

For years the Town has been working to try to find ways to deliver public water to residents who even after digging several wells on their property, still don't have enough water to supply the daily needs of their families. In addition, the Onondaga County Health Department notified the Town that the supply of public water on the West side of Town does not meet their fire flow requirements. This has delayed the progress of commercial projects on the West side of Town. The Water Department is not funded by tax dollars. We have just under 1,000 water customers who have to pay for the operation and maintenance of our Water Department. The Town purchases water from the Village of Skaneateles but maintains the infrastructure of our water system. Over the years we have tried to find grant funding to support building a water tower to meet the fire flow requirements and to extend the water district to residents on Andrews and County Line Roads. The spring of 2022 provided such an opportunity and we worked with John Camp at C & S Engineers to apply for funding through the NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement and Intermunicipal Grant program. I am happy to report that in November 2022, the Town was notified that we were awarded a grant in the amount of \$4.423 Million. This is the largest grant that the Town has ever received, and the largest grant awarded in the Central New York Region. While we continue to look for additional funding to support the total cost of this project, we are very excited to finally be able to move forward with upgrading our water system and being able to provide the opportunity for water in a larger portion of the Town.

The Town of Skaneateles including our Highway Department was recently recognized by the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Directors as the 2022 Municipal Partner of the Year. I, along with Tim Dobrovosky was honored to receive this recognition on behalf of the Town. SWCD is a special purpose district created to develop and implement programs of soil, water and related natural resource conservation. The district offers a number of natural resources programs and services, including technical assistance to farmers and landowners, training, and environmental education programs. This partnership has certainly benefited the Town as we all work to maintain the water quality of Skaneateles Lake.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument is located at Lakeview Cemetery but owned by the Town of Skaneateles. The Monument was designed by John Barrow and erected to honor those who served in the Civil War. It was dedicated on September 4, 1895. Recently, the Town worked with the Village to coordinate signage at Shotwell Park to identify the location of this monument. Many thanks go out to Tom Posella, Director of Municipal Operations at the Village, and his crew for installing this plaque. In the future we plan to work with our historians and the Village to develop an information plaque giving a history of this important Monument.

Since 2015, the Town has held eight informational meetings to hear comments from our residents on what they would like to see in Austin Park. As we move forward with improvements, we welcome all your comments. Future updates on this project can be found at: <https://www.townofskaneateles.com/austin-park-and-pavilion-proposed-projects/>

The Town recently updated our website at [www.townofskaneateles.com](http://www.townofskaneateles.com). Many thanks to Kate and Sebastian Ibanez of Skaneateles Aerial Drone Photography and Marianne Angelillo Photography for providing the beautiful new pictures for the site. Please check our website and the calendar for planning, zoning, and town board meetings. Agendas and minutes are posted to keep you updated on what is going on in your community.

In 2022 we had many changes in all Town departments. After 27 years of service, Allan Wellington retired from the Highway Department where he also headed the Transfer Station. Tim Dobrovosky was elected as Highway Superintendent and Brian Buff was appointed to manage the Transfer Station. After 20 years, Bridgett Winkelman retired as Budget Officer and Keri Fey was hired to fill this position. After 23 years Joe Dwyer, Water Department Foreman retired at the end of 2021 and Shane Christman was hired to fill that position and is now Foreman of that Department. In 2022, at the Transfer Station, we hired Dave Tanner full-time and John Scriven, part-time. In the Highway Department, we hired Jake Fey to a full-time position in December 2021 and in November 2022, Frank Lessaongang was hired full-time. In the Town Clerk's Office and the Assessor's Office Aimie Case was hired part-time in September

of 2022. While we certainly miss our retired employees and appreciate all they provided over the years, I am very happy with the new employees hired and elected to fill their shoes.

We have great employees and longtime employees who are retiring or soon will be considering retirement and we are grateful that our new hires are doing such a great job for the Town. We know that public service can be challenging but it also gives the greatest reward in giving back to the community that you love. We thank all our staff for always giving their best.

Janet L. Aaron

Town Supervisor