

TOWN OF LOCKPORT

2020 FALL EDITION



We Are A Strong Country

There's no doubt, 2020 has been a tough year. The COVID-19 virus has changed the way we live our daily lives, and the economy and unemployment have affected our household budgets. Schools are re-opening, but don't resemble anything that we adults have ever witnessed. Riots and unrest are tearing apart some of our large cities, and, on top of everything, we have a tumultuous presidential election year. Bottomline: It has been an extremely stressful time for everyone.

But the good news is: this is the good old United States of America, and we are living in the greatest country that ever existed in the history of mankind. This country has lived through tough times before, and we will be stronger after we get through the issues of 2020.

Americans have always had the ability to bounce back from setbacks. We just observed the 19th anniversary of the 9-11 attack on our Country from foreign terrorists. Even in the face of a devastating attack, we managed to find stories of heroism from First Responders, our Military and every day, average Americans. We are a Country of strong people, encompassing all ethnic groups. We are still the beacon of hope for millions of people working to immigrate here from all parts of the world.

The staff at the Town of Lockport offices, (as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic) took two weeks off to "flatten the curve", and then we got back to work. We made all the adjustments recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to ensure the safety of our Town employees and the general public visiting our Town offices. We were the first town in Niagara County to open our doors to the public. We continued to provide refuse service, water and sewer, highway paving and repairs, building permits, and varied Clerk's business.

We would also like to recognize our local law enforcement for the outstanding job they do everyday. The Niagara County Sheriffs, the NYS Troopers and the Lockport City Police, help make our community one of the safest in New York State.

We know everyone in our community has done their part to get our Country moving again. Schools are re-opening, restaurants and retail businesses are slowly getting back to a slightly "new normal". So, please hang in there and continue to move forward.

Someday we will tell our grandchildren how we overcame the great challenges of 2020.

Sincerely,
Mark Crocker
Lockport Town Supervisor



LAST CHANCE FOR ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FOR 2020!

Come on out to see us on Saturday, October 31st and again on Saturday, November 28th to get those electronics properly recycled. This is your last opportunity for the year, otherwise you'll need to hold on to these items until March of 2021. As you know, this event is held right at Town Hall from 9 am - 1 pm and is COVID friendly with Town staff there to assist. No need to get out of the vehicle, just pull up and we will do the rest.

Recycling electronics costs the town up to 9 cents a pound. Since we are not charging a fee for this service, we are limiting usage strictly to **Town of Lockport Residents** (please be prepared to show ID).

The hours of operation for the Town of Lockport Recycling Shed are: The last Saturday of each month,

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, March through November. NO after hour drop-offs will be permitted. Cameras are in place to protect and enforce the program.

ACCEPTABLE ELECTRONIC RECYCLING LIST

- Televisions (CRT, LCD, LED, PLASMA, 3D)
- Computer Monitors (CRT, LCD, LED)
- Computers (Desktops & Laptops)
- Printers (Ink or Toner)
- Microwave Ovens
- Copiers/Fax Machines
- Video Equipment (VCR, DVD & Video Cameras)



Limit 4 large items (TV's) per month, open to Town of Lockport residents only.

Best regards,
Darlene DiCarlo, *Council Member*

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

www.elockport.com

**Town Newsletter Now Posted
on www.elockport.com!**

TOWN DIRECTORY

SUPERVISOR

Mark Crocker 439-9520
Crocker@elockport.com

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Thomas Keough 439-9575
Townboard_tk@elockport.com
Paul Siejak 433-8188
Townboard_ps@elockport.com
Pat Dufour 478-0609
Townboard_pd@elockport.com
Darlene DiCarlo 433-4817
Townboard_dd@elockport.com

TOWN CLERK

Judi Newbold 439-9524
townclerk@elockport.com

TOWN HIGHWAY SUPT.

Dave Miller 439-9522
Highway_Dept@elockport.com

TOWN SEWER/WATER

Water Clerk 439-9529
Water_Dept@elockport.com
Emergency After Hours 433-0005

TOWN JUSTICES

Cheryl Antkowiak 439-9528
Bradley Marble 439-9528
Town_Court@elockport.com

TOWN RECEIVER OF TAXES

Lori Carrero 439-9531
Tax_Collector@elockport.com

TOWN ASSESSOR

Jill Lederhouse 439-9526
j_lederhouse@elockport.com

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Brian Belson 439-9527
B_Belson@elockport.com

DOG CONTROL OFFICER

Barry Kobrin 628-2347

TOWN HISTORIAN

Jean Linn 438-2159
jlinn@elockport.com

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

State Sen. Robert Ort 434-0680
State Assembly Mike Norris 839-4691

NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATORS

Anthony Nemi – 11th Leg. Dist. 434-0133
Anita Mullane – 13th Leg. Dist. 523-5927
William Collins Sr.– 12th Leg. Dist. 434-7512
John Syracuse 14th District 778-5064
Michael A. Hill 15th District 735-3259

POLICE

Emergency 911
New York State Police 434-5588
Niagara County Sheriff's Dept. 438-3393

**NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION**

Kevin Holze 877-457-5680
kevin.holze@dec.ny.gov
Shea Mathis 877-457-5680
shea.mathis@dec.ny.gov
George Scheer 877-457-5680
george.scheer@dec.ny.gov
Joshua Wolgast 877-457-5680
joshua.wolgast@dec.ny.gov

COORDINATOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tom Sy 478-0608
Tom@elockport.com

Office Hours

Town Court: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

Town Hall: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

Building & Assessing Department:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

Offices Closed

Columbus Day - Mon. 10/12

Election Day - Tues. 11/3

Veterans Day - Wed. 11/11

Thanksgiving - Thurs. 11/26 and Fri. 11/27

Christmas - Thurs. 12/24 and Fri. 12/25

New Year's Day - Friday, January 1, 2021

**GET OUT AND VOTE 2020
Tuesday, November 3rd**

2020 Upcoming Town Board Meetings

7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 6560 Dysinger Road

October 7th December 9th

November 4th January 6th, 2021

NOTE FROM: The Dog Control Officer

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets requires that all dogs four (4) months and older with a current rabies vaccination be licensed.

FEE SCHEDULE:

(Must be renewed annually at the Town Clerk's office)

• Spayed/neutered dog - **\$8.00**

• Non-spayed/non-neutered dog - **\$18.00**

The Dog Control Officer's duties include: enforcement of dog licensing and ordinances and dog bite investigations.

Dogs must be effectively restricted or controlled by a person or a leash not exceeding 15 feet in length. Since it is the law, **KEEP ID TAGS ON YOUR DOGS AT ALL TIMES.** If your dog goes missing, contact us immediately. If the animal has identification tags on it and was licensed in the Town of Lockport, we can expedite the process of returning the animal to the owner. Please note, we cannot release them if they are not licensed. In the case of no identification, the dog will be taken to the Niagara County SPCA where you will be required to provide proof of licensing and rabies vaccination along with paying a \$25 redemption fee at the office before attempting to pick up your dog.

Barry Kobrin
Town of Lockport Dog Control Officer

For more information, contact the Clerk's office at 716-439-9524 or me at 716-628-2347.





Niagara County Department of Health Encourages Communities to Protect Themselves Against the Flu, Especially this Season

It's fall, and influenza (flu) season is here again. The flu is a respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. The virus spreads mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. The virus also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth. Flu can cause severe illness, hospitalization and death. Anyone can get the flu, and serious problems can occur at any age.

To protect yourself from getting the flu, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone six months of age and older get the flu shot every year. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies that protect against flu to develop in the body. "Communities are encouraged to get the flu shot early in the fall, before the disease begins to spread," said Daniel J. Stapleton, Public Health Director. Some people are at higher risk for flu complications. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic conditions (diabetes, asthma or heart disease), pregnant women and young children.

Vaccination of people at high risk for flu complications is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness. According to the CDC, many people at higher risk from flu also seem to be at higher risk from COVID-19. "When going to get a flu vaccine, practice everyday preventive actions such as washing your hands often, avoiding close contact with people who don't live in your household and covering your mouth and nose with a mask when around others," he added.

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself, your family and our community from flu. Flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. When you get vaccinated, you reduce your risk of getting sick with flu and possibly being hospitalized or dying from flu. This season, getting a flu vaccine has the added benefit of reducing the overall burden on the health care system and saving medical resources for care of COVID-19 patients.

"To help slow the spread of diseases such as flu and COVID-19, it is important to stay home from school or work when sick," stated Mr. Stapleton. "We all play an important role in protecting the health of our community. Stay vigilant, and continue to take everyday preventive actions such as social distancing and wearing a mask appropriately," he emphasized.

Now is the time to get a flu vaccine. To receive a flu shot, contact your local health care provider or pharmacy, or visit www.vaccinefinder.org. For more information about Influenza (Flu) 2020-2021 Season, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>

NOTE FROM BUILDING INSPECTOR

Open Burning NYSDEC: Open burning is permitted for small recreational fires including small cooking and campfires. Burning of waste products or garbage is prohibited, including newspaper, paper products, plastic, chemically treated wood (pressure treated) and plywood. Complaints call NYSDEC @ 1-877-457-5680 24 hours.

Premise Identification: New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification plainly legible and visible from the street. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches.

Fire Hydrants: Posts, fences, vehicles, trash, storage and other materials shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants.

Fire Code of NYS dictates that a 3 foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants at all times. Also, with the winter season approaching, please clear snow away from hydrants so first responders can get to them in case an emergency situation arises.

Brian Belson - Town of Lockport Building/Zoning
6200 Robinson Rd., Lockport, NY 14094
716-439-9526 • Fax: 716-439-9532
e-mail: b_belson@elockport.com

INCOME LIMIT CHANGE FOR ENHANCED STAR

JILL LEDERHOUSE, ASSESSOR

If you are currently receiving the **BASIC STAR EXEMPTION**, and will be turning 65 by December 31, 2021, you could be eligible for **ENHANCED STAR**.

The income limit for the 2021-2022 school tax year is \$90,550, as verified by the 2019 Federal or State Income Tax Return. Income is Adjusted Gross MINUS any Taxable IRA Distributions. State Form IT-201 (Line 19 Minus 9) and Federal Form 1040 (Line 7 Minus the IRA Distribution).

ALL Enhanced STAR Exemption recipients, **MUST** apply to the IVP (Income Verification Program). Even if you don't file tax returns. If you do not file income tax returns, Form RP-425-wkst must be completed. You must meet the income and residency requirements; and must apply by March 1, 2021.

STAR CHANGES

New homeowners, or those who are new to STAR, must register with NYS; either by phone at 518-457-2036 or through their website at www.tax.ny.gov/star

New applicants who register, will now receive a check from NYS, instead of receiving a credit on their school tax bill.

Those already active in the STAR/Enhanced STAR exemption are not affected by this change.

OTHER STAR CHANGES

New York State Department of Taxation and Finance may be sending letters, requesting additional income information. **Please do not ignore their request.** If you have concerns, please feel free to call or come visit our office.

Any Exemption Renewals will be mailed out at their appropriate time.

SALES MARKET

Residents, in the Town of Lockport, are very fortunate to continually have increasing property values/sales. For those not following our sales market, homes have been selling over assessed value, with many 20 to 60% over their assessment. However, we need to be prepared for increased assessments.

Please keep in mind, assessments are estimated values, based on sales market, **AND have nothing to do with tax rates.** ****Ask yourself, "If I were to sell my house today, what can I get for it?"****

UPDATE ON THE TOWN OF LOCKPORT STREETLIGHT CONVERSION TO LED

by Paul Siejak, Town Councilman

The Town Board recently completed a preliminary feasibility assessment of our 530 conventional streetlights, which consist of High Pressure Sodium and Metal Halide lighting. These fixtures are currently owned and maintained by NYSEG at a cost to the Town of \$130,000 per year. Seeing the benefits relative to ownership vs renting, on April 8, 2020, the Town Board approved a resolution to pursue a LED streetlight conversion program.

The key benefits of this program are as follows; First, LED's are up to 50 percent more energy efficient than traditional sodium bulbs and can last 15-20 years. Secondly, the Town would own the LED lighting system, thereby eliminating \$99,000 of annual maintenance costs paid to NYSEG resulting in a savings for the Town and its' residents. As an added benefit, LED street lights have a lens on the LED panel, which is designed to cast its light in a rectangular pattern, an advantage compared to traditional street lights which reflect straight down.

The Town Supervisor and I have been working with representatives of Wendel Energy Services to review the preliminary design and the findings of the Geographic Information System (GIS) Audit. This information will provide the Town with a Draft Comprehensive Energy Audit Report which the Town Board will review and be able to proceed with Draft Contract Documents.

Mind you, this process takes some time, but we are moving forward on this cost saving initiative to benefit our residents and visitors to our community as well relative to safety. We remain hopeful and anticipate by mid-2021, that the installation of the new LED streetlights will begin to take place throughout our town.

Highway Department



Refuse/Recycling: Please remember to have your garbage/recycling out by 6 am. Also remember if your garbage/recycling haven't been picked up there is probably a logical reason. The trucks have to get dumped, there could be a new driver on the route and/or the truck may have broken down. If your garbage/recycling have not been picked up by 3 pm, please call the highway department at 439-9522. The highway clerk will do her best to find out what happened.

You are allowed one large item per week. If the garbage crew does not take it, leave it out there and it will be picked up within a day or two by a separate truck.

Remember your limit is six bags and/or cans. If you have additional bags and/or carpet, you'll need to buy stickers at the town clerk's office, Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Stickers are \$2 each.

If you have cardboard and cannot fit it in your recycling tote, make sure it is broken down and lay it against your recycling tote.

Winter Snow Removal Reminders: No parking on town roads from Nov. 1st – April 1st from 1 am – 7 am. I would also like to remind you that it is a state law... **no one is permitted to push snow across the road or deposit snow in the roadway with either a plow, snow blower or shovel.** Residents who hire outside contractors for their service are asked to remind them of this law. Tickets may be issued for offenders.

**Please do not tailgate trucks as they sometimes have to back up at some intersections.

**Mailboxes are never damaged intentionally. Please call the highway office for repair or replacement, 439-9522. Your mailbox will be replaced with a standard mailbox and steel post only. If you have an expensive or decorative mailbox, you may want to consider replacing it with a standard box during the winter months.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

November 2020

Mon., Nov. 23rd – **Regular Schedule**
Tues., Nov. 24th – **Regular Schedule**
Wed., Nov. 25th – **Regular Schedule**
Thurs., Nov. 26th - NO COLLECTION
Fri., Nov. 27th – **Thursday's Collection**
Sat., Nov. 28th – **Friday's Collection**

December 2020 - January 2021

Mon., Dec. 21st – **Regular Schedule**
Tues., Dec. 22nd – **Regular Schedule**
Wed., Dec. 23rd – **Regular Schedule**
Thurs., Dec. 24th – **Regular Schedule**
Fri., Dec. 25th – **NO COLLECTION**
Sat., Dec. 26th – **Friday's Collection**

Mon., Dec. 28th – **Regular Schedule**
Tues., Dec. 29th – **Regular Schedule**
Wed., Dec. 30th – **Regular Schedule**
Thurs., Dec. 31st – **Regular Schedule**
Fri., Jan. 1st – **NO COLLECTION**
Sat., Jan. 2nd – **Friday's Collection**

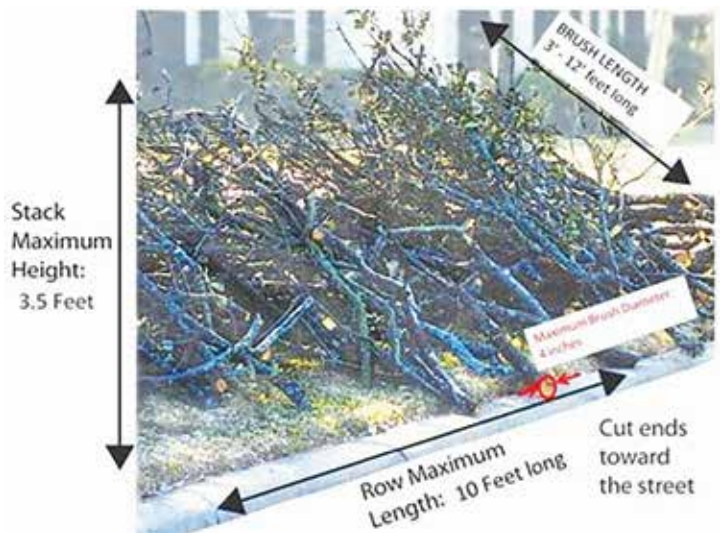
BRUSH PICKUP GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The following rules will be enforced for the town wide brush pick-up:

- Tree removal companies are to remove all of their own debris.
- A maximum amount of one tandem truckload will be picked up at a time at any one residence which is approximately 3.5 feet high x 10 feet long x 12 feet deep (see illustration below). No roots, stumps or limbs greater than 8 inches in diameter will be accepted.
- Please refrain from piling brush around hydrants, guardrails, vent pipes, signs, or any obstacle. We are not able to pick it up with the equipment and it will be left behind.
- We will not be responsible for anything under the pile of brush that we cannot see. Large piles are picked up with large machinery.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation as we continue to provide this service to the Town of Lockport residents in the most efficient manner.

David J. Miller
Highway Superintendent





This is certainly a year for the history books. How has 2020 treated you?

Pandemic aside, here is an edited version of an article published in the Union-Sun earlier this year in anticipation of the Historical Society's October meeting

You may be surprised at how honeybees have inspired automotive inventions here in Lockport. The most well-known example is Harrison Radiator Company's signature product, the honeycomb radiator.

It is not the only example. Winters were tough on early automobiles. Most engines were water-cooled so to prevent bursting due to expansion when the water froze, a myriad of early antifreeze solutions were used. The earliest antifreeze was a mixture of salt and water. While saltwater has a lower freezing point than freshwater, it is also corrosive to metals and causes rust.

Lockportian James H. Sprout invented the use of honey as an antifreeze. Sprout experimented with a honey concoction in his car's engine as early as 1916. He touted it as a rust inhibitor.

James (1871-1951) grew up in Royalton before settling in Lockport. The 1910 census describes him as a laborer in the "odd job" industry—probably what many people would consider the beekeeping occupation. A prominent apiarist in the area, James was a founding member and president of the Western New York Honey Producers Association which formed in Akron, N.Y. in 1913.

Another local proponent of the sweet antifreeze was Ralph B. Daly, who operated an apiary on the corner of Chestnut Ridge and Day Road. Ralph (1873-1944) grew up in Lockport and worked as a beekeeper his whole life. He

lived with his mother on his farm until his passing in 1944. His mother survived him and became known as Lockport's oldest resident, living to the age of 103.

Marketing honey as an antifreeze may have been a way to unload ripe or uncured honey. Thankfully, it was a short-lived fad. By 1926, ethylene glycol was introduced to the market. Anti-freezes and coolants use this mixture today.

Lots of exciting research and projects in the works—stay tuned!. You can reach me at jlinn@elockport.com or 438-2159.

Town of Lockport Historical Society

The History of Beekeeping

Wednesday, October 21 at 7pm

If you are interested in learning about the history of beekeeping join us to hear local beekeepers Jeff and Tara Hahn from Hahn's Honeybee Haven discuss the significance of beekeeping, particularly in the Niagara Frontier. Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, 6560 Dysinger Road.

Future meetings are TBD. Unfortunately the pandemic put a hold on most of our plans and meetings this year.

We received some very generous donations, including historical materials. Many thanks to those who care about preserving our town's history! If you're interested in donating artifacts or historical documents, contact our historian.



James Sprout with an armful of bees. Courtesy of Town of Royalton Historian, Jesse Bieber.



Town of Lockport Historical Society

Membership Application

Annual dues are \$10 a calendar year.

To become a member, fill out this form and mail to treasurer with payment.

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Make checks payable to: Town of Lockport Historical Society

Mail to Treasurer:

Dianne Doherty

6821 Tonawanda Creek Rd.

Lockport, New York 14094-7958

For further details and the latest updates on our programs, check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TownOfLockportHistoricalSociety/>

BECKER FARMS COVID STYLE

HAUNTED FOREST DRIVE THRU

to be held
October 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 25, 30, 31.
Visit www.beckerfarms.com
for details.

Santa is Coming to Day Road Park Soon!

We will make some changes to the process,
but Santa will still be able to visit with the kids
in a COVID friendly way!

Where:

Christmas Cottage @ Day Road Park, 5014 Day Road, Lockport NY

When:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5pm – 8 pm
& Saturdays from 12pm – 3 pm

The fun begins Tuesday, December 1st, 2020

Town of Lockport
6560 Dysinger Road
Lockport, NY 14094-7970

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BOWLING

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