

Town Supervisor Column October:

Fall is in the air, and with the changing temperatures and weather patterns come new developments in the Town of Ontario.

Lakeside Bridge: I am happy to report that the summer work on the bridge between Lakeside Rd and Lincoln Rd has finally been completed. The work was completed October 1, and the bridge is in great shape. We appreciate the patience of the residents on those two roads during this lengthy process.

Palmer Hall: The Palmer Hall saga has finally ended! The repairs to the roof and ceiling are fixed, and the building looks good as new. I could not write this without mentioning the many people who helped our court personnel throughout the repair process. Thank you to the Highway Dept. for lending some helping hands when moving furniture out, Robert Graham for coordinating our efforts and receiving quotes, Adam Cummings for restored the Hall's IT functionality and water lines, and Mel Halstead for offering the use of her former assessing clerk's office in the meantime.

Optimax: I've had the pleasure of visiting Optimax several times this year, and I'm always amazed by what I see. Thus, it was a privilege to speak in front of such a dedicated staff of engineers and accomplished guests at the Optimax Groundbreaking Ceremony, where they announced plans to expand their facility and increasing their staff exponentially within the next five years.

Sewer Districts: The town board, under the recommendation and guidance of Water Superintendent Adam Cummings, approved the implementation of needed improvements to sanitary sewer districts #1 and #2 at a public hearing last month. These improvements include a new Ultraviolet Disinfection system, tertiary filtration improvements, and main station upgrades. Failure to make these upgrades would've cost the town a great deal in fees from the DEC, and we hope they will allow us to process waste-water more efficiently.

Farmers Market: It's harvest season in Wayne County, and the Ontario Farmers Market is loaded for bear. Make sure you stop in and check out the delicious sampling of fresh foods they have on sale, and stock up for what will (hopefully not) be another long winter.

Welcome Letters: My wife Jackie is the most talented, creative person in my life, and she designed a fantastic welcome letter for new residents. Each month, we will be sending out these letters to new residents listed in the monthly board sales report. We hope these new residents enjoy the special welcome.

Budget and Finance: The budget process is underway in Ontario. Reducing taxes is something I have always been committed to, so I am happy to report that, through careful budgeting and management of expenses, we have reduced the 3.13 % per thousand tax rate to 3.09%. We are also negotiating our PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement with Ginna for the upcoming year.

What's Next?: With winter coming fast, I'd like to once again remind residents to sign up for Smart911. With this service, responders will be able to respond to an emergency faster than from a standard 911 call.

In addition, I encourage citizens to make their voices heard on Election Day, November 6.