

Village of Waterville

2021 Historical Report

Submitted by Village Historian Pat Louise



January news

Dr. Jennifer Spring was chosen superintendent of the Waterville Central School District. She is originally from New Hartford and most recently was superintendent of Cohoes City School District.

Waterville graduate Jonathan Piersma won his pro debut in Mixed Martial Arts competition.

Longtime Assemblyman Bill Magee passed away after getting infected with Covid-19. He had served 28 years in Albany before losing the seat in 2018.

Cole Campbell, Waterville seventh grader being treated for leukemia, reached his 100th day after receiving a bone marrow transplant from his brother, Jake.

Pat Youngs, whose husband Jack worked for the village for many years, died in Florida. Pat worked at Waterville High School.

The Waterville Area Food Pantry continues to supply food for 150 families a month.

Jillian Kervin has been named director of the Waterville Public Library.

Fifth and sixth graders will return to full-day classes four days a week Feb. 1.

About 400 families received some of the 20,000 pounds of food given away by Waterville Central School and Connected Community Schools. It Takes A Village gave away 10,000 diapers.

The Town of Sangerfield wants the speed limit on Osborne Avenue from Route 20 to the village line lowered to 45 mph.

Mary Belfield was appointed clerk of the Town of Sangerfield.

Former Waterville resident Jeffrey Sabol was charged with harming a police officer in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

February news

The Village of Waterville has not yet heard on grants that would help the cost toward repairing erosion and jams along Big Creek.

So far 200 digital water meters have been installed in the Village.

The City of Utica will haul away debris from a building taken down at the Wastewater Treatment Plant under the Shared Services agreement.

The tax cap formula for Waterville Central School District's 2021-22 budget allows for \$243 to be added to the tax levy.

A benefit for Oriskany Falls firefighter Tim Hodge brought in \$11,000 to help with his medical expenses.

Edward Carter and Joan Stephenson were chosen at the area's Valentine's Couple of the Year as they celebrate 65 years of marriage in 2021.

After several meetings, the Waterville Board of Education decided to allow high-risk winter sports for the two weeks of the season.

Former Village of Waterville Sidewalk Commissioner Patrick Mangen passed away at the age of 70 from Covid-19.

Two Waterville High School students have started a petition asking the state to allow a state championship golf tournament this year.

The Village of Oriskany Falls has a permissive referendum on changing the terms of mayor and trustees to four years.

Waterville Central School will bring seniors back to class full time, after bringing back the fifth and sixth grades.

The commercial solar farm on Brothertown Road will be in operation by October with construction starting in March.



March news

The Waterville Fire Department has concerns about providing fire protection at Schoolhouse Apartments because of the narrow driveway that has to be used due to the sinkhole. Fire Chief John Salvaggio said he is not sure the large trucks can make the turn behind the building.

The Brothertown Indian cemetery has been cleaned by volunteers and the Town of Marshall.

Waterville Central School students returned to in-person classes on Wednesdays. About half of the 70 students in the Senior Class have returned full-time.

Joseph Reddy, former fire chief in Oriskany Falls, died at age 76.

The Village of Waterville will apply for another \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for housing improvements.

Due to a storm, the compost building at the Wastewater Treatment Facility collapsed. The building was scheduled for demolition as part of the facility's improvement project. Insurance coverage will help cover the cost of taking away the building and putting up the new building.

Some student activities are returning at Waterville Central School as restrictions of the pandemic ease.

John Gazzal, second-generation owner of the Deansboro Superette, died at age 72.

Former Waterville High School math teacher Jon Raker passed away.

In the shortened coronavirus season, the Waterville girls basketball team went 6-0.

With a low bid price, the Town of Sangerfield will repave Loomis Road for a mile.

Gerda Mortelette and Amanda Briggs were elected to the Waterville Village Board to take the seats created when Dan Nichols and Laurie Fuess decided not to run for third terms. Mayor Gene Ostrander was re-elected without opposition.

Waterville Class of 2018 graduate Rachael Scoones, a student athlete at SUNY Delhi, will represent Division III athletes on an NCAA committee.

The Village of Waterville's 2021-22 budget will not raise taxes or fees.

Ken Ford was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Marshall Town Board.



April news

Trevor Salvaggio is valedictorian and Laney Hinman salutatorian for the Waterville Class of 2021.

The Barton Hose Co. sold a little over 650 ham dinners during its annual Palm Sunday Ham Dinner.

Eight Waterville High School students performed in the 147th annual Prize Speaking Contest. Winners were Abigail Schachtler, Lillian Broedel and Hanley Poyer.

New York State Supreme Court ruled that the Town of Marshall's Zoning Board of Appeals did issue a Special Use Permit to Eric Schachtler to operate a quarry on Shanley Road.

The collapsed compost building at the Wastewater Treatment Facility was taken down by the City of Utica

New Waterville Village Board Trustees Amanda Briggs and Gerda Mortelette were sworn in for two-year terms.

Waterville sixth grader Julianna 'Jules' Eisenhut was named an Eastern Regional Pop Warner First Team Scholar for 2021. This is the second year she has received the honor.

Plans for a full return for Waterville Junior-Senior High students are on pause until the infection rate in Oneida County drops.

The Waterville Central District budget for 2021-22 will need approval from 60 percent of the voters.

Waterville First has proposed a safer walking route of the loop in the village and town and asked both municipalities for financial assistance.

May news

The Town of Sangerfield ZBA will consider what type of zoning Tyler Manor, an event center, needs.

Some parents in the Waterville Central School District want Junior and Senior High students to return full time, but administrators say there is not enough room to follow state regulations.

Buell Fuels of Deansboro sent trucks to George to help out with the gas crisis when the Colonial Pipeline was shut down by a cyber attack.

Waterville's varsity golf team has started the season 7-0.

All local school budgets passed, with Waterville Central School getting 75 percent of the vote in favor. Linda Hughes was re-elected and David Poyer elected to the board.

Father Paul Carey, who served at St. Bernard's Church in Waterville, will observe his 50th Jubilee of being a priest with a Mass at St. Bernard's.

Father Vincent Kelly, who served for almost 20 years at St. Joseph's Church in Oriskany Falls, passed away at age 90.

The Village of Waterville is looking at the new state laws regarding the sale and consumption of cannabis to determine if it will be allowed in Waterville.

Waterville Central School will offer a fun summer program to any elementary student this summer to coordinate with the area's Summer Rec programs.

Longtime election inspector Teresa Lemery passed away at age 89.

June news

Waterville residents Bob Winfield and Jason Sigsbee organized a parade for Memorial Day and a ceremony in Soldiers and Sailors Park.

Waterville Central School will go with a new provider, UCP, for its pre-K program.

The Brothertown Optimist Club honored the four School Resource Officers in the Waterville Central School District during the annual Respect for Law program. Officers David Poyer, Jim Fister, Louis Zurek and Steven Purdy received plaques.

Doris Pavlot was chosen Volunteer of the Year by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

The Town of Marshall set up its guidelines for Summer Rec.

Waterville's golf team finished the regular season undefeated and as league champions. The team also won the school's first Section Three championship in golf.

On the 10th anniversary of his death, Oneida County Sheriff's Deputy Kurt Wyman was remembered in a ceremony at the Sheriff's Department building named after him.

A historical sign was dedicated on Route 20 in Sangerfield describing the Loomis Gang and their history in the area.

A new counseling service will be available for Waterville Central School students.

Sixty-eight students graduated during the 147th annual Commencement exercises at Waterville Central School. Valedictorian was Trevor Salvaggio, salutatorian Laney Hinman and graduation speaker Mike Ryan.

Owners of Schoolhouse Apartments will expand the working driveway to allow access for fire trucks should there a fire call.

New York state DOT rejected a request by the Town of Sangerfield to reduce the speed on Osborne Avenue from Route 20 to the village line to 45 mph.

A big turnout of law enforcement agencies and first responders attended a Thank You evening at Roc-Star Ice Cream in Waterville. Retired New York State Trooper Art Ellis and Utica Police Officer Chris Manion, a Waterville native, were honored for their service.

For the next three years all students in the Waterville Central School District will spend an additional 30 minutes in school for instruction as part of the pandemic recovery.

Maureen Gray retired as principal at Memorial Park School after 33 years in education.

Former Waterville Board of Education member Roberta Williams and retiring BOE member Mark Mowrey were recognized for their service.

One hundred students are enrolled in the Waterville School District's Summer Enrichment program.

A truck that lost its brakes on Route 26 slammed into a barn in Oriskany Falls. No one was hurt.



July news

The Oriskany Falls Fire Department is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

The Waterville Historical Society re-opened to the public with a presentation on wine making by Mary Beth and Doug Plourde and Brian Gibbons.

Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corp told the Village of Waterville it has no plans to leave the substation in Oriskany Falls, which is staffed seven days a week, 24 hours.

Laney Hinman was chosen Youth of the Month for December by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

The Waterville Methodist Church has opened a store on Main Street to give away diapers and children's clothing to the community.

At the annual SWOCO meeting Wayne Randall, a geologist, said the landwill will qualify in few years for other uses such as a solar panel farm.

Lillian Broedel was chosen Youth of the month for January by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

A new plan for windmills on the border of Sangerfield-Madison was explained at the Sangerfield meeting.

Amber Coe was chosen Youth of the Month for March by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

The Waterville and Kirkland libraries combined for a Story Walk along the Kirkland Trail between Deansboro and Dugway Road. Walkers can enjoy four stories along the route.

Waterville Central School District has proposed new Mission and Vision statements.

Abigail Schachlter was chosen Youth of the Month for February by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

August news

Oneida County Planning Commissioner James Genovese spoke to the Waterville Village Board about plans for Big Creek and other flooding mitigation efforts.

Ethan Whitehead was named Youth of the Month for April by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Some parents told the Waterville School Board they oppose having students wear facemasks this year and do not support the School-Based Health Center.

The Waterville Central School Class of 1971 gave a donation to the Waterville Area Food Bank.

This year's Cruise In celebration will end with music and fireworks in honor of the Village's 150th anniversary of incorporation.

Trevor Salvaggio was chosen Youth of the Month for June by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Two valuable manuscripts about the Brothertown Indians have been made public through Hamilton College.

Gavin Bell was chosen Youth of the Month for May by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Members of the Waterville Fire Department hosted firefighters from Madison, Deansboro and Oriskany Falls for a training session on rescuing people trapped in a vehicle.

Bill Getman and Don Brown II gave a tour of the Sanger Lodge through the Waterville Historical Society.

Karen Hinderling, the new principal at Memorial Park School, comes to WCS after spending most of her career at Oriskany.

September news

The Village of Waterville and Codes Officer Kevin English are at odds over interpretation of the regulations regarding installment of a shed. The matter will either go to court or to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

A study shows that the majority of Waterville High School graduates attend a local college after graduation.

This year's Mary C. Cleary 5K Cruise In Run will be at Waterville High School on the cross country trails.

Students returned to school under the requirements of facemasks worn at all times and physically distanced in classrooms.

Father Paul Carey, retired from St. Bernard's Church but serving as an assistant, passed away at age 78.

A nice day and good turnout highlighted the Cruise In to Waterville celebration. Dedication of the mural by Waterville artist Russell Mason and a fireworks display at night were part of the 15th birthday party for the village.

Village officials said a homeowner on Route 315 has to stop taking her destroyed house apart piece by piece herself.

Waterville Fire Department member Bob Mayne was honored at the start of his 60th active year with the department with a plaque and visit from the department.

The Town of Marshall adopted moratoriums on commercial solar and excavating businesses.

Doris Pavlot was sworn in as president of the Brothertown Optimist Club. Charter members Robert McNamara, Lee Pavlot, Larry Stockwell, Bob Thomas, Jim Van Wormer and Jim Morgan also attended the installation dinner at Four Eleven Tower.



October news

Local elections see no contested races for town offices.

Longtime nursing home administrator Carol Jubenville has been assigned pastor at the Oriskany Falls Methodist Church.

Berkshire Bank will close its branch in Oriskany Falls as of Oct. 29.

Despite the rain the parish of St. Bernard's Church had a successful bazaar and Octoberfest. The day also included a lecture and concert by Waterville native Dr. Alex Meszler on the church's pipe organ.

Gary Ford of Deansboro, a retired history teacher, has written a one-act play about veterans to be performed in Rome.

Waterville Central School District received the top opinion after an audit by a third party.

Art White, owner of White's Farm Supply in Waterville, retired after almost 50 years working in his family's business.

The Sangerfield Town Board heard a presentation about the state's new marijuana laws.

Plans are in place to begin a temporary solution for flooding along Sanger Avenue and the bigger plan is to create a commission for the Big Creek watershed.

A flock of chickens on Main Street near CVS is in violation of village codes.

Waterville boys varsity soccer Coach Brian Bogan won his 200th game in his 27th year of coaching.

November news

Waterville girls soccer player Paige Cornish was chosen for the Section Three All-Star team.

Hundreds of adults and children attended the outdoor Halloween trail at Waterville Public Library. The MPS PTA and Waterville Rotary Club helped sponsor the event.

Waterville Fire Department Chief Will Beach has suggested that village businesses install lockboxes to allow the department to gain entry in an emergency.

Waterville Pop Warner teams U8, U10 and U12 all won the Tri County championship in their division and played in the state tournament.

Marshall residents have complained to the Town Board about truck traffic from local business Williams Fencing.

Eleonore Collins was named Youth of the Month for October by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Students at Memorial Park School participated in the Old Glory Relay with veterans to celebrate Veterans Day.

The Fitness Center at Waterville High School will re-open to the public in December. A new fee schedule will raise prices to reduce the deficit the Center creates.

Temporary Waterville Codes Officer Whitey Brown has inspected local businesses and has started on multiple dwellings. The Village Board voted 4-1 to fire Kevin English from the position.

December news

Following pandemic regulations, the Parade of Lights returned to Waterville with a changed route that led to the Village Park.

The Village of Waterville will let residents decide on opting in or out of the state's new marijuana laws with a vote in March.

Former Oneida County Legislator Edward Carter Stephenson of Waterville died at the age of 81 after being infected with Covid.

A false reporting of a shooting on Stafford Avenue in Waterville brought out the area's SWAT team in response.

The Town of Sangerfield adopted a one-year moratorium on solar energy projects.

The gym court at Waterville Junior-Senior High School was officially renamed the Larry Stockwell Court in a ceremony before the first game played by the Indians.

Twelve Waterville High School students participated in the 148th annual Prize Speaking Contest, the oldest such contest in the country.

Waterville resident Laura Jandreau received an award from Strong Memorial Hospital for donating part of her liver to an anonymous recipient.

After being closed for 22 months, the Waterville Central School Fitness Center re-opened for community use.

Mary Murray of Waterville, wife of artist Ralph Murray and member of many community groups, passed away at age 90.

