



From the Desk of the Town Supervisor



With the advent of spring, our attention turns to the great outdoors and this year we're proud to have finally reaped the fruits of all our work in parks. As you will read, the Town Board commissioned a brand new park name Andersen Park on Van Buren Rd and opened a brand new dog park for our 4-legged residents to enjoy. We made long-awaited investments in Indian Meadows and finally paved those terrible park roads. Working with the leagues, particularly BHBL Girls' Softball, we significantly upgraded many of our fields. More to come this year.

As usual, we have stayed on pace with various development in our commercial corridor, most notably breaking ground on a brand new 104-room hotel at the Water's Edge Lighthouse property. The Town Board, the committees and staff remain committed to continuing the town's balanced approach to economic development in an effort to boost the tax base without overdeveloping in our corridors. The town recently held its annual developers event where a panel of local business leaders discussed the town's vision and the opportunities for Glenville ahead.

I also want to point out the good work of the town's Efficiency in Government committee which has hosted "Resident Focus Groups" as a way to help this administration meet its goal of inclusiveness and transparency. The meetings focused on particular topics, but often the residents have had opportunities to bring any issue up myself, Councilwomen Gina Wierzbowski, staff, or committee members. The next two meetings will focus on public safety and tax and finance, respectively. Please email me if you are interested in attending any of these focus groups at ckoetzle@townofglenville.org.

Finally, the Town Board has progressed on its commitment to utilize technology in an effort to gain more operational efficiency. Two major initiatives to note are the automatic read water meters and new software that will help integrate the various town departments and help to boost communications between them. More to come on this in the coming months, but the town's antiquated phone system will also be looked at for upgrades.

Enjoy the season and have a safe and fun summer. Perhaps I'll see you in one of our great parks this season.

All the best,

Christopher A Koetzle
Supervisor

From the Highway Department

The Annual Bulk Item Program will be held September 6, 2016 through September 20, 2016. As in past years, only one pass will be made. Once the truck has passed by your property, disposal will be your responsibility. Eligible items are to be placed on the edge of your lawn on September 5, 2016. Visit the town's website for the list of eligible & ineligible items. Please remember, if it fits in your garbage can, put it in your garbage can. The intent of this program is to dispose of large items.

This program has been moved to the fall due to vendor availability and not by choice of the town. Our vendor originally scheduled us for Memorial Day weekend, which in the past has generated many complaints from folks who wish to have picnics that weekend. When we requested another week, they moved us to graduation weekend (same issues there). Finally, the only other option was after Labor Day, which seems the best option at this point. There is only one vendor for the program, so we took what was available. We're looking into options for next year that will give us more flexibility, but for now this is what the vendor can do. The Town Board remains committed to this program and felt it was better to have the program in the fall than not all.

Spring/Summer yard waste including leaves, brush, grass clippings is the responsibility of the homeowner. Most garbage haulers include yard waste in their services. Please contact your garbage company for their specifics. Glenville residents may also bring yard waste to the Schenectady County Conservation District on Hetcheltown Rd. For details and permit requirements, please contact them at 399-6980.

Remember, New York State Highway Law §319 reads "no obstruction should be placed in the roadway and/or right of way". This includes sprinkler heads, property fences and dog fences to name a few. The average right of way is 10ft. from edge of blacktop. For the specific right of way of your road, please call the highway department.

2016 Planned Paving Program

The Town will resurface approximately 4.5 miles of road in the 2016 Paving season. We will pick up where we left off on the upper right side of Route 50 on Frederick Road and continue down the right side to Pashley Road. We will also complete the remainder of Touareuna Road in West Glenville. We will perform drainage work in the Scotchbush neighborhood in preparation for the 2017 Paving season.

Making Investments, While Sharing Services

We have expanded our vehicle maintenance services to include our volunteer fire departments providing savings to our departments and
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Hilton Hotel and Yates Farm Condo Projects Break Ground



Two major development projects, one commercial and one residential, both recently broke ground in Glenville. One is the Hilton Hotel Homewood Suites at 2-4 Freemans Bridge Road and the other is the Yates Farm Condominium project on Maple Avenue.

The Hilton Homewood Suites Hotel will consist of a 104-room, five-story structure along the banks of the Mohawk River, adjacent to the Waters Edge Lighthouse Restaurant. The Hilton has the distinction of being the first hotel to be built in Glenville. The anticipated 13-month construction timetable places the opening of the hotel in the summer of 2017, which is timed nicely to take advantage of the 2017 opening of the new Rivers Casino and Resort, currently under construction nearby in Schenectady.

Regarding Yates Farm, this 44-unit condominium project was initially approved by the Town's Planning & Zoning Commission in 2008. The housing market, particularly for condominiums, had taken a downturn about that time. The softening market, combined with a change in developers, resulted in the eight-year delay to the start of construction. The Amedore Group now owns the property and has started earthmoving and utility work. The project is to be located on the west side of Maple Avenue, at the intersection of Maple and Alplaus Avenues.

Glenville Parks Update



Glenville's newest park, The Anderson Park opened on April 15th. Complete with a dog park for your 4 legged friends this new park is a wonderful addition to the community.

A 100' X 100' small dog area and a 100' X 200' large dog area provide space for dogs to play off-leash.

Additional site amenities will be added over the coming weeks, and paving and striping of the parking area will also occur.

A trail for dogs on-leash extends from the dog park area, heading north toward Glen Haven School.

Andersen Dog Park use requires a permit, which is free to Glenville and Scotia residents, and \$50 for non-residents. Proof of dog licensure and current vaccinations are required for a permit, obtainable at the Town Clerk's Office.

Indian Meadows Park – The BH-BL Girls Softball fields have undergone a bit of rehabilitation with the replacement of both infields. The result is a nice improvement, and more improvements are planned. This project was again a town/club partnership, and we look forward to working with the club over the coming months and years.

Paving – With the Indian Meadows Park roads having been gravel since the park's inception in the 70's, the majority of the park was finally paved this past fall, and what a difference it's made. A smooth road, not dusty and much nicer looking are some of the benefits of a newly paved surface. Striping is planned for all parking areas. We hope you'll enjoy the new driving experience, and please, drive slowly and carefully!

Efficiency In Government Committee – The Efficiency in Government committee conducted a survey of the general public on the services offered by the Town of Glenville. The purpose was to determine how the public felt about the manner in which the services were delivered. While the responses indicated overall satisfaction with the service delivery, volunteers to serve on focus groups were solicited with 76 residents agreeing to serve.

Two focus groups have been held thus far, The first, on economic development and zoning, indicated the greatest concern was traffic, both traffic safety and congestion. The second focus group, largely on code enforcement, revealed a need to continue public education on building permit requirements as well as how code enforcement is administered. As an example, is someone is cited for a code enforcement violation, simply by due process (which is a right that everyone has), it might be two months before enforcement can occur in the absence of a cooperative violator.

The next focus group is scheduled for May 24th and will address public safety.

Results of these focus groups will help shape revisions to the Comprehensive Plan as well as provide feedback to the departments for services delivery.

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residents, while helping to generate some revenue for the town.

While staying under the tax cap, we have updated our vehicle fleet with 5 new vehicles as well as replacing some of our highway construction equipment enhancing our ability to perform maintenance and improvements to our highway infrastructure.

We also continue to explore inter-municipal cooperation and implementation with respect to shared services with snow plowing and street sweeping.

The mild winter also allowed us to perform work in our parks earlier than usual in preparation for a great summer season.

As always if you ever have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the highway department.

Glenville's 5th Annual "Let's Talk Business" Expo



On April 21st the Town held its 5th annual "Let's Talk Business" Exposition at the Water's Edge Lighthouse Terrace at 2 Freemans Bridge Road. Once again the Expo was well received, with over 100 local business owners, commercial

developers, realtors, local property owners, commercial brokers, and local government officials in attendance.

The Expo is meant to showcase commercial and industrial development opportunities in Glenville, and to highlight recent development success stories in the Town. To that end, the Water's Edge setting was well-chosen, as the five-story Hilton Homewood Suites Hotel is under construction on the same property, literally a few steps from the Terrace.

New to the program this year was a panel discussion that featured local business owners and representatives, including Wolf Hollow Brewing Company Co-Owner Peter Bednarek, Water's Edge Lighthouse owner Pat Popolizio, David Ahl, Vice-President of the Industrial Parks Division of the Galesi Group, and IKON Realty representative Todd Drowlette. All four panelists and their companies are actively pursuing and/or managing commercial and industrial projects in the Town, and they offered a glimpse of how far the Town has come in recent years to become a desirable location for new businesses within the Capital District.



From the Building Department

The question is frequently asked about what projects require permits. The easy answer is that things regulated by the code or our Zoning Ordinance require permits so we can verify compliance. Those things include Accessory structures such as sheds, fences, garages, and pools. New houses and commercial structures also require permits but then it gets a little more unclear. Any alteration to a house like moving walls, doors, windows and plumbing require permits, however simple repairs where you are replacing in kind do not require a permit. When in doubt just give us a call we will be happy to advise you.

As always make sure to keep your smoke and CO detector batteries fresh, your house numbers visible from the road, and have a safe spring and summer.

Update on the Town's Comprehensive Plan Effort

Over the last six months the Town has continued to make steady progress on preparation of its new Comprehensive Plan. The current Plan was adopted in 1990, and has served the Town's decision-makers and community well. However, in the last quarter century the Town has evolved considerably, as has technology and innovation. The 26 year-old plan, as solid and insightful as it has been, is not well-suited for a growing Glenville in 2016.

While most communities hire a consulting firm to prepare their Comprehensive Plan, often at a price tag in excess of \$100,000, the Town opted to keep the task in-house and take advantage of the talents of both Town staff and citizen volunteers to prepare the Plan. Town Economic Development and Planning Department staff have been drafting the Plan, with the Residential Advisory Committee and Comprehensive Plan Committee – both comprised of volunteers – reviewing and reworking the draft as needed.

The Town hopes to have a completed first draft available by the beginning of the summer, with public information meetings and hearings to follow over the balance of 2016.

From the Assessor

As many of you may already be aware, recent legislation was passed which changes the way that taxpayers will benefit from the STAR program. For any new homeowner as of March 2, 2015, the STAR exemption will now be a STAR rebate check. This change impacts NEW HOMEOWNERS ONLY. If you currently have a STAR exemption (as of 2015 school year) and have not sold your property, you are not impacted by this new legislation and you can therefore keep your current property tax exemption.

The eligibility requirements to qualify for STAR savings have NOT changed. For basic STAR, you must occupy your property as your primary residence, and your income can not exceed \$500,000. For enhanced STAR, you must occupy your property as your primary residence and your income can not exceed \$84,550 (for 2016 tax roll-based on 2014 income).

The STAR program provides relief from your school tax bill. New homeowners will no longer be eligible for a property tax exemption, however they will be eligible for a rebate check in the same dollar amount as the standard STAR savings noted on the school tax bill.

New homeowners must register with NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance in order to enroll in the STAR Rebate Program. This can be accomplished one of two ways:

- Enroll on-line at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/index.htm> or
- Call the Tax Dept. call center at (518)591-5232 or (518) 591-5233.

Our office has been advised that if you are a new homeowner, eligible for the rebate, and you register with the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance, no later than July 1st, you will receive your STAR rebate check some time during the month of September.

Important Tips:

- Property owners with an enhanced STAR exemption will continue to receive an annual renewal form which must be completed and returned to the assessor's office no later than March 1st of every year.
- If you are a new homeowner and you have your taxes escrowed by your lender, you should contact them directly to advise them to review your tax escrow account, based on these changes, in order to prevent a shortage of funds when tax bills are issued.
- Rebate checks will be in the same dollar amount as the typical STAR savings noted on a tax bill.

From the Town Clerk

We have a new application at the Clerk's Office.

With the opening of our newest town park, Andersen Dog Park, all dogs who wish to use the park must have a dog park tag.

How do you obtain an Andersen Dog Park Tag?

Your dog must have a current dog license issued by the Glenville Town Clerks Office, as well as proof of current Rabies and Distemper vaccines. Additionally, you must fill out a dog park application form, which can be downloaded from the Town's website or picked up at the Towns Clerk's Office. Once the application is complete and vaccinations have been verified, a tag for Andersen Dog Park will be issued.

Why do you need a dog license?

It's the law. New York State requires all dogs ages four months and older to be licensed. The license proves you own your dog and proves your dog is up to date on vaccines required by law. Failure to license your dog could result in a \$250.00 fine.

Why do you need a tag to use Andersen Dog Park?

We want to provide a healthy, safe and enjoyable experience. Filling out an application proves your dog has a current license and is up to date on required vaccines.

Dog license are just one of many NYS licenses/permits issued from the Town Clerk's Office. Here is a list of licenses/permits we issue; marriage, hunting and fishing, fireworks, bingo, games of chance, handicapped parking, waste haulers and trailer parks. We are Registrars of Vital Statistics and keep a permanent record of all births and deaths, issues birth certificates, death transcripts, and burial permits.

For a complete listing of the Town Clerk's responsibilities and forms visit our website, townofglenville.org.

If you have any questions feel free to call the Clerk's Office at 518-688-1200 ext. 402.

From the Police Department

With the arrival of spring, there will be an increase in the number of bicycles and motorcyclists on the roadways. Operators of both are particularly vulnerable to injury and/or death if involved in an accident with a motor vehicle. This is an opportune time to review some statistics and other information that will be relevant to all operators of any type of vehicle on the roads.

According to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Statistical Summaries for 2014, the most current year available, there were 5,827 bicycle/motor vehicle crashes in NYS, resulting in 47 deaths and 5,722 injuries. Eleven of the deaths and 1,431 injuries were caused by a failure to yield the right-of-way, while an additional 19 deaths and 1,437 injuries caused by some type of error by the bicyclist. An additional 5 deaths and 511 injuries were caused by one of the involved operators disregarding a traffic control device.

As to motorcycles, there were 142 accident-related deaths and 4,055 injuries in 2014. Of those, 11 deaths and 335 injuries were to passengers who were on the motorcycles. Failure to yield the right-of-way was listed as the contributing factor in 29 of the fatal accidents and 702 of the accidents resulting in injury. Unsafe speed was the contributing factor in 69 deaths and 653 injuries, while 8 deaths and 186 injuries were the result of unsafe lane changes.

While these statistics are just a snapshot of a large amount of data, they reveal some very important points that operators of all types of bicycles and vehicles must be aware of. Bicycles and motorcycles are more difficult to see than cars and trucks. The reality is that, as human beings, our visual processing is not perfect, and we frequently look only for what we expect to see – and after a long winter, that means we are used to only looking for full-sized motor vehicles. It is easy to overlook smaller bicycles and motorcycles unless you are actually looking for them, which is what all operators need to be aware of.

Bicyclists must obey the same rules of the road that drivers of cars do, including obeying all traffic control devices and lane usage and riding with traffic. It is not appropriate for bicyclists to use the sidewalks along highways as it can make it more difficult to be seen by drivers of cars. By law, all bicyclists under the age of 14 are required to wear approved bicycle helmets when bicycling or as a passenger on a bicycle. Adult bicyclist, while not required by law should use common sense and wear approved helmets. In 2014 (latest data available) 28 of the 47 deaths of bicyclist were of persons not wearing a helmet. That does not include the number of traumatic brain injuries that were a result of not wearing a helmet. Be smart, be a good role model for your children, wear a helmet.

Motorcycle operators should always be aware of cars waiting to enter the roadway ahead of them and have an avoidance plan in case the operator of the car pulls out in front of them. It must be pointed out, however, that unsafe speed is a contributing factor in many of the motorcycle accidents resulting in injury or death. The easiest way to prevent many of the accidents is to slow down. Any body in motion travels at a rate of 1.466667 feet per-second per-mile-per-hour. If the driver of a motorcycle is speeding and traveling 50 mph in a 30 mph zone, they will travel over 73 feet in one second as compared to 44 feet if they were proceeding at the speed limit. This difference in distance can play a significant factor in whether an accident will occur or not and is in the control of the driver of the motorcycle. The same is true with unsafe lane usage. I do not think there is a driver on the roads today who has not been illegally passed by a motorcycle which also, in all likelihood, was traveling at an unsafe speed.

All operators must remember that we share the roads with many types of vehicles, and we must be cognizant of this fact and always be attentive while driving. While we all need to be on the lookout for bicycles and motorcycles, those who operate them must also realize they have a responsibility to obey the rules of the road as well.



Focus on Freemans Bridge Road - Economic Development Grant Funding

One of the numerous keys to a community's successful economic development program is a safe, efficient and resilient transportation network. Without such, a community's businesses and residents will lose revenue needlessly, become stagnant and eventually start to deteriorate. When deficiencies are identified in the transportation network, it becomes the community's obligation to ensure that improvements are planned and constructed in a timely manner for the benefit of everyone. Such is the case with Freemans Bridge Road. Over the years, this New York State owned facility has seen a slow but steady transition from rural/agricultural uses to industrial businesses and now to largely retail and mixed land uses. Freemans Bridge Road must accommodate a much larger vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and transit traffic volume and turning movements, than it was ever originally designed to safely accommodate. With the new \$15 million dollar, 100 room, Hilton Homewood Suites hotel under construction on the Waters Edge Lighthouse Restaurant and Inn site and the nearby \$480 million dollar Mohawk Harbor & Rivers Casino Resort developments on the former American Locomotive (ALCO) site, pressure on this outdated transportation facility is greater than ever. The associated volume of anticipated traffic and safety issues resulting from these transformational developments dictated that the following actions be taken.

Freemans Bridge Gateway Improvement Project. Funded by a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant from the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund, this project will investigate the feasibility of improving the safety and aesthetics of this pivotal gateway into the Town of Glenville. Furthermore, this analysis will consider the associated adjacent land uses and zoning along the lower section of Freemans Bridge Road, beginning at the Mohawk River and continuing north to the intersection with Maple Avenue. A \$100,000 project that will result in a vision for not only this gateway and Freemans Bridge Road, but also those properties alongside the right-of-way that are crucial elements in the future of Glenville and its Mohawk River waterfront.

Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) – 2016-2017 Linkage Program. Glenville officials were recently notified by CDTC that the town's application to conduct a "Complete Streets" feasibility analysis of the Freemans Bridge Road corridor was selected for funding. What is a "complete street"? Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition, define complete streets as, "streets for everyone." They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations." Town officials are presently organizing to initiate this evaluation which will be conducted over the summer and fall of 2016.

The intersection at NYS Route 50, Freemans Bridge Road, Worden Road, and Airport Road, collectively known as Thomas Corners, is and has been a major source of angst for travelers over the years, whether in car, bus, on foot or bicycling. The intersection is dangerous at best, and a source of significant traffic backups and delays, resulting in excessive vehicular emissions and loss of time and money for businesses and residents within Glenville. One solution to improve operations at this intersection is through the installation of a roundabout to replace the existing signalized intersection. A proposal was submitted to the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) in January 2016 requesting an estimated \$3 million dollars to alleviate congestion at this pivotal intersection. The proposal would consist of design and construction of the new roundabout, including provision of transit improvements, pedestrian sidewalks and bicycle accommodations. Furthermore, stormwater management practices would be evaluated and installed for improved runoff quality and reduced quantity. Finally, the installation of new energy efficient lighting would occur to further increase user safety. This proposal is presently under review by CDTC's Planning Committee, along with an additional 122 proposals from municipalities throughout the greater Capital District Region.