

Josephine (Joy) Flood

3rd Ward Councilor

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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2021

Hoping everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. It was certainly different this year for all of us, but we can look to the future and wish for better times to come. I have some updates, new information and items to share with you. I usually list upcoming events for the year, but since we are still in lockdown, that is something for the future. I'll forward anything that I get in an email. Please send me your email address to add to my list. This listing is only used by myself for information and not given out.

My website has some general information and you can connect to various websites that may interest you. The Town Clerk's office offers a wide range of licenses and permits, and services to Town residents, as well as collecting property and school taxes. This year the clerk's office will have different procedures. This is all explained in her message below. Your **Insight 2021** includes much of the daily information you need or the departments to call. For anyone who doesn't have this year's insight, you can see a copy on the Town website, my website or call me and I'll drop off a copy to your home.

Town Hall is still on lockdown so appointments must be made with the various departments to discuss any issues you have. Many can be taken care of by phone but they will grant appointments if needed. Masks are mandatory for appointments.

The Camillus Town Board approved the 2021 budget after a long process resulting in weeks of interviews with Department Heads and various organizations that the Town contracts with for services. The Covid-19 Pandemic provided many challenges this year, our departments worked thru them and still are, providing our town residents with the services that are needed. The Town Board takes pride in being fiscally responsible and making sure the budget is sound.

Some of the 2021 budget highlights are:

Property tax rate for the Town's major funds have decreased from \$6.663 to \$6.611 or \$.02 per thousand. In summary, the general fund will decrease .046 cents per thousand. A home assessed at \$100,000 will see a decrease of \$2.65 in property taxes.

Camillus has increased landfill revenue and mortgage tax revenue.

We dealt with a reduction in NY State aid, per the Governor.

Trash pickup has increased \$8.00 per home, reflected by an increase in OCRA fees.

Minimum wage has increased to \$12.50, which affects our payroll for seasonal workers.

The budget also addresses the contractual expenses of wages, health insurance (expecting 11% increase), and retirement benefits (expected to increase).

Message from Town Clerk Martha Dickson-McMahon

Starting January 4, the Town of Camillus will begin the process of collecting 2021 property taxes. Most residents typically send payment by U.S. Mail or by using the online payment options offered at www.townofcamillus.com, and we strongly encourage everyone make use of these low-risk options. For those who choose to drop their payment rather than mailing or paying online, please be advised that public access to the Camillus Municipal Building is restricted due to being located in a Pandemic Yellow Zone. You will not be allowed inside the building to drop your payment and will instead be directed to place it in the drop box located outside the main entrance on Turner Avenue. You will be mailed a receipt for your records. Cash payments are accepted by pre-arranged appointment only; call 315-488-1234. We want to keep our residents safe, but also need our resident's help to keep our small municipal staff healthy so their offices can remain open and provide other essential local services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Town Assessor's Update

Town of Camillus has opted in to grant the senior low exemption without renewing by March 1st. This means that the Assessor will use last year's exemption amounts for 2021 tax bills. Residents **do not** have to manually apply at the Assessor's office. The assessor does advise signing the renewal form and sending it in the mail with a note to opt out of renewal. If you did not receive, or have misplaced your paperwork that was mailed to you, please call (315) 487-7574

Trash

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. Check landfill hours for acceptance.

Be mindful of your neighbors and bring you trash and recycling containers in from the road and your front yards after pick up. Please place trash receptacles out of sight if possible.

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.

Federal and State Representatives

U.S. Congressman John Katko - 24th New York District

Syracuse Office – 440 S. Warren Street, 7th Floor Suite 711, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone 315-423-5657 The website contains information updated daily. From this website you can sign up to receive direct emails and his newsletter. <http://katko.house.gov>

Assemblyman John Lemondes - 126th District

Room 720 LOB, Albany, NY 12248 (518) 455-4100 ~ District Office: 69 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021 (315) 255-3045 ~ or my satellite office: 4600 West Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13219 (315) 488-8996. Can be reached by email at lemondesj@nyassembly.gov

State Senator John Mannion - 50th Senate District

Represents the Town of Camillus

188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 814, Albany, NY 12247 phone 518-455-3511

DISTRICT OFFICE

333 East Washington Street State Office Bldg., Room 800, Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone 315-428-7632 He can be reached by email at mannion@nysenate.gov

Camillus Senior Center

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the senior center is not open.

Tricia Bacon, the senior coordinator, has been holding zoom meetings. If you are able to attend these meetings through zoom, call the center at 315-672-5820. Tricia will assist you. She will also keep everyone informed on upcoming programs. AARP Tax Preparation, if they progress, will be by appointment only. Call the center to reserve. Rules and regulations must be followed and every tax client must complete the annual intake questionnaire prior to meeting. Masks are mandatory as in all offices.

Southern Hills Preservation Corporation Home Improvement Program

The Town Board last fall accepted an invitation to become part of this program. It provides up to \$30,000.00 to help eligible homeowners with needed repairs to their home. Southern Hills also works with other agencies to assist in getting the maximum amount for the work required.

The funds are in the form of a forgivable loan secured with a note and mortgage.

Their contact number is 315-677-3863, and they will provide more complete information.

Town Development

We have had some area restaurants move within the town. Second Chance Diner is now in the old Friendly's. Twin Trees Pizza will soon open (or may be by the time this letter is out) on the corner of Kasson Road and West Genesee Street.

Township5 continues to grow and has many medical facilities available to us. You can check their website www.Township5.com or their Facebook page for a complete listing.

Difficult times for our area eateries, if you feel safe doing so, please support them by take out or dining. They all provide curbside service if you want the added protection.

Highway

Our highway department has been doing a great job with all the difficulties that this year has presented. If you have any plow damage, they will seed and repair in the spring. Please call the office directly at 315-672-5556. They will put your address on the list for repair to your property. Pot holes on residential streets should be reported to the highway office. The highway website

www.camillushighway.com, list services they provide the residents, some highway maintenance schedules and more. This probably won't have new information until late spring.

Remember as a resident you have the landfill to dispose of approved personal construction and demolition material, and the highway for yard waste.

For new residents, grass clippings are not picked up by the highway, you can bring it to the town highway yard. The landfill website www.camilluslandfill.com has more detailed information.

Amboy Air Museum

The town has many museums and parks that fill a number of different interests. A group of dedicated volunteers have a project called the Amboy Air Museum. As many of you know the very first airport for Syracuse was in Amboy before Hancock Field was built. Rich with history, the old airport was visited by Charles Lindberg, Amelia Earhart, Will Rogers and other famous flyers. A sign has been placed at Reed Webster Park which will house the museum. Last year, the volunteers received important and historical records and articles, very pertinent to the history of the airport. They are actively seeking funds to build the museum. The group has a Facebook page and a GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/aviation-history-society?member=1289226

Volunteerism

Our town has some great organizations run by volunteers. This year was extremely difficult for them because of the pandemic. CATFISH (Camillus Area Transport Friends In Service Here) had to stop service because of lack of drivers. Hopefully this spring they can get enough drivers, they need about 25 cars, for transporting seniors to medical and dental appointments. Call 315-672-5820 if interested.

Meals on Wheels is irreplaceable, they deliver meals to people in need. There are a lot of different jobs that are available. If interested please call 315-487-2878.

The Octagon House has been closed for the year due to the pandemic, but the volunteers have been busy. They decided to use that time to update displays, repaint and repurpose some of the rooms to bring it back to the original time line of the house. Outdoor landscaping has been redone and the house will get painted outside this year. Hoping for a spring re-opening in April, the volunteers are eager to show the changes. They will announce it as it gets closer as the date may change depending on the pandemic status.

General Information

Please take a few minutes to send me your e-mail address for my information blasts. There are a lot of new families in my ward and I'd like to include you. My email is jfloodward3@gmail.com

Best Regards
Joy Flood