

# Providence Town News

## From our Supervisor

*Sandy Winney*

We are about to welcome in a new year. The year 2020 was a disaster for us: with all the shutdowns, no school for our children and small business shutdowns. It has been unsettling for a lot of us. The stories I hear are terrible, our seniors in nursing homes, having to be shut in and no family allowed, getting sick and hospitalized no family allowed there, and people passing away with this terrible virus.

The Town of Providence has survived in good shape. Finances are good and we kept the taxes as low as we could. I want to thank all of you for following the numerous rules throwed down on all of us. I want to thank our Highway crew for all their efforts to keep our roads in good shape. The Town Hall has been open to the public, with masks. Our Town Clerk, Sue has been open and catering to our residents.

Let's all pray that we have a better year next year.  
God bless and keep safe - Sandy

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December 2020  
Volume 1, Issue 3

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### **Town Hall**

7187 Barkersville Road  
518-882-6541

### **Providence Website:**

[www.townprovidence.org](http://www.townprovidence.org)

**On Facebook: Town of Providence**

**Supervisor** Sandy Winney, ext. 106  
**Councilwoman** Christine DeCristofaro  
**Councilman** William Hartman  
**Councilwoman** Audrey Lahoff  
**Councilwoman** Ann Morris

### **Town Clerk**

Susan Wemple, ext. 108  
Email:  
[providenceclerk@nycap.rr.com](mailto:providenceclerk@nycap.rr.com)  
Hours W & F: 9-2:30, Thurs: 3-7,  
Sat: 8-12

### **Town Justice**

Allan Lahoff

### **Transfer Station**

375 Centerline Road  
Hours: Saturday 8-4 and Weds. 5-7

**Resident Permit Required and All  
Household Waste Must Be In Green  
Bags**

**THE TOWN OF PROVIDENCE HAS A  
NEW ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:**

**CHRIS WATROBSKI  
518-705-0005**

**DUE TO RISING COVID 19 CASES IN SARATOGA COUNTY, ALL TOWN OFFICE ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL:

- **TOWN CLERK & TAX COLLECTOR:** 518-882-6541, 108 OR PROVIDENCECLERK@NYCAP.RR.COM
  - TAXES CAN BE MAIL TO: TOWN OF PROVIDENCE  
7187 BARKERSVILLE ROAD  
MIDDLE GROVE, NY 12850
  - THERE IS ALSO A LOCKED DROP BOX IN THE VESTIBULE AT PROVIDENCE TOWN HALL THAT TAXES CAN BE LEFT IN
  - **DO NOT LEAVE CASH**
  - TO PAY TAXES BY CASH, PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
- **TOWN SUPERVISOR:** 518-882-6541, EXT. 106 OR PROVIDENCESUPERVISOR@NYCAP.RR.COM
- **TOWN ASSESSOR:** 518-882-6541, EXT. 104 OR PROVIDENCEASSESSOR@NYCAP.RR.COM
- **CODE ENFORCEMENT & BUILDING INSPECTOR:** 518-882-6541, EXT. 107 OR 518-857-4109 OR PROVIDENCECODE@ALBANY.TWCBC.COM
- **TOWN COURT:** 518-882-6753 OR PROVIDENCEJUSTICE@NYCAP.RR.COM
- **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:** CHRIS WATROBSKI: 518-705-0005

## **Highway Superintendent's Report**

*George Whitney*

Not much has been going on since the last newsletter. We did order a new loader to beat a price increase that would take effect on January 1, 2021. We were able to get Nortrax to give us \$10,000 more on trade-in than they originally offered on our old loader. We got into the 2021 John Deere 624-L loader for \$38,564, which has been delivered and will be paid for out of the 2021 budget.

Other than that, we have been doing maintenance work on the garage and equipment, fighting the snow and ice as it comes, and clearing the trees and limbs that come down this time of year.

Until next time....Drive safe, be safe...Have a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous 2021!!

## **From the Providence Assessor's Office**

*Lorraine Fiorino*

My name is Lorraine Fiorino and I am the Sole Assessor for the Town of Providence. In addition to wishing you holiday greetings, I would like to remind property owners with existing exemptions, that renewal paperwork is due to the office by March 1st. 2021. If you have any questions regarding your exemption or your property in general, please call the Assessor at 518 882-6541 x 104 or send an email to [providenceassessor@nycap.rr.com](mailto:providenceassessor@nycap.rr.com)

## **Providence Volunteer Fire Department**

*David Houston*

Greetings and Happy Holidays from your volunteer fire department. We hope that you are all hanging in there during these trying times. We are doing our best to get through it all. At least mother nature maintains her sense of humor, 3 to 6 inches of snow. Right.

Seriously winter has defiantly set in. Are you ready? Is your vehicle ready? Battery tested, winter tires, emergency bag (food, water, extra clothing), snow brush, shovel, etc.? Let's not forget to allow a little extra time on snowy days to clean off your vehicle, and for travel time on covered roads. How about home? Shovels, snow blower, plow? When cleaning up after snow make sure to clear around vents and intakes (furnaces, water heaters, generators, etc.) You want all those things to work and do not want carbon monoxide building up. Roofs may also require attention, especially if we get as much snow as we did this time. If you are not sure perhaps a bit of professional help is in order. If possible, keep the snowbanks pushed back at the end of the driveway so you can see and be seen. Also, very important, can we still see your 911 address numbers? From both sides? Finally, if you have a neighbor who is struggling (elderly, infirm, just doesn't have the equipment), lend a hand if you can.

We are still looking for new members. Have you considered joining your volunteer fire department? There are all kinds of ways you could help and make a difference in your community. We meet or train on Tuesday nights. Stop in and see any member for information or an application, or you can call 518-332-4131. We would be happy to answer any questions. Till next time, stay warm, well, and safe.

Providence Volunteer Fire Department



## **Galway Emergency Medical Services**

*Michael Jazwinski  
Captain; NYS Paramedic; ALS Coordinator; Controlled Substance Agent*

**PLEASE INSURE YOUR 911 NUMBER IS VISABLE FROM THE ROAD IN BOTH DIRECTIONS – DUE TO THE RECENT SNOWSTORM MANY 911 NUMBERS HAVE BEEN COVERED WITH SNOW EITHER FROM MOTHER NATURE OR ROAD PLOWING.**

As of today, there has been a total of 134 emergency calls in your town compared to 112 emergency calls in 2019 in the same time period.

The Providence Volunteer Fire Department has also been a great help when requested to assist us in extricating a patient from their home or a vehicle accident.

Reminder- we will come to any of your meetings to demonstrate our ambulances and equipment, answer any questions or concerns you have.

Stop down at the station day or night, we are in station 24/7 unless on a call if you would like your blood pressure or EKG taken, this is FREE OF CHARGE –

The Pandemic has interrupted everyone's life and in the EMS Response protocol, if you call for an ambulance and are screened to possible coronavirus exposure the EMS Crew has to "GOWN UP" like you see on television in hospitals so don't let this scare you, this is to protect both you and the EMS Crew.

Galway EMS wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

## **Galway Senior Citizens Group**

*Ruthie Lee*

I just want everyone to know that as the Galway Senior Citizens Trip Chairperson, Unfortunately I cannot give anyone a time when we will be having any meetings? Social Distancing is just not practical in the Town Hall. There has been talk about Our Christmas Party. I and others feel Social Distancing in a Restaurant just isn't possible with a Group. Hopefully by the beginning of next year the weather will be wonderful and we will be able to meet with all our friends at Galway Senior's!

Please enjoy all of the upcoming Holidays and Stay Healthy!

## Galway Library Happenings

Debra Flint

Thanks to a generous donation, the Galway Public Library has purchased the following racially and culturally diverse books for our Young Adult collection: *Dear Martin* – Nic Stone; *Early Departures* – Justin Reynolds; *You Should See Me in a Crown* – Leah Johnson; *Love from A to Z* – SK Ali; *Rick* – Alex Gino; *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* – Jennifer De Leon; *Dragon Hoops* – Gene Luen Yang; *Genesis Begins Again* – Alicia Williams

The new *Rockwood Collection* was donated in memory of Lucas Daniel Rockwood who, as a child, loved libraries so much he created his own. It is an assortment of books that span all ages and focus mainly on women who made a path for the rest of us.

*STEAM Interactive Discovery Kits* are available at the library for check out. For grades 4 and up we have Building & Design; Electronic Coding & Bots; and Estimations & Patterns. Suitable for grades 7 and up is Machines & Contraptions.

Our *Book Bundle* program includes books and an activity that can be done at home. We have themed bundles for Preschool and Early Elementary, Elementary, and Middle School ages.

For the safety of our patrons, we not going to hold any in-person programs in January, but we will have more of the *Take & Make craft kits* for kids. Both book discussions for adults, as well as board meetings, will be virtual. To attend, please contact the library to receive the ZOOM link. Curbside pickup of books continues, and as of this writing the library remains open with its regular hours. Our website, [www.galwaypubliclibrary.org](http://www.galwaypubliclibrary.org), includes resources both educational and entertaining, and e-book and audiobooks are always available for checkout.

Please be sure to check our website or call us at 518-882-6385 for updates and information throughout these winter months. You can also sign up for emailed newsletters (at the library or on the website) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

New DVDs include: *Ava*; *Bill & Ted Face Music*; *Friendsgiving*; *The Irishman*; *Mulan*; *The New Mutants*; *Pokémon Mewtwo Strikes Back, Evolution*; *Rainy Day in NY*; *The Secret Garden*; *The Vanished* and *War with Grandpa*

The newest Adult Fiction Books: *Shakeup* – Stuart Woods; *Squeeze Me* – Carl Hiaasen; *Truly, Madly, Deeply* – Karen Kingsbury; *Law of Innocence* – Michael Connelly; *How to Raise an Elephant* – Alexander McCall Smith; *Fortune and Glory* – Janet Evanovich; *Just Watch Me* –

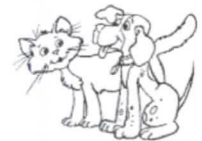


Jeffrey Lindsay; *What Are You Going Through* – Sigrid Nunez; *Monogamy* – Sue Miller; *Dreaming Death* – Heather Graham; *Invisible Girl* – Lisa Jewell; *The Awakening* – Nora Roberts; *Deadly Cross* – James Patterson; *All That Glitters* – Danielle Steele; *War Lord* – Bernard Cornwell; *Piece of My Heart* – Mary Higgins Clark; *Troubles in Paradise* – Elin Hilderbrand; *Battle Ground* – Jim Butcher; *Elsewhere* – Dean Koontz

Adult Non-Fiction; *Vesper Flights* – Helen Macdonald; *Memorial Drive* – Natasha Trethewey; *Caste* – Isabel Wilkerson; *We Keep the Dead Close* – Becky Cooper; *Veritas* – Ariel Sabar; *Group* – Christie Tate; *First Principles* – Thomas Ricks; *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* – Emmanuel Acho; *Devotions* – Mary Oliver; *The Truths We Hold* – Kamala Harris; *My Own Words* – Ruth Bader Ginsburg; *White Fragility* – Robin DiAngelo; *Think Like a Monk* – Jay Shetty

And new Juvenile Books: *Champion of the Titan Games* – Brandon Mull; *The One and Only Bob* – Katherine Applegate; *Escape Goat* – Ann Patchett; *The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be* – Joanna Gaines; *Superheroes are Everywhere* – Kamala Harris; *Construction Site on Christmas Night* – Sherri Rinker

## Saratoga County Animal Shelter



Rabies clinics are not being held at this time; however, you can check their website: <https://www.saratogacountyanimalshelter.com/rabies-clinics/> for future 2021 dates. Please be sure your animals are vaccinated and licensed.

## From Our Town Historian

Bob Wemple

I am asking for readers help this month about a former fire tower that used to be on the Saratoga County Homestead property (former T.B. Hospital) in Providence.

The tower used to stand on the county property where the county has its cell towers now, west of the old hospital. There is a parking area and trails there now on the service road for the cell towers. From the parking area, if you walk back towards the county road, on your left you will see a rock engraved with: *An Old Home 1816-1916*. This is the site of the old Carpenter home which was donated with 200 acres to Saratoga County in 1905 for the Tuberculosis Hospital.

Richard and Henry Mickan, who are lifelong area residents that grew up just east of the tower property, remember the tower being old and run down and not in use anymore. Their father, William Mickan, was Town Supervisor 1954-1959 and Richard was also Supervisor 1979-1981.

The question about the history of the tower was brought up to me a while back by Darryl Ferguson, who also remembers the fire tower when he was young. The tower he remembers was on the hill across from the schoolhouse, which would have been #2 Barkersville. The schoolhouse was directly opposite Glenwild Road which is now a residence. He said his father told him to stay off the tower but that was like saying "*welcome, go visit the tower*". His grandfather was Martin Zajaceskowski, who was a janitor for many years in the 1920's for the T.B. Hospital.

Darryl's parents were Harold and Anna Ferguson and they owned a small portion of land just east and adjoining the schoolhouse property and had intended to build there some day but that never happened. They eventually leased a portion of this property to the Providence Fire Department sometime after 1958 when the Fire Department was still in its beginnings to erect and maintain a siren tower. The tower they used was the old fire tower from the County property. Whether the tower was bought from the County or gifted is unclear at this time.

The lease agreement between Providence Fire District #1 and Harold & Anna Ferguson was dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 1962 and stated continuing the location and maintenance of the tower, meaning it was erected there sometime earlier. The siren tower served its purpose for many years on that spot which was on the crest of a hill overlooking the Hamlet of Barkersville.

January 3, 1970, the Barkersville Firehouse was destroyed by arsonists. The Fire Department at this time was by the town hall on the west side of the Alder Creek. The arsonists turned out to be members of the Fire Department (which will be a story for another time.)

The new firehouse was built above Barkersville near the hospital where it is still today. The siren tower was also moved there for easier access and maintenance. The tower can be seen next to the building yet today, still in use.

After that look at what history presently is known about the old fire tower, I ask the reader's help. If anyone knows any story or history on the tower or even an old picture would be great. Darryl Ferguson has been in contact with our County Historian, but the only thing she found thus far is the lease agreement I mentioned earlier.

I can be reached at my home phone, 518-883-8569, or you can stop and see Sue Wemple, Town Clerk, at the Town Hall.



## **Joan C. Dyer**

*Donna Erickson*

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Joan Dyer on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Joan was a cherished member of the Providence community and will be missed. For fifteen years she was the editor of the Providence Newsletter. Joan also was a volunteer with the Providence Volunteer Fire Auxiliary for twenty-three years.

Our town was served by Joan in her role of trustee of the Barkersville Cemetery and a member of the Providence Board of Assessment Review. Joan was a published poet who celebrated town events with poetry.

Joan enjoyed reading, crafting and spending time with family and friends. To help children in the town Joan would send children a special ornament to place on their tree to assist Santa in finding their house and would send the child a letter from Santa.

We will fondly remember this special lady and send sympathetic thoughts to her husband Ray and her family.

## **Galway Food Pantry**

*Ann Morris*

I am so proud to be a volunteer at the Galway food pantry. Just before Thanksgiving a van pulled in with a mother, father, and I believe a grandmother along with this adorable little girl. The little girl rolled down her window and handed me \$125.00 worth of gift cards from Hannaford that she wanted to donate to all the hungry people who need food. Along with the gift cards the back of the van was loaded with about 15 bags of food that she had purchased with her birthday money to donate. She explained to me that she asked all her friends and family not buy her presents but to give her money so she could feed the hungry people who needed it. If I remember correctly, she told me she was 6 years old going on seven. Her dad also received a turkey from work and wanted to donate it. This family resides in the town of Providence. As I walked away with tears in my eyes. I thanked her and assured her that we will make sure all the hungry people will receive her donations. Special Thanks to you and your wonderful family.

The Galway Food Pantry, located at 2167 East St., Galway, is open every Thursday from 10am-7pm. At this time anyone that is in need of food may stop by regardless of your income. You must stay in your car and let food pantry volunteers bring food items to your car. We also have volunteers to deliver food to people who are unable to get to the pantry. Please call the pantry on Thursdays from 10am-7pm if you have any questions. The phone number to the pantry is 518-882-1316.