



TOWN OF

COLONIE CHRONICLE

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A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MAHAN



Greetings.

Once again summer is drawing to a close, and we begin our fall routines. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the summer, perhaps catching a concert at The Crossings or The Pruyne House or swimming in our newly refurbished Town Pool.

This has been a momentous and exciting year. First, Colonie was named "Best Suburban Community" in the most recent Times Union readers' poll, the second year we've earned the top designation. I can't think of a greater honor for our Town.

Next, we saw the retirements of two much-admired members of our Colonie family. Chief Steven Heider retired after more than 42 years with the Colonie Police Department, and Director Richard Naylor retired after 31 years with the William K. Sanford Town Library. We wish them all the best in the future.

I am very pleased that on June 25 Jonathan M. Teale was named the Town's sixth chief of police. He has had a distinguished 25-year career with the CPD, and I am confident of his ability to lead it far into the future. In this issue of the Chronicle, he shares some thoughts on becoming Chief.

Evelyn Neale was named the new director of the William K. Sanford Town Library. She brings with her wide-ranging experience as a library director, and it is a pleasure to welcome her to Colonie.

I am happy to report we are making good progress on improving the Town's huge infrastructure. We began a second five-year paving plan and continued efforts to upgrade both our drinking water and sanitary sewer systems. We installed new, soft pool liners and an adaptive swing-set in the Town Park on Schermerhorn Road.

We also met the requirements of the 2015 tax levy cap so that our taxpayers will be able to benefit from the tax rebate program expected this fall. And, although challenging, we expect to meet the cap again next year, which will limit our 2016 tax levy growth to less than one percent.

Finally, I am proud of our success in keeping taxes low. We have been able to maintain one of the region's lowest property tax rates while continuing our full support for essential services such as public safety and supportive programs for seniors and youth.

Best wishes for a happy and productive season ahead!

Sincerely,

Paula A. Mahan

Paula A. Mahan
Colonie Town Supervisor

TOWN BOARD

PAULA A. MAHAN
Supervisor

WILLIAM E. CARL
Deputy Supervisor

DAVID GREEN
Board Member

BRIAN R. HAAK
Board Member

LINDA J. MURPHY
Board Member

PAUL L. ROSANO
Board Member

DAVID C. ROWLEY
Board Member

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farmers Market at the Crossings
Saturdays through September 12
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The Crossings

Old Fashioned Sunday
(Free)
September 13
Noon – 4 p.m.
The Pruy House

Family fun for all ages
For info call The Pruy House, 783-1435

Harvest Fest
(Free)
September 13
Noon – 5:00 p.m. – The Crossings

Family fun for all ages
For info, call the Youth Bureau, 456-2135

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
September 16
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Colonie Town Landfill

(By appointment only: call 800-742-5542)

Senior Resource Fair
(Free)
October 16
1 pm – 4 pm
The Crossings
(Refreshments)

Halloween at The Crossings
(Free)
October 24
10:30 a.m. – Noon
The Crossings

(Music, spooky stories, refreshments)
For info call the Youth Bureau, 456-2135

Curbside Yard Waste Collection
(Free)
Collection on regularly scheduled days runs through November 6. Note: Collection will continue through November, weather permitting; Please note that due to the number of holidays in November, pick-ups will not necessarily occur on your regularly scheduled day. Call 783-LEAF with questions.

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



Changing of the Guard: Supervisor Paula Mahan with the Town's new chief of police and other newly named command staff following their appointments at the June 25 Town Board meeting. From left, Lieutenant Todd Weiss, Police Chief Jonathan M. Teale, Supervisor Mahan, Deputy Chief Michael D. Woods, and Sergeant Jason A. Bach. At right is outgoing Police Chief, Steven Heider.

JONATHAN TEALE SUCCEEDS HEIDER AS COLONIE POLICE CHIEF

Jonathan M. Teale was named the Town's sixth Chief of Police at the Town Board meeting on June 28, beginning a new chapter for the Colonie Police Department. Teale was appointed to succeed Steven Heider, who served the Town as Chief for the past twelve years.

Also at the June 25 meeting, Michael Woods was named Deputy Chief for Administration.

The new Chief is a lifelong Latham resident and a 25-year veteran of the CPD, where he held several progressively responsible positions. He was most recently Deputy Chief for Administration, responsible for supervision and management of departmental training and community services, among many other duties.

"Chief Teale has a truly outstanding record of service within the Town. I am confident he will provide the able and enlightened leadership that will allow Colonie to remain one of the safest communities in the nation," said Supervisor Paula Mahan, commenting on his appointment.

Outgoing Chief Steven Heider said, "Being only the sixth Police Chief in the history of the department, he will continue to provide not only the consistency that leads to positive outcomes, but also the vision to move the department into the future."

Commenting on the appointment of Woods, Supervisor Mahan said, "His long and distinguished record of service in the CPD is well known, and he has proven many times over that he has the outstanding leadership skills necessary to succeed in this important position."

Todd Wiess was named to fill the lieutenant's position formerly held by Deputy Chief Woods, and Jason A. Bach was named to succeed Lt. Weiss as Sergeant.

COLONIE PHONE DIRECTORY

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

ONE-STOP SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

Seniors can benefit from “one-stop shopping” at a free senior resource fair to be held at The Crossings on Friday, October 16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The fair will provide a wide range of information about programs to help seniors remain independent, including in-home services, health and wellness, financial benefits, and housing options.

The One Stop Senior Resource Fair will also focus on Medicare Open Enrollment, with program representatives available to provide information on health and drug plan options. No reservation is needed, and delicious refreshments will be served. For more information, call 459-5051.

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE

Colonie seniors can get help enrolling in or changing their Medicare health and drug plans during the Medicare open enrollment period from October 15 to December 7.

The Town’s case workers are NYS health insurance counselors trained to provide unbiased assistance in navigating the many health and drug options available.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Senior Resources at 459-5051. Prior to your appointment, you will be asked to provide a copy of your Medicare card and a list of your medications.

THE LOW-DOWN ON DOWNLOADABLES

Patrons of Colonie’s town library have readily embraced OverDrive, the library’s service for downloadable ebooks, audiobooks, videos, and magazines.

In 2014, William K. Sanford Town Library patrons accounted from almost 20 percent of the downloadable checkouts in the 29-member Upper Hudson Library System – for 43,517 checkouts out of a 220,417 total.

Overdrive currently has about 20,000 items that can be borrowed and loaded onto reading and listening devices with your library card. Browse new titles and access the system at: <http://digitalcollection.uhls.org>

NIXLE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM UPDATE

More than 4,100 have signed up to receive free text or email emergency notifications issued by the Colonie Police Department through the Nixle alert system. Accounts can be customized so you receive only the information you desire. For more information or to register, visit www.nixle.com.



From A Little Acorn: Each year the Conservation Advisory Council organizes a free seedling giveaway for Town residents in honor of Arbor Day. This year, the Council increased both the variety and number of seedlings, giving them away in record time at the popular and well-attended event. Above, Council Advisory Council Member Laura Weed sets up boxes of seedlings for the event on the Town Library lawn. Below, members of the Shaker High School Key Club as they helped tackle the down and dirty work of packing 1,400 seedlings into individual bags the day before the event.

RESIDENTIAL REHAB GRANT PROGRAM

Qualified Colonie homeowners may benefit from the Town’s Residential Rehabilitation program. The program provides grants to low- and moderate-income residents for repairs to owner-occupied, single family homes.

Grants, which are based on income, range from 40 to 100 percent of the cost of bringing a home up to federal housing quality standards.

For more information or to be placed on the waiting list, call the Community Development Office at 783-2718.

TOWN'S NEW POLICE CHIEF DISCUSSES GOALS, CHALLENGES

Recently we sat down with Jonathan Teale, who began service as the Town's sixth Chief of Police on June 25. In this interview, the 25-year veteran of the Colonie Police Department shares his perspectives on the CPD, his goals for the future, and the challenges of policing today.

Q. When you joined the CPD as a patrolman in 1989, did you ever think you would become Chief?

A. I did not. My goal was to become a detective and maybe a sergeant. After more than nine-and-a-half years as a patrolman, a detective position finally opened up and I made detective.

Q. You were steadily promoted up through the ranks – to Investigator, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Administrative Lieutenant, and Deputy Chief. How did that shape your perspective?

A. I am very lucky to have worked within so many units. All of that gave me great insight into what is needed in the department and for what our people have to go through.

Q. Can you expand on that?

A. As a patrol officer I learned what it means to work on the street. I was interested in solving crimes and helping people. As a detective you are more focused on solving crimes, working with other agencies. Teamwork is very important.

As a patrol sergeant you learn how to supervise young officers, how to guide them without being overbearing, and to be there as a mentor for them. As a detective sergeant you are supervising major criminal cases. It is important to work closely with the District Attorney and other agencies.

Finally, as a lieutenant and deputy chief, I learned the administrative side of running the department, overseeing the recruitment and training process, creating budgets, and so on.

Q. What are the CPD's greatest strengths?

Fortunately, Colonie has had a great relationship with its citizens. I think we have a great staff here and officers who do a great job. We are a full service police department, selective and thorough in our training. We want to provide the best service we can.

Periodically, we need to evaluate what and how we're doing and ask ourselves if we can do it better. Recently, we've expanded efforts with the county and city to train together in various areas. Everybody gets something out of it.

I am really very proud that two of our officers, Lt. Todd Weiss and Sgt. Louis Dinuzzo, recently medaled at the World Police and Fire Games. These competitions are incredibly tough, and it's a huge honor for Colonie to have our officers do so well.



New Chief: Police Chief Jonathan M. Teale discussing his goals for the Colonie Police Department as he settles into his Public Safety Center office.

Q. What are your primary goals for the CPD?

A. My first goal is to meet staffing needs this year and next. As a result of upcoming retirements, we are going to be a much younger department. The challenge is in selecting good people.

Q. What is the greatest challenge facing the CPD?

A. The greatest challenge facing the CPD, and police in general, is one of public perception. We must never forget that ultimately we work for the people. It can be easy to lose sight of that sometimes in potentially violent or confrontational situations. That's why it is essential to have grounded individuals as police officers. And proper training is huge.

Q. Any thoughts on policing in the 21st century?

We face a very fluid crime environment and have to be ready to face a field of changing issues. Technology is great, but in the wrong hands it can be destructive. For instance, identity theft cases are increasing dramatically. That requires us to train to learn new ways to combat these crimes.

Q. How do you de-stress?

A. I love spending time with my family. Also, boating, sailing, and swimming.

Q. Any parting thoughts?

A. Long term I'd like to make training more realistic. You may be legally justified to use force, but is it necessary? It's so important to try and defuse a situation and reduce tension through communication. This is not always verbal, but mostly. Sometimes it is as simple as how you approach someone. I believe your mind is your best weapon, and communication skills are very important.



On the Podium: Colonie Police Department’s Sgt. Louis DiNuzzo, left, and Lt. Todd Weiss recently medaled in the biathlon event at the annual World Police and Fire Games. Sgt. DiNuzzo placed first overall and first in his age group (total time, 20:13). Lt. Weiss placed seventh overall and second in his age group (total time, 23:09). As a team they placed second overall and second in their age group. Officer Phillip Gerwitz played in the novice ice hockey event with a capital district team, placing third in their division. Officer David Hornberger placed fourteenth in his age group in the mountain bike competition.

MANUFACTURERS, TECH START-UPS CREATE MORE GOOD JOBS IN COLONIE

The high-tech and manufacturing sectors are quietly growing all across Colonie.

“Some companies are well-established – others are just starting up. But they’re here in Colonie, providing good jobs and a better business climate for us all,” said Supervisor Paula Mahan.

According to the Albany Business Review’s “2014 Book of Lists,” eight of the region’s top 25 technology companies are based in Colonie. Six of the region’s top 25 manufacturers are based here. Well-known players such as Phillips Healthcare, AngioDynamics, and Plug Power appear on both lists.

Among top Colonie manufacturers, number 14 is pool-maker Latham International, with 350 local employees. Protective Industrial Products is number 15 with 90 employees.

Number 17 on the list is Precision Valve and Automation. The Town actively worked to attract this high-tech manufacturer to a redeveloped Colonie industrial site in 2010. A true Colonie success story, Precision Valve employs 175 and has plans to expand.

Colonie was also chosen in 2014 when Dura Vent relocated its manufacturing operations, bringing 78 jobs to a vacant warehouse and plans to create 100 more.

Last year, an RPI start-up, Thermo Aura, moved into a redeveloped manufacturing facility on Railroad Avenue, an area the Town has actively sought to reinvigorate. Hygie-Tech USA, BestPass, and H2Pump are some other start-ups now doing business in Colonie.

Finally, Fiber-optics manufacturer Integra has expanded its Colonie operations and has doubled its workforce since 2013.

PROPOSED PROJECTS SEEK TO EXPAND AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

With seniors making up more than 20 percent of the Town’s population, it’s essential to have housing options for seniors at every income level.

“As Supervisor, I often hear from residents about the need for affordable senior housing, and I’m happy to be able to report on several new projects in Colonie,” said Supervisor Paula Mahan.

In July, the Planning Board granted concept approval for a new 100-apartment complex at 11 Elks Lane. This Colonie Senior Service Center project, to be built on land currently owned by the Colonie Elks, is designed to provide very affordable housing options for seniors.

Another recently proposed project would redevelop the former Little Sisters of the Poor residences on Jeanne Jugan Lane into 121 apartments meeting federal guidelines for low-income housing.

Also in July, the Planning Board reviewed the sketch plan for 110 units of middle-income senior housing at 33-45 Forts Ferry Road, an undeveloped parcel across from the Capital Region Health Park. If approved, construction could begin next year.

Construction has also begun on 51 townhouses for those 55 and older on Maxwell Road. The project was approved in 2007, but construction was delayed due to various factors.

In addition, the Town is continually working with the development community to find more ways to attract high-quality and affordable senior housing to Colonie.



Team Kickball: This spring, Supervisor Paula Mahan, center, joined the Colonie Police Department’s kickball team for the 2nd annual Kick It 4 Kids Corporate Challenge to benefit the Albany Police Athletic League’s youth programs. Shown among the Pioneer Bank team members (in light shirts), are members of the CPD’s winning team. From left, then-Lt. (and now Deputy Chief) Mike Woods and Sgt. Henry Rosenzweig.



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A Kinder, Gentler Pool?: The Colonie Town Pool underwent major improvements this year. At left, work proceeds to fit the pools with new, soft PVC liners, replacing the old, scratchy marsonite concrete in place for decades. At right, the big pool after its make-over, serenely awaiting the swimmers of summer.

TOWN WORKING HARD ON IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN PARK, POOL

For generations, the Colonie Town Park and the Colonie Town Pool on Schermerhorn Road have been synonymous with summer in Colonie.

“That’s why we’re working very hard to improve both the pool and the park,” said Supervisor Paula Mahan. “We’ve made excellent progress this year, and I’m confident of more good things to come.”

Last year more than 12,400 swimmers flocked to the two pools collectively referred to as the Town Pool. This spring both received make-overs of sorts, when they were completely repaired and relined with a soft, thick PVC membrane liner – replacing the scratchy cement marsonite in place for decades.

Taken all together, improvements at the Town Pool totaled about \$225,000 this year. Next year, the Town plans to replace the pool filtration system, a \$300,000 investment. After that, plans are for new pool covers at \$100,000.

Last year, ADA-compliant lifts were installed at each pool. New showers were installed in both the boys’ and girls’ locker

rooms, with an ADA-compliant shower in each. In addition, the tennis courts were resurfaced.

This summer, the Town installed an adaptive swing set in the playground. It has two toddler swings, two regular swings, and two ADA-compliant swings. It also has an ADA-compliant arch swing, in which a few children can swing simultaneously.

These new swings are the first step in creating a barrier-free, adaptive playground to serve children of every ability. Additional adaptive playground equipment is expected to be obtained with special funding being arranged by Assemblyman Philip Steck.

He also secured funding for major improvements to the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Path. The work, to be done early in 2016, includes repaving, improved storm water management, and installation of guard rails in certain areas.

“The adaptive playground and bike path improvements are significant additions for us as they are important quality-of-life projects for our residents,” said Supervisor Mahan.