

Village of Waterville

2023 Historical Report

Submitted by Village Historian Pat Louise



January news

The Waterville Central School mascot will change from the Indians after the State Education Department said districts can no longer use Native American designations.

The Town of Augusta moved into its new building in Knoxboro, leaving the Oriskany Falls Village Hall after many years.

Waterville Village Hall won first place for Businesses in the Waterville Garden Club Christmas decoration judging.

Waterville High School senior Tyson Maxam, who has played on the Indians boys basketball team for five years, set a new school scoring record, breaking the record of 1,616 set by Shannon Ruane in 1997.

Jody Hildreth of Waterville has a book contract to showcase his acorn-created people in children's books.

The Marshall Town Board continues to ask for members to join the Planning Board and still hears complaints about a business on VanHyning Road.

Tim Hodge Sr., a longtime member and officer in the Oriskany Falls Fire Department, died at age 59 after a battle with cancer.

Valorie Ford of Waterville was named Youth of the Month for December by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

February news

Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corp told the Village of Waterville Board that the service will require funding from municipalities to offset costs. The Village accounts for 40 percent of the calls in Zone 3

The Town of Marshall Highway Department has added cameras to its trucks.

The Town of Sangerfield will update its laws for wind and solar commercial farms.

Waterville First and Colgate University will team up on a study to collect data about what is needed in the area.

Sarah Zombek was chosen Youth of the Month for January by the Brothertown Optimist Club.



Former teacher and community member JoAnne Ashforth passed away at age 68 from cancer. JoAnne is one of the longest surviving people who received a double lung transplant.

Waterville Central School Board of Education agreed to go to the maximum 2.5 percent of increasing the tax levy for the 2023-24 budget.

Waterville girls basketball upset Jordan-Elbridge in the first round of the playoffs.

A resident of Osborne Avenue told the Waterville Village Board speeding remains an issue on the street.

Gary Schreppel of Clinton was appointed Codes Officer for the Town of Marshall.

March news

Mount Markham beat Waterville boys basketball in the Class C semifinal.

Waterville Music Department presented 'Mamma Mia' for three shows.

Waterville Central School's proposed \$21 million 2023-24 budget will add staff and provide a new reading and math series at Memorial Park School. The tax levy will increase 2.5 percent.

Clinton and Kirkland won a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant from the state to improve the downtown area and other businesses and non-profits.

Waterville boys varsity basketball coach Coby Maxom will retire after 17 season and 224 wins. He led the Indians to the state Final Four twice.

Jesse Jandreau was named Youth of the Month for February by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Waterville indoor track runner Logan Baker of Waterville finished 20th in the state in the 1000 meters at the state tournament.

Valorie Ford and Natalee Collins have been named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Waterville Class of 2023. Others in the Top 10: Jesse Jandreau, Tyler Barth, Emma Gaiser, Gavin Poyer, Jack Elliott, Cole Pearsall, Joe Hinman and Peyton Noon.

The Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission supports the Village of Waterville's plan to address flooding from Big Creek along Route 315.

Students at Memorial Park School presented 'Newsies Jr' as their musical.

Hanley Poyer won the Brothertown Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest.

In an uncontested race with 32 votes cast, Waterville Mayor Gene Ostrander and Trustee Amanda Briggs were re-elected and Larry Stern elected to the Village Board.

Tyler Barth was named Youth of the Month for March by the Brothertown Optimist Club.



April news

The Marshall Mavericks cheerleading squads finished their competition year at Nationals where they placed among the top teams.

After a bomb scare hoax brought complaints from Waterville Central School District parents on how the matter was handled that morning, WCS administrators said they would look into changing the Safety Plan.

The Village of Waterville approved a budget of \$2.24 million without a change in the tax rate.

The Deansboro fire department sold 500 dinners for their annual Palm Sunday dinner.

A \$45,475 grant from the Edwin J. Wadas Foundation will pay for a new scoreboard at Brothertown Stadium

The eight choices for a new Waterville Central School mascot are Wildcats, Bobcats, Huskies, Wolves, Eagles, Purple Storm and Tigers.

Jarrold Waufle was re-elected chief of the Waterville Fire Department for the second year in a row.

Waterville's varsity golf team set a school record for wins in a row at 26.

May news

Fred Ashforth was the speaker at the Waterville Memorial Day observance in Soldiers and Sailors Monument Park. Waterville graduate Cody Curtis received a special commendation from New York state.

The housing rehabilitation project in the Village of Waterville is almost complete with 14 houses improved.

The Waterville High School golf team won its third straight Section Three Small Schools championship. The team finished the season 11-0, undefeated for the third straight year.

Waterville Central School District residents chose Eagles for the new mascot. Wildcats placed second.

The Waterville Central School District 2023-24 budget passed with 72 percent of the vote. Tim Jones and Steve Stanton were re-elected to the Board of Education and Justin Barth was elected for a three-year term. Ken Boone won one year as a write-in candidate.

The Town of Marshall joined the Oriskany Creek Watershed Committee.

The Village of Waterville will modify the tennis court at Babbott Park to include lines for pickleball.

Samantha Broedel was named Youth of the Month for April by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Braeden Sweet won the WCS Community Talent Show for his performance of 'That's Life'.

Members of the Waterville Junior-Senior Prom Royalty Court were Queen Valorie ford, King Jack Elliott, Princess Alanna Connelly, Prince Nathan Pryputniewicz, Dutchess Madison Clark, Duke Jimmy Fister, Lady Kasey Sculley and Lord Ty Whipple.

The ninth annual Daniel Barden Mudfest had perfect weather for the event in honor of the first graders killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting.



The Village of Waterville will add an online payment option for utility billing.

Waterville High School senior Tyson Maxam was named All-State Class C First Team All-Star. Maxam has a scholarship to play for Pasco-Hernando State College in Florida.

June news

Sheri Brennan, secretary at Memorial Park School for 20 years, will retire this year.

Waterville junior Logan Baker finished 27th at the New York state Track and Field championships in the 1600-meter run.

Ashlie Willson was chosen Youth of the Month for May by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Former Waterville teacher Matt St. Peter spoke at the WCS commencement for the third year in a row. He gave the students some advice his father would give him: save money and lose weight. Fifty-nine students graduated in the Class of 2023.

Tuition for new non-district residents will increase at Waterville Central School next year. Cost will be \$1,230 for each student except those grandfathered in.

The Village of Waterville will have Thoma Associates survey the village's housing conditions for more up-to-date data for grant applications.

Colleen Baldwin was chosen supervisor for the Town of Marshall after Jack Buschmann resigned from the post.

Former Waterville Central School Superintendent Chuck Chafee will be inducted into the Mount Markham Central School District Hall of Fame. He is a Mount Markham graduate and former teacher for the district.

Waterville Public Library hosted its 10th annual Summer Solstice party with music, refreshments and games for kids.

The Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame awarded scholarships to Valorie Ford, Aleecya Poole, Natalee Collins and Grace Beach, all seniors from Waterville High School.

July news

The Village of Waterville has proposed a law to regulate the safety of backyard fires in the village.

Virginia Keith of Waterville was appointed to the Marshall Town Board to fill a vacancy.

The Town of Sangerfield is considering taking over property that is used for a turnaround by plows along Bailey Lake.

Jack Elliott was named Youth of the Month for June by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

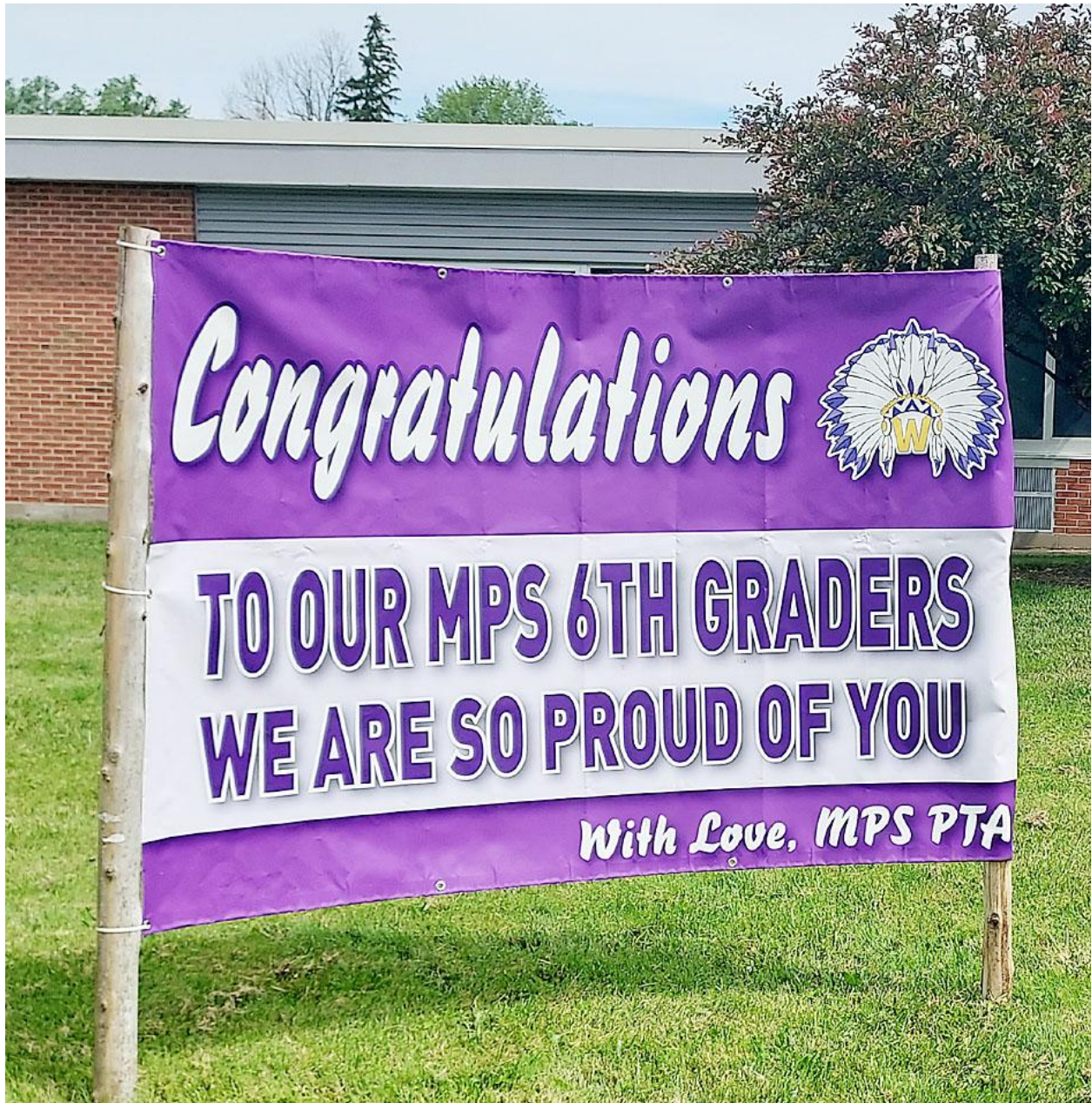
Sam Jones and Jared Homes from Waterville High School are attending Boys State.

The bid of \$230,000 from JB's Excavating was accepted by the Waterville Village Board for work on Big Creek near Stewart's Shops.

A new incentive for Waterville teachers reduced the number of hours of sick time and the need for substitute teachers.

Irene Lew, 96, longtime community member and Cadet Nurse during World War II, died after a long illness.

The Village of Waterville was named a Top 13 Friendliest towns in New York state by World Atlas.



August news

The Town of Marshall heard a number of complaints about codes violations at their meeting.

The Baby Family of the Year chosen by the Waterville Times were the Fortnams.

The Village of Clinton will choose from 43 projects to receive funds from the \$10 million DRI grant.

Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corp will no longer have a station in southern Oneida County but will respond out of Clark Mills.

The Brothertown Scholarship Fund handed out \$39,500 in awards this year.

Waterville Central School Board of Education reviewed its goals for 2023-24.

The Oriskany Falls Fire Department received a grant of \$104,000 from FEMA to buy 24 sets of firefighter turnout gear and a heated gear dryer.

4-Corners Food Co-op has expanded its hours and offerings to meet what customers have asked to have.

The Village of Waterville will apply for a grant to help make improvements to the drinking water system by replacing lead pipes, valves and hydrants.

Hayden Dumas, a senior at Waterville High School, was selected for the Utica team playing at the New York State Fair.

A new flagpole has been installed at Sangerfield Cemetery in honor of Eloise Mason by her grandchildren Roger Mason and Eloise Earley.

The Waterville Cemetery Association has made improvements to the property, including a slate roof on the Chapel. Other plans are to fence in the cemetery grounds.

September news

The 17th annual Cruise Into Waterville brought blue skies and plenty of sunshine for a full day of activities, ending with a fireworks display in the evening.

Work on Big Creek near Stewart's Shop will be done in the spring. White Street from the railroad tracks to the village line is being repaved this year.

Waterville football earned their first win in the 8-man league, 40-8 over Cooperstown.

Waterville boys soccer shared first place with Westmoreland/Oriskany in the Brothertown Optimist Tournament when their game was stopped tied at 1-1 due to lightning.

Former Town of Marshall Councilman Harry Goodson died at age 96. Former Town of Marshall Highway Superintendent Skip Foppes died at age 85.

Home Sweet Home celebrated its one-year in the former Farm Credit East building on Route 12 south with a ribbon cutting.

Waterville Junior-Senior High has put its hall passes online for students to use. Business Manager Amanda Eaves left after 10 months in the job.

Waterville Rotary Club will offer local community groups a chance to obtain a grant for a project to help children and families.

Southern Madison County Ambulance Corp will cease EMS operations after 37 years.

Hanley Poyer, a senior at Waterville High School, is co-student director of the New York State Council on Leadership this year.

Mount Markham Central School District named its outdoor sports complex after longtime boys soccer coach Charles Engle of Oriskany Falls with a ribbon cutting dedication by his family.

With the new lines on the tennis courts and the new moveable net at Babbott Park people can now play pickleball.



October news

The Waterville varsity football team received an award from the State School Boards Association for showing kindness and concern to another person.

Waterville Central School District offers a credit recovery program for students to have a second chance at passing a class.

Hanley Poyer was named Youth of the Month for October by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

About 300 kids and their families attended the Waterville Public Library's Halloween parade and Spooky Trail Walk.

The Waterville girls cross country team won the Center State Conference Division II title.

Waterville FFA students placed in several categories at the New York State Fair.

Laurie Fuess was inducted as president of the Brothertown Optimist Club.

The Village of Waterville added more security cameras to properties around the village.



November news

The Waterville Central School District has a surplus of about \$1.3 million that needs to be spent to get their savings down to the state maximum allowed.

The Village of Oriskany Falls added security cameras in its parks.

The 35th annual Parade of Lights had the theme 'A Christmas Story' and several people braved the cold night to see the floats.

Waterville cross country runners Logan Baker and Danny Casatelli qualified to run in the state tournament at VVS by finishing in the Top 10 at the Section Three meet. At the state meet they were part of the Section Three team that won the sectional title, with Casatelli finishing 17th and Baker 27th.

Despite concerns by residents, the Village of Waterville says it has no legal leverage to get the sinkhole filled in. A ruling in state Appellate Court says the responsibility of fixing the sinkhole falls to the owners of Schoolhouse Apartments and not the state.

The Waterville Central School District is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year with a big event planned for May.

Logan Baker was named Youth of the Month for November by the Brothertown Optimist Club.

Fifteen students at Memorial Park School participated in the Prize Speaking Contest.

Norbut Solar Farms obtained permission from the Town of Marshall for a commercial solar farm on Brothertown Road.

Colleen Baldwin was re-elected supervisor for the Town of Marshall while Virginia Keith and Josh Knutti were elected to the Town Board. In Sangerfield Town Council members Phil Olin and Kevin Kelley were re-elected.

December news

Waterville senior Sam Jones was awarded a full four-year college scholarship from the United States Marine Corps. He will enter into a ROTC program and serve in the Marines after graduation. He is the first Waterville student to win the award.

People brought complaints of smoke shops and the sinkhole to the Waterville Village Board.

Waterville Central School District will not see an increase in state Foundation aid due to the state's \$4.5 billion deficit.

The Town of Marshall ZBA heard input about the plans for Blueberry Brooke Farm on VanHyning Road. Some neighbors oppose the ideas.

Waterville Class of 1971 alumn Peter Bocko received an honorary degree from SUNY Oswego and was a guest speaker at the December commencement.

Ten students at Waterville High School took part in the 150th annual Prize Speaking Contest.

The Waterville Historical Society had its 19th annual Victorian Christmas Tea with another full house.

