



TOWN OF

COLONIE CHRONICLE

Fall 2011

www.colonie.org

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TOWN OFFICIALS

Paula A. Mahan
Supervisor

Nancy R. Hernandez
Deputy Supervisor

Robert D. Becker
Board Member

William E. Carl
Board Member

Daniel J. Dustin
Board Member

Daniel A. Hornick
Board Member

Linda J. Murphy
Board Member

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MAHAN

My Fellow Colonie Residents,

Summer always flies by too quickly. Before we know it our vacations are over, and we turn our attention to the busy schedules fall always seems to bring with it. It has been a good summer in Colonie, and this issue of The Chronicle will detail a few happenings for you.

Many hot days meant a busy season at the Town Pool, this year once again voted best public pool in the annual Times Union readers' poll. And children at our Youth Services Day Camp enjoyed a beautiful new playground installed by Town employees. Many thanks to everyone in the Department of Parks and Recreation for their great work again this summer.

Also this summer, Parks and Recreation offered a new tennis program funded with \$5,000 from USTA/Eastern. The program to offer low-cost tennis lessons to children and adults proved very popular, and registration exceeded expectations. Plans are to continue the program next year and beyond with continuing USTA/Eastern funding. I thank USTA/Eastern for their vote of confidence in our great Town.

Also this summer, the Town took a very positive step forward to stabilize its financial future when we signed an operating agreement for the Town's landfill while the Town retains ownership. This action will allow us to completely eliminate deficits both in the landfill fund and the general fund, as well as to set money aside for landfill debt service. You can read more about the agreement in this issue of the Chronicle as well as on the Town's website at: www.colonie.org.

Also this year, the Town completed a Route 5 Corridor Inventory Study to help the Town develop a more comprehensive Route 5 corridor redevelopment strategy. Smart redevelopment to ensure the viability of this important thoroughfare continues to be among our top priorities.

Finally, we had a very productive year in the second year of our five-year paving and drainage program. We are bringing our Town roads back to top working condition. In two years, more than 26 miles of road will have been paved and 74 stormwater management projects completed.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Old Fashioned Sunday at the Pruyn House on September 11, Harvest Fest at The Crossings on September 18, and Halloween at The Crossings on October 29.

Best wishes for a fine and productive fall season.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan
Colonie Town Supervisor



UPCOMING EVENTS

Farmers Market at the Crossings

Saturdays through September 24
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The Crossings

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturdays through September 24
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The Crossings

(Proceeds benefit the Town Library and The Crossings)
For info, call 605-5739)

Old Fashioned Sunday

(Free)
September 11
Noon – 4 p.m. – The Pruy House
Family fun for all ages
For info call The Pruy House, 783-1435

Harvest Fest

(Free)
September 18
Noon – 5:00 p.m. – The Crossings
Family fun for all ages
For info, call the Youth Bureau, 456-2135

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day

September 21
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Colonie Town Landfill
(By appointment only: call 800-494-2273)

Halloween at The Crossings

(Free)
October 29
10:00 a.m. – Noon
The Crossings

(Costume parade, music, spooky stories, refreshments)
For info call the Youth Bureau, 456-2135

Curbside Yard Waste Collection

(Free)
Collection runs through November 18

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



Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan signs the landfill operating agreement with Waste Connections, Inc.

SUPERVISOR SIGNS LANDFILL OPERATING AGREEMENT

On August 4, 2011 Colonie Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan signed an agreement with Waste Connections, Inc. authorizing the company to operate the landfill on the Town's behalf. The Town did not sell the landfill.

The action followed approval of the agreement by the Town Board on July 28, 2011.

The operating agreement guarantees more than \$85 million for Town coffers and has the potential to generate more than \$100 million over the 25-year life of the contract.

"This agreement is a great opportunity for the Town. I am proud that in spite of challenging economic times, we have found a way to return the Town to firm economic footing," Supervisor Mahan said.

As part of the agreement, the Town will receive a \$23 million upfront signing payment that will be immediately used to eliminate landfill and general fund deficits. The remainder will be held in escrow for landfill debt service.

Waste Connections will also assume more than \$20 million in future landfill closure and post-closure costs mandated by New York State, relieving Colonie taxpayers of a financial obligation looming far into the future. The company will maintain the landfill for the required 30 years following closure.

The Town will also receive annual payments totaling at least \$33.5 million, with \$2.3 million payments for the first five years and \$1.1 million payments for the remainder of the contract. If warranted, the Town may negotiate for an increase to the payments after 15 years.

Waste connections will also pay for all landfill capital improvements.

"This agreement also allows us to reap the benefits of renewed capital investment, which the Town simply cannot afford. But capital investment is necessary to keep the landfill profitable in an increasingly competitive waste management environment," Mahan said.

It has become increasingly difficult for the landfill to remain profitable. Although permitted to take in 170,500 tons of Municipal Solid Waste per year (MSW), in recent years volumes have dropped to as low as 133,000 tons. In 2010, the landfill's MSW total was 143,500 tons.

In addition, the Town will now receive the revenue generated by its waste-to-energy operation, previously used to support landfill operations. That revenue is conservatively valued at \$17.5 million over 25 years.

The Town could also realize a lump sum payment of between \$2 million and \$10.8 million and royalty payments of \$6.00 per ton over current volume limits in the event landfill operations are expanded on the current footprint at some point in the future.

Waste Connections, Inc. was selected by the Town as the preferred provider from among the six proposers who submitted proposals to operate the landfill following a Request for Proposal issued in January, 2011.

EMS CONDUCTS FREE CPR TRAINING

On June 1, the Colonie EMS Department conducted five free CPR training sessions at The Crossings, part of its continuing commitment to strengthen the “chain of survival” in instances of cardiac arrest.

In the past two years, EMS has trained more than 1,200 community members in an effort to increase the number of people in the community who can administer lifesaving CPR techniques, according to EMS Deputy Chief Peter Berry.

“Colonie EMS is at the forefront of emergency cardiac care, but their work doesn’t stop there,” said Supervisor Paula A. Mahan. “They have also dedicated themselves to educating the community about the life-saving benefits of knowing CPR, and we should all be grateful to them for their service.”

SECOND YEAR OF PAVING PROGRAM BEGINS

Work is underway on the second year of the Town’s five-year, \$10 million paving and drainage program to improve the Town’s roads and stormwater system.

“This program was necessary in order to bring Colonie’s roads back to top working condition,” said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan. “We needed to return the Town to a regularized repaving schedule and address some important stormwater issues.”

One of the largest towns in the U.S with 57 square miles, Colonie has 320 miles of Town road, each of which should be replaced every twelve to fifteen years. About 12.25 road miles on 51 streets were paved last year.

This year, 14 road miles on 35 streets are being repaved. Roads are selected based on road conditions, usage, proximity to other roads being paved, and extension of road life, as well as cost factors.

Again this year, drainage improvement projects will tackle stormwater drainage, sinkhole repairs, culvert and dry well replacement, and sump pump tie-in repairs. Twenty-Four major storm sewer repairs will be completed through the program this year. The Town’s Highway Department also addresses stormwater-related issues throughout the year.

According to Commissioner of Public Works Jack Cunningham, “In our first two years, we will have repaved more than 26 road miles and completed 74 stormwater management projects. We are on schedule, under-budget, and more than pleased with our progress so far.”

Road construction projects are posted at www.colonie.org in advance of the start of work. (See “2011 Paving Plan” under the “News” section on the homepage.)

Paving is being performed by Callanan Construction, low bidder on the project. Storm sewer repairs are being performed by Anjo Construction, also low bidder.



Better Path to Good Reading: Top, workmen prepare to put new curbing in place at the William K. Sanford Town Library in June. The new curbs were part of a project to repave the library’s parking lot, as well as to replace sidewalks and reconfigure the approach to the library.

A REMINDER ON FERAL CATS

The Colonie Feral Cat Program was adopted by the Town Board in the summer of 2010 to address health and safety concerns of some residents regarding feral and stray cats.

The Town’s preferred Trap-Neuter-Release approach to this problem resulted in the Town acquiring Havahart Animal Traps that can be lent to residents at no charge. Working through citizen volunteer groups and local veterinarians, feral cats that have been trapped are neutered, spayed, and vaccinated.

Information on obtaining traps and related facts regarding this program can be obtained by contacting Colonie Animal Control at 783-2711.

TOWN COMPLETES ROUTE 5 INVENTORY STUDY

In June, the Town of Colonie completed a Central Avenue Corridor Inventory Study that will be used as the basis for a more comprehensive Route 5 Corridor redevelopment strategy.

The inventory was prepared by the Town's Department of Planning and Economic Development and provides a complete overview of land use, lot sizes, infrastructure, vacant properties, unused buildings, and environmental resources along Route 5 in Colonie.

"Route 5 redevelopment has been one of our major priorities, and we have had some notable successes. This inventory will help us move even more strategically to ensure that Route 5 remains a viable 'Main Street' for Colonie," said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan.

The inventory found that Route 5 provides essential retail and office space for the region's small and start-up businesses, the biggest engines of job growth. At the same time, some of the Town's most densely populated residential areas border on portions of the Corridor.

"We need to be sure that future redevelopment efforts protect and enhance the quality of life for the residents who live there," Supervisor Mahan said.

The study recommended that allowed uses should be compatible with the single family residential nature of the area, and those that are not, such as motel and hotel uses, should not be expanded.

The study also recommended that the Town consider economic and redevelopment incentives for this corridor, including a shortened internal review process for redevelopment proposals, and the possibility of modifying green space requirements, concluding that the amount of green space is not as important as the quality and design of that space.

Among conclusions are that corridor access management should be promoted by minimizing access points along Route 5, and shared driveways and access to side streets should be promoted. This would improve capacity and traffic control as recommended in the NY5 Access Management Plan.

Working with Town departments, Town of Colonie Senior Planner Michael Lyons authored the document.

To view the Central Avenue Corridor Inventory Study visit the Town of Colonie website at www.colonie.org.

COLONIE PHONE DIRECTORY

Main Line	783-2700
Animal Control	783-2711
Assessor	783-2701
Attorney.....	783-2704
Building.....	783-2706
Civil Service	783-2721
Community Development...	783-2718
Comptroller	783-2708
Emergency Management & Planning.....	782-2609
EMS.....	782-2645
Fire Services	783-2712
General Services.....	783-2726
Historian.....	782-2593
Human Resources.....	783-2720
Justice.....	783-2714
Library.....	458-9274
MIS.....	783-2895
Planning & Economic Development	783-2741
Police (Non Emergency)	783-2811
Pruyn House	783-1435
Public Works Engineering ..	783-6292
Environmental Svcs.	783-2827
Highway.....	783-2795
Latham Water Dist.	783-2750
Pure Waters	783-2766
Recreation	783-2760
Senior Resources	459-5051
Supervisor.....	783-2728
Tax Department	783-2730
Town Clerk.....	783-2734
Youth Bureau	456-2135



The 2011 Shaker High School Varsity Baseball Team received a proclamation from Town Supervisor Paula Mahan, second from left, at the Colonie Town Board meeting on June 23 recognizing the team's accomplishment in winning the Section II Class AA Championship, the N.Y.S. Class AA Regional Championship, and playing in the N.Y.S. Class AA New York State Championship Game -- the furthest any North Colonie team has advanced in a Five Classification Sport. Also pictured are Assistant Coach Wayne Jones and Assistant Coach Justin Perry, first and second from left, second row and Head Coach Steve Frank, second row, far right.



COLONIE RECEIVES U.S. TENNIS ASSOCIATION FUNDING

A \$5,000 grant from the United States Tennis Association/Eastern funded a new tennis program offered this summer by the Town's Department of Parks and Recreation.

USTA/Eastern will also fund the program for each of the next four years, for a total of five years of funding dedicated to providing low-cost group tennis instruction for children and adults.

Response to the program was strong from both children and adults. When all spots in the program were quickly filled, a few more spots were added to accommodate as many people as possible.

"I am proud that Colonie was selected to offer this exciting new program," said Colonie Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan. "I want to thank Director of Community Services Alicia Osur for her work in securing this funding and the United States Tennis Association/Eastern for its support of Colonie."

Osur said that the Department of Parks and Recreation continually looks for ways to enhance recreational opportunities for residents, especially through programs that can be offered free or at low cost. "We also really like that this is a program geared to the entire family," she said.

Osur also said tennis is a lifelong sport that when played on public courts requires little investment beyond a racket and tennis balls.

Gerry Cuva, Vice President USTA/Eastern, said that funding the program is consistent with the USTA's mission of "promoting and growing the game of tennis." He also said that part of the goal in funding the Colonie program was to create a family-friendly program that could involve both children and adults.

The program provided participants with one tennis lesson each week for five weeks, with each lesson lasting one and a half hours. Classes reflected the age and skill level of the students.

The Town charged a modest participation fee for the program. Osur said that the fees will help build the program for the future. "We anticipate expanding the program next year, adding additional locations throughout Colonie," she said.



Ball's in Our Court: USTA/Eastern Vice President Gerry Cuva, at back, at the Shaker High School tennis courts to announce the new Town of Colonie tennis program funded by USTA/Eastern. Also pictured are, second row from left, Colonie Director of Community Services Alicia Osur, USTA/Eastern Tennis Service Representative Jenny Irwin, and Colonie Town Supervisor Paula Mahan as well as a group of young tennis enthusiasts. The five-week program provided low-cost group tennis lessons to children and adults this summer.



Happy Campers: Colonie Town Supervisor Paula Mahan, second from left, fourth row, and youngsters from the Colonie Youth Center Summer Camp get a first-hand look at new playground equipment at the Colonie Community Center. Also shown are, fourth row, from left, Town of Colonie Recreation Maintenance Foreman Dennis Freese and Recreation Maintenance Workers Keith Kowaleski and Joe Maiello, who prepared the site and installed the new equipment. The new playground was designed to appeal to kids of all ages.



Explorers Honored: Members of the Colonie Police Explorers Post 185 received a congratulatory proclamation from Town Supervisor Paula Mahan at the Colonie Town Board meeting on June 23. The post was recognized for winning Overall First Place in the 2011 Massachusetts Law Enforcement Explorer Competition. Colonie Police Explorer Post 185 is a chartered organization of the Boy Scouts of America sponsored by the Colonie Police Department and is made up of young men and women interested in learning more about a career in law enforcement.



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Town of Colonie
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LANDFILL OPERATING AGREEMENT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Note: On July 28, 2011, the Town Board approved an agreement authorizing Waste Connections, Inc. to operate the landfill on behalf of the Town. Below are answers to some questions about what the agreement means to the Town of Colonie and its residents. The agreement has been posted at: www.colonie.org.

Did you sell the Landfill?

We did not sell the landfill. We still own it. Waste Connections, Inc. will operate the landfill on behalf of the Town.

How does the operating agreement with Waste Connections, Inc. benefit Colonie taxpayers?

The landfill agreement saves taxpayers millions of dollars in current and future financial obligations.

Will my rates increase for curbside trash pick-up?

For the first time ever, annual curbside rate increases will be capped for Town residents who are customers of Waste Connections. Also, the cap applies to tipping fees for the Village of Colonie and the Village of Menands. Previous to the agreement, there were no such safeguards.

Can I still bring trash to the landfill?

Residents can still bring trash to the landfill. Annual rate increases at the gate will be capped.

Will I still be able to get free compost?

The landfill will still provide free compost.

Will I still get free curbside lawn and leaf pickup?

The Town's free curbside lawn and leaf pick-up will continue as before.

Will the landfill still be open on Saturday?

Yes. The landfill will be open on Saturday.

Will I still be able to dispose of hazardous waste?

Residents will still be able to drop off hazardous household waste for free on designated days.

Will landfill employees lose their jobs?

Landfill employees are part of the Town's Department of Public Works and will be allowed to continue working within the DPW. Waste Connections will also interview those preferring to remain at the Landfill.

What if Waste Connections doesn't do a good job?

The agreement contains many safeguards. If Waste Connections does not perform as stipulated, the Town may terminate the agreement and retain all prior payments. If warranted, the agreement also provides for negotiation of higher payments to the Town after 15 years.

What if Waste Connections brings in hazardous waste?

Hazardous waste is prohibited under the Town's landfill permit, under which Waste Connections will operate. The agreement also prohibits importing waste from outside the region.

Why is Waste Connections a good fit for Colonie?

Waste Connections successfully manages landfills for several municipalities similar in size and demographics to Colonie. It is a publicly traded company with a strong credit rating. Waste Connections was also willing to cap rate increases for residents, which was important to us.

What will the Town receive from this agreement?

- **Signing Agreement.** A \$23 million signing payment means the Town can immediately eliminate both the landfill deficit and the general fund deficit. The remainder will be held in escrow for landfill debt service payments.
- **Landfill Closure Costs:** More than \$20 million in landfill closure and post-closure costs mandated by New York State will be paid on the Town's behalf. This relieves taxpayers of a significant tax obligation that would otherwise stretch far into the future.
- **Guaranteed Annual Income:** The Town receives guaranteed annual payments over the 25 years of the agreement totaling a minimum of \$33.5 million (\$2.3 million annually for the first five years and \$1.1 million annually for the remainder of the contract.)
- **Waste-to-Energy Revenue:** The Town will now receive the revenue from its waste-to-energy operation, conservatively estimated at \$700,000 a year, for a total of \$17.5 million over 25 years. Previously this revenue was used to support landfill operations.
- **Landfill Debt:** Future capital improvements at the landfill will be paid for by Waste Connections, Inc. The Town need not take on new debt for needed upgrades.
- **Bond Rating:** Elimination of landfill and general fund deficits could result in an opportunity for an upgrade to the Town's bond rating, yielding further savings.