

Supervisor's Column: December 2018

Brrr...Only in upstate New York does it get this cold, this quickly. I'd like to take this chance to thank everyone who voted for and supported me through my first election cycle. Additionally, I'd like to thank those who supported Jeremy Eaton for the open council position. Though our town board will look slightly different in the coming year, our dedication to the town remains strong. I'd also like to thank Jason Ruffell for his 13 years of service as a Town Board Member. We wish him well as he takes a new role with the town as the chairman of the Zoning Board.

County Meal Service: I'm sure many residents have already heard about the big debate at the County, regarding the provision of daily meals to senior citizens. Every year, the Board of Supervisors is required by law to bid out the contract for this service to show we are getting the most for every tax dollar spent. ARC outbid our previous provider of 45 years, meaning that unless there is good reason not to do so, we must accept them as our new provider. Seeing none, the County Board accepted ARC's bid. I would personally like to thank the volunteers from our previous provider for their years of service, and hope ARC can show that same compassion to our seniors.

2019 Budget: After lengthy consideration, the Town Board and I finally approved the 2019 budget for the Town of Ontario. Our budget will allow us to approve several possible projects in the coming year, including AV updates to the meeting room, a second e-Waste collection event, a hazardous waste collection event, and more. We are also looking ahead, in case Ginna does not re-license the PILOT Agreement.

AV Updates: Throughout the year, the Town has fielded feedback from residents regarding the lackluster audio and visual capabilities of our board meetings. Our plan is for there to be microphones for each board member, two for the department head tables, and a mic stand for public comments. Additionally, we are considering installing either a projector or a 70" television screen on the right side of the room, to ensure all residents can see the attachments we discuss.

Maintenance Mechanic: Robert Graham has worked for the Town of Ontario as a Maintenance Mechanic for a very long time. He was planning on resigning from his position at the end of October, but we are pleased to report that he will be staying with us for the foreseeable future.

Water Treatment IT: When the town updated their IT and phone services, the Water Treatment Plant was left out of that process in order to ensure smooth operation. Our friends at NFP Telecom will now be finishing their work by adding internet to the accompanying pole barn and increasing download speeds in the main plant.

Girl Scout Awards: The past couple of months, I've presented Girl Scout awards to eight deserving young women of distinction. The organization Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways have been instrumental in informing us of which local scouts deserve this recognition, and the Town Board and I are thankful for what the many Girl Scout troops have done for our town.

Holiday Party: For the first time in decades, we had a Town-wide employee Christmas party at no cost to taxpayers. This event was attended by almost every employee with the Town. Our employees work hard year round and deserve our appreciation not only this time of year, but all year.

Holiday Wishes: Wishing you peace, joy, and all the best this wonderful holiday has to offer. May this incredible time of giving and spending time with family bring you the joy that lasts throughout the year.

Frank Robusto