosen to convert the interior hallways in this way, the Town then would have been able to acquire the necessary easements to add the mall's hallway lighting costs to the municipal street lighting district, thereby eliminating their common space lighting expenses and reducing tenant's costs even further.

Municipalities cannot lower the value of any property...

For clarification, neither the Town Supervisor, nor the Town Board can arbitrarily lower the value of any property and therefore decrease the owner's tax burden; by law, the Town is not permitted to establish assessment rates for any property; legally, that is the job of the Town's Assessor.

Also for clarification, *Shoppingtown's current assessment is lower than most area strip malls and on a square foot basis, lower than some truck terminal and warehouse properties.*

DeWitt offers Shoppingtown a PILOT agreement...

Still, with this in mind, and in order to help alleviate Shoppingtown's property tax burden, the Town also offered Shoppingtown a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program.

- A PILOT would provide the mall's owners robust tax benefits for a specified period of time while they constructed – and implemented – their own business development plan and showed us a path to economic recovery.
- In other words, under a PILOT agreement, the Town could legally lower the mall's tax burden for a specified period of time contingent upon a redevelopment plan that would be implemented in phases over a period of 5 to 10 years.

Unfortunately, Shoppingtown's owners declined all of these options and chose instead to engage in litigation with Onondaga County over the last 2 years.

The future: a positive, productive, revenue generating partnership with Onondaga County...

The future redevelopment of Shoppingtown is a powerful opportunity for DeWitt and Onondaga County to form a positive, productive, cost-effective, revenue generating partnership. Given the daunting challenges to our economy right now – the significant loss of sales tax revenue and the additional costs due to the COVID-19 virus – such a partnership will save time and money. The Town of DeWitt is ready to re-energize, revitalize, and redevelop this essential, revenue generating community asset to serve not only the town and its residents, but the whole of Onondaga County.

For a more tangible idea of the kind of comprehensive mixed-use projects the Town was advocating with Shoppingtown's owners, please see the links below.

Most sincerely,

Ed Michalenko, DeWitt Supervisor

*West Glen, West Des Moines, Iowa: <http://www.westglentowncenter.com/>

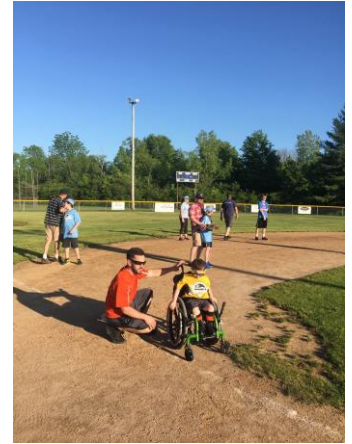
*Masphe Commons, Massachusetts: <http://mashpeecommons.com/>

*Belmar Town Center, Lakewood, Colorado: <https://www.belmarcolorado.com/>
<https://www.denver.org/about-denver/neighborhood-guides/belmar-lakewood/>

Building community with Syracuse Challenger Baseball

Syracuse Challenger 2019-2020 Highlights...

- **The 2019 Season** featured nearly 270 players on 16 teams.
- **June 2, 2019** – The players, coaches, volunteers and families of Syracuse Challenger Baseball joined citizens and officials from Town of DeWitt, and students from the ESM Mixed Choir for the “Imagine Aerial” filming of the “Achieving the Dream” Music Video!! Final edits of this amazing event are currently taking place and will be premiered in 2021!
- **August 5, 2019** - The Syracuse Challenger Baseball Adult All-Stars take on Niko Tamurian’s CNY All-Stars for the 3rd Annual “Field of Dreams” Trophy Softball Challenge; the Syracuse Challenger Baseball All-Stars pull off an incredible, come from behind, down to their last out 17-15 victory with a walk off, 3-run, homerun in the bottom of the 6th inning!
- **The 2020 Season** was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, huge plans for the 2021 Syracuse Challenger Baseball season and the Carrier Park “Phase 2” expansion and Opening Day Celebration are in the works. This includes an expansion of our exploding Challenger Adult Division at Carrier Park to 8 teams! Stay tuned!
- **PLUS:** Our special thanks to Lainey Lobdell for her \$200 donation to Carrier Park! (see more info. on pgs. 4 & 00)



Carrier Park is...more than you think!



Food \$en\$e Shopper

A Program of the Food Bank of Central New York

Order/Pick-Up Information

Order Deadline: Friday, Jan 8 by 4:00pm

Orders must be made in person

EBT Cards Charged: Friday, January 8

Pick-Up 12:30-2:30pm: Wednesday, Jan 20

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

Food Sense News

- **Appointments:** The DeWitt Town Hall is currently open for in-person business by appointment only. This includes placing a Food Sense order. Appointments are available Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:15pm, excluding holidays. To make an appointment call (315) 446-3910 x 9.
- The DeWitt Town Hall will be **closed** on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1.
- **Reusable Bags:** Due to a larger number of orders we are running low on boxes. Please return your boxes or bring reusable bags on pick-up day. Thank you for your continued support!

January 2021

Food Unit: \$20.50

All Items Included

(Subject to Change)

- Meatballs, 1 lb.
- Chicken Breast Boneless, 1 lb.
- Italian Sausage, 1 lb.
- Veal Patties, 12 oz.
- Ground Turkey, 1 lb.
- Mozzarella Cheese, 8 oz.
- Cheese Ravioli, 15 oz.
- Spaghetti Sauce, 15 oz.
- Tropical Fruit Salad, 1 oz.
- Diced Tomatoes, 15 oz.
- Fresh Produce (TBA)
- Fresh Produce (TBA)

Specials Individually Priced

1. **Chicken Tenders, 8 lbs, \$9.50**
 - Tyson breaded chicken strips
2. **Pork Roast, 2 lbs, \$7.25**
 - Boneless, 2 lbs per special
3. **Cooked Shrimp, 1 lb, \$7.00**
 - 31-40 shrimp per pound
4. **Meatloaf, 2 lbs, \$7.00**
 - Traditional, 100% ground beef
5. **Onion Rings, 2.5 lbs, \$6.50**
 - Ready for oven or fryer
6. **American Cheese, 5 lbs. \$10.50**
 - Sliced, not individually wrapped
7. **Chicken Drumsticks, 5 lbs. \$5.00**
 - 5 pound bag of drumsticks

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



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 **by appointment only**. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm, excluding holidays. Call the Recreation Office at (315) 446-3910 x 9 to set up an appointment.

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 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.

We recommend following us on Facebook and/or Instagram where we post the latest updates on programs, including new programs that may not be featured in the newsletter.



www.facebook.com/DeWittParksandRecreation



www.instagram.com/dewittrecreation

All program updates will also be posted on RecDesk at townofdewitt.recdesk.com.

The Recreation Office is open for in-person business by appointment only. 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

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.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

SLED FEST

Saturday, February 20

10:00am – 12:00pm

Tecumseh Elementary

901 Nottingham Road, Jamesville



Come slide on down to Tecumseh Elementary and join the Town of DeWitt Recreation Department for our very first Sled Fest! Open to all children in grades K-8, there will be various competitions that include: “store bought” sled races, “homemade” sled races, sledding the longest distance and best overall homemade sled. We hope to see you there!

This is a FREE event, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Register at townofdewitt.recdesk.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 9. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring your own sled. No sleds will be provided.

EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 27
11:00am – 1:00pm
Carrier Park
1033 Kinne Street, East
Syracuse



We hope you will join us for our free Egg Hunt at Carrier Park this year! J-D and ESM students in grades K-6 are welcome to join in on the fun and search for eggs hidden by our sneaky bunny!

This event features music, goodie bags, a special visitor and the egg hunt. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Sign up at townofdewitt.recdesk.com or call (315) 446-3910 x 9.

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION EVENT

Date TBA



This spring, the Town of DeWitt Recreation Department will be hosting a Neighborhood Beautification Event for all parts of DeWitt!

The Town will coordinate with stores and local experts to provide advice and supplies for cleaning and planting public areas in the Town. Residents can also participate by completing projects on their own properties.

Nominate a beautification project! Is there an area in your neighborhood you'd like to see beautified? Let us know! Contact the Recreation Office at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or recreation@townofdewitt.com.

Neighborhood Coordinators Needed! Are you interested in leading your neighborhood's beautification efforts? Can you help get information and supplies to your community? We'd love to hear from you! To volunteer for this event, contact the Recreation Office at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or sign up at townofdewitt.recdesk.com.

SUMMER DAY CAMP 2021 Information TBA

Due to COVID-19, and the challenges of planning programs in advance, specific details about the summer Day Camp program are not currently available. More program information will be available in the Spring/Summer Newsletter due out in mid-April.

Updates will also be shared by email and on the Town website, RecDesk and social media as they become available.

Updates: If you would like to receive email updates about Day Camp, please send an email to recreation@townofdewitt.com to be added to the Day Camp email list.

Employment: If you are interested in working at our summer program, contact the Recreation Department at (315) 446-3910 x 9 or recreation@townofdewitt.com in February for more information about summer employment opportunities.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

FOUR-WEEK LEARN TO SKI OR SNOWBOARD

Four Seasons will offer this four-week, one-hour lesson program for downhill skiing or snowboarding. Lessons begin on Saturday, February 6 or Sunday, February 7. Lesson times are 10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm or 2:15pm. Fee includes season pass for day of lesson for remainder of season.

Fee: \$145 DeWitt Residents
\$150 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 *



JUNIOR GOLF AT FOUR SEASONS (Ages 8+)



Learn the game of golf at Four Seasons. Held Saturdays, May1 - May 29. Class times are 9am **OR** 10am. Balls and clubs will be provided.

Fee: \$105 Residents
\$110 All others

PEN PAL PROGRAM

Are you ready to make a new friend and brighten someone's day? 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 pen pal today!



SATURDAY MORNING SKILLS AND DRILLS BASKETBALL TRAINING CAMP



J-D Girls Varsity Basketball coach Kurt Sweeney is conducting small group basketball instruction for boys and girls on Saturday mornings this spring at

Carrier Park. Athletes in grades 2-7 will have the opportunity to work on all basketball skills including defensive positioning, dribbling, shooting, passing and more!

Dates and registration information for this program will be available in March 2021. Updates will be posted on RecDesk at townofdewitt.recdesk.com and on Facebook at facebook.com/dewittparksandrecreation

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! **Two sessions will be offered:** Saturday, February 27 from 9:00am-3:00pm **OR** Tuesday, April 20 from 9:00am-3:00pm at the DeWitt Town Hall Activity Room.

Fee: \$35 Residents
\$40 All others

FITNESS

Live – Online Morning Power Burn with Tammy

Torch some serious calories in this 40 minute LIVE class which mixes intense cardio and resistance training. Workouts continually change to prevent you from hitting a plateau. Modifications are always provided. Equipment suggested but not necessary: 2 sets of dumbbells, 1 heavier and lighter, Yoga mat and resistance band loops. Held Wednesdays and Fridays, January 27 - May 7 (not 2/17, 2/19, 3/31, 4/2) from 10:15-10:55am.

Fees: \$86 Wednesdays Only Residents
\$91 All others
\$86 Fridays Only Residents
\$91 All others
\$156 Wednesdays & Fridays Residents
\$161 All others

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, January 26 – May 6 (not 2/16, 2/18, 3/30, 4/1) from 6:00-6:40pm.

Fees: \$86 Tuesdays Only Residents
\$91 All others
\$86 Thursdays Only Residents
\$91 All others
\$156 Tuesdays & Thursdays Residents
\$161 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, January 25 – May 3 (not 2/15, 3/29) from 6:00-7:00pm.

Fee: \$105 Residents
\$110 All others

IMPORTANT NOTE: When registering for online fitness 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.

GOLF

Four Seasons Spring Golf (Ages 14+)

Enjoy five weeks of one-hour golf lessons covering all aspects of the game. Held Wednesdays, April 28 - May 26. Class time are 5:30 **OR** 6:30pm. Fee includes balls and clubs.

Fee: \$105 Residents
\$110 All others



We want to hear from you!

Do you have a program idea you'd like to see offered by the Town? Are you an instructor looking to teach classes in DeWitt? The Recreation Department would like to hear from you!

Contact us at (315) 446-3910 x 9, recreation@townofdewitt.com or on social media to share your ideas for future programs, classes and events!

A blue rectangular graphic containing social media contact information. The top section features the Facebook logo, a thumbs-up icon, and the text 'Like us on Facebook' followed by the handle '@DeWittParksandRecreation'. The bottom section features the Instagram logo and the text 'Follow us on Instagram' followed by the handle '@DeWittRecreation'.

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

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 is offering grab-and-go lunches at the DeWitt Community Room on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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.

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 Adult & Long Term Care Services (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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

6/12 - 6/13

16U KICKOFF CLASSIC

6/19 - 6/20

18U FATHER'S DAY FACE OFF

6/26 - 6/27

10U/12U FIELD OF DREAMS FRENZY

7/3 - 7/4

14U/16U INDEPENDENCE PLAY TOURNAMENT

7/10 - 7/11

11U/12U FIELD OF DREAMS FACE OFF

7/16 - 7/18

18U NYS FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

7/24 - 7/25

9U/10U DEWITT DIAMOND DUEL

7/30 - 8/1

16U NYS FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

8/14 - 8/15

12U/14U CARRIER CLASSIC

8/21 - 8/22

SYRACUSE SPECTACULAR

8/28 - 8/29

10U/12U DIAMOND DAZZLER

For more information on how to register, please visit:
carrierpark.org/tournaments



more than you think.

DEWITT PHOTO CONTEST



WINNERS

We're building community.



JEANNE MARINELLI -NATURE-



ALEXANDRA HALSTEAD
-PETS-



GRACE CARROLL
-ARCHITECTURE-



CARMEL MEZZALINGUA -PEOPLE-










**For more information, please visit
townofdewitt.com**

NEW! Town of DeWitt Website

We're building better community connections in 2021...

Building community connections begins with better communication. Our new town website will offer residents, businesses, and visitors clear, concise, and engaging news, stories, updates, and information; easily available and easy to navigate. Watch for our website launch in early 2021!

The new website will offer the following features:

-  Sign up for email and/or text notifications: news, emergency alerts, special events, newsletters, day camp updates, programming additions & changes, town hall closings, seasonal & services news.
-  User friendly, easy to navigate.
-  Fully responsive site: works on any computer or mobile device.
-  Add town calendar/town calendar events to your personal device.
-  Connect with us on social media.
-  Contact any department by phone or email from your mobile device.
-  Quick access to the Town of DeWitt Police and Carrier Park websites.
-  Specialty pages for bids, staff directories, photo galleries and more!
-  Coming soon: more online, fillable forms; save trips to Town Hall by handling your town business online.



"The best way to build community is better communication. Our new town website will support us to do just that - build better communication and connections with residents, businesses, visitors, and neighboring communities. On a daily basis, so much of our media is coming from the top down. Now however, as we've seen with the challenges of the COVID-19 virus, we need community connection and communication more than ever."

*Ed Michalenko,
Town of DeWitt Supervisor*

We're building community.

