

# Henrietta Happenings



Winter 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](http://www.henrietta.org)



## From the Supervisor...

Once again, the amount we collect in property taxes will be the exact same amount. In other words, there was **NO INCREASE** in Town taxes. And thanks to the growth in the Town, that means the tax rate is now at a record low of approximately \$1.06 per thousand of assessed value. The previous record low was \$1.11 per thousand.

Unfortunately, while most other taxing jurisdictions have also kept their tax levy increases low, the same cannot be said of the Fire District. While their budgeted expenses were held flat, the tax levy will increase by 15.6% as last year they had applied a large amount of non-recurring funds to the budget and those were no longer available. So your taxes may go up, but not because of the Town. Our Directors have worked hard to increase services while holding expenses down and as such, the increases in sales and mortgage taxes are able to cover the growth in expenses in the Town. See page 3 for more budget information.

## Loss of a Community Leader

Sadly, RIT, Henrietta, and the greater Rochester area lost a leader and great human being November 13<sup>th</sup> when Dr. Barry Culhane passed away. Barry was a mentor and close personal friend of mine and I would not still be in Rochester if it were not for his assistance in my early days in college. Barry was also a surrogate father for me as my own



Continued on Page 2

# From the Supervisor...

father had passed away when I was 17, just before I came to RIT. Barry helped me through some difficult times, gave me a full-time job when I was out of money to attend school, and provided support and encouragement in my future endeavors.

For the community, Barry was tireless in his commitment to veterans and was instrumental in the creation of the Vietnam Memorial in Highland Park. He also started the Veteran's Breakfast at RIT that welcomes those who serve from across the community. Barry was also the driving force behind the ImagineRIT festival that highlights innovation at the school and provides a wonderful event for kids and adults from all across our region. Barry has touched countless lives and he will be greatly missed. My heart goes out to his wife and family and all those hurting from his sudden departure.

## The Need for Judicial Reforms

The Monroe County Supervisors' Association, for which I am currently serving as President, wrote a joint letter calling for judicial reforms. Unfortunately, this is a politically charged topic when it should not be. Some of that is due to misconceptions. Some of that is due to the overly political nature of our country right now. First, I want to address one of the major misconceptions: Bail Reform.

The issues we are seeing with dangerous people on the street is not due to Bail Reform. The purpose of bail is to make sure someone shows up for trial. If bail is set, and someone pays it, they are out on the street. Bail reform was needed because what was happening is that people with money could be free while people without money had to spend time in jail awaiting their trial.

What we are really talking about is pre-trial detention. It is not an easy subject because the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees that a person shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. However, there are clearly times when a dangerous criminal needs to be detained pre-trial. This has always been handled through judicial discretion – that is, it has been left to a judge to determine when the rights of the public are unduly threatened by a dangerous individual out on the streets after being arrested on suspicion of committing a violent crime. Unfortunately, in New York, there were some infamous cases where that discretion was abused. And so, some of the recent judicial reforms took away much of that judicial discretion. In my opinion, this is always a bad idea. Whether it is minimum sentencing laws, a hard schedule for who can and cannot be detained pre-trial, or the inability to extend discovery deadlines, any time you take away judicial discretion it opens the door for cases to fall through the cracks and people to be harmed in the process.

I understand that there were cases where this was abused. Then fix that. Have a means to review, discipline, and even remove problematic judges who routinely violate the constitution, especially with regards to people's rights. Create a faster review and appeal process to overturn those bad decisions. But don't take discretion away from all of the judges.

All across the nation, crime is on the rise. Add to that staffing issues at police departments and at the District Attorney's Office, plus greater work required per case due to shorter timelines for discovery with no ability for the judge to extend the timelines, and you have what at least feels like a full-blown crisis. The last judicial reforms cleaned up some inequities in the system, but appear to have overcorrected. It is time to fix those overcorrections. Politicians need to work across the aisle and across the political spectrum to come together on common sense reforms.



*Steve*

# 2023 Adopted Budget



## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

After an initial winter COVID spike, 2022 was a “return to normal” year with most programs back in full swing, albeit with some additional procedures and safeguards for those vulnerable to respiratory diseases like COVID or flu. While inflation has been high and supply chains still stressed, both of which have added to the Town’s expenses, revenues have come roaring back keeping us in the black.

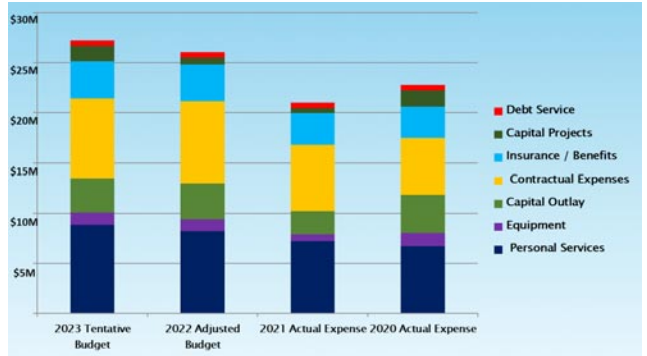
### 2022 PROJECTED EXPENSES & REVENUES TO BUDGET

Fund	Expenses	Revenues
General*	\$ 950,000 under	\$ 2,100,000 over
Highway	\$ 500,000 under	\$ 100,000 over
Library	\$ 215,000 under	\$ 5,200 under
Drainage**	\$ 172,000 over	\$ 6,500 over
Sewer	\$ 0 under	\$ 17,000 under

\* The Town has not received sales tax revenue numbers for the 3rd or 4th quarters so estimates are included instead

\*\* Construction costs for the new drainage garage were significantly higher than budgeted

### 2023 Budget Compared to Prior Years

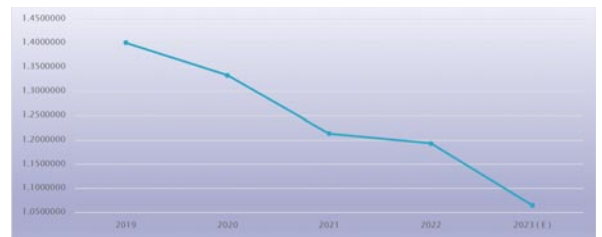


Expenses net of grants for projects and transportation district funds

## PLANNING FOR 2023

2023 includes a large capital expenditure for a much-needed new Town Court – currently, we are renting a court facility, which is wholly inadequate, especially from a security standpoint. The funds are coming from ARPA funds and our own fund balances, so we do not anticipate having to spend any property tax revenue or bond any portion of the costs. However, we did approve up to \$2M in bonds, in the event we need it due to rising costs. Debt service on those bonds would be less than we are paying in rent, thus still saving us money.

## DECLINING TAX RATE



By holding the tax levy flat for five straight years, as the Town has grown, **the Town’s tax rate has dropped!**

## 2023 Final Budget

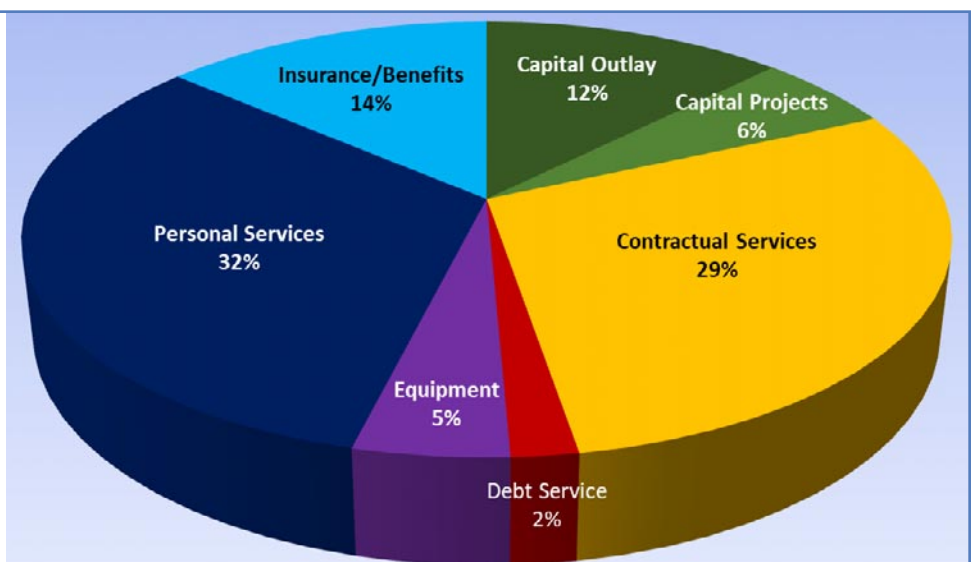
# \$25,678,380

### Budget Categories

Personnel & Benefits:	46%
Capital Outlay:	12%
Capital Projects:	6%
Contractual Services: <sup>1</sup>	29%
Debt Service: <sup>2</sup>	2%
Equipment:	5%

<sup>1</sup> Includes Ambulance

<sup>2</sup> Bond payments for Library



# New Park for the West Hamlet



## NEW PARK CELEBRATES THE HISTORY OF WEST HENRIETTA

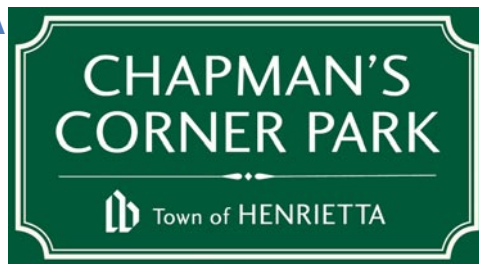
If you've been through the historic hamlet of West Henrietta lately, you probably noticed some recent changes. Two residents dedicated to preserving the historic charm of the neighborhood have been hard at work, creating a beautiful space to be enjoyed by everyone.

Ann Stevens and Bill Shattuck approached the Historic Site Committee and the Town Board with plans to purchase the property on the southeast corner of West Henrietta and Erie Station Roads with the goal of creating a park to celebrate the history of the hamlet. Both the committee and the board liked the idea so an ad hoc committee was formed, including the Town Historian, members of the Historic Site Committee, the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee, and other Town officials, to create a conceptual design for the park. Ann and Bill purchased the property in 2021 and began making significant improvements with the intent of donating those improvements when the Town purchased the property from them for their purchase price.

The name Chapman's Corner honors the Chapman Family that owned the property for 189 years. The Chapman House was the first inn built in West Henrietta. Bill has replicated the inn, in miniature form, to be used as a Little Free Library in the park (see picture on right).

Dead trees and shrubs were removed and new trees added to those original plantings remaining on the property. Many grand trees that provide shade and add to the parklike setting were saved. The biggest change was the revitalization of the former Three Sisters Ice Cream stand into an attractive informational pavilion where visitors can learn all about the history of the West Henrietta Hamlet. Paying homage to the former Three Sisters Ice Cream, local sculptor Stacey Mvra has created an ice cream cone themed bench and bike rack, pictured right.

Once the land transfer is complete, the Town will dedicate the new park as Chapman's Corner Park and will make improvements to the parking lot, add a restroom and a small playset, as well as other enhancements. The Town is grateful to Ann and Bill for their dedication and generosity for the improvements they have made over the past two years. Visit Chapman's Corner Park in the Summer of 2023 to enjoy the park and learn more about the rich history of the area.



Three Sisters Ice Cream: in operation, when purchased, and being transformed to a history pavilion.



### TINY ART SHOW

The library's first annual Tiny Art Show was a giant success! Over the summer, folks created art on 4"x4" canvases either at home or at one of our open art times in the Craft Room. Overall, we collected over 250 completed canvases, which we displayed in the first-floor atrium through the month of August. We learned a lot this year and are already planning to make next summer's show even better!



happy new year 2023

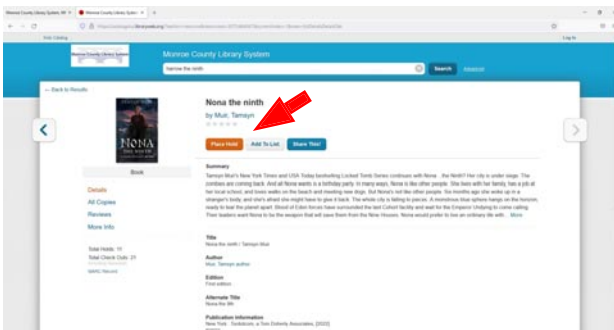
### NOON YEAR'S EVE

December 31 from 11:30am-12:30pm

Looking for a fun and kid-friendly way to ring in the New Year? Join us for our annual Noon Year's extravaganza! We will have fun activities, music, and a countdown to noon. No registration necessary.

### BRING YOUR BOOK DONATIONS TO THE HENRIETTA PUBLIC LIBRARY'S FRIENDS & FOUNDATION BOOK SHOPPE

The HPL Friends & Foundation sells used books to raise funds to support library events, classes, and programs. Help them out by donating books in good condition (no musty books or missing covers, please!) any time the library is open. They can take up to three boxes or bags at one time. They can't take books that they have a hard time selling, such as encyclopedias, religious titles, textbooks, travel books, CDs, cassette tapes, books on tape, VHS tapes, and magazines that are more than two years old.



### GET A HOLD IN LINE FOR THE NEWEST BESTSELLERS

If you don't find a book on our shelves or if it's checked out in the catalog, you can get a copy sent from another Monroe County Library or place a hold on it. Do so by asking a library staff member or by using [catalogplus.libraryweb.org](http://catalogplus.libraryweb.org) and clicking "Place Hold." If your personal info is up to date in the catalog system, you'll get a text, email, or call when your book is ready for you to pick up.

### RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ART SHOWS

From February to June, the library will be hosting the Rush-Henrietta Central School District's student art shows, starting with the elementary schools and culminating in the full district show at the end of the school year. The shows bring beauty to our library and showcase the outstanding arts education program we have in town. I am always astounded by the quality and variety of art on display! I hope many of you will come in to see the shows. Visit our website or sign up for our email newsletter at [hpl.org](http://hpl.org) to get up-to-date info on the days and times of the show openings.



Adrienne L. Pettinelli, Library Director

# 2023 Town & County Tax Collection



Tax bills will be mailed to real property owners on December 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are responsible for payment and do not receive your tax bill by January 6<sup>th</sup>, please contact us at [townclerk@henrietta.org](mailto:townclerk@henrietta.org) or (585) 359-7035 to request a duplicate bill at no charge; or visit [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov).

For complete payment information, please visit [www.henrietta.org/taxes](http://www.henrietta.org/taxes).

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

### PAYMENT IN FULL

- Pay in full by deadline of February 10<sup>th</sup>, with no additional interest.
- After the February 10<sup>th</sup> deadline, interest accrues at the rate of 1.5% per month.

### INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS

- The first installment is due on or before February 10<sup>th</sup>, with no additional interest.
- The amount of interest owed on installment payments is based on the date the payment is made.

What that means is that there is no interest on ANY payments made on or before February 10<sup>th</sup> – it doesn't matter whether you're paying the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> installment. Conversely, there is interest on ALL payments made after February 10<sup>th</sup>, regardless of which installment is being paid.

If you're looking at the installment stub, the amount due is the correct amount as long as you are paying within the date range listed. Let's use the third installment as an example:

- if you're paying between March 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, you'll owe the amount shown.
- if you're paying BEFORE March 1<sup>st</sup>, you'll owe less interest.
- if you're paying AFTER March 31<sup>st</sup>, you'll owe more interest.

Additionally, even though there are data ranges listed on the installment stubs, you can make those payments anytime within the total tax collection period. Sticking with the third installment as an example, you do not have to wait until March 1<sup>st</sup> to make a payment. If you have the means to pay earlier, you can certainly do so, and you'll even save yourself a little bit of money.

### PARTIAL PAYMENTS

- An initial payment of at least 25% of the taxes due, plus any accrued interest, can be made at any time during the collection period. Any payment made on or before February 10<sup>th</sup> is interest-free. After February 10<sup>th</sup>, interest accrues at the rate of 1.5% per month.

## PAYMENT METHODS

- **ONLINE** To pay with a credit card or online check, please visit [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov) (convenience fee applies). Note that partial payments cannot be made online.
- **BY MAIL** Pay by check or money order made payable to **Receiver of Taxes, Henrietta**. Postmark dates are honored. If you're close to the deadline, walk your payment into the Post Office to ensure it gets postmarked. Please include the payment stub.
- **DROP BOX** Town Hall has an external drop box to submit your payment in a contactless means and after hours, located near the east entrance to Town Hall. Please include the payment stub.
- **IN-PERSON AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE** Pay by cash, check, or money order, payable to **Receiver of Taxes, Henrietta**. Please bring the bill so we can stamp it received and keep the stub.

Don't forget to sign up for our "**Tax Reminders**" email subscription to receive reminders when bills are mailed and when payment deadlines are near — go to [www.henrietta.org/subscribe](http://www.henrietta.org/subscribe)

# Town Clerk News

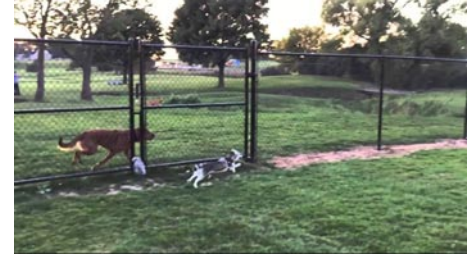


## 2023 DOG PARK PERMITS

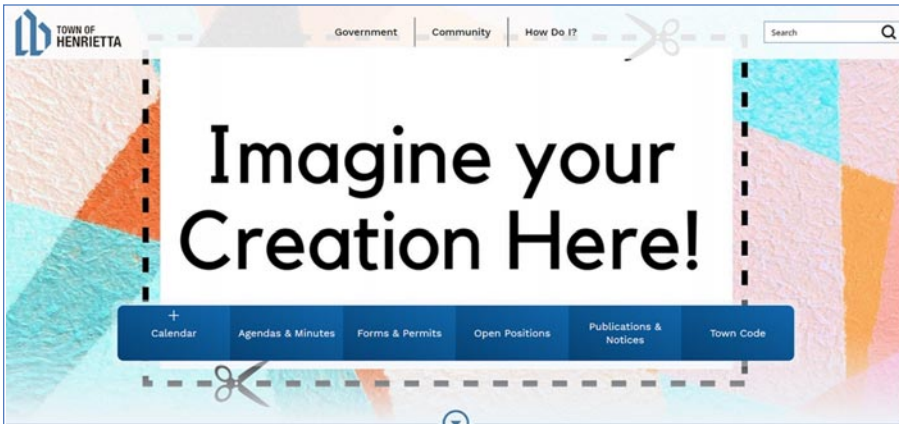
We are currently selling 2023 dog park permits, which will be valid through 12/31/2023, for \$24 per dog. However, if you registered your dog(s) for the Henrietta Dog Park in 2022 and renew before the end of the year, the renewal fee is **only \$20**. As a reminder, each year you must show a current dog license and rabies vaccination certificate to complete the dog park registration.

Please note that if you wish for your dog park fees to stay in Henrietta, you should renew at the Henrietta Town Clerk's Office or by mailing your renewal forms to us at: 475 Calkins Road / Rochester, NY 14623. Replacement access cards can also be purchased in our office for \$20.

For more information, please visit <https://www.henrietta.org/dogpark>



*A lot of work was done to reroute the stream to try to reduce stagnant water at the Dog Park*



We have received a lot of amazing entries in our **Seeing Henrietta Through Your Eyes** contest and will be featuring a new winner every month during 2023, so keep your eye on the Town website for featured photos from Henrietta residents!

## EMAIL NOTIFICATION SUBSCRIPTIONS

Stay up-to-date on what's happening in Town. Sign up for email notifications on the Town website at

[www.henrietta.org/subscribe](http://www.henrietta.org/subscribe)

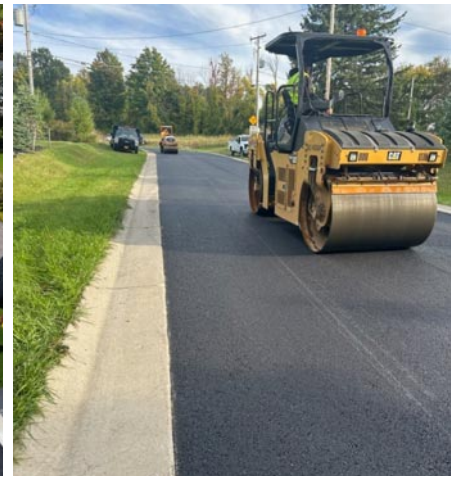
- News & Announcements includes notifications for Board openings, Legal Notices, and more
- Boards & Committees includes notifications for the Agenda/Minutes for our various Boards in Town
- Recreation includes notifications for Senior Center, Rec Center, or other Rec related events



# Highway and

## COMPLETING YET ANOTHER RECORD PAVING SEASON

The Highway Department continues to grow its output, laying down 17,000-tons of asphalt, which is a 50% increase over last year's record setting numbers. In addition to repairing Town roads, the crew has also been repairing County roads, which brings additional revenue into the Town to help keep taxes down. This growth was part of a multi-year plan to bring additional employees on to reduce plow times and offset that expense by doing work for the County or State to pay for the additional highway employees.



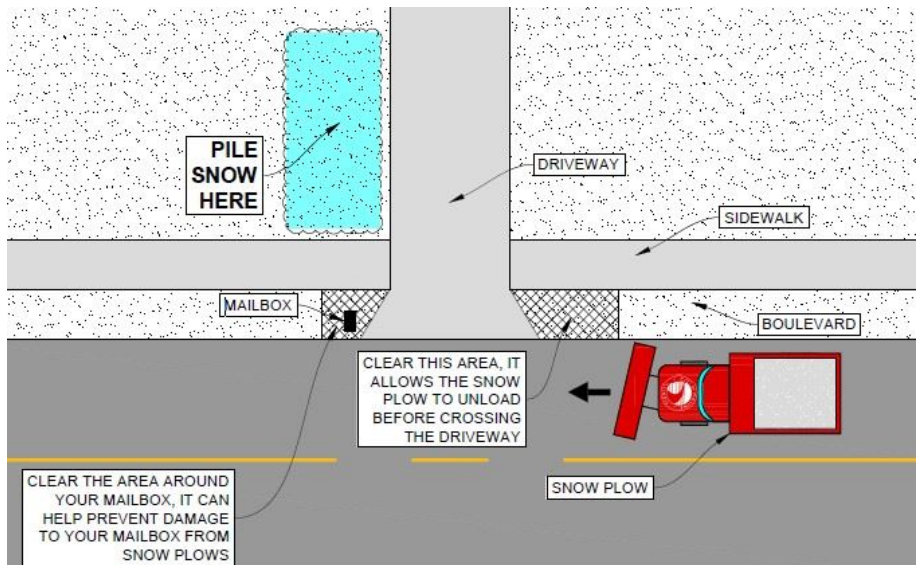
## REDUCING PLOW DAMAGE TO MAILBOXES



Our crews do their best to avoid mailboxes and lawns, but poor visibility, oncoming traffic, and heavy snow loads pulling at the plow, can all lead to plow damage to mailboxes or lawns. In the event we do strike a mailbox, the Town, as a courtesy, will attempt to repair your assembly, or if it is too broken, to replace it with a standard mailbox and post. If your mailbox is struck by a plow, please contact Dispatch at 359-7005. Lawn repairs must wait until the spring, so in late February or early March, please call to place a work

order for lawn repairs as well.

You can also help reduce the chance of snow plow damage to your mailbox by clearing snow around the mailbox so it is not buried like in the picture above. If your mailbox is at the end of your driveway, you can protect it, as well as reduce the amount of snow pushed back after clearing your driveway, by clearing in the direction the plow is coming from and piling the snow away from the road.





# Public Works



## NEW SEWER GARAGE NEARING COMPLETION

As the Town has grown, the garage in the DPW building has run out of space. The Sewer and Drainage Department has built a new garage for their equipment, freeing up the space in the DPW building, especially for Highway vehicles used for plowing.

In addition, work continues on the new Facilities Garage, seen in the picture above, which replaced the run-down old garage that used to sit where the new Sewer and Drainage Garage sits. The two new facilities were much needed due to the growth in the Town and the need to be able to respond to storms and other events in a timely fashion.



## REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, AND UPGRADES

Grounds and Facilities did a lot of repairs, maintenance, and upgrades around the Town this year, in addition to all of the mowing, planting, and upkeep on the Town parks, greenbelts, and facilities. This included repairing two of the bridges at Riverton Golf Course, including the one shown left. Crews also upgraded the windows in the Roberts and Bushman cabins and cleared the many dead ash trees out of Hoskins Park as we work towards the creation of the new Educator's Grove being led by a grass roots movement of Rush-Henrietta alumni. Crews also continued work on the new counter at the Town Clerks Office, creating a wheelchair accessible portion and a better floor to ceiling front for the office. The counters are expected to be installed around the same time this issue hits mailboxes.



## WINTER PARKING BAN ALREADY IN EFFECT

This is a reminder that during the winter, parking on the street is prohibited in the Town between the hours of 2:00 AM and 9:00 AM. The ban runs from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> and any cars found in the road may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.



## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

If you have any questions or comments about the maintenance of our Town roads, you may contact the Highway Superintendent, Tim Lessing, via email at [TLessing@Henrietta.org](mailto:TLessing@Henrietta.org) or by calling 585-359-7004.

## COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS

If you have any questions or comments about the sewer, drainage, facilities, or grounds, you may contact the Commissioner of Public Works, Mike Catalano, via email at [MCatalano@Henrietta.org](mailto:MCatalano@Henrietta.org) or by calling 585-359-7007.



The Henrietta Parks and Recreation brochure is no longer mailed to homes.

Look for us online at [henriettarec.org](http://henriettarec.org), or stop in to see us and pick up a hard copy.

Registration opens December 5.

## YOUTH HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The Youth Development Advisory Committee is now accepting applications for the 2023 Henrietta Youth Hall of Fame, which recognizes Henrietta high school students who have made meaningful contributions to their school or community, have overcome significant obstacles or challenges in their life, and/or have demonstrated remarkable personal growth. The inductees will be honored at a ceremony in the spring.

Applications may be downloaded at: [henrietta.org/bc-yb](http://henrietta.org/bc-yb) and must be submitted to [recreationcenter@henrietta.org](mailto:recreationcenter@henrietta.org) by Friday, January 20.

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

Thursday, January 12 at 7:00pm

Guardian Angels Church  
2061 East Henrietta Rd.

Sponsored by the Interracial Clergy Council, Interfaith Council, Town of Henrietta and Rush-Henrietta Central School District

Keynote: Dr. Angela Sims, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School  
Free! All are invited to attend. No registration required.



## CUPCAKES AND CUPIDS

### VALENTINE'S DAY FAMILY DANCE

Saturday, February 12  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Henrietta Recreation Center

Put on your dancing shoes and celebrate Valentine's Day with your family. Music, crafts, games, inflatables and cupcake frosting.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 1 at Tinker Nature Park  
Activities 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
Egg Hunt 1:00pm for ages 6 and under  
1:15pm for ages 7 and up

Register online beginning March 6 at [henriettarec.org](http://henriettarec.org)



## EXPERIENCE THE REWARDS OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are needed to work with the new Special Olympics Gymnastics Program at the Henrietta

Recreation Center. Training is provided through Special Olympics. Call (585) 359-7055 for more info.



**Holiday Lights and Magic**  
**Saturday, December 10th**  
**5:30pm - 8:00pm**

SANTA ARRIVES AT 5:50PM  
 FOLLOWED BY THE TREE LIGHTING!

Activities at:  
 Henrietta Library  
 Henrietta Recreation Center  
 Henrietta Senior Center

Activities Include:

- Visits with Santa
- A celebration of holiday traditions around the world
- Story time at the Henrietta Library
- A magic show at the Henrietta Senior Center
- Live music
- Cookie decorating
- Shop with local holiday vendors at the Recreation Center

## 6TH ANNUAL RH KICKING HUNGER 5K RUN/WALK

Saturday, June 3; 8:00 am start  
Veterans Memorial Park

100% of net proceeds from this race will go to support local families through the RH Kicking Hunger Food Pantry.

Registration is now open on [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com)



# Tinker Nature Park & Senior Center



## TINKER NATURE PARK HOURS 1525 Calkins Road

Open daily 7:00 am - Sundown

Tinker Nature Park is a carry in-carry out park. Pets are NOT allowed in the park. Restrooms are located by the Calkins Rd parking lot.

## HANSEN NATURE CENTER HOURS Tuesday-Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

Closed Sunday, Monday and Holidays.

Ski and snowshoe rentals are available Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, conditions permitting.

## TINKER HOMESTEAD is shown by appointment only: Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

begins **December 26** and continues through the month of January. Drop off trees behind the barn to be recycled into mulch for our trails. No bags, strings, wire wreaths or plastic of any kind. This is a free service of the Town but please bring a canned good or other non-perishable item to drop off in the bin for the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal (RHAFT).



## PRESCHOOL FRIDAYS

Offered Monthly:

**December 2, January 6, February 3 and March 3**

Time: 9:30 am - 10:30 am



Get your preschooler outside this winter!

Preschoolers and their parents will enjoy a themed story time with a collection of cuddly stuffed animals, and then head outside for a walk in the woods. In case of inclement weather, a craft will be provided instead. Meet at Nature Center promptly at 9:30 am.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Coffee and Stargazing** Saturday, February 4  
6:30 - 9:30 pm Telescopes, coffee and dessert will be provided. Call (585) 359-7044 to register.

**Earth Day** Saturday, April 22, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Live animal show, educational talks, crafts and fun.

[www.henrietta.org/community/page/tinker-nature-park](http://www.henrietta.org/community/page/tinker-nature-park)



Henrietta Senior Center

515 Calkins Rd.  
Henrietta, NY 14467  
(585) 334-4030  
Mon.-Fri. 9:00am-3:00pm

## LUNCH CLUB 60

Inside Dining or Grab 'n Go

Mon., Tue., and Wed.

11:00am-12:30pm

Suggested donation \$3.50

Call ahead to reserve.



Indoor Cornhole Leagues are forming now. Play **begins Friday, January 6** at 1:00 pm. Call the Senior Center today to join.



## Holiday Party



**Tuesday, December 22**

Holiday party with entertainment by Mike Sidoti. Call the Senior Center to make a reservation.



## FREE AARP TAX PREPARATION

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 60 and have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are located nationwide, and are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.



Tax Appointments on Thursday's, **beginning in February**. Call the senior center at 334-4030 beginning January 17<sup>th</sup> to make an appointment.

# Building & Fire Prevention



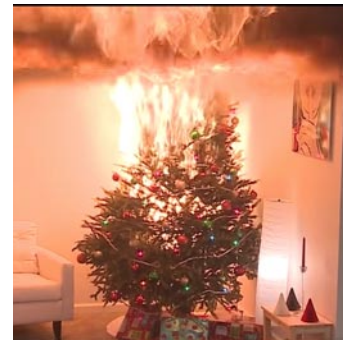
## NEW TOWN CODES HELP ACCESSIBILITY

The Town put forth a local law to change the Town Codes with respect to accessibility. Wheelchair ramps and other accessibility elements can now exceed setbacks with just administrative approval needed. In the past, if someone wanted to add a wheelchair ramp and their house was up against the setback, they needed to get a variance, which was a lengthy process, and problematic especially when emergency temporary ramps are needed.



## SAFE AND SOUND FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The cold, flu, and covid season is not the only risk for the holidays. Every year, fires break out due to worn power cords, dried trees, decorative candles catching combustibles on fire, or other dangerous holiday practices. When decorating for the holidays, inspect and replace old worn out electronic equipment and components. Be mindful of where you place extension cords; do not run under carpets and if using outdoors be sure they are approved for exterior use. If you are going to burn candles, locate them away from combustible materials such as curtains, walls and any decorations. Battery operated candles are a safer alternative. Keep fresh cut trees watered and away from heat sources so they don't dry out and become a potential fire hazard.



approved for exterior use. If you are going to burn candles, locate them away from combustible materials such as curtains, walls and any decorations. Battery operated candles are a safer alternative. Keep fresh cut trees watered and away from heat sources so they don't dry out and become a potential fire hazard.

## KEEP WALKS AND STEPS ICE FREE

Keep stoops and sidewalks clear of snow and ice to help prevent injuries, and make sure your driveway and house entrances are kept clear in the event emergency personnel might need to reach you. Be sure your house numbers are clearly visible from the road so that emergency personnel can find your location as quickly as possible; in an emergency, seconds count. Also, please do your best to keep fire hydrants visible and accessible to emergency personnel.



## SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Change your Clocks; Change your Batteries. A good practice when replacing the batteries is to write the date right on the batteries with a permanent marker for future reference. Some of the newer detectors come with 10-year sealed batteries, which is the typical life span of the detector (check manufacturer's specifications).

## BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits are issued to maintain compliance with state and local codes, ensuring life safety and energy conservation. Unfortunately, most codes were implemented as a result of something bad happening in the past. Our job in the Building and Fire Prevention Department is to do all we can to not let the bad stuff happen. Please check out the **Building and Fire Prevention** page on the town website at [henrietta.org/building](http://henrietta.org/building) for more information, including permit applications and fees. Feel free to give us a call at 359-7060 with any questions or to see if your particular project will require a permit.



# Engineering & Planning

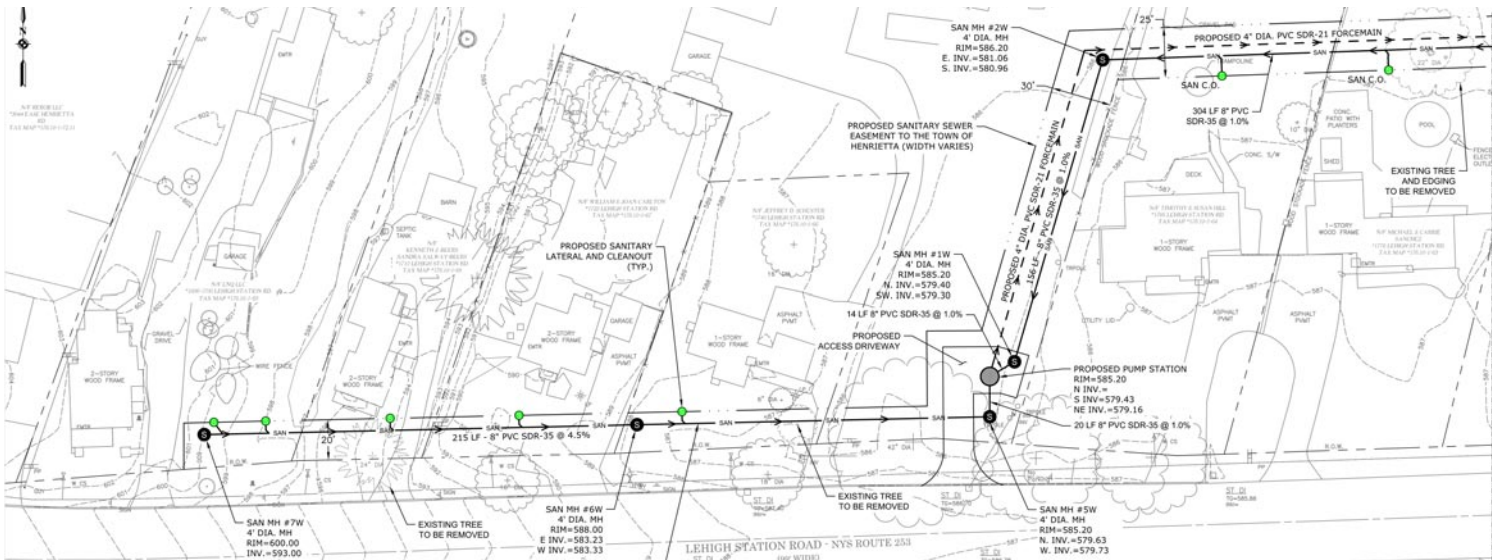


## FILL / GRADING PERMITS

A fill or grading permit is required when you are adding fill to an area or changing the grading of a property. This includes when you want to place the soil material you are pulling up in order to install an in-ground pool. The reason this requires a permit is the Town needs to ensure you are not accidentally filling in a drainage swale, causing a change in run-off patterns that will negatively affect your neighbors, or creating other potential problems down the road. The permit application is a simple two-page form and does not include any fees.

For a copy of the "Fill / Grading Permit" you can check out the website at [www.henrietta.org/forms](http://www.henrietta.org/forms).

If you have any questions about filling out the permit, please contact us at 359-7070.



## ARPA FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Phase I of the Lehigh Station Road Sanitary Sewer project is complete and we have designed Phase II and are in the midst of the approval process. Similarly, we have designed the Middle Road Water Main project and are preparing to go out for bid. Both of these projects are receiving some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds – specifically those allocated for infrastructure. In order to accomplish more of these types of projects, we are also creating a Sewer District and a Water District, respectively, to charge a portion of the costs to the residents receiving the benefit. That is how a lot of infrastructure is funded but the nature of these projects would be unaffordable by the charge back method alone since New York State Law dictates the maximum allowable length of debt repayment and there are too few houses to otherwise split the costs. The ARPA funding allows us to do some of these important projects, as does other funding, such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

## MIDDLE ROAD TO BE A MAJOR CONSTRUCTION ZONE

In addition to the water main the Town is installing on Middle Road from Lehigh Station Road to the Thruway, the Free Masons of New York are running a sanitary sewer main north from their future facility up to Lehigh Station Road and residents will be able to connect into that. And on top of all of that, the Monroe County Department of Transportation is widening and improving the shoulders and drainage along Middle Road from Calkins Road to Erie Station Road.



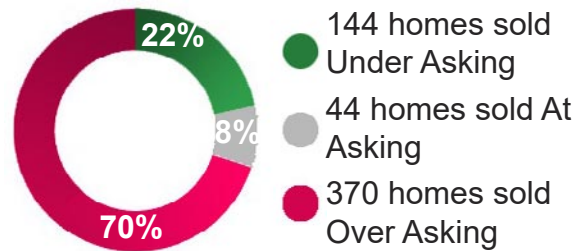
## GOOD NEWS FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – HIGHER INCOME LIMITS

New York State increased the income limit criteria for certain tax exemptions for seniors and persons with disabilities. Monroe County and the Town of Henrietta adopted the new higher income limits and the Rush-Henrietta Central School District is phasing them in over a three-year span. If you are a senior or person with a disability, please visit the Assessor's Office to see if you now qualify. We will be sending out a mailer on this discount and others so keep a look out for it in your mailbox or stop in with questions.

Old Limits		New Limits		Discount
below	\$ 29,000	below	\$ 50,000	50%
\$ 29,000 to	\$ 29,999	\$ 50,000 to	\$ 50,999	45%
\$ 30,000 to	\$ 30,999	\$ 51,000 to	\$ 51,999	40%
\$ 31,000 to	\$ 31,999	\$ 52,000 to	\$ 52,999	35%
\$ 32,000 to	\$ 32,899	\$ 53,000 to	\$ 53,899	30%
\$ 32,900 to	\$ 33,799	\$ 53,900 to	\$ 54,799	25%
\$ 33,800 to	\$ 34,699	\$ 54,800 to	\$ 55,699	20%
\$ 34,700 to	\$ 35,599	\$ 55,700 to	\$ 56,599	15%
\$ 35,600 to	\$ 36,499	\$ 56,600 to	\$ 57,499	10%
\$ 36,500 to	\$ 37,399	\$ 57,500 to	\$ 58,399	5%

## REAL ESTATE MARKET STILL GOING STRONG

Even as new home builds start to decline and fewer people are selling, demand is outpacing supply. So, houses continue to sell at or above selling price and the overall prices continue to climb, up an average of about 9% from this time last year. This is not the news people want to hear with inflation and other financial concerns, but by keeping Town assessments at full market value, it avoids our taxpayers being hit with an equalization rate penalty under Real Property Tax Law, which would increase tax rates and lower property exemptions, which is bad for our residents.



## UNDERSTANDING REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

Assessors are governed by New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL), which requires that assessments are either kept at full market value or at a consistent percentage of full market value. As stated above, Henrietta keeps them at full market value in order to avoid an equalization rate penalty being levied on our resident's tax bills.

RPTL governs much more than people do not fully understand. We want to educate people on RPTL so as to reduce stress and anger and to help get to a truly fair assessment. The Town gets no additional tax revenue by raising your assessment or no less tax revenue by lowering your assessment. Assessments do not determine how much tax the Town takes in, but instead determines who pays which portion. Our goal is fairness, in compliance with RPTL. So, whatever we can do to help you, we will.

When considering comparable sales, assessors may only look at sales that occurred during a specific time frame, specifically, those sales that occurred in the previous year as close as possible to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. And only sales that were an "arm's length deal" may be considered. Sales where the buyer and seller may have a previous relationship, for instance, are excluded. So, for the 2023 Tax Roll, assessed values are equalized to the home real estate market from July 2022 based on the condition of the house on the taxable status date, which is always March 1<sup>st</sup> of the tax year. Assessors have no flexibility on these laws.

But what they can consider is the selection of comparable properties and the condition of the property. If you are being reassessed, check the list of comparable properties. If you think there are homes more representative of your house in the sales book that the Assessor's Office makes available, stop in and share that. If your house has a significant condition issue, take pictures of it and stop in and share them.

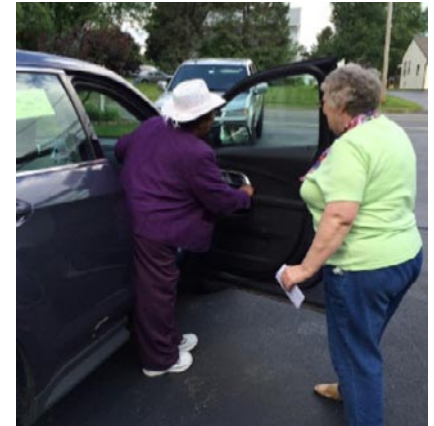
# FISH / RHAFT, Inc.



**FISH** (Friends in Service Here) / **RHAFT** (Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal) is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization of over a hundred thirty dedicated volunteers who provide emergency food and rides for those needing assistance and living in the Rush-Henrietta School District. FISH has been serving the Rush-Henrietta community for over 50 years, beginning in 1969, and RHAFT has been the community's emergency food cupboard since 1979. But they can't do it alone. Here is how you can help.

## SEEKING HOMETOWN HEROES!

A little of your time and energy can make all the difference to vulnerable grandparents who just need a ride to take care of their health and individuals/parents trying to put a meal on their table. Join a vital group of caring people who support folks in our community who often have no other options. **CALL 585-453-2370** for more information on how your knowledge/experience can best help:



### Phone Dispatcher/Verifier      Driver      Administrative Support

Give your name / phone number to the answering service operator. Our Recruitment Coordinator looks forward to calling you back soon.

## WISH LIST – TIME, FOOD, AND MONEY DONATIONS

We depend on the generosity of those able to help us provide continuing services to our community. While any assistance is appreciated, we are currently in need of the following:

- Donate your time as we are experiencing a growth in the number of people who need assistance – see the above story for info on how to volunteer.
- Donate canned and packaged foods, especially hearty soups or other “create a meal” foods.
- Donate money to help us purchase fresh milk, eggs, fruit, and vegetables.

**CALL 585-453-2370** to make a donation, leaving your contact info so we can meet to accept the donation. If you are donating money, please indicate whether you are donating to FISH, RHAFT, or wherever we need it most. **Thank you for any assistance you can provide!**

## GIVING THANKS FOR HELP DURING TROUBLING TIMES

The pandemic created challenges for FISH/RHAFT in multiple ways. With so many out of work, there were far more in need of assistance. Our volunteers were stretched thin due to absences and other pandemic related issues. The pandemic itself made coordinating rides and distributing food difficult. And the continued supply chain issues and associated inflation is further stressing our community.

Thankfully, our Volunteers have open hearts and energy to spare and our Community Leaders and Organizations are compassionate and generous, especially during the extraordinary past three years.

With our revised guidelines and protocols, FISH/RHAFT has remained **open**, assisting Rush-Henrietta residents who need a ride or an emergency food delivery, and we have kept our volunteers and clients **safe** through the troubling times.



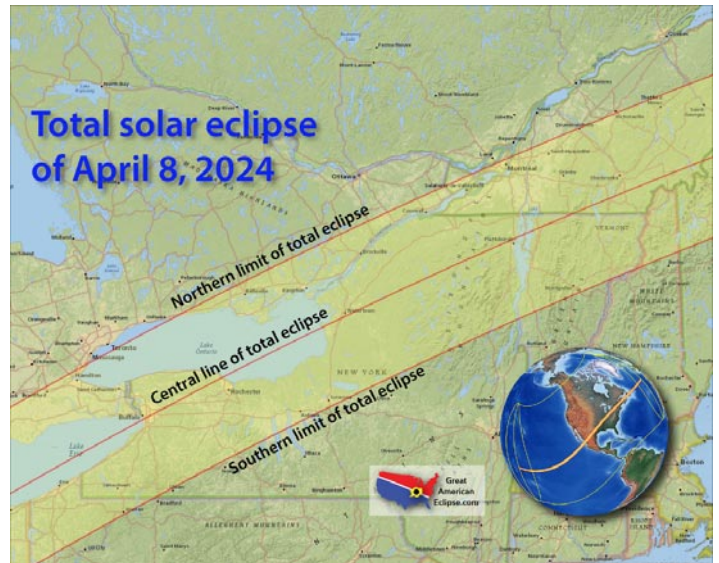


## TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

Have you heard? Western New York is in the path of totality of the next Total Solar Eclipse to cross the United States on April 8, 2024. Visit Rochester estimates we will see 350 – 500 thousand visitors to the Finger Lakes region for this major event!

According to astronomers, viewing a total solar eclipse like this, where you live, is a rare and spectacular event. It will attract enthusiasts locally and from around the world, creating opportunities to show off our region to a wide range of residents and visitors.

The Rochester Eclipse Task Force is coordinating efforts from museums, universities, and other organizations to help create a once-in-a-lifetime event for Rochesterians and all who visit our region. If you have an interest in being involved or just staying informed, please visit <https://rochestereclipse2024.org/> for more information.



## PRECAUTIONS FOR WINTER TRASH REMOVAL

Winter trash and recycling collections present a unique set of challenges not only for residents, but also for the companies and municipalities that provide these services. When winter storms invariably hit, there are a few simple steps that every resident can take to make trash collection easier, more efficient and assure that collection workers return home safely.

- **Keep Bins Out of The Street** – set trash and recycling bins off the roadway. Toters placed in the road can be in the way of plows, where they may be pushed aside and damaged.
- **Do Not Place Toters or Bins on Top of Snow Piles** as they may tip over. Pro tip: If you shovel, clear a small area for your containers. Ask your plow driver to do the same – your hauler will appreciate it!
- **Retrieve Your Bins ASAP** – Winter winds can blow empty bins into the street where they present a danger to vehicles. If you are not at home, ask a neighbor to retrieve your containers.
- **Use Trash Bags** – Bagging trash prevents items from becoming frozen inside the cart. Additionally, if the cans are blown over, this keeps trash from becoming litter.
- **Keep the Lids CLOSED** – Materials MUST BE LOOSE in the toter.
- **Recycling** – See <https://www.monroecounty.gov/files/DES/recyclopeda.pdf> for a complete list of acceptable items.
- **Slow Down Around Garbage Trucks** – they are big, stop frequently, may have blind spots, and weigh between 20 and 30 tons, so they take twice as long to stop as the average family vehicle and will crush cars in their path.



The Monroe County / Waste Management **ecopark** will be CLOSED: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day, plus Saturday, November 26





# Sustainability News



## KEEPING ORGANIC MATERIAL OUT OF LANDFILLS

Much is being written currently about diverting organic materials from landfills. What is included in this category? Food waste is at the top of the list, followed by yard waste such as leaves and brush.

Why are these materials a problem in landfills? Because they emit methane gas as they decompose within the layers of waste without oxygen being available. Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. Even though CO<sub>2</sub> has a longer-lasting effect, methane sets the pace for warming in the near term. At least 25% of today's global warming is driven by methane from human actions.



So what other options are available to residents?

1. During spring and fall, the Town of Henrietta schedules dates for residents to take yard waste to the drop-off site on Martin Road. These dates are published each year in Henrietta Happenings.
2. Grass clippings are not a problem if you use a mulching mower. The clippings decompose on your lawn and provide fertilizer for the grass.
3. If you are able, a composter in your yard will take care of most of your food scraps (but not meat or fat). You will get wonderful compost which can be spread on your lawn or gardens. Composters are easy to maintain and information is readily available on-line.
4. You can subscribe to Impact Earth Composting and have all of your compostable materials (food scraps, including meat, and paper products) picked up at your home – or you can take them to a drop-off location. Once a year you will receive compost back for use in your garden. For more information go to: [ImpactEarthRoc.com](http://ImpactEarthRoc.com)
5. If you buy a live Christmas tree, you can take it to Tinker Park in January, where it will be turned into chipped mulch for the park trails.
6. And looking ahead, the Town of Henrietta is planning a vermiculture food composting site (using worms that do all the work) that will provide a local site for composting of organic materials. Stay tuned for more details to come.

## COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION BID MOVED TO FEBRUARY

JOULE Assets wants to build the best program possible. By pushing the start date to February, JOULE will now have better market conditions, additional time for outreach and education, and more communities joining the bid, further increasing the chances for a better electricity supply rate and a more successful program. A Community Outreach program will be held at the HPL on January 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM with a Zoom presentation will follow.



Go to [www.monroecommunitypower.com](http://www.monroecommunitypower.com) to read about our partner towns.



## NY STRETCH ENERGY CODE TO TAKE EFFECT IN 2023

NY STRETCH Energy Code was adopted by Henrietta in June 2022, with an implementation date of January 1, 2023 in order to give contractors and developers time to adjust to the new requirements. The more stringent building codes for insulation, window quality, and other energy savings measures will benefit new home buyers with lower energy costs and more comfortable houses.

## LED STREET LIGHTING PROGRESSING

The Town has initiated the purchase of the existing street lights from RG&E and National Grid. Now the process enters the “bureaucratic phase” as it wades through 150-days of approvals from the utility companies and Public Service Commission. Once approved, Centrica will begin the installation of around 800 new LED streetlights in Town. They have already started with some Town-owned fixtures.



# Around the Town

## MOOSE LODGE FAMILY CENTER AND “MINGLE BELLS” CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENT

The Moose organization is a private, charitable, volunteer organization with close to one million men and women members across America, Canada, England and Bermuda. Membership in our Genesee-Valley Henrietta Moose Lodge #2290 Family Center gains you access to all the other lodges/family centers in your travels, including 55 across New York State. With a ONE MOOSE membership card, you become a Moose member everywhere!

We have been in Henrietta for 35 years supporting Mooseheart (children in need), Moosehaven (aging seniors) and the local community, plus we have FUN doing it. Our cobblestone building, built in 1830 (seen above), has a long history of businesses and services for our area. The upstairs rooms are used for bingo, large events and rented out for parties, weddings and celebrations of life. The pavilion is also used for events and winter storage.

**This year we are sponsoring the Henrietta Chamber of Commerce “Mingle Bells” event on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 PM with the first drink on the Chamber!** We are grateful for the many Moose volunteers and to the local community that has helped support us with take-outs and chicken barbeques over the past challenging years.

New members can get involved in our Family Center, make new friends, socialize and learn about all the good things that we accomplish through new member orientation programs. Feel free to stop by and check us out at 5375 West Henrietta Rd. or call (585) 359-1937 or visit [Mooseintl.org](http://Mooseintl.org) for more info on membership benefits.

## STATE OF THE TOWN LUNCHEON

The Henrietta Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual State of the Town Luncheon, with a presentation by Henrietta Town Supervisor, Steve Schultz.



**Coming in February  
Date and Time to Be Announced**

Learn about the Town’s progress through the previous year and plans for the coming year.

Contact Brendan Tydings at [btydings@gvrma.com](mailto:btydings@gvrma.com) for more information.

Give blood.  
Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.  
American Red Cross



**Blood is needed now more  
than ever. Supplies are running low.  
Give Blood. Save Lives.**

**1-800-RED CROSS  
(1-800-733-2757)**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**Henrietta Blood Donation Center  
825 John Street, West Henrietta  
Appointments available daily**



## HENRIETTA GARDEN CLUB



**January 11<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 PM**

**“Cassowaries to Cannibals to Cuttlefish”**

Diane Henderson presents her Australia and Papua New Guinea adventure travel log

**February 8<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 PM**

**“Critters in the Garden”**

with Lynn Braband

**March 8<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 PM**

**“Dwarf Fruit Trees”**

with Jay Cappon

The Henrietta Garden Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, January to April and September to November, at 6:30 PM in the lower level of the Henrietta Town Hall, 475 Calkins Rd. Guests are welcome for a free visit. Handicap accessible. Call 585-747-6780 or visit

<https://sites.google.com/site/henrietagardenclub/>

**Look for our  
HGC Plant Sale  
in May!**





## ROCHESTER ELKS LODGE AND ELKS HOOP SHOOT 2023

We extend heartfelt thanks to our community for supporting our fundraisers, takeout dinners, and other events in 2022! Your generosity helps us fund our local charitable activities such as providing meals and “Welcome Home” kits for homeless veterans, supporting Honor Flight Rochester, assisting struggling families in the community, and supporting Cancer Support Community Rochester, and youth programs including Drug Awareness and Hoop Shoot.



Our annual Hoop Shoot at the Henrietta Recreation Center on Thursday, December 22, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. There is no charge to compete, and no pre-registration is necessary. The Elks national free throw contest is one of our most important youth programs and is open to all boys and girls ages 8-13 (as of April 1, 2023). The boy and girl in each age group with the best scores advance through four tiers of competition to qualify for the national finals in Chicago.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the premier charitable and patriotic fraternal organization in America, with over 2000 lodges across the country. To date, Rochester Lodge #24 has donated back over \$5M in cash, goods, and services to local programs and charities. As we move through the holiday season and enter a new year, let’s remember and act on the words of Mother Teresa: “In this life we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

To learn more, visit: [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org), Rochester Elks Lodge, 3525 E. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, 585-334-1900

## AMERICAN LEGION - ELY FAGAN POST 1151

It’s time to sign up for the American Legion summer youth programs. Boys State and Girls State are among the most respected and selective week-long educational programs of government instruction, citizenship, and leadership training for U.S. high school students enrolled in their junior year.

American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues for youths, age 13 to 19. The purpose of American Legion Baseball is to give players the opportunity to develop their skills, personal fitness, leadership qualities, and to have fun. Since its inception in 1925, the league has had millions of players. Many of these players have gone on to play college level baseball and professional baseball, with 82 inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In partnering with the VFW, senior scholarships are given to selectees based on scholastic achievement and an essay centered on the Constitution. Scholarship eligibility is open to Rush-Henrietta high school seniors and high school seniors whose parent(s) and/or grandparent(s) are members, regardless of location.

We would like to say thank you to Senior Wishes of Orchard Park for presenting several of our senior veterans with a Hero Box. The boxes contain numerous items such as books, puzzles, socks, gift cards, and items specific to their branch of service along with a Thank You for Your Service card. Pictured L-R: Ray Montenaro, Joe Jakus, Cappy Capuano, Lou Morin II (for his father), John Miller, Walt Banker (seated), Del Young (not pictured)



If you are interested in volunteering for any of these programs or in joining our American Legion family, stop by the Legion at 260 Middle Rd in Henrietta, call (585) 334-8228 or email us at [elyfaganpost1151@gmail.com](mailto:elyfaganpost1151@gmail.com). You qualify for membership if you are an active military member, veteran, spouse or child/grandchild of either.

## HENRIETTA FOUNDATION

Rush Henrietta Foundation, in conjunction with Boy Scout Troop 750, organized and executed a Lehigh Trail cleanup at the East Henrietta trailhead on Saturday October 1st. A large amount of effort was dedicated to the weeding of the garden beds there.

A special thanks to Carol Thiel & Peter Collinge, longtime members, for their participation.





Henrietta Town Hall  
 475 Calkins Road  
 Henrietta, NY 14467

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Town of Henrietta 

# Holiday Lights and Magic

*Celebrate the second annual lighting of the Henrietta Town Campus*

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

*Santa arrives at 5:50 PM followed by the tree lighting*

Activities include: visits with Santa, live music, a magic show, story time at the Henrietta Library, a celebration of holiday traditions around the world, cookie decorating, local holiday vendors, & more.

*Free event!*

This is an indoor and outdoor event.  
 Dress for the weather.



# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

## Expanding the Dream!

Guardian Angels Church, 2061 East Henrietta Road  
 Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> — 7:00 PM

Music by Rush-Henrietta singers, Scholarship winners announced.  
 Keynote: Dr. Angela Sims, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

*Free event and open to the entire community!*

Sponsored by the Interracial Clergy Council, the Interfaith League, the Town of Henrietta, and the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

