



TOWN OF

COLONIE CHRONICLE

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TOWN BOARD

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Deputy Supervisor

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Board Member

DAVID GREEN
Board Member

LINDA J. MURPHY
Board Member

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Board Member

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Board Member

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MAHAN



Dear Fellow Colonie Resident,

Spring has seemed a long time coming, and I know we are all ready to get out and enjoy some warm, sunny weather. Here in Colonie, we've been busy – starting up our free curbside yard waste service, planning summer programs, and readying our recreational facilities. I invite everyone to come out and enjoy our beautiful parks, bike path, golf course, and athletic fields.

Once again, I was very proud when Colonie was named "Best Suburb" in this year's annual *Times Union* readers' poll. That's the fourth year in a row Colonie has been named to the top spot. It is really an honor to receive these rankings, which are a great vote of confidence for the life we enjoy here in Colonie.

This year, we are continuing our long-term efforts to rebuild an aging infrastructure, focusing major efforts on strengthening our drinking water and sanitary sewer systems. These are significant investments designed to safeguard these systems far in into the future – investments that are made possible only because of the Town's stable financial position. We're also in the eighth year of our paving program, with 98 percent of our major feeder roads now at good or excellent condition.

Once again, our 2017 operating budget holds the line on spending, and the Town has met the requirements of the NYS tax levy cap for the sixth year in a row. That means our residents will be able to benefit from the state's tax rebate program again this year.

We have also been busy with the Town's review of its 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The goal is not to replace the plan, but to supplement it through a careful review process that is involving residents through review committee meetings, community forums, and a survey. Articles on the review process, as well as the other accomplishments I've mentioned, can be found in this issue of *The Chronicle*.

Finally, the Farmers' Market at The Crossings will open May 20 with an exciting mix of new and returning vendors, a featured clown each week, and live music on many market days. It's a great way to spend some time on Saturdays through September 30 – buying farm-fresh products, getting some fresh air, and meeting and greeting your neighbors.

Have a safe and happy summer season!

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan

Paula A. Mahan
Colonie Town Supervisor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farmers' Market at The Crossings
Saturdays, May 20 – September 30
9 am to 1 pm

Fort Orange Garden Club Plant Sale
Saturday, May 13, 9 am – 2 pm
Pruyn House Buhrmaster Barn
(Proceeds support Pruy House Gardens)

Town Park Opens
Saturday, May 6
Daily, 10 a.m. – Dusk

Town Band Concert
Monday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. (Free)
Colonie Memorial Town Hall

Town Pool Opens
Saturday, June 24
Noon – 7 pm, Daily

Summer Enrichment Program
June 26 – July 28
Arts, music, sports classes for K-12
783-2760 for registration info

Playground Program
June 26 – August 4 (Various Playgrounds)
783-2760 or colonie.org for info

Learn-to-Swim, Guard Start & Water Safety Programs
June 26 – July 7
Colonie Town Pool
783-2760 or colonie.org for info, registration

Tennis Instruction Programs
Five-Week Program Begins July 10
Various Locations
783-2760 or colonie.org for info

Thursday Night Concerts at The Crossings
Thursdays in July & August, 6:30 to 8:00 pm (Free)
Schedule TBA
Sponsored by Joseph Vellano & Vellano Brothers, Inc.
456-2136 or colonie.org for info

Pruyn House Concerts in the Barn
Wednesdays, July 12 – August 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
(\$5.00 adult donation; children 12 and under, free)

Pruyn House Old Fashioned Sunday
Sunday, September 10 – Noon to 4 pm (Free)
Family fun for all ages.
783-1435 or colonie.org/departments/pruynhouse/

Harvest Fest – The Crossings
Sunday, September 17 – Noon to 4:00 p.m. (Free)
Family fun for all ages.
456-2136 or colonie.org for info



Inspecting the Ranks: Supervisor Paula Mahan and other Town officials joined the Colonie Police Department for the annual inspection of Explorer Post 185. Also pictured are Supervisor Mahan, first row, fourth from right; Town board members Chris Carey and Paul Rosano, first row right, respectively; Town Board member Linda Murphy, second row left; and Chief Jonathan Teale and Chaplain Father Mark Reamer, last row, far right.

SUPERVISOR DELIVERS 2017 STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

Supervisor Paula A. Mahan delivered her annual State of the Town address earlier this year before the Colonie Town Board and also at an Albany-Regional Chamber event. Key points are summarized below.

- 2017 promises to be a milestone year for Colonie as we complete the process of updating the Town's 2005 Comprehensive Plan.
- The review process will provide the opportunity to modify parts of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan that may need to be adjusted.
- Colonie was once again named "Best Suburban Community" in the 2016 *Times Union* Reader's Poll. (Note: In the just-released 2017 *Times Union* Reader's Poll, Colonie was again named Best Suburb – earning us the top spot for the fourth year in a row.)
- In April 2016, a Siena College Research Institute survey found an "overwhelming" 97 percent of Colonie residents rated Colonie as a great place to raise a family.
- I'm proud that we've brought the Colonie Police Department's regular staffing level to 112 officers, the highest number in 25 years.
- Our EMS Department is in line to receive the American Heart Association's Gold Plus Award for excellence in emergency cardiac care -- a huge honor!
- When I assumed office in 2008, we inherited an operating budget of \$91.8 million. Our 2017 operating budget is only \$88.9 million!
- Our taxpayers will be able to benefit from the NYS Tax Rebate Program, because our 2017 budget once again meets the requirements of the NYS Tax Levy Cap.
- By the end of 2017, we will have invested \$14 million to update our drinking water infrastructure.
- We will have invested \$10 million in long-term infrastructure improvements for our sewers.
- I'm glad to report that 95 percent of the Town's major feeder roads are now at very good or excellent condition -- and we are making good progress with our residential streets.
- New pool filtration systems will be installed at the Town Park this year and a new splash pad is planned for next year.
- Last summer we installed a beautiful new barrier-free playground at the Town Park.
- I am confident of another great year!

The Colonie Chronicle

Paula A. Mahan, Town Supervisor
Sara Wiest, Editor

The *Colonie Chronicle* is published periodically by the Town of Colonie to provide residents with information on Town happenings and services. For more information, call 518-783-2728 or e-mail the editor at: wiests@colonie.org

The 2017 State of the Town is posted at: www.colonie.org

COLONIE NAMED BEST SUBURB IN T.U. POLL

Colonie was recently named “Best Suburb” in the *Times Union’s* Best of the Capital Region annual readers’ poll—the fourth year in a row Colonie has been voted to the top spot. More than 13,000 readers responded to determine poll winners.

“Impossible to classify, not beholden to any one demographic, except the one that exemplifies pride of place,” wrote the poll’s editors about Colonie in the TU’s *518 Life* magazine, where poll results were recently published.

Times Union readers also chose The William K. Sanford Town Library as the best local library. “A bursting-at-the-seams quality can be felt in this well-used venue. . . .With its meeting space, kid’s activity room and two-tiered supply of books, it can accommodate a lot of what Colonie residents need,” said poll editors.

Finally, according to *Times Union* readers Colonie has many of the best services around, including best shopping mall, bookstore, movie theater, ethnic market, coffee shop, spa, florist, and vet; the best locally owned hotel, restaurant, and grocery, and the area’s best Italian, Japanese, Thai, and Indian restaurants.

“I am proud that so many *Times Union* readers voted for Colonie in the readers’ poll. We take a lot of pride in our Town, and we’re very lucky to live in such a great community. It’s truly an honor to receive these outstanding rankings,” said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan.



Variety, Fun, Nutrition: The Farmer’s Market at The Crossings will open for the season May 20 with a mix of new and returning vendors and a featured clown each week. It’s a great place to buy a variety of farm-fresh and locally produced products in a welcoming environment. Live music on many Saturdays adds to the relaxed atmosphere. Visit the market every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm through September 30.



Arbor Day Ardor: Colonie residents can receive free tree seedlings on Saturday, May 6 at the Town Library from 9 am to Noon -- or until all seedlings are gone. Each year, volunteers help the Town’s Conservation Advisory Council prepare for the Arbor Day event by individually wrapping each seedling, as these students did for last year’s event.

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY WITH FREE SEEDLINGS

The Town will celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday, May 6 with one its most popular events – a free seedling giveaway overseen by the Town’s Conservation Advisory Council.

Residents may pick up seedlings on the grounds of the William K. Sanford Town Library, from 9 a.m. to Noon – or until seedlings are gone.

This year’s seedlings include beach plum, butternut, Douglas fir, highbush cranberry, Osage orange, northern white cedar, red osier dogwood, red stem dogwood, sand cherry, toringo crabapple, and wetland rose.

Representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Fort Orange Garden Club, and the Pine Bush Preserve will be on hand to answer questions. Each seedling also comes with planting instructions. Come early for the best selection!

COLONIE EARNS ‘TREE CITY USA’ STATUS

Colonie has been named a Tree City USA, a designation announced by the Arbor Day Foundation at a ceremony in Colonie in late March.

To achieve Tree City USA status, Colonie had to meet the four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department; having a community tree ordinance; spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

“To be named a Tree City is a great honor which recognizes the Town’s ongoing stewardship of our trees. I want to thank the Conservation Advisory Council for its leadership in applying for the Tree City USA designation,” said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan.

Tree City USA provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees through direction, technical assistance on the systematic management of tree resources, and public recognition.

COLONIE REVIEWING TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THROUGH

What is the 2005 Comprehensive Plan?

Adopted by the Town Board in 2005, The Comprehensive Plan provided a vision and set Town-wide goals and objectives for Colonie's future.

How was the 2005 Comprehensive Plan formulated?

It was compiled by Saratoga Associates following a lengthy process which involved the community and Town government.

What are the key goals?

The plan laid out a template for the future with specific goals ranging from immediate to long-term actions. These goals address key areas such as quality of life, conservation of natural resources, and smart development strategies.

What is happening with the 2005 Plan?

Last June, the Town began a review of the plan in a collaborative process involving the community, a review committee, and external consultants. The review process considers the actions and forward movement of the plan since 2005 and looks toward its next life cycle.

Is the goal to replace the 2005 Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan will not be replaced but supplemented through the review process. The objective is to review the plan and determine if there are areas that should be updated or modified.

What is the review process?

A broad-based committee has been reviewing the plan in a series of focused monthly meetings. Committee meetings are open to the public and include time for public comment. External consultants guide the overall process.

How else is the community being engaged?

Six community meetings were conducted throughout the Town, with meeting notes published on a Town website. In addition, findings from the community meetings are summarized in a single document. Additionally, our newly created Comprehensive Plan website allows direct communication from the residents to our committee.

How can I access these findings?

Notes from the community meetings and the summary document, as well those from each Comprehensive Review Plan Committee meeting, are published on the Comprehensive Plan website:

<http://coloniepedd.org/index.php?page=182>

Will there be other efforts to reach Town residents?

The Siena Research Institute is conducting a survey to sample the opinions of a diverse cross-section of residents.

How has this administration realized Plan goals?

Our key objectives have been taken directly from the Comprehensive Plan, especially in areas such as redevelopment, quality of life, open space, and recreational facilities.

What do you mean by redevelopment?

Redevelopment is the adaptive re-use of existing properties. Examples are the new Latham Circle Mall and Fresh Market Commons. We see redevelopment along the Route 9, Wolf Road, Route 7, Central Avenue, and Route 2 corridors. As a result, our business corridors have been reborn, providing an exciting new range of services.

How have you enhanced recreational opportunities?

As one example, we created a new passive park on River Road, returning 12.3 acres of prime property to public use. The park provides a new connection to the bike path, one of four new connectors added under this administration, another key plan goal. Last year we installed a beautiful new barrier-free playground at the Town Park, among many other improvements there.



Fulfilling Comprehensive Plan Goals: Above, last summer the Town installed a beautiful new barrier-free playground at the Town Park, among other recent improvements. Below, last fall the Open Space Institute deeded 23 acres of open parkland at Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park to the Town. Here, Supervisor Paula Mahan thanks OSI's Dawn Haight and Eileen Larrabee (left and right of sign) for the transfer. Also pictured, from left, are Charley Flanagan, Town Historian Kevin Franklin, Tony Brankman, and BeBe Morehead.

UGH COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

Any other goals related to development?

The plan directs the Town to create a business-friendly environment supporting a diverse economic base. We have done that very successfully. We also created a “clear, predictable, and fair” project approval process – again as specified in the 2005 Plan.

What about open space?

We’ve consistently increased open space. Recently, we took ownership of 23-acres of open parkland at Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park, 127 acres along Sand Creek Road, and another 23 acres along Route 9, among others. The Town now has 1,155 acres of Town-owned recreational and open space.

Are utility easements reflected in the 1,155-acre total?

No, utility and storm water easements are not reflected in the total. Nor are almost 100 acres of conservation easements, additional parcels deeded to the Town that exist simply as undisturbed open space.

In what other areas have you worked to implement Comprehensive Plan goals?

The 2005 Comprehensive Plan directs the town to encourage “a mix of housing types for seniors.” That has been a key goal for us. We are excited about affordably priced senior apartments being developed on Elks Lane and at the former Little Sisters of the Poor, among other senior housing options.

In addition, the plan recommends construction of mixed-node communities to create “pedestrian-friendly village centers.” Both the Village at New Loudon on Route 9 and the Crisafulli apartments on Aviation Drive fulfill that goal.

Are there areas you think need changing?

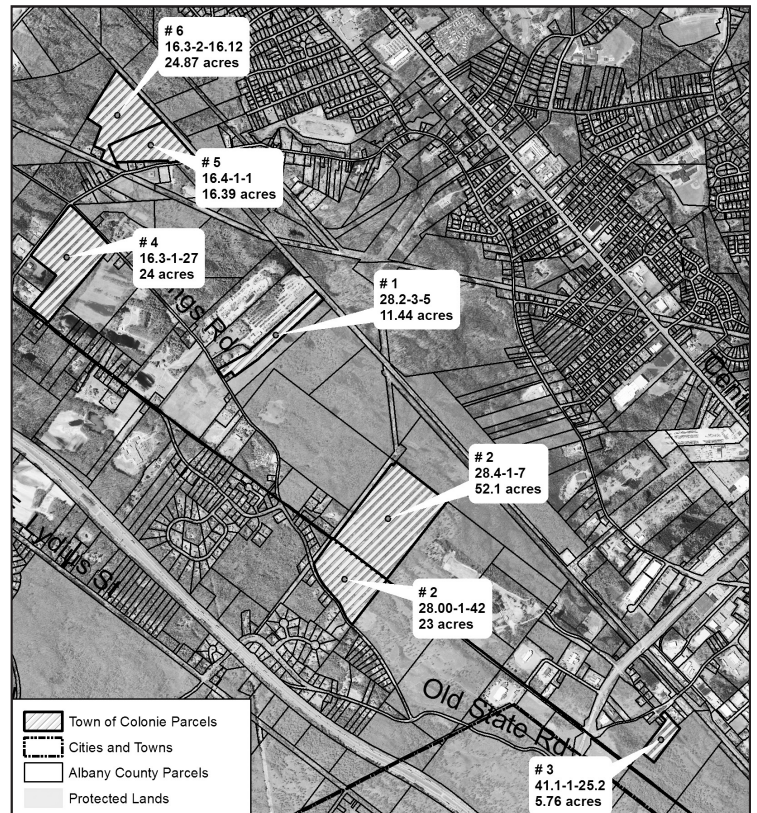
Many zoning provisions were changed to support the 2005 Comprehensive Plan goals through adoption of the 2007 Land Use Law. One of the most significant changes required a 25-foot front-yard setback for new construction. This requirement created a streetscape most noticeable in the redevelopments along Route 9. Interestingly, this is a design feature many residents say they would like to see changed.

How about density?

Many of the larger Planned Development District projects being developed today actually pre-date this administration. Then, their increased densities met 2005 Comprehensive Plan goals. However, we now have an opportunity through the review process to take a new look at the issue of density.

How will updates/changes to the Comprehensive Plan be implemented?

The Comprehensive Plan Review Committee is tasked to evaluate all the information gathered through the review process, ultimately formulating recommendations that will be presented to the Town Board. Once adopted, these recommendations will provide an updated template for the Town’s future.



Dedicated to the Pine Bush: Late last year, the Colonie Town Board voted to dedicate 157.56 acres of vacant Town-owned land to the Albany Pine Bush Commission, which accepted dedication of the land earlier this year. The seven parcels shown above will now be managed and controlled by the Commission as part of the Albany Pine Bush Management Plan, further enhancing and protecting this unique ecosystem.



COLONIE PHONE DIRECTORY

Main Line	783-2700	Landfill	783-2827
Animal Control	783-2711	Latham Water Dist.	783-2750
Assessor	783-2701	Library	458-9274
Attorney	783-2704	Management Information Services	783-2895
Building	783-2706	Planning & Economic Development	783-2741
Civil Service	783-2721	Police (Non Emergency)	783-2811
Community Development	783-2718	Pruyn House	783-1435
Comptroller	783-2708	Public Works Engineering ..	783-6292
Emergency Management & Planning	782-2609	Pure Waters (Sewer)	783-2766
EMS	782-2645	Recreation	783-2760
Environmental Svcs.	783-2827	Senior Resources	459-5051
Fire Services	783-2712	Supervisor	783-2728
General Services	783-2726	Tax Department	783-2730
Highway	783-2795	Town Clerk	783-2734
Historian	782-2601	Youth Bureau	456-2135
Human Resources	783-2720		
Justice	783-2714		

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2017

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION



**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-494-2273
MONDAY – FRIDAY 9 - 5 PM**
*Reservations are accepted no sooner than 30 days prior to the scheduled drop off day.
Residents of the Town of Colonie will be accepted by appointment only.
Proof of Residency will be required at the time of disposal.*



DROP-OFF DAYS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19

4:00pm - 7:00pm

SATURDAY JUNE 24

3:00pm - 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13

4:00pm - 7:00pm

WHERE

TOWN OF COLONIE LANDFILL
1319 LOUDON RD. (RT. 9)
COHOES, NY 12047

SPONSORED BY

TOWN OF COLONIE DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TOWN OF COLONIE
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION



PRACTICE POLLUTION PREVENTION

Stormwater runoff is rain that falls on roofs, lawns, or paved areas, and is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes or culverts and ditches. As it flows over the land surface, it can be contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. This untreated water is then discharged directly into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

What you can do to help:

- Recycle used motor oil
- Participate in Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
- Use hazardous substances in the smallest amounts possible

Please recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other fluids—Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains!

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

REMEMBER THE "BEST METHOD" FOR DISPOSAL OF UNRESTRICTED PESTICIDES IS PROPER USE. IF NOT BANNED, RESTRICTED, OR OUTDATED, USE ACCORDING TO DIRECTIONS OR GIVE TO A FRIEND TO USE.

Acids	Dry Gas	Muriatic Acid	Rat Poison
Adhesives	Dyes	Nail Polish	Rust Solvents
Aerosols	Epoxies	Nail Polish Remover	Solvents
Boric Acid	Flea Collars & Powders	No-Pest Strips	Spot Remover
Brake Fluid	Hair Removers	Oven Cleaners	Toilet Bowl Cleaners
Cements	Herbicides	Paints: Latex & Oil Based	Tub & Tile Cleaners
Charcoal Lighters	Inks	Paint Remover	Turpentine
Chlorine	Insecticides	Paint Thinner	Varnish
Cleaning Fluid	Insect Repellants	Permanent Solutions	Weed Killers
Corn & Wart Remover	Lacquers	Pesticides	Wood Pesticides (Some)
Degreasers	Lubricants	Photo Chemicals	Wood Polishes
Disinfectants	Moth Balls or Flakes	Pool Chemicals	Wood Stains

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

ASBESTOS
ANTI-FREEZE*
BIOLOGICAL OR MEDICAL WASTES
DIOXIN SUSPECT PESTICIDES
(2,4,5T, CERTAIN FORMULATIONS OF WEED-BE-GONE AND SILVEX)
ELECTRONICS (TV AND COMPUTER)*
EXPLOSIVES AND FLARES
PCB'S
PENTACHLOROPHENOL
PRESSURIZED TANKS AND GAS CYLINDERS
(PROPANE TANKS)*
RADIOACTIVE WASTE (SMOKE DETECTORS)
WASTE OIL*

* These materials can be brought to the Town of Colonie Landfill during regular business hours for recycling.

2017 YARD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Please Note

Regularly scheduled weekly pick-ups run from April 10 to November 3 in 2017. After November 3, the Town will continue to collect yard waste, but not on the regular weekly schedule. Unscheduled curbside collection will continue through December 8, weather permitting.

Program Guidelines

For ease of handling, we prefer yard waste to be packed in biodegradable bags. They can be purchased at local supermarkets, hardware stores, and home centers.

Yard waste may also be placed in reusable containers no larger than 32 gallons in volume and weighing no more than 40 pounds. It is no longer necessary to identify reusable containers with stickers purchased from the Town.

Residents may also bring compostable yard waste at no charge to the Landfill compost facility at 1319 Loudon Road, Cohoes, during normal summer business hours (Monday-Friday, 7 am to 3 pm; Saturdays 7 am-2 pm).

Residents may pick up free compost beginning May 4. (Note: Compost is not recommended for vegetable gardens, but can be used as mulch, a soil conditioner, to establish a lawn, or as an ornamental plant potting soil.)

Holiday Collection

When a legal holiday falls on a collection day, pick up for ALL fire districts may occur on another day during the week.

ACCEPTABLE YARD WASTE

- LAWN CLIPPINGS
- LEAVES
- PLANT DEBRIS
- HAY
- BRANCHES & BRUSH UP TO 3 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND 4 FEET IN LENGTH, TIED WITH STRING IN MANAGEABLE BUNDLES (NO WIRE)

UNACCEPTABLE YARD WASTE

- BAGS OR CONTAINERS OVER 40 LBS. IN WEIGHT OR 32 GALLONS IN VOLUME
- YARD WASTE IN PLASTIC BAGS (INCLUDING ORANGE PUMPKIN BAGS)
- WREATHS (BECAUSE OF WIRE)
- BRANCHES OR BRUSH NOT BUNDLED WITH TWINE OR IN BIODEGRADABLE BAGS
- BRANCHES STUFFED IN CONTAINERS
- YARD WASTE CONTAINING ROCKS, SOD, OR DIRT
- YARD WASTE FROZEN IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS
- TREATED WOOD
- CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION DEBRIS
- NON-ORGANIC MATERIAL, INCLUDING METAL OF ANYTYPE

WEEKLY COLLECTION IS SCHEDULED BY FIRE DISTRICT

PICK UP RUNS APRIL 10 TO NOV. 3	MONDAY	MIDWAY & STANFORD HEIGHTS
	TUESDAY	SHAKER ROAD/LOUDONVILLE
	WEDNESDAY	LATHAM & SCHUYLER HEIGHTS
	THURSDAY	BOGHT, VERDOY & MAPLEWOOD
	FRIDAY	FULLER ROAD & WEST ALBANY



**TOWN OF
COLONIE**
783-LEAF (5323)



**VILLAGE OF
COLONIE**
869-7562



**VILLAGE OF
MENANDS**
434-2922



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www.colonie.org

UPGRADES TO INFRASTRUCTURE KEEP TOWN RUNNING SMOOTHLY

Colonie is a big town, crisscrossed by 320 miles of road, 2.5 million feet of water main, and 2 million feet of sanitary sewer pipe. We have 1,155 acres of recreational and open space. That's a lot of ground to cover, and every year the Town undertakes projects both large and small to keep things running smoothly.

Currently, the largest projects are those to update the complex and aging infrastructures that support the Town's drinking water and sanitary sewer systems. By the end of 2017, Colonie will have recently invested about \$14 million in long-term improvements for its drinking water systems and \$10 million for its sanitary sewer systems. Significant investment will continue.

Not far behind is ongoing investment in Town roads. The Town is now in the eighth year of a \$2 million-per-year paving program to fund paving and drainage improvement projects. Today, the Town has brought back 95 percent of its major feeder roads to very good or excellent condition and is making steady progress on residential streets.

Among smaller projects – but still not small – are recent enhancements to the Colonie Town Park on Schermerhorn Road, including a new filtration system and liners for our pools and a beautiful barrier-free playground. Next year, we are planning to add a new splash pool for children.

Such new investment is possible only because the Town has been brought back to a stable financial position. “We have worked very hard to get to the point where we can afford to undertake these major improvements while still keeping taxes low. Our efforts paid off, and now we're ahead of the curve in building for the future,” said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan.

These major upgrades are in addition to the routine maintenance performed year-round on our drinking water and sewer systems, our roads and drainage systems, and our Town buildings, parks, and recreational facilities such as the Golf Course and bike path.



Governing Colonie: Students from Colonie Central, Shaker High, and CBA attended the Town's Students in Local Government Day to learn about Town government on April 7. Pictured with the students are Supervisor Paula Mahan (second row, right of center) and Town Board members Paul Rosano and Jennifer Whalen (second row, from left) and Chris Carey (back row, center).