

Town of Sennett Newsletter

Winter 2025/2026

WINTER 2025/2026 UPDATES

Hello Neighbor/Friend - We hope you are having a great start to the Winter!

We hope that your Winter season and the New Year have started off with great health and a positive outlook! The seasons seemed to have changed very quickly from Fall to Winter in 2025 and now it looks like the local snowmobile trails may have a chance to be enjoyed for a while. It should be another fun season for the winter sport, following up on a great one last winter!

You may have read that local elections were held in November, along with the county and state polling that also occurred. There will not be a whole lot of change in Sennett to the Boards. The big news is that current Highway Superintendent Brandon La Sagna chose not to run again for his seat, so Highway Department employee Hayden Hares stepped up to fill the role and was elected as the incoming Highway Superintendent for 2026. We thank Mr. La Sagna for his service in that role over the past year and certainly wish Mr. Hares the best of luck. By way of background, Hayden is a Town of Sennett resident, residing with his fiancée Jessica and their son. He has lived in Sennett for 10 years.

The past several months have been busy for the clerks involved in digitizing the Town's records. Kate and Jeana have been working with Biel's/InStream and Laserfiche to accomplish our digitization goals. So far, the Codes/Zoning departments have been digitally preserved and Water & Sewer are in process. You may recall that the Town won a \$74,265 grant in 2024 to help pay for these efforts, so good progress is being made on the permanent safeguarding of the Town's records.

Capital Improvement projects recently completed to Town properties include the installation of a new Town of Sennett Dog Park, which is the fenced area next to the playground at the Sennett Town Park. This area is open to Town of Sennett residents. Additional signage will be arriving for this area in the Spring. We ask that all dog owners please be mindful of the posted rules while using the dog park and please make sure your dogs are up to date on shots and licensing. Our park system operates on a bring in / take out basis – this includes your dog – so please use the waste bags provided in the park.

A ribbon cutting also occurred on October 23, 2025 to commemorate the opening of the Town of Sennett Veterans Memorial Park, directly adjacent to the main entrance to Town Hall. This year-long project came in under budget and proudly displays three new flagpoles as well as military service emblems. Further ideas for upgrading or adding to this area can be submitted to any Town Board member or the Town Clerk. All relevant emails are listed on the Town's website at www.sennettny.gov.

The Town received word in late December that the grant stream applied for to build out the proposed Water District #8 was denied. This water district was petitioned for by residents on Swamp Road, Carrie Court, Mandy Rue, Beech Road and Route 20. It is the Boards' intent to once again approach New York State for grants in 2026 to see if this can become a reality.

I am happy to report the Town's Q2 2025 Sales Tax collections were \$371,764.76. This is \$46,765 higher than the Q2 budget estimate. The Q3 Sales Tax collections totaled \$395,611.64, which is \$70,611 higher than the Q3 budget estimate. Q4 results have not yet been reported to the Town, but the Town's sales tax revenues so far in 2025 have exceeded budget estimates by \$78,383 and the good news is that Sennett continues to see a healthy surplus in its General Fund.

IMPORTANT NEWS: Pursuant to recent NYS Legislation, the Town's website has been updated to www.sennettny.gov.

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WINTER 2025/2026 UPDATES

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Your Town Board has recently accomplished the following:

- Continued working on the Town's records digitization project;
- Continued working on an E-Code 360 codification project for Town laws;
- Adopted a new Subdivision Local Law;
- Continued analysis of a potential Town Ambulance District (public information sessions coming soon);
- Negotiated with the City of Auburn and Cayuga County on wholesale water rates analysis and signed a new 1 year extension contract;
- Worked on arranging AED training at Town Hall and the appointment of a medical officer;
- Continued planning for the expansion of the Sennett Town Park and oversaw installation of Dog Park addition and sealed bids for a parking lot expansion and Park restrooms;
- And of course handled many day-to-day issues in the Town as they arose.

Reminder! The Town of Sennett provides easily accessible updates on its Facebook page in order to modernize communication. Just follow Town of Sennett NY on Facebook. Also, the Town's website address has changed to www.sennettny.gov. We encourage you to sign up for the Town's electronic newsletter on our website to save printing costs.

Sennett's Town Board meets at 6:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you can't make it into Town Hall for the meeting but would like to attend remotely, you can do so by accessing our website (www.sennettny.gov) and clicking on the meeting link. We look forward to your interest and participation in Town business and at Town meetings.

We thank you for your support and hope to see you around Town.

Respectfully,
Tom Blair, *Supervisor*
(supervisor@sennettny.org)

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Please support our Town Businesses when you can!



409 Grant Avenue Road
Auburn, NY 13021

Sales and Service: [315-252-0470](tel:315-252-0470)

Choose Gallinger-Lilly Plumbing & Heating for a reliable, family-oriented approach to plumbing and heating services. Experience the difference that three generations of expertise can make.

ABOUT US

Your Trusted Family in Plumbing Excellence

Welcome to Gallinger-Lilly Plumbing & Heating, where generations of expertise meet unparalleled service. As a proud third-generation family-run business based in Auburn, New York, we have been dedicated to providing top-notch plumbing and heating solutions to our community and surrounding areas.

Established with a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, Gallinger-Lilly Plumbing & Heating has become a household name in the Auburn area. Our journey began decades ago, and through the years, we have honed our skills, embraced technological advancements, and upheld the values that make us a trusted choice for plumbing and heating services.

Water District 8 Improvement Project

Despite the Town's strong applications for grant funding for this proposed water district, congressional funding and NYS grant applications were not successful in 2025 to provide the necessary seed funding to make this water district a reality. The Town Board is now working with the Town's engineering group to identify ways to strengthen the applications to see if a 2026 push for funding might be more successful. Public information sessions on this endeavor are upcoming in the Spring and Summer so that interested residents can provide input and learn how the Town Board believes the applications for WD8 can be potentially strengthened. Interestingly, the Town's median household income is NOT helping the Town these days, as median income #'s are on the rise. We do have some creative ideas, however, on how to gain attention for this endeavor.

Town Clerk

Welcome all new residents to the Town!

County/Town Tax bills were mailed 12/31/2025. Online payments are accepted. See the Town's website for more info at www.sennettny.gov.

Did you know that if you purchase a lifetime license that includes big & small game, fishing & turkey, for your child or grandchild before their 5th birthday it is only \$380... this could be a great holiday gift. Those 70 and older receive a reduced rate on licenses. Please visit www.dec.ny.gov for the latest hunting and fishing information and regulations.

I know I sound like a broken record, but it is important that you license your dog, not only is it a NYS law, but it helps to protect the community from animals with rabies. I have many people say, "well my dog never goes outside without me" or "my dog doesn't leave my yard." Your dog still needs to be licensed. Getting your dog licensed also helps identify it if it were ever to run away or get lost. If your dog is wearing a license tag, anyone (including animal control) can call the Town and give me the license number and I can tell them exactly to whom the dog belongs. So please do your part and license your dog. I promise, it's pretty painless to do so.

Spayed or neutered dog is \$8.50/year; unspayed or unneutered dog is \$18.50/year, with a valid rabies shot. Be proactive. Dog enumerations are expensive and fines are charged to unlicensed dog owners. **There are unlicensed dogs, I ask you to please license yours. Thanks.**

Flags in need of retirement can be dropped off at the Town Hall.

As seasons change and years come and go, may your blessings always continue to grow!

Kate Salisbury, *Town Clerk*

Water & Sewer Dept.

The Town has now installed 85% of its new water meters in residents' homes. If you have not yet had your meter head replaced, please contact the water department so we can get that scheduled. We will begin our annual Spring hydrant flushing in April. We are going to begin a main line valve exercising plan this Spring. 2025 was busy, we are currently setting up our new GIS system around Town. This is a GPS location for all our hydrants, valves, and each residential shut off valve. This will, hopefully, save many man-hours in locating critical infrastructure when we are in need of accessing same.

We have recently ordered a new water/sewer van and that should be here in the Spring. The 2013 van was in constant need of repair and will now be auctioned for best value on a national auction platform.

As a reminder, water & sewer payments are available to pay with a credit card or e-check on the Town's website at www.sennettny.gov.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please call.

Hope all is well!

Thank you,

Kris A. LaPointe

Water & Sewer Superintendent



Parks & Recreation Committee

The Sennett Parks and Recreation Committee assisted in spearheading Phase 3 of the playground equipment expansion last June. It's nice to see families enjoying the park. Fencing for the new dog park was installed by Conner Fencing from Sennett, and is now in full use, with friends gathering every day to exercise their dogs. The Town is looking to have benches and picnic tables installed in the dog park in short order. We are looking for any individuals or groups who would be willing to help with this project, or fundraising for any other improvements you might suggest for the dog park. Signs will be available to purchase to hang on the fencing for businesses to advertise with their logo.

A memorial area is being considered for those wishing to honor their beloved pets that have passed away.



A Town Park restroom project has now been designed, bid-out and approved, with plans to start work when the frigid weather breaks. This project involves expanding the parking lot, adding a restroom building which is also outfitted with an outdoor drinking fountain.

Were you aware that the Town Park now also has a 9-hole frisbee, or “disc”, golf course? Signage for the various holes will be installed in the Spring. The committee is now also studying how to ensure the “tee boxes” have stable launch zones for players. This is a sport than can be fun for all generations and is another reason to get the family out to the Park!

We are always looking for new members for our committee. Anyone looking to help us can contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@sennettny.org.



Highway Department

SPRING 2026 DUMSTER DAYS: May 2nd and 3rd.

FALL 2026 DUMPSTER DAYS: September 26th and 27th.

Your Highway department has been busy during the Summer and Fall months with road repairs and brush cleaning. Brush cleanup will start again in April 2026 and continue on the first Monday of the month. Plowing and salting activities began in early December and have kept the department busy right through today.

Please remember in the town that brush, leaves, snow, and other loose materials are not permitted in the roadways as it can become a roadway hazard. In addition, please do not forget that Vehicle and Traffic Law states snow is not to be pushed out into the roadway. If it does and becomes a hazard, you can be held responsible as the homeowner. **November 1st to April 1st there is no side street parking allowed to assist in roadway maintenance during winter months.**

The highway department by the close of 2025 was able to successfully finish roadway milling and repaving on S. Hunter Ave., Parkwood Lane, and Foxcroft Circle. Oil and stoning were done on Carrie Ct., Swamp Rd., and Parcell Road. Cherry Street was unable to be done due to unforeseen circumstances and will be done first thing in May, weather dependent.

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to call.

Thank you,

Hayden Hares
Sennett Highway Superintendent

Planning Board

The Planning Board worked hard through the last series of months to approve a handful of projects for our Town. We were happy to finally approve the site plan for the new Pizza Hut drive-thru restaurant on Grant Avenue Road across from the Movieplex/Tractor Supply Plaza (nearly completed construction now), and we are excited to see the finished product!

The Board also reviewed multiple projects from Auburn Auto Group this year. We worked to approve the completed site plan for the new Honda dealership that recently opened at 348 Grant Avenue Road. This relocation of Honda allowed the Auburn Auto Group and the Town of Sennett to plan for a new Subaru dealership at 320 Grant Avenue Road. The project should take a year to a year and a half to complete. But that’s not all...Auburn Auto Group also opened a new Hyundai Showroom at 330 Grant Avenue Road! They sure have been busy!

The Board approved the site plan for a new batch plant at Vitale Concrete located at 3486 Franklin Street Road. This is the same site as the existing plant; updates to construction and safety measures were a priority for the company and we are glad to help them get the process started.

Sincerely,

Bob Edmunds
Planning Board Chairman

Zoning Board of Appeals

As a reminder, your ZBA works impartially as a zoning and land use appellate board. It hears appeals from decisions of the Codes/ Zoning Office and reviews area and use variance requests. The ZBA may also evaluate special permit applications. It functions as a safety "valve" to relieve the pressure of inflexible zoning provisions and has the power, on appeal, to interpret zoning codes or local laws and to grant variances. In essence, the ZBA is called upon to issue final decisions on many of the Town's most difficult zoning law interpretations. The Zoning Board, in hearing and reviewing applications, looks to work with applicants for residential and commercial properties. The ZBA strives to support development or renovation of properties that may need a variance that falls outside of zoning laws. Our goal is to keep a balance, with respect to zoning laws and the needs of applicants that are not large departures from our codes. The Board strives to adhere to Town precedent. The Town is currently seeking one ZBA alternate to serve on an as needed basis! If you are interested in serving on this important board, please provide an email to townclerk@sennettny.org.

Thank you.

Dennis Sherry
ZBA Chairman

Veteran Affairs Committee

The Town of Sennett is the only Town in Cayuga County to have a dedicated Office for Veterans Services. We seek to grow this office in order to serve Veterans and families of Veterans. Do you need referrals for medical claims? Do you need help finding out what benefits you are entitled to or what Real Property exemptions you might be eligible for? Please stop by to see the Town's Veteran Service Officer ("VSO") on Thursdays between 11AM and Noon or call 315-253-3712 ext. 317 to set up an appointment. We are here to help. We greatly appreciate the service and sacrifice of ALL VETERANS and their families/ critically important support networks!

The Sennett Veteran Affairs Committee is comprised of proud resident- patriots. The Committee mission statement is:

To promote public awareness and enhance the well-being of past and present Town of Sennett service members and their families. To create and foster an awareness of our American heritage by honoring and perpetuating the memory of those patriots who have distinguished themselves by their service and sacrifice while members of the armed forces of the United States, and to promote a greater sense of patriotism and Americanism within the Town of Sennett.

U.S. Army and Iraq War Veteran Adam Jenks is our Town VSO. Adam will be assisting veterans with claims, questions, and all military related matters during his office hours on Thursdays from 11am - Noon at the Veteran Service Office in Town Hall.

He can be reached at veteran@sennettny.org.



Ribbon cutting and raising of the Flags.

Sennett Seniors



Welcome to the Sennett Seniors. Here are some things about our organization you might like to know:

When: We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We do not meet in January, February, or March.

Where: The Lodge in Skaneateles.

Time: 11:30 business meeting, lunch (served or buffet) at 12:00 PM and then a program.

Cost: \$20 for lunch each month. If you are 90 and over or a veteran, it is \$10.00 each month.

Dues: No annual dues are charged to Sennett residents and **\$25.00 yearly dues** for non-Sennett residents, payable in April.

Activities: Day trips – costs are based on activity, bus, and food.

Speakers on various topics, musicians, or entertainers.

New to you table: members may bring any small item they no longer need (new or gently used) for others to take. If the item(s) you brought are not "adopted" by another member, PLEASE take your item home.

Book and puzzle exchanges take place.

Senior News and Views newsletter is available from the Office for the Aging-Free by calling 315-253-1226.

We would love to have you join us! For more information please contact:

Kathy Gray @ 315-253-7731 or **MaryEllen Perry** @ 315-252-0427.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

No Meetings will be held in January, February or March. Meetings resume in April.

April 15, 2026 - The April 2026 meeting and luncheon will be at The Lodge in Skaneateles at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP by April 6. Cost is \$20.00 and is due to Kathy or MaryEllen by April 6.

Possible trips for 2026 are being planned.

IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE TOWN:

- Building Maintenance (part-time)
- Highway Department – Motor Equipment Operator
- Water Department Maintenance Mechanic

Please e-mail letter of interest and résumé to townclerk@sennettny.org with position applying for in the subject line.

WINTER SNOW REMINDERS:

Please refrain from having any snow pushed, blown, or plowed from private property onto or across public roads. It is illegal under both NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law and NYS Highway Law §214. This presents a hazard to drivers. If a private contractor plows your driveway, both the property owner and plow operator should follow these laws. Appropriate action will be taken to all known offenders. Snow should be kept on private property in an area that does not obstruct your view or that of drivers on the roadway.

If you have problems with dogs in your area, please contact our dog control officer, Suzie Tracy, Canine Cove, covedogs@outlook.com or (315) 224-3110.

Town Supervisor

Tom Blair

supervisor@sennettny.org

Town Board Members

Michael Wellauer

mwellauer@sennettny.org

Ed Rizzo

erizzo@sennettny.org

Kris LaPointe

klapointe@sennettny.org

Jim Vivenzio

jvivenzio@sennettny.org

Town Clerk

Kate Salisbury

townclerk@sennettny.org

Highway Superintendent

Hayden Hares

highway@sennettny.org

Water & Wastewater Superintendent

Kristopher LaPointe

waterdept@sennettny.org

Public Safety Update

Reverse 911

The Cayuga County Sheriff's Department and E-911 Emergency Communication Department encourage residents to sign up for Community Mass Notification Messages. This sends out alert notifications of emergency situations such as boil water advisories, inmate breaches, missing persons, or any situation that would require a mass notification in a short period of time. Verizon provides landline numbers to the service but cell phones need to be registered.

To sign up text "Cayuga Alerts" to 828-201-3877
or use the following link
secure.hyper-reach.com/comsignup.jsp?id=12642

The Cayuga County Sheriff's Office is pleased to partner with Offender Watch, a nationwide sex offender registry network that enables seamless collaboration on investigations and tracking of offenders living in our area. Those living in, and visiting, our community can download the free Offender Watch App to search for sex offenders residing in their neighborhood, including the Town of Sennett, and subscribe to receive e-mail alerts from the Sheriff's Office. The app also provides safety tips, links to additional information, and a contact page to communicate with members of the Sheriff's Office. To download the free app, go to the Sheriff's website at <https://www.cayugacounty.us/155/Sheriffs-Office> - and click on the "Sex Offenders" tab. You can also download the app from Google Play or the Apple app store.



Through a Partnership with Cayuga County Office for the Aging and Cayuga County Sheriff's Department, Project Lifesaver is a rapid-response rescue program for individuals who are at risk of wandering and becoming lost. Each participant is fitted with a personalized Project Lifesaver wristband. This unique wristband is a one-ounce battery-operated transmitter that emits an automatic tracking signal.



When needed, this signal can be tracked by specially trained personnel in the Cayuga County Sheriff's Department on the ground or in the air. Search time has typically been reduced from hours and days down to minutes.

Project Lifesaver can provide comfort and peace of mind to caregivers without compromising the safety or dignity of their loved one.



Contact Cayuga County Office for the Aging at (315) 253-1226 for more information and eligibility requirements.

Address Signs

If we can't find you, we can't help you:

Features:

- Highly visible day or night
- Reflective material on both sides
- Fade resistant, so it lasts for years
- Pre-drilled holes



Order forms available at either station or the Town Offices or contact us

- by phone: Dave Morris 315 729-6248
- by email: chiefs@sennettfire.com

Mounting – Horizontal or Vertical

Color preference – Red, Blue or Green

Sennett Fire Department

Stay Warm, Stay Safe: Home Heating Safety Tips

General Heating Precautions

- Keep anything that can burn at least **three feet away** from heating equipment.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.
- Never use a cooking oven to heat your home.
- Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.
- Create and practice a fire escape plan.

Space Heater Safety

Space heaters are a leading cause of home heating fires.

- Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, avoiding extension cords.
- Turn portable heaters off when unattended or going to bed.
- Choose space heaters with a testing laboratory seal and safety features like automatic shut-off.
- Place heaters on a stable, non-flammable surface.
- Maintain a three-foot "kid-free zone" around space heaters and open fires.

Fireplace and Wood Stove Safety

- Use a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from escaping.
- Burn only seasoned wood and avoid burning trash or treated wood.
- Dispose of completely cooled ashes in a covered metal container outdoors, at least 10 feet away from structures.
- Ensure fires fit within the fireplace or stove and avoid overloading.

HYDRANT CLEARING

"Adopt" Your Nearest Hydrant

We encourage residents and businesses to "adopt" a fire hydrant near their property. Just a few extra minutes of your time after a snowfall can significantly improve our emergency response time.

Here's How You Can Help:

- Clear a 3-Foot Radius:** Shovel a 3-foot-wide perimeter (about the width of a standard shovel) around the entire hydrant to provide a safe working space for firefighters.
- Create a Clear Path:** Ensure a clear path is shoveled from the cleared area around the hydrant directly to the street.
- Don't Pile Snow:** When clearing your driveway or sidewalk, **do not** plow or blow snow back onto or around the fire hydrant.
- Keep it Visible:** Make sure the entire hydrant, including the top, is visible at all times.

Safety First When Shoveling:

- Be Aware of Traffic:** Do not stand in the roadway while shoveling and always be aware of passing vehicles.
- Mind Your Health:** Stop shoveling and seek medical attention if you experience shortness of breath or chest pain.
- Report Issues:** If you notice a hydrant is damaged, missing caps, or has water or ice coming from an opening, please call the Water Department or Fire Department to report its location (provide the nearest address).

Town Historian

The History Room is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon for Sennett Town residents.

Historian Jim Vivenzio will be there on Tuesdays. The historians can assist residents on their genealogy searches or just browse through our holdings on the history of the Town of Sennett. Additionally, we have a computer and a printer available for town residents. Historians will assist residents with the use and programs on this computer during office hours.

The History Room is taking on a project to clean and repaint the twelve historical markers located around the town. The project involves cleaning, removing surface rust, and finally repainting the markers in the State colors or Blue and Yellow. Mr. Vivenzio is working on updating the State historic sign site database with new photos of the repainted signs and some corrections to their narrative.

Also, the Historians are looking for photos of the town that you and your family may have in your possession to add to our holdings and to post around our town hall. These may include historic photos of your residence, your family or events. If you have some photos that you would like to include in our history, please contact us or stop in while the history office is open. All photos would be professionally copied and then originals would be returned to you.

Jim Vivenzio, Scott Longtin
Town Historians

Records on File: Please note, certain records are for family members only.

<i>Death:</i>	<i>1881- Present</i>
<i>Birth:</i>	<i>1881-Present</i>
<i>Marriage:</i>	<i>1881-Present</i>

For genealogy purposes, records are open to all if they are 75 or more years old.