

This fall has been one of the most beautiful that I can remember. On every road there are spectacular trees with multiple colors. The reds are so vibrant this year. What a beautiful time of year.

Since August, Town Board has been busy meeting 8 times with departments working on next year's budget. It's a very intense look, line by line of the needs and expectations in each department and working on the balance between what is being requested and the impact to our taxpayers. The public hearing for the 2023 budget is at 7 p.m. on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Recently, Julie Stenger and I had the opportunity to take a few minutes to visit the Barrow Art Gallery and meet up with Amy Roller who is always a wealth of knowledge and energy. The new entrance looks like it was always there. Something we are proud that Bill Murphy, architect and Dave Lee, builder accomplished. The gallery has been completely repainted, refurbished with the painting displayed to highlight the many themes he created. And its free! If you haven't visited recently, take the time to explore this gem in our community. You won't be disappointed.

As Veterans Day approaches it is important to remember those that serve our country and those that have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The Soldiers and Sailors monument at Lakeview Cemetery is a monument to the Veterans who served in the Civil War. John D. Barrow designed this monument and the Union Soldier who stands on the top. This monument is the responsibility of the Town and a few years ago required extensive maintenance as the mortar between the limestone blocks had deteriorated. This is the largest monument in Skaneateles and has a history that is very interesting. The Town is currently working with the Village to install a plaque in Shotwell Park to direct residents and visitors to the location of this Civil War monument. The background on this monument is very interesting as written by Kihm Winship <https://kihm6.wordpress.com/2009/09/22/the-soldiers-and-sailors-monument/> In the future, the Town hopes to install a more detailed plaque at the monument that will provide the historical background.

The Town finalized the closing of the Fennell Street property with the library at the end of October. This is a result of extensive discussions with the library and community input that this location was the most accepted location. This property allows for the library's plans and fundraising to move forward in order to build this exciting new library for the community that allows for expansion and improvement to accessibility and services. The library has worked tirelessly over the last few years focusing on securing a location that best serves our community. We are glad to be part of this process and provide the opportunity for the library to stay near the center of our community. Our congratulations to the library. We look forward to the progress we know the library's leadership team will make to bring to life a new library the community will be proud of.

The Town is currently working to revise plans for our Parks project based on the last informational meeting held at Austin Pavilion. We expect to schedule the next informational meeting in December.

We were saddened to learn that Town Councilor, Courtney Alexander's dad, Ken Jones recently died. Ken served on the Town Planning Board from 2000 to 2006. He was as an effective member on this Board who devoted many hours to learning the zoning, making recommendations to the Town Board to improve our zoning, and making sure projects complied with the zoning. Ken was a strong and thoughtful Board member. Ken and Charlene were very involved in this community and were especially known for running the video store for many years. We offer our deepest sympathy to Courtney, Charlene, and their family.