

Henrietta Happenings



Summer 2022



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TOWN SUPERVISOR

Stephen L. Schultz

DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

Craig Eckert

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Linda K. Salpini

TOWN BOARD

Millie Sefranek

Lisa Bolzner

M. Rick Page

Joseph D. Bellanca, Jr.

TOWN OF HENRIETTA

475 Calkins Road

Henrietta, NY 14467

585-334-7700

www.henrietta.org



From the Supervisor...

I have decided to add a fourth installment of the Town Newsletter, one for each season. As the changeover from 3 to 4 will create a short gap, I am dedicating this issue to an update on the numerous initiatives the Town has begun or continued since I first took office in 2018. Obviously, the global pandemic had a major effect on many of those plans, but we have still made strong progress and have a ways to go. The legislative decision

making was done by three different boards, consisting of eight different members, including myself, with four members from each of the two major parties. It shows that politicians can put the community first and get a lot done if they work together. And of course, the actual doing has been a collaborative effort of Town employees, elected officials, appointed board members, volunteers, and community organizations. It truly has been a team effort.

THE POLITICAL THIRD RAIL

For many years, the abortion issue has been considered the political third rail and few politicians were willing to talk about it. I often joke that I am an engineer in office, not a politician. In light of what has happened locally and nationally, and regardless of whether it is politically dangerous to discuss the issue, I am going to talk about it because I think it is important to do so.

As the local action happened first, I will talk about the denial of the Special Use Permit for Planned Parenthood. Uses within a Zoning District falls into one of three categories: Allowed, Allowed with a Special Use Permit, or Prohibited. In a Commercial B-1 Zone, which includes the Jefferson Plaza location that Planned Parenthood was interested in, a medical facility falls into the middle category of "Allowed with a Special Use Permit" through Town Code § 295-14 B(6) which allows "Any other business or commercial uses not

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From the Supervisor...



specifically enumerated herein and not herein specifically prohibited.” This ‘catch-all’ is used quite often, including for medical facilities like urgent care centers, dentist offices, and even the URMC Orthopedic Center at Marketplace Mall. In addition, Jefferson Plaza falls within the Mixed-Use Revitalization Area overlay district created as part of the 2019 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update that encouraged the “tired retail” portions of Town to consider alternatives to retail to try to fill the many empty buildings in the plazas and the mall. It is why the Town Board happily approved the URMC purchase and repurposing of the Sears store and wing of the mall into a large medical center, as well as the approval of a proposed affordable senior housing complex where the former General Cinemas Theater once stood.

Town Board members have taken an oath of office to uphold both the United States and New York State constitutions. Included in that is the constitutional right of equal protection under the law and the equal application of the law. Planned Parenthood is not the first controversial or politically-charged business that has applied for a permit to do business in Henrietta. As I have stated with all of them, politics has no place in a land use decision – the decision should be based solely on the ten factors outlined in Town Code § 295-54. Though very politically charged, the public hearings, lasting a total of over eight hours including past midnight for the second hearing, went off largely without an issue. Speakers were respectful of our Town Board rules that allow everyone who wishes to speak at the hearing a chance to do so and not in an artificially constrained manner. There were only a few individuals out of the crowds of hundreds that I had to reprimand for outbursts or interrupting a speaker. Yes, the discussion largely strayed from the points of the land use decision to become a debate on abortion, but it was conducted, for the most part, in a constructive and courteous manner.

Ultimately, three Town Board members voted to deny while two Town Board members voted to approve and as a result, the special use permit was denied. That does not mean Planned Parenthood won't be in Henrietta or even won't be in the location they applied for. Based on the requests from the attorney for Planned Parenthood, they very well could be suing the Town over what they consider the unequal application of the law, and there is a reasonable likelihood they could win. It is easily conceivable they could be awarded financial damages, in addition to being awarded the right to build at their desired location, so this is certainly not over. At a minimum, the president of Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York has indicated if ultimately denied, they would find a location in a Commercial B-2 Zoning District where a medical center is an allowed use and no Town authorization would be required.

Finally, I wish to touch on the subsequent overturning of Roe v Wade, contrary to assertions that it was established law. In addition to the potential Pandora's Box this decision creates, I am disappointed at the apparent disregard for the rights of a woman to control of her own body. I have always viewed the abortion issue as a case of comparative rights: the right of the unborn to live versus the right of the mother to control her own body as well as the right of the mother to live, when it is a problem pregnancy. I have yet to read an abortion law that properly balances these rights, in my opinion, and most of the new laws that I have seen have the scales largely tilted in one direction or the other. From my personal perspective, I have always been both anti-abortion and pro-choice. That means while I personally would not want to seek an abortion to a pregnancy I conceived, unless the mother's life were at risk, I also would have supported the mother's choice if, early on in the pregnancy, she decided that she did not want to bring the pregnancy to term, because ultimately, that is her decision. I did not have to go through nine months of discomfort and thirty-six hours of excruciating labor to bring our first born into the world, my wife did. While I would want input on the decision, ultimately, the choice should be up to the mother. But again, there should be a reasonable balance between that right and the right of the unborn. That is what is missing in most laws I have seen to date.

Major Legislative Initiatives



FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

Adopted in 2018 and incorporated into the 2019 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Farmland Protection Plan included efforts to preserve farmland and obtain auxiliary farm revenue to help keep small Henrietta farms afloat.

SOUTHWEST QUADRANT DEVELOPMENT ENDED

In early 2018, the Town Board ended the DGEIS proposal to convert hundreds of acres of farmland to industrial land in the southwest part of Town.

OVER 400 ACRES PROTECTED

Protected farms include the Van Vorhees Farm, Stonecrop Farm, the Larkin Farm, and the Remelt Farm, totaling over 400 acres protected.

OVER \$3.5-MILLION OF INCOME FOR FARMS

Through the efforts of Genesee Land Trust, the solar initiatives, and incentive zoning, over \$3.5-million worth of income in total has gone to help keep Henrietta farms afloat and improving.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Incorporated into the 2019 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Active Transportation Plan allows the Town to require the County and State to add new sidewalks when rebuilding streets and encourages the addition of new sidewalks and trails.

SIDEWALKS ADDED TO WINTON AND JEFFERSON

As the County and State made major improvements to Winton and Jefferson roads, respectively, new sidewalks were added.

SIDEWALKS ADDED BY THE TOWN

The Town has added needed sidewalks to Jefferson Road, East Henrietta Road, and Calkins Road, and are working on adding them to Hylan Drive and East River Road.

SIDEWALKS ADDED BY DEVELOPERS

Developers have been required to add sidewalks in front of their developments, including on East Henrietta Road, East River Road, and Lehigh Station Road.

INCENTIVE ZONING

Part of the 2019 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and completed in 2020, incentive zoning allows the Town to encourage developers to incorporate improvements to the Town such as infrastructure, conservation, and preservation of historic structures.

EMPTY BUILDINGS REBORN

Many long-vacant buildings have been redeveloped including the former Wonder Bread facility, former Circuit City, and former Sears Store.

DRAG ALONG INFRASTRUCTURE

New developments, such as the Mason Care Facility, were encouraged to route new sewers along streets that do not have them allowing existing homes to connect if desired.

OVER 200 ACRES PRESERVED

Over 200 acres have had conservation easements placed on them or been donated to the Town.

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

In addition to all of the above, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, adopted in 2019, updated a number of important aspects of our Zoning and other Town Codes.

IMPROVED SOLAR REGULATIONS

The new regulations made it easier for rooftop solar systems in commercial areas, added large scale solar for working farms, and increased regulations to minimize the impacts from solar arrays.

ZONING UPDATES FOR MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES

Apartments were taking up precious industrial lands and being built in areas that were not the best suited for them. The updated plan reduced the areas where they are permitted.

MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT OVERLAYS

New Mixed-Use Overlay Districts were created to try to breathe new life into tired retail areas like Southtown Plaza and the Mall, as well as to allow for new office parks with apartments and office and industrial buildings intermixed for convenience.

Improvements in Town Finances

GENERAL FUND BALANCE



GROWTH IN FUNDS

A fast growth in sales tax and mortgage tax revenues has allowed us to grow the general fund balance while holding the tax levy flat. A quick response to the pandemic allowed us to not lose money that year and the addition of the federal ARPA funds have grown the fund balance significantly, which will allow us to take on some of the planned capital projects while minimizing or eliminating any bonding, which saves the taxpayer money in the end.

GRANTS RECEIVED

In order to accomplish all we want to do while holding the tax levy flat, we have pursued a lot of funding opportunities and have received nearly \$4,000,000 in grants, including over \$1M to build the new library, over \$1M to build new sidewalks, \$287K to improve Town infrastructure, and even \$64K to digitize old records. And this does not include the \$4.4M we received in ARPA funding. Add that in and that's over \$8,400,000 that does not come from property taxes.

GRANTS RECEIVED

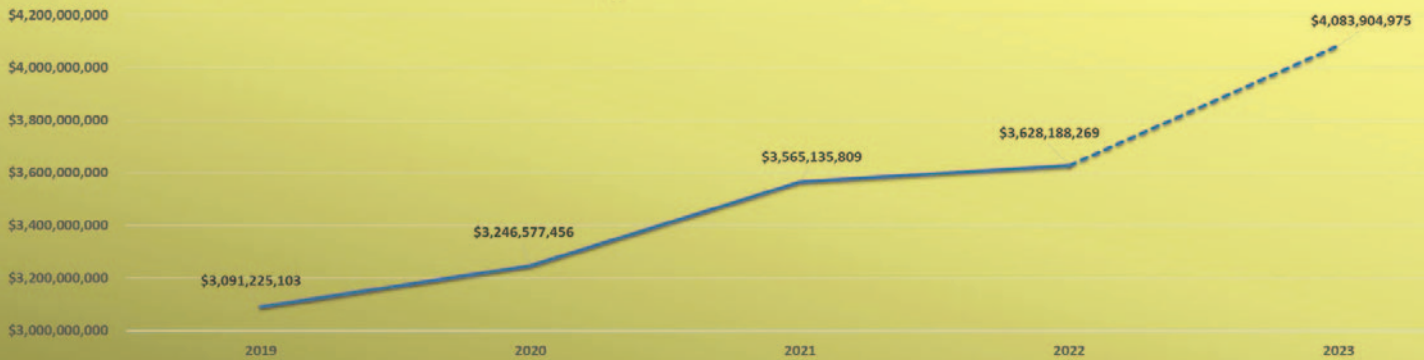


WASTE REDUCTION AND COST REDUCTION

We also looked at ways to reduce costs. First, we went through the budget with the Department Directors to identify wasteful spending. Next, we looked at some of our largest costs and how we could bring them down. We put together an aggressive safety training and accident reduction plan and as a result, our worker's compensation rate went down 46% in Highway alone. This saves \$20K per year. We also went out to bid for disability insurance, saving another 15%. We have looked into ways to reduce IT costs by moving off expensive outsource contracts and bringing some services in-house while using web-based services where it proved cheaper than buying hardware. In the Department of Public Works, we've looked at what makes sense to outsource and what makes sense to do internally. We have purchased or rented more efficient equipment allowing our crews to accomplish more with the same amount of effort. And we continue to look for new ways to do more with less, especially as the number of roads, parks, sidewalks, storm and sanitary sewers, and other infrastructure continues to grow.



Change in Total Assessed Value



Change in Tax Levy



Change in Tax Rate

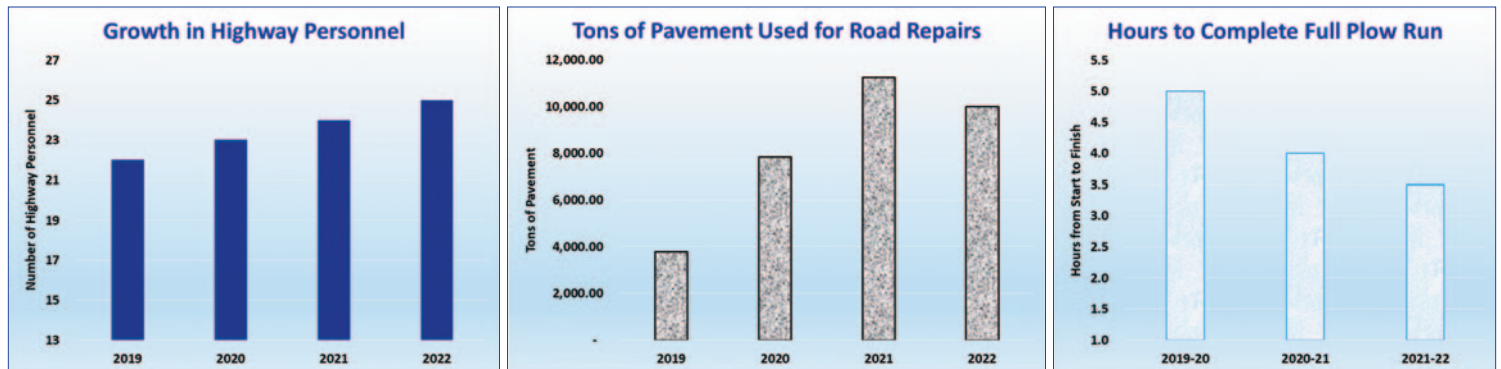


Our first budget was for 2019 and included, thanks to the referendum passed in 2017, debt service on \$9-million and additional operating costs for the new, larger library. The result was a 25% increase in the tax rate. That same year, we improved the budget process, fully engaging the Departmental Directors and doing statistical modeling of other revenues. We made a decision to estimate those other revenues conservatively, so we would not hit a shortfall in the event of a sudden downturn, which proved to be very beneficial when the pandemic hit. In those years where the revenues picked up, we were able to use the additional revenues to keep taxes down for the following year. The result has been that every budget we have put together has called for the same amount to be collected from property taxes: \$4,330,394.

As property values have grown, with essentially the same Tax Levy (increased PILOT payments have caused it to lower slightly) the Tax Rate has dropped considerably. On May 25th, we committed \$2.5-million of the fund balance to be applied towards keeping the 2023 levy flat again. With the current high inflation rates we may not be able to do so, but if we are able to keep the tax levy the same, then the tax rate would drop to about \$1.05 per thousand – a rate that has not been seen in decades.

Growth in Town Services

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



We have been growing the Highway Department as there has been significant growth in the number of lane miles they must plow and maintain over the past decade, but few new hires. Between the added personnel and new equipment and procedures, there has been a growth in the amount of paving that has been done as well as a reduction in the total plow times. This year's paving will be down from last year due to the rising fuel and material costs. We have added new medium duty plow trucks that can better navigate the cul-de-sacs, leaving the heavy duty plow trucks free to clear the main roads.

We have also begun taking on County highway jobs to bring in additional revenues to offset the added personnel needed to shorten our plow times. In 2022 we are projecting to bring in \$134,000 of revenue from that work. And we have also continued to work on internal projects rather than contracting out excavation, bulldozing, paving, and similar activities, saving additional tax dollars.

The new Henrietta Public Library Turns Three!

Join us on Wednesday, July 20, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

to celebrate with Elephant & Piggie and TR Henri. Photo ops available. You can also pick up frozen treats from JoJo's Cool Bus, mingle with staff and volunteers, and view demos of some of our new equipment and services.

Since opening in 2019...

366,530 people walk through the door

5,000 new library cards have been issued

1,069,481 books and other items have been checked out

25,713 people have attended events and classes

8,852 groups or individuals have used our community, study, or conference rooms

eBook use has increased by **34%**

D.I.Y. items have been checked out **3,414** times

We added puzzles and games to our check-out items

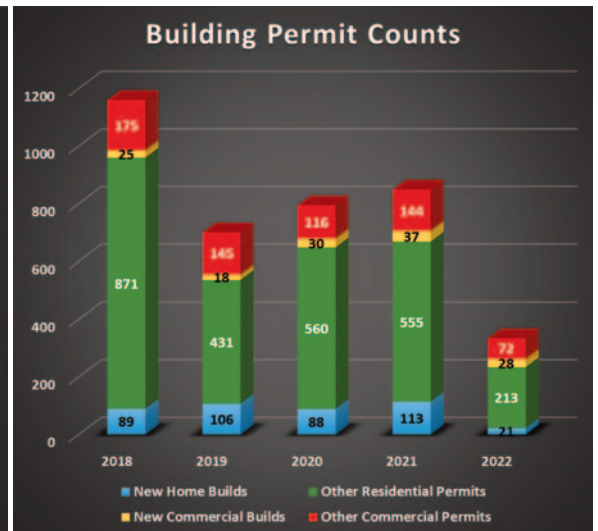
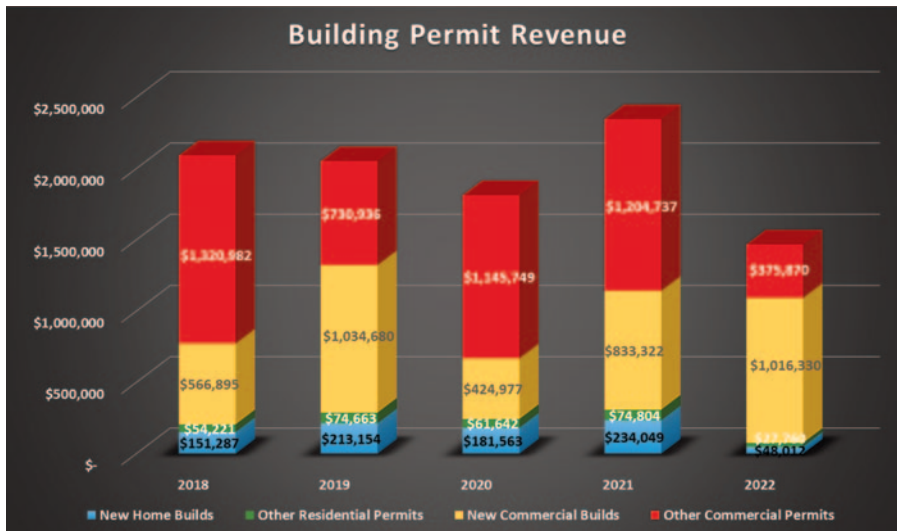
We added a popular and convenient curbside delivery service



And that was all during a global pandemic! Our door count in 2022 is up **54%** over last year!

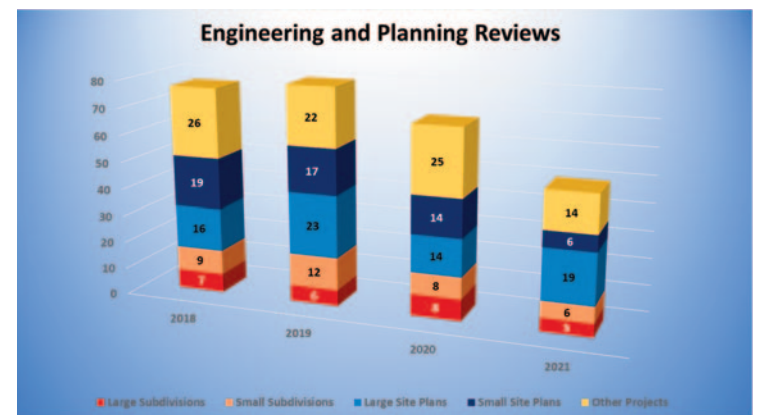
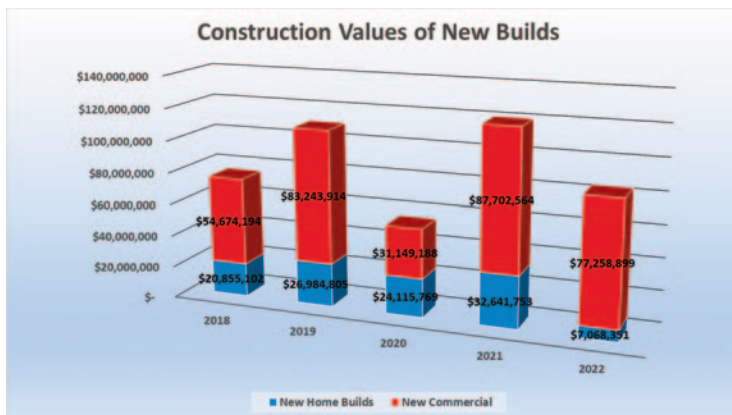


BUILDING AND FIRE PREVENTION / ENGINEERING AND PLANNING



Construction has continued strong, even during the pandemic, generating roughly \$2-million in permit fee revenues per year with commercial projects accounting for 90% of those fees. These fees fund the Town personnel needed to review, inspect, and provide oversight on the construction projects in Town. The second half of 2020 was down due to the initial pandemic disruption, but saw many of the projects started in the following year. The 2022 year-to-date numbers are shown. While residential projects are far more numerous, as can be seen in the permit counts, they tend to be far less complicated and therefore have far lower fees. Similarly, the construction values of the commercial builds, which includes apartment complexes, exceeds the construction values of new home builds.

Building and Fire Prevention and Engineering and Planning work closely together on the larger projects. Major projects begin with an Engineering and Planning review and fall into one of five major categories, with large and small subdivisions, large and small site plans, and other project reviews. The larger projects typically require Planning Board and Conservation Board review, State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), and sometimes Town Board approval as well. Both departments review construction to ensure they are building in a safe manner consistent with their approved plans.



In addition to reviewing developers' projects, both departments also review Town projects, and the Engineering and Planning Department also designs those projects or prepares and reviews all of the bid documents for the projects that are sent out to bid. With all of the projects we have been working on for the past four years, we have kept the Engineering Department very busy with design work.

Growth in Town Programming and Parks

NEW PROGRAMS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

UNIVERSAL PRE-K AT THE REC CENTER

The Town, in partnership with the Rush-Henrietta School District, now offers a 2.5-hour UPK program for children in the district who are four years of age. Initially pandemic-limited, the program has grown each year with an 18-student class size in 2022-23.

EPIC TRAINING FOR YOUTH SAFETY

Begun in 2021 and focusing on youth safety and education, EPIC classes include First Aid for Kids, For Kids: Home Alone, and Babysitter's Training.

SCOOT, SLIDE, AND SCORE

During the cooler months, this program, which is free to members, has toys, blocks, and play equipment for active preschoolers.

YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

In 2020, due to increased demand, the Town added a fall outdoor soccer league for players age 5-15.

YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAM

With the help of a free equipment grant from Net Generation, youth tennis programs have grown dramatically over the past four years, with both indoor and outdoor classes.

EXPANDED ARTS AND CRAFTS

In 2021, new arts and crafts programs were added, including for this summer: Magical Fairy Gardens, and Get Pinterested: DIY Projects.

ALSO NEW THIS SUMMER

The Town has added Little Dunkers Mini Camp, Extreme Sports Camp, and Spikin' Volleyball Camp.

SEE THE ONLINE BROCHURE FOR MORE

The new online brochure and new registration software makes it easier than ever to sign up. Go to: www.henriettarec.org

NEW EVENTS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION



PRINCESS TEA PARTY

The Rec Center was transformed into a fairy tale land, complete with castle turrets and Cinderella's carriage, for the Princess Tea Party. Guests enjoyed princess hair braiding, chocolate dipped pretzel wands, and fancy princess dresses.



EXPANDED CONCERT SERIES

The Summer Concert series has been expanded to 6 concerts and now also will include a Farmers Market and Craft Market in Veterans Memorial Park.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND MAGIC

The Town hosted the first ever holiday tree lighting event, Holiday Lights and Magic. The turnout for the event was fantastic and everyone was excited for the arrival of Santa Claus.





GROWTH IN GYMNASTICS

ALL-TIME HIGH ENROLLMENTS

Enrollment hit a record high of 460 members and the competitive team has grown to 35 members.

PRIVATE GYMNASTIC LESSONS

Introduced in 2018, participation and revenue has been steadily climbing.

GYMNASTIC BIRTHDAY PARTIES

After a decline due to the pandemic, bookings have been on the rise in 2021.

FITNESS NINJA / NINJA KIDS

The Fitness Ninja, and the preschool version Ninja Kids, have grown since being added in 2018.

RETURN OF PROGRAMS SHUTTERED FOR COVID

Popular programs such as Gym Night Out, Toddler Time, Tumbling Clinics, Gymnastics for Walkers, and Gymnastics & Ninja camps will be returning.

YOUTH BOARD PROGRAMMING

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

More commonly known as the Youth Board, the YDAC faced challenges which the pandemic presented but was able to continue the tradition of the Youth Hall of Fame.

MULTICULTURAL INFORMATION NIGHT

In partnership with the Rush-Henrietta School District, English Language Learners were invited to a meal and to learn about services available at the Town and the School District.

MULTICULTURAL YEAR END EVENT

Food, treats, games, and activities were provided by the Youth Board, the School District, and JoJo's Cool Bus.



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TOWN PARKS



NEW BOCCE PAVILION

A new permanent roof was added to the bocce courts.



PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND

A dedicated playground was added for preschool programs.



NEW AIR CONDITIONING

AC was added to the Rec Center and Roberts & Bushman cabins.



NEW COVERED PATIO

A new covered patio was added to Baldwin Cabin via a donation from the Rush-Henrietta Rotary.



PLAY POD TRAIL

A new play pod trail was built at Breese Park using SAM Grant funding from the State.



TENNIS / PICKLEBALL COURTS

The tennis courts at Martin Road Park were resurfaced and striped for tennis and pickleball.

Focus: Sustainability



GREEN ENERGY

The Town is making significant efforts towards being a Climate Smart and a Clean Energy community as well as bringing green energy to both the Town and its residents.

INCREASED SOLAR USE

As discussed elsewhere, we have changed legislation so as to allow large scale solar arrays in a minimal-impact way.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

We are using the buying power of the entire Town to try to get lower rates for green energy for the Town and its residents.

SIMPLIFIED COMMUNITY SOLAR

Signing up for community solar can be daunting and can result in billing errors from utility companies. The Town is working on a program to make that easier and to use the Town's buying power to help resolve any issues that arise.

REDUCED CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Town has undertaken a number of initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint. These efforts will also accumulate points in the Climate Smart and Clean Energy programs, earning the Town grants that can be used to further reduce our footprint.

LED STREET LIGHT UPGRADES

The Town is upgrading all of its street lights to LED fixtures, saving considerable energy and the associated costs per year. Payback on the initial investment is approximately six years.

HYBRID AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Town is purchasing hybrid and electric vehicles for Town personnel including in the DPW, Building, and Engineering departments.

IMPROVED BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Town installed geothermal wells to heat and cool the new library and the higher efficiency HVAC unit installed in the Rec Center allows us to both heat and cool the building with less energy than the old unit used to use just to heat the building.

COMPOSTING

We are working with partners in industry and higher education to bring vermiculture composting to Henrietta to reduce landfill waste and to provide high quality compost for the Town and residents.

CENTRALIZED DROP OFF

We are working to move our leaf and brush drop off site to Middle Road, just north of the Thruway and would add compost drop off as well.

VERMICULTURE COMPOST FACILITY

We plan to build a vermiculture compost facility at that site, allowing us to combine the leaf and brush waste with food waste to produce high quality compost in self-contained, odorless vermiculture compost pits.

COMPOST PICK-UP AVAILABILITY

We are partnering with Impact Earth to provide compost pick-up availability to our residents, in addition to the drop-off option.



Focus: Diversity and Accessibility



DIVERSIFICATION OF WORK FORCE

We believe that greater diversity in the work force not only helps those who might not get as great a chance to succeed as those in the majority, but that the overall decision making is better with a greater diversity in the backgrounds and mindsets of those contributing to the solutions.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND DIVERSE

We have striven to find highly qualified individuals with a diversity of backgrounds. We have made good strides in our leadership roles but still struggle to find diverse applicants.

CIVIL SERVICE CONSTRAINTS

When a position is in a “competitive” category according to Civil Service, we are required to hire one of the top three scorers of a standardized test that rarely is an indicator of how well the individual knows the subject material. As such, we often cannot hire the qualified individual we want, including a minority candidate.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

This year we created an ad hoc Diversity Committee with the express goal of creating the guidelines and roles of a permanent Diversity Committee to help ensure our programming does not unintentionally exclude portions of our Henrietta community.

TAKING THE LEAD FOR MULTICULTURAL EVENTS

Currently, many of the multicultural events are “grass roots led.” While the grass roots nature can add a lot to the events, it is not the best method for sustained programming. The Diversity Committee can help in this regard by providing leadership to make sure the grass root efforts happen in a timely fashion so the events and programming continues.

HELPING REMOVE BIASES

Quite often, there are biases built into systems. While they may not seem like a big deal to those in the majority, if they are even aware of them, they can have a big effect on those in the minority. Often it is only a subtle change needed to remove those biases from the system.

MORE DIVERSE PROGRAMMING

We have been working to increase the range of our programming and events to appeal to the highly diverse Henrietta population.

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

We have partnered with the School District to help families who may be new to American culture learn to navigate government agencies.

MLK AND NATIVE AMERICAN CELEBRATION

We have continued and tried to grow celebrations like Martin Luther King Day and for our Native Americans.

PRIDE CELEBRATION

We held the first ever Pride Celebration in Henrietta and recently held our highest attended Pride Celebration this year.

FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

We are working on hosting an event that would feature ethnic foods from local restaurants.

ACCESSIBILITY

We have also been striving to make Town events and facilities accessible to all.

ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM IN TOWN HALL

The only public restrooms at Town Hall were in the basement and there are no elevators. When we renovated the Building and Engineering departments, we added an accessible restroom off of the main lobby.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

We have added sign language interpreting for our Town Board Meetings and for many events to better serve our large Deaf and hard of hearing communities.

STREAMING OF TOWN MEETINGS

Our plans to stream all Town Meetings were accelerated by the pandemic. Residents who might be unable to attend a Town Board meeting in person can now attend virtually to provide input as well as to listen in after the fact in the event they missed the meeting itself.



TOWN LIBRARY – COMPLETED 2019



“PUBLIC HALL” – ACQUIRED 2021



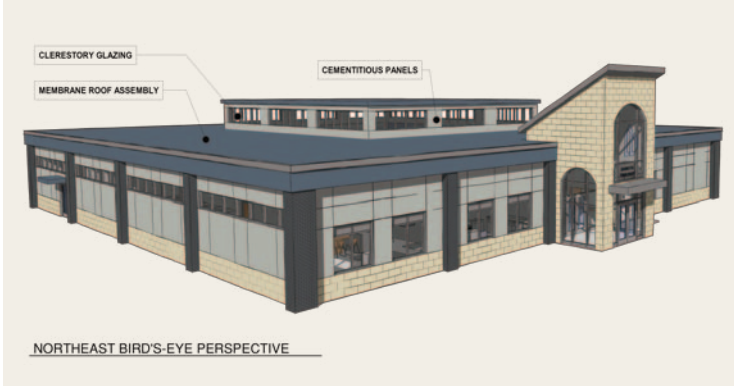
SEWER GARAGE – BUILDING 2022



FACILITIES GARAGE – BUILT 2021-22



TOWN COURT – PLANNED 2023



TOWN HALL EXPANSION – PLANNED 2024



The new library was “elected” to office at the same time I was thanks to a Town referendum that passed by an overwhelming majority. It opened on July 20, 2019 and has been a great addition to the Town. We worked a deal with the Rush-Henrietta School District to acquire the Good Shepherd Church and Burger Farm House in 2021 for the price of \$1. The plan is to turn the church into a public meeting hall, but efforts have been delayed due to the pandemic. The farm house was to be turned into meeting space for community organizations but a detached sump pump hose resulted in water and mold damage so those plans are on hold. Fortunately, the building did not suffer any structural damage.

We had run out of garage space in the DPW so a new Facilities Garage and a new Sewer Garage have been or are being built. A very needed new Town Court is planned to be built in the location of the former library and we have been securing funding so as to minimize any additional debt. And plans are underway to expand and improve Town Hall, with funding being sought from the State.



What Hasn't Worked



SIDEWALKS TAKING TOO LONG

A number of our sidewalk projects are taking way too long to complete – one our fault and one the State's fault.

FOUR+ YEAR LONG STATE PROCESS

In 2018, Senator Gallivan was able to obtain funding to build a sidewalk along East River Road after a student was hit by a truck. It is not 2022 and the funds are still not available thanks to the red tape in Albany. Other grants have come and gone but DASNY red tape has held this one up for years.

LACK OF BANDWIDTH

There are transportation district funds left that must be used within the Hylan/Jefferson area as they were generated by taxes in that district. Our plan is to build a much needed sidewalk along Hylan Drive from Jefferson to the I-390 overpass. But the coordination with County and State DOT agencies has taxed our bandwidth to get the plans done and approved.

FRUSTRATION WITH GOVERNMENT

In addition to the challenges of government itself, there has also been a lot of challenges working with certain agencies that do not seem set up to help Towns succeed.

LACK OF PARTNERSHIP AT THE NYSDOT

One of the most frustrating agencies I have had to work with is the New York State Department of Transportation. Their roads are by far the worst in our Town and they are unresponsive to the needs of the community, whether it is helping with a dangerous intersection or alleviating traffic at a school site. Hopefully, things will improve under the new Director.

OUTDATED SYSTEMS LIKE CIVIL SERVICE

The goals of Civil Service were fine. The way it is implemented is not. The tests do not provide a good judge of an individual's ability and yet, we must hire from the top scores. Creating a new position can take years – we finally heard back from a three-year old request to add a third Deputy Town Clerk, and it was for more info, not for approval.

PANDEMIC INDUCED DELAYS

I do not like excuses, but the reality is that the pandemic introduced delays in a number of efforts.

SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES

Supply chain issues have meant equipment or material is not only harder to find, but significantly more expensive. This has resulted in projects having to be downsized or postponed until prices, hopefully, come back down some.

EMPLOYEE SHORTAGES

A lot of people left the workplace during the pandemic. Some decided to retire early. Others realized that they did not need to be two income families. The result is that it is more difficult to find the employees necessary to fill open staff positions.

DISRUPTION OF STATE AID

Programs like State Aid to Municipalities was discontinued during the pandemic. With ARPA and other funds, those should be back and available.

OTHER GOALS NOT ACCOMPLISHED

CARTWRIGHT'S INN

While we have made good progress on other long dormant buildings, Cartwright's Inn is not among them. I had even personally tried to acquire it but the asking price was too high for the amount of work that would need to go into it. But it is still on my radar and others have stepped forward as well.

FORECLOSING ON ZOMBIE HOMES

The Town does not have the legal authority to foreclose on zombie homes, but the County does. Unfortunately, past County administrations have sold tax liens to raise funds which makes it harder to foreclose on zombie homes. Adam Bello has committed to reversing this and helping towns foreclose on zombie homes to get the dangerous eyesores out of residential neighborhoods.

CHRONIC CODE VIOLATORS

The new discovery laws have made going after chronic code violators even more difficult, but we continue to try. Hopefully, a second Code Enforcement Officer will help with this.



Updates on Past Initiatives

GARBAGE DISTRICTS

The idea of garbage districts is that we would create small, contiguous districts that if there were enough participation in a neighborhood, we would go out to bid to waste removal companies to be the provider for that district. Because the waste hauler would be stopping at the vast majority of homes, their per-home costs would be lower and they could pass those savings onto customers. In addition, the combined buying power, and the weight of the Town behind it, would hopefully result in better customer service.

When we first put this idea forward, there was a lot of pushback from residents with a general attitude of “don’t get the government involved in my garbage.” But since then, many of the favorite companies were bought up by a national company and there has been dissatisfaction with either the price or the service being offered residents and so people have been reaching out to the Town to rekindle the idea. As such, I am including this short survey here that can be submitted at Town Hall or via email to Supervisor@Henrietta.org. It will be online at: <https://www.henrietta.org/supervisor>

I am interested, not interested in participating in a garbage district.

I would like my waste bin collected:

- once per week
- once every other week
- other: _____

I would like my recycle bin collected:

- once per week
- once every other week
- other: _____

I would like to see the following discounts:

- for seniors
- for veterans
- for annual pre-payment
- other: _____

Other comments: _____

TOWN COURT

A new Town Court is very much needed as the current court has security issues and is not suitable for operation during a pandemic. Also, with only one court room, it means any arraignments must interrupt an ongoing jury trial.

The new Town Court is designed and the plan is to build it using ARPA funding as well as to pursue State Aid to Municipalities. The goal is to minimize any bonds in order to keep costs down.

The plan is to go out to bid the end of this year for construction in 2023. The location would be the site of the former library and would require removing the old library before construction begins.



SPLASH PARK

The plans are still in the works to add a splash park to Veterans Memorial Park, west of the cabins. We had an initial design but will need to go back to the companies to ensure the components are still available and to get updated pricing. We would then work it into our capital expenditures for construction in time for summer 2023. The determining factor will be whether we can fit it into our budget this fall.





GOOD SHEPHERD PUBLIC HALL

Town Crews made progress on converting the former Good Shepherd Church into a public meeting hall that can also be used for theater and other performances. This year we will be installing new drainage systems to reduce water infiltration, installing a new sanitary sewer connection to the east side of the building for additional restrooms, and time and weather permitting, installing a wheelchair ramp that enters through the door in the northeast corner. The hope is to be able to make it available for public use starting in 2023.

NEW TOWN PARKS

The Town has been in discussions with Monroe County Parks to help with the construction of a new Park that would be a partnership between the Town and the County. The park would include hiking trails that span the Lehigh Valley Trail, which is part of the County Park system, from east of East Henrietta Road to south of Ward Hill Road. The County would help build the trails as well as a pavilion and restrooms off of the new access road off Ward Hill Road. The current plans are for a lawn area around the pavilion but the majority being left wild. The trails would include a couple small bridges or culverts over the streams and provide nice views of woods and wetlands.

The “Educators’ Grove” project for Hoskins Park continues to move forward. Hoskins is located where Pinnacle and Winton roads diverge. The grove would allow people to honor educators with donations of pavers, benches, or trees.

The “Chapman Corners” project continues to move forward. Located on the southeast corner of West Henrietta Road and Erie Station Road, the plan is to create a small park celebrating the history of the West Henrietta Hamlet. It will incorporate the former Three Sisters Ice Cream stand and will include benches, a fountain, and a restroom. The majority of the work is being donated by two Town residents.

SPECIAL ATTENTION DETAIL

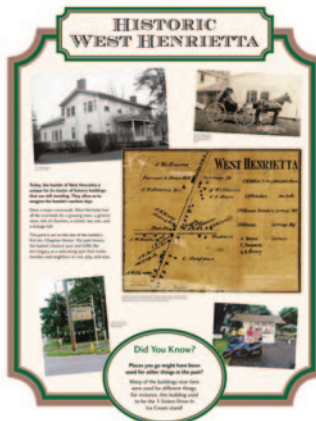
The Town Board approved the Special Attention Detail which would hire an additional Monroe County Sheriff Deputy who would be assigned to details requested from the Town, such as patrolling residential neighborhoods, watching for speeders who ignore our crossing guards, or trying to catch those who ride dirt bikes or four wheelers through parks or across people’s lawns. The final details of the Intermunicipal Agreement are being worked out and the program should begin sometime this summer.

LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan is nearing completion. The Plan covers both our river front as well as the Erie Canal where it goes through the northeast corner of Town. Our goal is to complete and submit the plan before the end of the funding cycle this July so that we can submit a proposal for initial engineering designs to add a canalside park on the north side of the canal, east of Edgewood Drive, in partnership with the JCC.

The plan covers both the Town of Henrietta and the Town of Rush and includes a River Walk Trail that spans the two towns. While Henrietta and Rush are sharing in the cost of putting the plan together; once submitted, each town will be able to pursue funding independently for the implementation of projects outlined in the plan.

For details, visit: <https://www.henrietta.org/lwrp>





Henrietta Town Hall
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 Henrietta, NY 14467

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Summer Concert Series and Farmers' Market

Friday Evening Summer Concerts at the Henry Hansen Amphitheater

Veterans Memorial Park
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

- July 15 – **The J&D Project**
Country, Rock, and R&B
Sponsored by Summit Federal Credit Union
- July 22 – **Tradewind Band**
Classic, Modern, and Americana
- July 29 – **Keys to the Caddy**
The best of Rock, Blues, Country, and Jazz
Featuring Tony Infantino of WARM101.3
- August 5 – **Flint Creek**
Country with a Kick
Sponsored by Summit Federal Credit Union
- August 12 – **Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra**
Big Band Jazz
- August 19 – **8 Days a Week**
Beatles Tribute Band

Begin the show
 with a visit to
 the Farmer's
 Market
 featuring local
 farmers,
 crafters and more!



Fridays, July 15 – August 19
 beginning at 4:00 PM, in
 Veterans Memorial Park near
 the Amphitheater.

Don't miss the End of Summer
 Outdoor Movie Event
 "Sing 2"
 Friday, August 26
 at the Amphitheater.
 The movie starts at dusk!



Bring your lawn chair! Concessions will be available.