

# COLONIE CHRONICLE

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#### **TOWN BOARD**

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LINDA J. MURPHY Deputy Supervisor

CHRISTOPHER CAREY Board Member

> DAVID GREEN Board Membe

PAUL L. ROSANO Board Member

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> JENNIFER WHALEN Board Member

#### 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

#### A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MAHAN



Dear Fellow Colonie Resident,

I am honored Colonie has once again been named "Best Suburb" in the Times Union's Readers' Poll. That's five times in a row we've been voted the best suburban community! What a great recognition for our beautiful Town and our wonderful quality of life.

We were also honored by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation this spring for our commitment to urban forestry. And earlier this year, we adopted the NYS Climate Smart Communities Pledge, underscoring our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Speaking of reducing greenhouse emissions, the Town is just now finalizing a project that will allow

us to use hydroelectric electricity generation to earn green energy credits and offset a significant portion of our energy usage. It will also help stabilize the Town's energy costs for the next twenty years.

In April, we began live streaming Town Board meetings. The videos are also posted online, and it's easy to view discussion on items of special interest. (To view meetings – both live and pre-recorded – go to the "Meetings and Agendas" tab at the top of the home page, scroll to "Town Board," then click on "Agenda," and go to the "Town Board Meetings" portal.)

We all know we live in a very safe community, but I am pleased to note that in 2017 serious crime in Colonie decreased overall by 6.7 percent, in spite of a five percent increase in calls for service! I know we are all grateful to the Colonie Police Department for working so hard to keep us safe.

As I write this, it seems spring has not quite arrived. Nevertheless, we are busy readying our parks and athletic fields for the warm days and evenings that are sure to come. We're excited to be starting construction on our beautiful new splash pad in the Colonie Town Park, and we're working hard to revitalize our pocket parks with new playground equipment, fencing, and landscaping, among other improvements.

Finally, I am truly honored to have been re-elected as your Town Supervisor. I look forward to continuing the great progress we've made working together.

Sincerely,

Paula Q. Mahan Paula A. Mahan

Paula A. Mahan Colonie Town Supervisor

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Farmers' Market at The Crossings Saturdays, May 19 – September 29 9 am to 1 pm

**Fort Orange Garden Club Plant Sale** Saturday, May 12, 9 am – 2 pm (Free Admission) Pruyn House Buhrmaster Barn Hundreds of annuals, perennials, rare and unusual plants. Proceeds used to purchase plants and supplies for the Pruyn House garden

**Town Park Opens** Saturday, May 5 Daily, 10 am – Dusk

#### Garden Verse, Language & Lyrics: Garden Club of America Flower Show

Wednesday, June 6, 3 pm – 5 pm (Free) Thursday, June 7, 10 am – 2 pm (Free) Pruyn House Buhrmaster Barn and Verdoy Schoolhouse Floral design, horticulture, photography, education, and conservation entries

Town Pool Opens Saturday, June 23 Noon – 7 pm, Daily

Summer Enrichment Program Limited Program due to Construction at Shaker HS 518-783-2760 for info

Learn-to-Swim, Guard Start & Water Safety Programs June 25 – July 6 Colonie Town Pool 518-783-2760 or colonie.org for info, registration

Playground Program July 2 – August 10 (Various Playgrounds)

518-783-2760 or colonie.org for info Tennis Instruction Program

Five-Week Program Begins July 9 Various Locations 518-783-2760 or colonie.org for info

Thursday Night Concerts at The Crossings

Thursdays, July 5 – August 30, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Free) Sponsored by ANJO Construction Ltd. 518-783-2760 Ext. 2101 or colonie.org for info

**Pruyn House Concerts in the Barn** Wednesdays, July 11 to August 8, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (\$5.00 adult donation; children 12 and under, free)

Pruyn House Old Fashioned Sunday Sunday, September 9 – Noon to 4 pm (Free) Family fun for all ages. 518-783-1435 or colonie.org/departments/ pruynhouse/

Harvest Fest – The Crossings Sunday, September 16 – Noon to 4:00 pm (Free) Family fun for all ages. 518-456-2136 or colonie.org for info



**On the Leader Board:** Town of Colonie Golf Course General Manager Noel Gebauer was recently recognized by the Town Board for his dedication to providing "new and challenging offerings" at the course, such as events for kids and the PGA Reach program, which introduces golf to veterans in a free, six-week program. The Town's course is the busiest course between Boston and Buffalo, averaging 60,000 rounds a year while hosting many tournaments. Pictured is Mr. Gebauer, center, and from left, Town Board members Paul Rosano, Christopher Carey, Melissa Von Dollen, Supervisor Paula Mahan, Jennifer Whalen, David Green, and Linda Murphy.

#### TOWN RECEIVING \$4.4 MILLION FOR IMPORTANT PROJECTS

Colonie has recently secured \$4.4 million in various grants that are helping the Town move forward with a number of important initiatives, including infrastructure improvement and critical redevelopment and quality of life projects.

Most recently, the Town was awarded a \$1 million Restore New York Grant for demolition of the old Tobin Packing plant. Demolition is the essential first step in plans by a private developer to revitalize the property for an exciting new mix of retail and residential uses.

Supporting much-needed redevelopment of the Lincoln Avenue Corridor, the Town's Planning and Economic Development Department is using a \$269,000 Brownfield Opportunity Grant to study redevelopment options there.

Last year, the Town received a \$175,000 grant from the NYS Attorney General's Office to tackle the issue of abandoned, or "zombie," properties and help homeowners prevent foreclosure. These efforts are still ongoing.

A \$960,000 NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement grant is now helping to defray the Town's \$1.6 million share of a project to establish emergency water connections between the Colonie and Albany water systems. (See page 4.)

Much-needed updating and beautification of our Town Library has begun. While we expect to commit \$3 to \$4 million of Town funds for renovation, we are extremely grateful to Colonie Assemblyman Phil Steck for arranging an additional \$1 million for renovation of the library's lobby and entryway.

Assemblyman Steck also arranged for \$500,000 to fund capital improvements to the Town's Municipal Training Center, a regional training resource where thousands of the region's first responders train every year. In addition, through his efforts, the Town will also receive special funding of \$250,000 for improvements to the bike path and \$125,000 to construct a much-needed new pavilion in the Town Park.

Finally, the Town is excited about a future \$125,000 grant, also from Assemblyman Steck, to fund a new playground at the south end of The Crossings.

### **TOWN TO HOST FORECLOSURE WORKSHOP**

Struggling with mortgage payments? You're not alone. Each month, over 1,000 Capital Region residents receive a notice of intent to foreclose from their mortgage lender.

Thankfully, expert help is available at no cost through NYS's Homeowner Protection Program, and on Saturday, May 12, the Town will host a foreclosure prevention information workshop at the Town Library from 10 am to 2 pm.

The session will provide a brief overview of the foreclosure process and homeowner options as well as an opportunity to meet one-onone with a well-trained foreclosure prevention housing advisor and/ or attorney.

It will also present information about the NYS Mortgage Assistance Program, which provides zero percent interest mortgage loans to eligible New York homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Funds can help pay off mortgage or property tax arrears or help get a loan modification. Although no monthly installments are due on the loan, the full principal amount is due upon sale or refinance of the home. Homeowners must be able to demonstrate an ability to afford their housing payment after receiving assistance.

To attend, please register with the Affordable Housing Partnership at 518-434-1730, Ext. 401, or http://ahphome.org/classes.html.

#### Tips for homeowners in foreclosure include:

- Seek assistance early in the foreclosure process.
- Be sure to attend a court-hosted Settlement Conference.
- If your lender refuses to accept your mortgage payment, save that payment. Funds will help with future negotiations.



### ONCE AGAIN, COLONIE IS The Winning-Est Suburb!

Colonie was again named "Best Suburb" in the Times Union's 2018 Best of the Capital Region readers' poll – the fifth year in a row Colonie was voted to the top spot.

Plus, Colonie's William K. Sanford Town Library was named the region's "Best Library," and the Town's much-loved Crossings was named the region's "Best Park."

"It's a great honor for Colonie to have been voted "Best Suburb," five years in a row, and I'm happy to see people recognize our great quality of life. The Crossings and our excellent Town Library are also a big part of what makes Colonie outstanding," said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan.

Colonie can also claim to be home to what was voted the best locally owned hotel, restaurant, pizzeria, and grocery store. And those who come to Colonie will also find it has the best school district, mall, bookstore, movie theater, import store, bakery, garden center, jeweler, and funeral home.

Finally, looking to eat out? In Colonie, you'll find the best Italian, Japanese, Thai, and Indian/Pakistani restaurants, as well as the best steakhouse. Finally, if you're looking for the area's best chain restaurant or the best place to have a "working lunch, you'll find them both in Colonie.



Youth in Local Government Day: Thirty-six students from Colonie Central, Shaker High, and CBA attended the Town's Students in Local Government Day on April 13 to learn how Town government functions in all its complexity. They also attended the Town Board meeting the night before. Pictured with the students are Supervisor Paula Mahan, center, and Town Board member Paul Rosano and Town Clerk Julie Gansle, first row, third from right and far-right, respectively. At far right, second row, is C. Michele Zilgme, Receiver of Taxes, and far right, last row, Town Board Member Linda Murphy, Town Justice Peter Crummey, and Laura Archambault of the Town's Youth Services Division.



**To Market, to Market:** The Farmer's Market at The Crossings will open for the season May 19 with an exciting mix of new and returning vendors and a featured clown each week. Live music on many market days adds to a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere in which to shop for a generous selection of farm-fresh produce as well as lots of locally produced specialty items. Plus, your dogs are welcome too! New this year are story hours for kids on May 19, June 16, July 14, and August 11. The market is open, rain or shine, from 9 am to 1 pm every Saturday through September 29.

#### **NEW MEDICARE CARDS BEING ISSUED**

Beginning April 1, Medicare began issuing new Medicare cards, which no longer display Social Security Numbers (SSNs). Instead, the new cards carry an 11-digit identifier that's a mix of numbers and letters. The new cards will NOT change your coverage in any way.

Your new card will be mailed to you automatically, and you can begin using the new card as soon as you receive it. There is no need to confirm any personal information with Medicare. New cards will be issued through April 2019.

If someone calls asking for your Medicare number and offers to send you a new card, it is a scam. Never give information to anyone over the phone. If you receive such a call, you should report it immediately to the NY Senior Medicare Patrol at 877-678-4697.

THURSDAY
NIGHT
CONCERTS
AT THE
CROSSINGS
6 TO 8 PM
<b>RAIN OR SHINE</b>

JULY 5BODY AND SOULJULY 12NY PLAYERSJULY 19AUDIOSTARSJULY 26SKEETER CREEKAUG 2LUSTRE KINGSAUG 30GEORGIE WONDERS BIG BANDAUG 16HAIR OF THE DOGAUG 23THE PIPE KINGSAUG 30SORROW ESTATE/RICH ORTIZ

SPONSORED BY ANJO CONSTRUCTION

#### TOWN REPLACING OUTDATED WATER MAINS

The Town's Latham Water District is now installing almost a mile of new water mains along sections of Route 9 and Maxwell Road, replacing aging 1930s-era mains increasingly prone to breaks.

Along Maxwell Road, 3,000 feet of new 12-inch ductile iron water main will replace an existing 6"cast iron main running from Old Niskayuna Road east to Hills Road.

Similarly, 2,150 feet of new ductile iron water main and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) main will be laid along Route 9 from Town Hall to Campus View Drive and from Spring Street to Turner Lane, replacing an increasingly unreliable 10" cast iron main.

An additional project to replace 3,800 feet of water main along Route 9 from Maxwell Road to Old Loudon Road is expected to begin later this summer.

The new mains will increase water system reliability, pressure, and fire flows to residents and decrease unplanned shutdowns caused by water main breaks. Total cost for the projects is \$3.33 million.

By the end of 2018, the Town will have invested more than \$18 million in strategic improvements to its drinking water system and \$14 million for its sewer system.

"I want to thank Latham Water District Superintendent John Frazer and his staff for the tremendous job they do every day in delivering millions of gallons of fresh, pure drinking water to our residents and in planning so well to meet the Town's water needs far, far into the future," said Town Supervisor Paula A. Mahan.

Questions can be directed to the DPW/Division of Latham Water at 518-783-2750.

#### WATER GRANT SUPPORTS SHARED SERVICES

The Town was recently awarded a \$960,000 NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant to help it move forward with an important drinking water infrastructure improvement at the Latham Water District.

The grant will help defray the Town's \$1.6 million share of a project to establish an important interconnection between the Town of Colonie and the City of Albany water systems. Total project cost is \$3.2 million, with the cost being shared equally by each municipality.

When the interconnection is complete, Colonie and Albany will be able to provide each other with much more efficient and cost-effective emergency back-up water systems. Completion is expected in mid-2019. Questions can be directed to the DPW/Division of Latham Water at 518-783-2750.



**Inaugural Spin:** McKinley Jamieson was the first one out on the ice this year at the new skating rink at the Town of Colonie Golf Course. In spite of intermittent warm weather, the rink was open for 29 days, including four full weekends. Highest daily total occurred on January 20, when 34 skaters turned out – all in all a successful season. And, as always in a season of ample snow, lots of cross-country skiers turned out to enjoy an invigorating run on the course.

#### **SUPERVISOR DELIVERS 2018 STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS**

Supervisor Paula A. Mahan delivered her annual State of the Town address earlier this year at a Town Board meeting and also before the Albany-Colonie Chamber. Key points are summarized below. The entire address is posted at: www.colonie.org.

- First, I am honored to begin my sixth term as your Town Supervisor. I see many more great things for Colonie.
- When I think about Colonie, all I can say is "Look how far we've come!" The beauty is that we've retained our hometown feeling.
- Colonie was ranked "Best Suburban Community" in the 2017 Times Union's Readers Poll. (Note: Colonie was also named "Best Suburb" in the 2018 poll, for the fifth time in a row!)
- In 2017, we were named a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- Our EMS Department earned the American Heart Association's 2017 Mission Lifeline Gold Award.
- In 2017, we had an overall decrease of 6.7 percent in crime a three percent drop in serious crime and a ten percent drop in less serious crime.
- In a new Siena poll, 95 percent of respondents rated Colonie as a good or excellent place to live; 86 percent said property taxes were "about right."
- For the seventh year in a row, our 2018 budget meets the NYS Tax Levy Cap.

- A new project to use Hydro Electric will offset a significant portion of our electricity usage.
- By the end of 2018, we'll have invested \$18 million to improve our drinking water system and \$14 million for our sewer system.
- We're now exploring revenue options for open-space acquisition.
- We've begun construction of a beautiful new splash pad at the Town Park on Schermerhorn Road.
- We've committed \$3 to \$4 million for renovations at the Town Library. We are grateful to Colonie Assemblyman Phil Steck for arranging another \$1 million for library renovation.
- Through Assemblyman Steck, we will also receive \$500,000 for improvements to our Municipal Training Center, \$250,000 for bike path improvements, \$125,000 for a new pavilion at the Town Park, and \$125,000 for a new playground at the south end of The Crossings.
- We're really looking forward to continuing our progress in 2018 and keeping the Town of Colonie the best place to call home.

### **COLONIE PHONE DIRECTORY**

Main Line	00
Animal Control	11
Assessor	D1
Attorney	04
Building	
Civil Service	21
Community Development 783-27	18
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Emergency Management	
& Planning	09
EMS782-26	45
Environmental Services783-28	27
Fire Services	12
General Services783-27	26
Highway	95
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Human Resources	20
Justice	14
Landfill	27
Latham Water District 783-27	50
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Services783-28	95
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Development	
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Public Works Engineering783-62	
Pure Waters (Sewer)783-27	
Recreation783-27	
Senior Resources459-50	
Supervisor	28
Tax Department	30
Town Clerk	34
Youth Bureau	60



# **YARD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM** 2018



After November 2, the Town will continue to collect yard waste, but not on the regular weekly schedule. Unscheduled curbside collection will continue through December 7, 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 compostable yard waste 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 business hours (M-F, 7 am – 3 pm; Saturdays, 7am-Noon, through June); and in July, August, and September during Summer Hours (M-F, 7 am-2 pm; Saturdays 7 am-Noon.)

Residents may pick up free compost beginning May 7.

**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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION IS SCHEDULED BY FIRE DISTRICT

SCHEDULED Pick up	MONDAY	Midway & Stanford Heights
	TUESDAY	Shaker Road/Loudonville
RUNS	WEDNESDAY	Latham & Schuyler Heights
APRIL 9 To Nov. 2	THURSDAY	Boght, Verdoy & Maplewood
	FRIDAY	Fuller Road & West Albany

## **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 any type



434-2922

**VILLAGE OF MENANDS** 



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2018



## **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 18 4:00pm - 7:00pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 23 3:00pm - 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 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 Adhesives Aerosols Boric Acid Brake Fluid Cements **Charcoal Lighters** Chlorine **Cleaning Fluid** Corn & Wart Remover Degreasers Disinfectants **Drain Cleaners** Dry Gas Dyes Epoxies Flea Collars & Powders Hair Removers Herbicides Inks Insecticides **Insect Repellants** Lacquers Lubricants Moth Balls or Flakes

Muriatic Acid Nail Polish Nail Polish Remover **No-Pest Strips Oven Cleaners** Paints: Latex & Oil Based Paint Remover **Paint Thinner Permanent Solutions** Pesticides **Photo Chemicals Pool Chemicals Rat Poison Rust Solvents** Solvents Spot Remover **Toilet Bowl Cleaners Tub & Tile Cleaners** Turpentine Varnish Weed Killers Wood Pesticides (Some) Wood Polishes Wood Stains

We reserve the right to refuse any material which is not deemed acceptable to the managing chemist on site.

For more information call the Division of Environmental Services at 783-6292 | Or visit www.colonie.org

#### **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\*

\*Waste Oil\*

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





Office of the Supervisor Town of Colonie Memorial Town Hall 534 Loudon Road Newtonville, NY 12128 www.colonie.org



Super Bowl Champs: The Colonie Town Board recently honored the Colonie Pop Warner Raiders, who last November won the Super Bowl championship for the first time in 14 years. Shown with the team, its coaches, and cheerleaders are Supervisor Paula Mahan, right, second row, and Town Board Members Paul Rosano and Jennifer Whalen, second from left and far right, third row. Town Board Member Linda Murphy is second from left, fourth row, and Board Members Christopher Carey, David Green, and former Board Member David Rowley are shown from the left, in the back row.

## YOU CAN HAVE LOTS OF SUMMER FUN AT THE TOWN LIBRARY

The Town has plenty for young people to do over the summer. They can swim at the pool, golf at the Town Golf course, or learn to play tennis. They can drop-in at the playground program. Or they can go to the library!

However, getting good books for a summer reading program is just one of many things the library can provide. Plus, this year, it's starting a summer reading program for adults as well.

Recently named "Best Library" in the latest Times Union Readers' Poll, the library's summer theme this year is "Libraries Rock." Activities will kick off with a familyfriendly carnival on June 26 – with games, face painters, balloon artists, bouncy-bounces, and more.

The fun continues throughout the summer with many activities, including story times on the lawn and at The Crossings, concerts, magic shows, STEAM afternoons, Lego and WeDo, reading to therapy dogs, and the ever-popular Romp and Read.

The library also has a wide variety of programs for kids in

grades five through twelve (Mad Science Lab, Sculpy Art, and Teen Chefs, among them). Teens will be also be giving back to the community this summer. You may see them at the Food Bank or Brookdale Nursing Home.

The end of all this? A "Colonie's Got Talent" competition on Thursday, August 16 at the Pruyn House and the end-ofsummer Readers' Bash and Awards ceremony at 6 pm on August 24.

The adult reading program will kick off with a soiree on Monday, July 9 at 6 pm. Adults can then "dance, listen, create, and learn" their way through a seven-week lineup of just-for-adults discussions, crafts, concerts, and activities.

Registration for the library's summer reading programs – youth, teen, and adult -- begins on Tuesday, June 19 at the Registration Desk. You can also sign up at the June 26 carnival.

Note: Dates for other Town summer programs are listed in "Upcoming Events" on page 2.