

Josephine (Joy) Flood

3rd Ward Councilor

205 Germania Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13219 Phone: 315-487-5705
Email: jfloodward3@gmail.com Website: www.jfloodward3camillusny.com

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

Welcome to the New Year. My hope is that everyone has a safe, healthy and happy 2018.

2018 Town Budget

The Town Board worked diligently to keep costs down while sustaining our town services.

We offset some increase in costs with revenue from various departments.

Our Camillus Landfill revenue increased over \$300,000, sewer fees were down \$25,000.

The town switched health insurance carriers from Excellus to OCEBA (Onondaga County Employee Benefits Association) which is a self-funded program with other public entities. This change has saved the town over \$115,000 for this year.

Parkland Development Fees allowed us to upgrade mowing equipment for The Erie Canal Park.

There were challenges this year. The mandatory contributions to both the Police and Fire Retirement Systems and the Employee Retirement System increased.

OCRRA raised its fees so trash/recycling has gone up \$10 per household.

Our tax increase for 2018 is 0.01%

The complete budget can be found at <http://www.townofcamillus.com/documents/2867.pdf>

Highway

Our highway is doing an excellent job with our snow removal this year. If you have had any plow damage, please call the highway department at 315-672-5556. They will put your address on the spring list for repair and reseeded your property. The highway website www.camillushighway.com, list services they provide the residents, some highway maintenance schedules and more. Residents without internet service can call 315-672-5556. Remember as a resident you have the landfill to dispose of approved personal construction and demolition material, and the highway for yard waste. The landfill website www.camilluslandfill.com has more detailed information.

Winter Rules are in effect for parking on town streets. Please remember you can be ticketed if parked on the road between 1 AM and 6 AM from December 1 to April 1. Illegal parking inhibits our plows from doing a complete job of snow removal.

Your **Insight 2018** includes much of the daily information you need or the departments to call. Be mindful of your neighbors and bring in your trash and recycling containers in from the road. If you are remodeling or getting new furnishings, please do not leave your old furniture at the road unless you have called for a pickup. **Dependable** 315-472-7455 will give you a date when they will pick up and your fee. The landfill will accept your demolition and construction debris.

Camillus Senior Center

Tricia Bacon, the senior coordinator has expanded the services for all who attend 55 and over. The center hours are from 9 AM to 3:30 PM Monday to Friday. The senior center has become a real gem in our community and to the senior population. They have a wide variety of events happening weekly and during the year, with some day trips available. Their monthly meetings are the first Monday of every month at 1 PM. They serve daily luncheons at noon for a small donation fee to seniors 60+. Once again the **AARP Tax Preparation Program** is available this year. Appointments must be made by calling 315-672-3163 or 315-672-5820 and will start February 1st. The senior center's newsletter is very informative. If you wish to receive it, call and they will put you on the mailing list. It's a great place to meet new friends, be active and get involved.

Deer Management

We have seen an increase in the deer population in recent years. In late spring of 2017, the town comprised a deer committee of residents and members of the Town Board. Specifically the 3rd, 4th and 5th Wards have had the most complaints and have the denser population of deer. We have had many meetings and received education of deer management from experts, NYS DEC, USDA Wildlife Services and Cornell. After months of study, the town has decided on a bait and cull (shooting) technique. The USDA Wildlife experts will be used for the bait and cull operation and it will be at strategic locations within the town. Exact times cannot be predicted because of weather, wind and schedules. Baiting will take approximately 1-3 weeks before culling begins.

ALL SAFETY ISSUES WILL BE TAKEN AND WILL BE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR THE RESIDENTS, PETS AND OTHER WILDLIFE DURING THIS PROCESS.

Deer will be removed discreetly, dressed off premises and the meat donated to the local food bank. This is our first year and we have applied for a grant from Onondaga County for the funds. I want to thank the residents of the 3rd Ward who volunteered for this committee. Their time and contributions were invaluable to helping achieve a plan and hopefully a solution.

Town Development

If you have driven thru the village you will know that the old Camillus Cutlery is now Camillus Mills. This historical building contains 29 apartments and retail space on the first floor. Having toured thru the loft apartments and retail space, it is a great combination of old meets new. The apartments have exposed brick and pipes reminiscent of an old warehouse but with stainless appliances, finished granite counters, and polished concrete floors. The wide staircases of the factory take you upstairs to apartments with hardwood floors. They all have that open concept design and large oversized windows. Sutton Real Estate is handling the rentals.

Some of the retail space in front will house a coffee shop called Freedom of Espresso which is ready to open in February and also includes Hearth Management which is now open.

A new coffee shop, Rise and Grind is open in Rite Aid Plaza in Fairmount, a great place to have your morning wake up with pastries and fresh coffee.

The old Friendly's Restaurant will become Rio Grande 2, a Mexican eatery.

Aldi's is remodeling and growing. They should be reopening at the end of February.

Township 5

Tru Hotel is being built near Costco and is slated to open sometime this spring with 92 rooms available for booking. They will have a nice selection of restaurants to choose from and entertainment available at our Movie Tavern. Vine and Barrel and Petco are now open.

For a list of all stores, restaurants and medical facilities, their website is www.township5.com

Driving in Residential Areas

Many calls consist of residents worried about the local traffic and speeders. What I would ask from everyone is to be mindful when driving through the residential neighborhoods. Please watch for children at play, pedestrians walking, speed sign postings, intersections and stop signs.

This is for all of us to remain safe and accident free.

Tax Grievance Day

I've had inquiries pertaining to tax assessments on resident's properties. Grievance day is mandated by the state for a certain day and if you miss that, you must wait till the following year.

New York State has a website www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/contest/grievproced.htm. This website will give you a step by step procedure. The town Administrative Review usually is held on the 4th Tuesday in May, but call the assessor's office 315-487-7574 to verify the date.

Town Parks

Honeywell has donated to the town approximately 15 acres of Reed Webster Park.

Thru a Community Development Grant from the county, we will have new basketball courts on the northern part of the Bicentennial Park (behind Town Hall).

The Friends of Camillus Park, a great volunteer group, is very active in Camillus Park. The splash pad and new playground are great additions for family fun and the park has improved walking trails. The far end of the parking lot has new pickle ball courts. Plans and funding for outside exercise equipment is moving ahead.

Zombie Properties

NYS has passed legislation that addresses these abandoned and vacant properties. My website has the law and explanation posted, you can read it more thoroughly. The Town of Camillus has recognized this problem and has started to move on these properties. If you believe there is a "zombie property" on your street, please call or email me with the address and I will forward the information.

Fairmount Fire Department will again host their fish fry dinners starting Ash Wednesday and then every Friday thru lent. Their menu is on their website www.fairmountfire.com.

General Information

I would like to remind you that the public is welcome to attend all Town Board meetings, on every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month except for June, July & August. Those months the meetings are only on the 4th Tuesday. These are held at the municipal building, entrance off Male Ave at 7:00 pm.

You can bring forth any concerns or questions you have for the board during the public comment section. Agendas for the meeting are posted on the town website: www.townofcamillus.com.

This website has more in-depth information on all town meetings, and departments. The Town Clerk's office is very helpful, 315-488-1234, and if they cannot answer your questions, they will direct you to someone who can assist you further. I encourage you to send me your email jfloodward3@gmail.com so I may include you in my informational email blasts.

Best Regards – Joy Flood