

Village of Waterville



2020 Historical Report
Submitted by Village Historian Pat Louise



January news

Plans move ahead for a Food Co-op for Route 20 communities in the area.

The Waterville Board of Education will put a \$12.8 million capital project to voters in March and ask them in May to pass the 2020-21 school budget by at least 60 percent.

Waterville High School Student Council members won awards at the state Student Council Leadership conference in Lake Placid.

In response to complaints from several residents about plans for blasting to take place on a private mine on Sally Road, the Town of Marshall board put a one-month moratorium on all mining except commercial.

The Town Of Marshall will require a PILOT agreement from any solar power farm built in the town rather than allow 15 years of tax free use.

Former Waterville Wastewater Treatment Plant manager Louie Langone will be the clerk of the works for the village's \$2.5 million sewer plant upgrade.

Emily Rotach was Youth of the Month for December by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Waterville girls basketball coach Larry Stockwell will reach 500 wins this season, becoming only the third girls coach in Section Three history to hit that milestone.

Skeel Insurance won first place, Waterville Village Hall second place and Morgan's Hardware third place in the business/municipality category of the Waterville Garden Club holiday judging contest.

February news

The Waterville Board of Education approved scheduling changes for next year at Memorial Park School to add Spanish classes for all grades.

Talks continue on giving a Town of Sangerfield permit to put a solar energy farm on Brothertown Road and to ban mining in agricultural districts in the Town of Marshall.

Dawson Damuth was Youth of the Month for January by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Waterville girls basketball coach Larry Stockwell won his 500th career coaching game when the Indians beat Sauquoit Valley. The post-game celebration included the news the basketball court will be named the Larry Stockwell Court.

After years of providing medical services to the community, Dr. David Petrie retired from his private practice and his wife, Eleanor, will retire in June as the school nurse at Memorial Park School.

Joe Muller, assistant superintendent of business in the Whitesboro School District, spent a day in Waterville meeting people as the finalist candidate for the upcoming WCS superintendent's opening.

Waterville High School 2014 graduate Anders Larson received the Navy and Marine Corp Medal. He is a U.S. Marine stationed in North Carolina and helped rescue a family caught in the ocean riptide in 2018.

Waterville's girls and boys basketball teams both lost in the first round of the playoffs.

Waterville Central School District residents have asked the district to reopen the search for a new superintendent.

The Waterville Village Board has been asked by the Oneida County 2A Sanctuary group to support their cause to not enforce certain laws pertaining to gun ownership.

Trop Bishopp of Deansboro won the 2020 Cap Creal Journalism award for a photo he took of a calf in his meadow.

March news

Waterville Central School District will seek an interim superintendent while continuing the search for a new superintendent.

For the March 18 village elections Brian Bogan is running for re-election, but Trustee Doug Plourde has decided not to run again. Former Mayor Jim Younes is a

candidate for that board seat. Village Justice Robert McNamara is running unopposed.

Life-life Waterville resident Elmer Ford passed away at age 97.

Rylee Fallon was chosen Youth of the Month for February by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

The Brookfield girls basketball team won the Section Three Class D championship for the first time in school history.

Waterville Central School Music Department presented Spamalot as this year's 40th annual musical.

The Waterville Village Board voted against a request by the 2A Sanctuary group to support their requests to violate state and federal gun laws.

Voters approved 183-77 a \$12.8 million capital project at Waterville Central School.

Waterville farmer Gary Allen died at age 81.

Waterville Central School District officially became a partner in the Connected Community Schools program as the Brothertown Community Schools.

Memorial Park School students had their musical Mary Poppins Jr. canceled because of the restrictions that began with the coronavirus. Brookfield girls also had their regional game postponed as all winter sports in New York state were put on hold.

Rose Ann Gallagher, who served in World War II as a nurse, and participated in a number of community organizations in Waterville, died at age 92.

Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente ordered all county schools closed until April 15 to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said only essential businesses can remain open. Libraries have closed for the month also. Funerals and calling hours are prohibited and gatherings of 10 or more people are not allowed.

White's Farm Supply was named a top 65 Cub Cadet dealer.

The Village of Oriskany Falls will rent a garage and storage building to Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corp for its southern Oneida County substation.

The Village of Waterville adopted a budget of \$1.2 million budget with no tax increase. The budget includes funding for a key fob system at the Waterville firehouse.

April news

Waterville High School exchange student Marco Barberi received a drive-by goodbye train before he returned to Germany.

Brianne Barnes was named Youth of the Month for March by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Dan Schenk has opened a sugarhouse on Canning Factory Road, Waterville.

More restrictions were added to the pandemic regulations, including restaurants closing, school budget votes postponed to at least June 1 and 450 families who took part in the free food giveaway at Waterville Central School.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo canceled the scheduled school spring break and said schools must continue to teach online learning during that time.

Anna Beach is valedictorian and Rylee Fallon salutatorian for the Waterville High School Class of 2020. Other members of the Top 10: Emily Roys, Austin Huthins, Cassandra Nipe, Brianne Barnes, Paul Brouillette, Paeton Barnes, Emily Rotach and Gwyneth Williams.

Waterville Public Library has purchased the property on White Street from the estate of Gary Camp. Plans are to open a bookstore and use the house for meetings and storage.

Alcott's Garden Center opens for the 57th year in business.

Irene Lew of Waterville turned 93 and received Happy Birthday salutes from the Waterville Area Birthday Train.

The Village of Oriskany Falls and Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corp signed a five-year contract for the ambulance agency to rent a village building for its Southern Oneida County substation.

Waterville Village Board members voted to borrow \$1.35 million for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. With Village Elections pushed to no earlier than June 1 Trustee Doug Plourde remained a member of the board.

Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente ordered playgrounds closed in the county, so Babbott Field has been blocked for use by children.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo extended the school closure through May 15 and this includes all non-essential businesses in the state, social gatherings and public events. Facemasks have to be worn in public. The 42nd annual Boilermaker Road Race has been moved from July to September.

Due to the coronavirus, Waterville Central School Board of Education will put off hiring a superintendent until next year. This will save money in next year's school budget and allow for restrictions to be lifted.

The Town of Marshall issued a Stop Work order for Eric Schachtler to halt mining on his Shanley Road property. The town has a moratorium on non-commercial mining while it considers the pros and cons.

Mary Theresa 'Tessie' Battaglia passed away at age 97.

Waterville Central School's 2020-21 budget faces a \$800,000 budget gap due to state aid reductions for next year.

Waterville residents have started putting pink flamingos in people's yard to brighten up their day.

May news

Gov. Andrew Cuomo puts out an executive order that all schools will remain closed for the rest of the academic year. That also eliminates the entire high school spring sports season and many summer events, such as the Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend for this year.

In a free distribution of food and dairy, 450 families in the Waterville Central School District received food boxes.

The Waterville Village Board approved switching to all remote read water meters ahead of schedule to save money.

School district votes will all be by absentee ballot only this year in New York state.

Jules Eisenhut, a player in the Waterville Pop Warner program, was named an All-American Pop Warner Scholar Athlete.

Phase 1 reopening of NY Pause began May 15 with businesses able to offer curbside pickup and delivery.

Waterville High School outlines plans for a drive-in graduation ceremony.

Arletta Wright of Waterville turned 95 May 13.

Marshall Town Councilman Jamie Peck passed away at the age of 61.

Parades and ceremonies were not allowed for Memorial Day. The Fulmer American Legion Post did a small ceremony at Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

The Sangerfield ZBA had a remote meeting regarding the proposal for a solar farm on Brothertown Road.

Shirlee Langone and Bill Koren both passed away.

The Village of Oriskany Falls canceled its 2020 Summer Recreation program.

June news

Because of Covid-19 restrictions the Town of Marshall Zoning Board of Appeals had to cancel a hearing regarding mining in the town.

Phase 2 in the state began June 1. The Mohawk Valley region was one of the five in the state that could move on to the next stage of reopening.

Amy Jennings, administrator at Waterville Residential Care center, was selected as a Woman of Distinction by Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon.

John Dobmeier passed away at age 79. He was co-owner with his wife Bonnie of Frog Park Herbs in Waterville for 42 years.

Buell Fuels in Deansboro has donated milk and other dairy products to local food pantries.

Waterville technology teacher Steve English will retire after 23 years with the district.

Layers of Love, a group of area people making facemasks, handed some out to those who came to the June milk giveaway at the school.

The Village of Waterville will list 107 Berrill Ave. for sale at an asking price of \$5,000 as determined by market price.

All local school budgets, as did 99 percent of those around New York state, were passed by voters.

Waterville Central School had its 146th commencement in the bus circle as the 63 members graduated. Each graduate was allotted two vehicles and the seniors sat in a chair in front of their car with cap, gown and facemask on. Steve English gave the commencement address.

Memorial Park School had a drive-through End of Year celebration for students at the school.

Center State Propane donated 300 masks to Waterville Residential Care Center.

The Marshall Town Board returned to meetings in person with a limited number of people allowed to attend, social distancing and masks required. The board discussed

how to fill the vacancy created with the death of Councilman Jamie Peck. Other discussion was about how to prevent violations and misuse of the Town Dumpsters during Junk Days.

At the end of the month Oneida County reported 1,361 cases of coronavirus and 85 deaths. New York state had 392,702 cases and 30,844 deaths. In the United States 2,291,700 people have Covid-19 and 119,985 people have died.

July news

The Sangerfield Zoning Board of Appeals approved a project to put a solar farm on Brothertown Road.

Dr. Kathleen Davis has been hired as interim superintendent at Waterville Central School. Superintendent Chuck Chafee retired after eight years leading the district.

A parade celebrated the end of chemotherapy for Ella Ryan, daughter of Mike and Ashley (Burback) Ryan after two years.

The Waterville Village Board voted to reopen Babbott Field after closing it to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Dodson Engineering has started a survey for the Upper White Street reservoirs as required by FEMA.

The Brothertown Optimist Club traveled to the homes of three Waterville seniors to hand out Youth of the Month honors: Brooke Wilson for April, Austin Hutchins for May and Paul Brouillette for June.

Michael's Restaurant distributed about 80 free graduation meals to seniors in Waterville and Hamilton.

Dr. Niambi Brown will work in the Waterville office of Community Memorial Hospital.

Roger Tanner of Waterville prepares to retire after 42 years with Oneida-madison Milk Producers.

Waterville Central School District outlined three general ways to re-open in the fall, including all remote classes and some in-person classes.

In the New York Primary Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden won locally, as did Claudia Tenney for Congress and Corey Mosher for Assembly.

Alyssa Buck of Westmoreland is the Oneida County Dairy Princess.

The Waterville Historical Society received a Pomeroy Fund grant of \$1,000 for general operating support for Covid-19 losses.

Town of Marshall Supervisor Andy Williams resigned.

**As of Aug. 1 Jeff Reynolds will serve as Acting Supervisor of Sangerfield.
Supervisor Lorena Lenard resigned to move out of the area.**

At the end of the month Oneida County reported 1,886 cases of coronavirus and 111 deaths. New York state had 411,515 cases and 32,187 deaths. In the United States 43,784,973 people have Covid-19 and 149,323 people have died.

August news

Waterville Central School District's plan to start 2020-21 is to send students to classes in the buildings for half a day.

Babbott Field can be open to groups for use, the Waterville Village Board decided. Groups have to sign up and be placed on the schedule.

Zachary Chapman was approved as a member of the Waterville Fire Department.

Waterville Library had a good turnout for its Lemonade on the Lawn event.

The Edward Barton Trust Fund provided a grant of \$30,000 to the Waterville Historical Society.

Joyce Holic, 79, died July 30. She was involved in several community activities.

The Village of Waterville/Waterville First Summer Concert series began at the park with the Nelson Brothers. Social distancing requirements were in place.

September news

Waterville Central School students will attend in-person classes four half-days a week under the re-opening plan.

The 15th annual Cruise In To Waterville is canceled due to Covid-19 regulations. A band will play in the Village Park and there will be a chicken barbecue.

Congressman Anthony Brindisi congratulated Waterville Residential Care residents Eleanor Dawes of Deansboro for turning 100 and Leona Failing on turning 101. Coronavirus restrictions were lifted to allow outside visitors.

The new substation for Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corp opened in Oriskany Falls. The village donated space behind Village Hall.

Waterville seventh grader Cole Campbell received a bone marrow transplant from his brother Jake; they are the sons of former Village Trustee Sean Campbell and wife Liz.

Waterville Central School decided to delay the start of fall sports until spring.

Hamilton College and five other local colleges are leading the effort for Racial Justice Reform for police agencies. The state has set a deadline of April 1 for all police agencies in New York to submit a plan.

Former Mayor Jim Younes was elected to the Village Board and Trustee Brian Bogan re-elected in the September elections postponed from March.

Rev. Jason Hage has been appointed Pastor of the linked parishes of St. Bernard's in Waterville and St. Joseph's in Oriskany Falls.

Two members of the Barton Hose Co. did the Sept. 11, 2001 Memorial Stair Climb in the Deansboro firehouse.

The new fire truck for the Waterville Fire Department remains in the repair shop to address why the truck body is crooked.

The Town of Marshall ZBA had a public hearing on the Stop Work Order for mining operations on the Eric Schachtler farm. The ZBA has until the end of the month to make a decision.

Eleanor Dawes of Deansboro passed away at the age of 100.

October news

After 34 years with the United States Postal Service Maureen Wratten retired as postmaster in Waterville.

Waterville Fire Department's new truck returned to the plant in South Dakota for repairs.

Music students at Waterville Central School want in-person classes rather than just virtual ones.

The Town of Marshall Zoning Board of Appeals ruled there was no Special Use Permit granted to Eric Schachtler to have a mining operation on his property. The matter will head to court.

Waterville High School will add bus routes to allow students in BOCES to attend full-time.

November news

Sangerfield Town Clerk Sylvia Crandall received proclamations and thank you's at a retirement party. She is leaving her post at the end of the year after almost 20 years serving the town.

Early in-person voting has caused long lines throughout Oneida County.

Waterville Central School District received several applications for its superintendent vacancy.

The first 40 digital meters were installed in Village of Waterville homes. This is the start of a three-year replacement plan.

Thousands of people donated through social media to help the Head family of North Brookfield keep their farm, Headline Farm.

Waterville resident Dave O'Brien retired as director of Boys State after 38 years with the program.

Former Town of Sangerfield Highway Superintendent Don Belfield died in Arizona at age 81.

Waterville graduate Rachael Scoones, a student athlete at SUNY Cobleskill, was named to the NCAA Division III Student Athlete Committee.

Chuck Engle of Oriskany Falls, the winningest coach in New York state boys soccer died at age 73. He coached for almost 50 years at Mount Markham High School.

With Covid-19 regulations in place the annual Parade of Lights has been canceled. Santa will make appearances throughout the village a couple of times.

Janelle Cleary was named Youth of the Month for October by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

December news

With the Parade of Lights canceled due to the pandemic, Santa Claus offered a drive-thru experience at the Waterville Firehouse for kids.

Waterville Central School administrators and Board of Education members said their goal is to keep the in-person classes going until Dec. 22.

The Town of Marshall has heard complaints about a camper set up near the creek off of California Road.

The owners of Schoolhouse Apartments said they are working with the state to repair the sinkhole caused by the 2019 Halloween flooding.

Waterville Central School has converted two rooms at the Junior-Senior High School as The Hub, the store and meeting place for people to find resources through Connected Community Schools.

Jennifer Spring, superintendent of Cohoes City School District, has been named as a finalist for the Waterville Central School superintendent position. She did a virtual community forum for an hour.

Kaitlyn St. Peter was named Youth of the Month for November by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Waterville native Duane Decker is in charge of preparing a Blue Angel aircraft for exhibit at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

The Waterville Fire Department gave Santa Claus a ride through the village to see the children in a safe and Covid-regulated environment.