

# Town of Scipio Newsletter

## Spring 2021

Greetings Scipio friends and neighbors

It has been a year since we began the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. We owe a big thank you to Heather Garner, town assessor, for coordinating registration of Scipio residents with the Cayuga County Health Department. She will help confirm your eligibility and assist with your registration. Contact [assessorgarner@yahoo.com](mailto:assessorgarner@yahoo.com) or call her at 315.806.5500.

Despite statewide restrictions on in-person meetings, it's still been a year of learning and growth. I was able to virtually attend the annual meeting of the Association of Towns and sat in on informative talks regarding passing local laws, careful use of social media, ways to communicate with local residents and more efficient budgeting.

On the energy front, it's been relative silence from Duke Energy in the past six months regarding the proposed Cater Solar Farm. Scipio has been contacted regarding a potential wind farm situated in the southern portion of the town, as well as possible methane pipelines between large dairy farms. These remain simply ideas at this point, as we continue to explore how best to apply our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Laws in ways that are wise, forward-looking and community focused.

Having completed the revision of our Comprehensive Plan last year, a committee has been formed to upgrade our Zoning Laws. We are very pleased that Kari Terwilliger, Senior Planner for the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development is guiding us in the update. We hope to pass this update by the end of the year.

As I write this on March 21st, with the temperature reaching 60 degrees and nearly all the snow melted, we again thank the highway crew for the wonderful job of keeping our roads cleared and safe this winter. Well done, Mark and crew.

Finally, we are again happy to offer the Spring Clean Up Day, May 1st. Please note: This year we will be charging \$20 for mattresses brought for disposal.

As always, please contact me, Gary Mutchler any time at 315.730.3638 or [supervisor@townofscipio.com](mailto:supervisor@townofscipio.com) with your comments or questions.

### SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

May 1st 9 am-4pm

- Town of Scipio residents will be responsible to unload their own items.
- Please adhere to wearing a face mask and keeping social distancing.
- Dumpsters will be available for items too large to bag.
- Mattress disposal fee \$20 payable to attendant.
- Container available for scrap metal.
- No microwaves, tires, batteries or any refrigerant containing appliances.
- Bagged and tagged household waste and recyclable collection remains the same.

Council Member Susan Allen



### Town of Scipio

#### Highway News

Now that the warm weather has finally come we have a lot of road work, culvert replacement and ditching to do.

Anyone interested in *ditch dirt* can call and leave a message at 315.364.7754 and we will get back to you.

Thank you and have a good Spring.

Mark Chamberlain



## SCIPIO FIRE DEPARTMENT

- The Scipio Fire Department would like to remind all residents about the New York State Ban on Burning. This takes place from now until May 14th. The DEC will respond to any burn that requires a fire department response and fines are often levied.
- Remember it is illegal in NYS to burn household trash at any time.
- Due to COVID 19, the Scipio Fire Department will be having a drive through takeout **Chicken BBQ on Mother's Day, May 9th**, from 11 am until sold out. Please call 315.364.8922 to reserve your meals ahead of time.
- The Scipio Fire Department is always looking for volunteers and has many different positions available. Please stop down on any Monday night for more information.

Leslie Baxter, EMS Captain.



## BE YOUR DOG'S BEST FRIEND

Are you up to date on your dog's licensing. It's the LAW!

All dogs over the age of 4 months are required to be licensed. (NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Article 7)

A current dog license can be a "LOST DOG'S TICKET HOME", a dog wearing a licensing tag is easier to identify.

The Rabies Vaccination requirement helps to CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RABIES.

To obtain a (1 year) license please provide to the Town Clerk the following information and fee.

- Proof of current Rabies Vaccination
- Proof of spaying or neutering if applicable
- Dog licensing fee
  - Spayed/Neutered- \$10.00
  - Un-spayed/Un-neutered - \$20.00

BE PROACTIVE - Dog enumerations are expensive and fines are charged to unlicensed dog owners.

### ISABELL HOWLAND

#### OPENDORE

#### GARDENS

Currently, research is ongoing to document the history of the Opendore gardens and landscape.

If anyone has or knows of any existing images (photos, paintings or drawings) of the landscape of Opendore when it was Isabel Howland's home from 1910 till 1942 please contact :

Jeanie Gleisner-Earle at [snowfallanight@gmail.com](mailto:snowfallanight@gmail.com)



Wishing everyone a safe and healthy year in Scipio, but if life happens be assured Southern Cayuga Instant Aid, Inc. (SCIA) and the Scipio Fire Department have your backs. In 2020, SCIA responded to 385 calls and transported 278 of your family, neighbors, and visitors to area hospitals. SCIA responds for public assists, all structure fires and motor vehicle accidents.

Most of our crew are local residents and the majority of SCIA's paid staff are members of volunteer fire

departments. Three prime examples are Melinda Pitman, Rachel Moran and Tobias Wood who are active in both SCIA and Scipio's Fire Department. If you are interested in becoming an EMT, join SCIA and earn a sponsorship. SCIA also is recruiting volunteer driver/operators. Training will be provided. Call 315-364.9500 if interested.

SCIA is always trying to improve its services. Last year a grant from the French and Metcalf Foundation aided in the purchase of a Zoll Monitor to enable SCIA to transmit data to hospitals ahead of our arrival. Recently SCIA secured a grant with the NY eHealth Collaborative that will assist SCIA's transition to electronic pre-hospital care reports allowing for more accurate patient care transfer to hospitals. SCIA is also in the process of getting a Styker power Stretcher and Loader which will help prevent back injuries and provide better comfort for our patients. Thank you all for your continued support of SCIA.



Local Town Historian, Laura Wallenbeck shares a local history writer from Fulton, NY, Jim Farfaglia, is researching major Central New York snowstorms for his upcoming book. In 2015, Jim Farfaglia published *Voices in the Storm*, a look back at the blizzard of '66 that included memories of over 200 Central New Yorkers. Mr. Farfaglia is now collecting stories that cover memorable winter storms from the past two hundred years. Perhaps you or someone you know survived a particularly brutal winter. Or perhaps they have family members or friends from years ago who shared a story. Jim would like to hear those stories. You can reach him via email [sjim903@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:sjim903@twcnny.rr.com), through his website [www.jimfarfaglia.com](http://www.jimfarfaglia.com) or by phone 315.402.6164.

## Septic System Replacement Program to Protect Priority Bodies of Water.



Owasco Lake is a priority waterbody under the NYS Septic System Replacement Program.

Owasco Lake Watershed home owners may be eligible for up to 50% reimbursement of the cost of replacing your septic system. For more information on applying, visit [www.efc.ny.gov/Septic Replacement](http://www.efc.ny.gov/SepticReplacement)



## **LAKE FRIENDLY LIVING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Refrain from overuse of lawn fertilizers .
- Use phosphorus free fertilizers.
- Maintain your septic system.
- Reduce household hazardous wastes properly.
- Dispose of prescription drugs properly.
- Maintain vehicles and water craft to reduce fluid leaks and reduce spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Use water wisely.
- Do not dispose of leaf litter or lawn clippings in waterways or ditches.
- Strive to work towards practicing best management practices for land use activities within the Owasco Lake Watershed.

## **OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

As we embark on the seasons when we can get outside and enjoy our environment, I would like to draw attention to the good works of an agency that makes a significant impact on the health of our environment, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC). The OLWMC actively coordinates actions that serve to protect and restore the health of Owasco Lake and the watershed through working and collaborating with numerous interested partners such as The Nature Conservancy, the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cayuga County Health Department, Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development and the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance. The council has representatives from Cayuga County, the City of Auburn and towns in the watershed that serve on the Board of Directors.

OLWMC has a variety of programs and projects it is actively working on. One arm of the Council is the Watershed Inspection and Protection Division whose mission is to identify and prevent activities within the watershed that may result in a decrease of water quality. You may see the OLWMC trucks around the watershed working on inspection programs and educational/awareness activities.

Education is another important aspect of the Council's programs. The Lake Friendly Living Program Initiative, endorsed by the Town of Scipio and by many towns throughout the Finger Lakes, encourages everyone to protect the watershed , to reduce the harmful algal blooms (HABs) and limiting the amount of nitrates and phosphates entering the watershed.

OLWMC has worked hard over the last few years to update the rules and regulations of the watershed. These are in Albany and will hopefully be approved soon.

There is ongoing research on sensors placed on tributaries going into the lake to monitor storm surges and flooding. OLWMC has worked with its partners on several important erosion control measures along the lower section of Veness Brook , which is the fourth largest inflow into Owasco Lake.

Let's hope we have a healthy and HABs free summer.

Council Member Vivian Cunningham

## CAYUGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE—KEITH BATMAN

It's time to welcome spring and look forward to summer, hopefully with a return to eating out, movies, and family celebrations! Your County Health Department has worked long and hard to battle this pandemic, and as vaccinations become more widely available, we should all gratefully reflect on their hard (and continuing) work.

There are several important developments and issues underway that directly impact Scipio, which I want to highlight.

**Broadband.** We have made great progress in access to high-speed internet service in Scipio in the past 10 years or so since, as Town Supervisor, I led a group of elected officials and neighbors to push for the first high speed service in our community. Since then, availability has increased, but make no mistake, we are not done. Not everyone in Scipio has access to high-speed internet. Until we all do, the work must continue.

An important effort now underway is the first County-wide survey to determine the extent of coverage - or lack of coverage - in the County. By defining exactly where service is lacking, we will be able to provide that service. This effort will require cooperation and collaboration between the County, our towns and others, but it is critical to complete coverage.

**Owasco Lake Watershed.** Each year, the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) presents their March to the Lake program, which is a symposium of scientific research developments on the Owasco Lake Watershed. This year, speakers presented information on the condition of the Lake itself, on issues of invasive species, studies regarding the positive affects good tiling practices can have on water quality, and more. It was a very good program, and if you have the opportunity (and internet capacity), I encourage you to go to <https://owla.org/bbss2021/> to access the recording of the event.



The Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulation update is in Albany being reviewed by the Departments of Health, DEC, Ag and Markets and others. Once reviewed, the evaluation of Albany Departments will be sent to the County, Town of Owasco, and City of Auburn for review and adjustment in anticipation of adoption. This is the first review since 1984 and is intended to acknowledge the many changes that have occurred in the past 37 years and to put rules, regulations, and suggestions in place to protect the Lake and the drinking water of more than 40,000 of our neighbors and the source of recreation for us all. For information, go to <https://www.owascony.gov/home/news/final-proposed-owasco-lake-rules-regulations>

**Farm labor.** The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill focused on helping our farming community and our ongoing labor concerns. The bill, supported by Congressman Katko and the entire upstate Republican delegation, provides a way for certified farm workers to earn legal status and expands the H-2A program. This is not about immigration, but rather about support for our dairy and fruit and vegetable farmers. It has passed the House but seems to have an uncertain path in the Senate. If you are interested, let me know and I can send more information, or you can contact Representative Katko at (315) 253-4068.

As always, I am available to help with local issues or problems of concern:  
Kbatman@cayugacounty.us. or 315 294 8070.



## **TOWN OF SCIPIO ZONING AMENDMENTS PROJECT**

The Town of Scipio is working on amending the Town's Zoning Law. The County Department of Planning and Economic Development is facilitating this process. The town's Ad Hoc Committee is meeting virtually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month to draft the proposed revisions of the Law on behalf of the Town. Later this summer the Town Board will schedule a Public Hearing on the Revised Zoning Law before adoption. Visit the town's website for future updates.

- Update Code Format/Order of Legibility and Usability
- Special Use Permits and Nonconformities
- ZBA Procedures and Overlay District
- Regulation of Solar Energy Systems and Stormwater Management
- Subdivision Regulations

Town of Scipio  
3705 Rte. 34  
PO Box 71  
Scipio Center, NY 13147

315.364.5740—phone  
315.364.6802—fax

[www.townofscipio.com](http://www.townofscipio.com)