



Town of Torrey

PO Box 280
56 Geneva St
Dresden, NY 14441
Phone: 315-536-6376
Email: townclerk@townoftorrey.com
Website: townoftorrey.org

May 1- August 31, 2025

The Torrey Town Board is sending this newsletter to bring residents up to date on some of the issues the town has considered and/or is working on since the last newsletter (January 1 - April 30).

Town Officials -

Peter Martini	(Supervisor)	supervisor@townoftorrey.com
315.536.9781	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
Colby Petersen	(Deputy Supervisor)	colby@ycsoilwater.com
315.536.1014	Term: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2025	
Grant Downs	(Councilman)	gjdowns1946@gmail.com
315.531.8441	Term: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2025	
Bruce Henderson	(Councilman)	blhenderson83@gmail.com
315.521.7108	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2027	
Kathy McGrath	(Councilwoman)	Kmcgrath2205@gmail.com
585.339.8300	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2027	
Betty Daggett	(Town Clerk)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.6376	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
Tim Chambers	(Hwy Supt.)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.3567	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
James Smith	(Town Justice)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.5655	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025	
Dwight James	(Code Enforcement Officer)	torreycodes@gmail.com
315.536.6376 (cell 315.730.3291)		
Stephanie Holtz	(Town Assessor)	townassessor@townoftorrey.com
315.536.7551		

A Note from Town Supervisor Peter Martini:

The Town of Torrey's 103rd Memorial Day Observance was held on May 26th. The observance this year was assisted by the "Hometown Veterans Committee" (Darlene Conley, Brian Ellis, Gail Jensen, Bill Updike, and Kathy Whitney). They organized, coordinated, and placed the Hometown Veterans banners throughout the streets of Dresden. We appreciate their efforts to honor those who served our country.

Douglas M. Gibbs, Director of Veteran Services of Yates County, made a presentation to the Town Board at its May meeting. He pointed out according to the 2020 Census there are 1440 veterans in Yates County, but only 571 are known to his office. He is urging veterans and/or their families to contact his office to learn of the services his office provides that the veterans have earned and are entitled to. Doug's contact information is-

Office: 417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan

Phone: 315.536.5196

Email: Dgibbs@yatescounty.org

The Town resubmitted to Congresswoman Claudia Tenney a request for funding of the Perry Point Water District. We asked for 75% (\$2.47 million) of the current proposed cost (\$3.485 million) to be included in the 2026 Federal Budget. On July 29, 2025 the Town of Torrey received an email from Zev Siegfeld, Congresswoman Claudia Tenney's Legislative Director, with the current status of the FY26 Community Project Funding (**CPF**). He stated the House draft of the Agriculture Appropriations bill included funding of Torrey Water District #2. However he went on to say the project was only partially funded at \$2.05M. The Town continues to seek additional funding as well as working with Jeremy DeLyser of CPL Engineering and Mary Chappell of Municipal Solutions.

The Town has contracted with Hunt Engineering to provide a plan(s) for replacing the culverts on Perry Point Road. This estimated \$2,350,000 project will be mostly funded under the BRIDGENY program.

The Town has contracted with Shanna H. Williams, a Naples Architect, to investigate a possible addition to the Town Hall on the North Side. Presently

the Town Office complex is no longer adequate to meet the services it is required to provide.

Finally, the new Town of Torrey website is now officially online. Go to the website at

<https://townoftorrey.org>, then click on **Town of Torrey** and check it out.

From the Desk of Town Board:

- The Town Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Town Building at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden, NY.
- Torrey Cleanup Day was held on Saturday, June 15th. It was very successful with many volunteers pitching in to help.
- The Town received a check for \$ 21,681.44 from Greenidge for Excessive Generation Revenue. The County received \$ 41,399.80 while the Penn Yan School District received \$ 74,019.19.
- The Town Board set the dates of its Town Budget Workshops. They are September 10th and September 17th with both held at 10:00 am in the Town Building. The public is welcome to attend and provide input.
- The Town Board approved a contract with Mengle, Metzger, Barr & CO for a single audit covering the year 2024
- The Town Board adopted Local Law No. 3-2025 "A Local Law to Amend Regulations Pertaining to Solar Energy Systems".
- The Town Board met Hunt Engineers on August 12, 2025 to review the preliminary plans for culvert replacement at both the North End and South End of Perry Point. as part of the BRIDGENY program.
- The Town Board reappointed Stephanie Holtz as Town Assessor. This is a six (6) year term.

From the Desk of Town Clerk (Betty Daggett):

- The Town Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am - 4:00pm. The office phone number is 315-536- 6376
- The Town of Torrey website is- www.townoftorrey.com
- Betty planned, organized, gathered the resources, and coordinated the 103rd Memorial Day Observance held on May 26th
- The "Hometown Heroes Committee" (Darlene Conley, Brian Ellis, and Kathy Whitney) organized, coordinated, and placed the Hometown Veterans banners throughout the Village.

- Services provided by the Town Clerk Office
 - * Notary Public - No Fee
 - * Fee collection such as building permits, fines & fees issued by Code Office, Watershed Inspection for property sales
 - * Places appropriate Public Notices for the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board in the newspaper of record- The Chronicle Express.
 - * Registrar of Birth / Death Certificates Vital copies - \$10.00 fee.
 - * Handicap Parking Permits
 - * Hunting/Fishing Licenses are on sale during normal business hours. Fishing licenses are available any business day while hunting licenses are available starting August 1st.
 - * Marriage License Requirements: Bride/Groom/Spouse must be present to obtain a license. The license is good for 60 days. There is a \$30 fee. Evening or Saturday appointments are available.
 - * Dog Licenses: State Law requires all puppies to be licensed at 4 months. At time of licensing, a rabies certificate and neuter/spay certificate must be presented. Licensing Fees: Unspayed/Unneutered \$18 and Spayed/Neutered \$10.
(It is NYS Ag & Market law- **ALL dogs** harbored in the Town of Torrey must be licensed yearly at the Town Clerk office.)
 - * There is an app, **NIXLE**, alerting residents to infrastructure issues (power outages, potential flooding, etc.) specific to Yates County posted by the Sheriff's Department. Those interested should go to **NIXLE.COM** with your zip code to review current alerts and also signup to have alerts sent directly to you.

From the Desk of Town Highway Superintendent (*Tim Chambers*):

- Highway department phone number: 315.536.3567
- Off hours emergency callout number: 315-729-2706
- Highway Department personnel have completed their annual **OSHA** training
- Tim is the local coordinator for the BRIDGENY culvert replacement project on Perry Point. A meeting was held August 12th with Hunt Engineering with a followup September 19th or September 26th. Hunt Engineering are looking to request bids for the project around August of 2026.

- The Federal Railroad Administration which is part of the US Department of Transportation sent a written concern about the Norfolk Southern grade crossing at Anthony Beach Road. The highway department will address.
- The Highway Superintendent recommended to the Town Board there be “No Parking” at the end of Serenity Road where it meets Davy Road. The town Board agreed.
- The Village of Dresden wants to expand and blacktop the area around the Bruce I. Hansen Community Park as well as installing sidewalks. The Town Highway Department is assisting.
- Culvert work was tackled on Swartout, Hewitt, Townline, Norris, and Perry Point Road as well as drainage work on Hazard and Roy Road. A 36” culvert on Jensen Road is to be replaced.
- The Town Highway Department continues to work collaboratively with other towns in Yates County (Barrington, Jerusalem, Milo, and Starkey) on highway projects
- East Leach Road continues to have problems with partial landslides. This is in a different spot than previous years. Gravel was purchased to repair.
- Mowing of town roadsides and cemeteries is ongoing.
- A **safety** precaution- as we are approaching the time of year when snow plowing is possible, trash cans should **not** be placed on Town Roads, but rather on the right-of-way.
- *Reminder according to NYS law:*
 - + throwing trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or refuse on Highways and adjacent lands is prohibited
 - + the town superintendent of highways shall sue for and recover a penalty not to exceed \$100 from any person depositing ashes, snow, ice, stones, sticks, etc. upon a highway or on grass or loose stones adjoining a town highway

From the Desk of Town Code Enforcement Officer (Dwight James):

Call the Town Office at 315-536-6376 (cell 315-730-3291) or email at torreycodes@gmail.com to inquire about permits.

When in doubt ask!

- Building permits are required for any electrical, plumbing, insulation,

or structural work undertaken. This includes construction or alteration of any accessory structure, addition, or new construction.

- Year-to-Date there have been 41 permits issued with Project values totaling over 3.2 million dollars with permits issued to date.
- Reminder all short term rentals must be registered with the Town of Torrey Code Enforcement Officer. The new Short Term Rental Law limits the number of short term rentals to approximately 50 (excluding those in the Village of Dresden). Currently there are 47 short term rentals in the Town excluding the Village of Dresden.
- Renovations are continuing on "Torrey Station". The electrical wiring has been inspected.
- After Town Board approval, the Code Enforcement Officer accepted a proposal from Clark, Paterson, Lee (**CPL**) for engineering services fees for NYS Building Code review. These expenses are borne by the permit applicant.

From the Desk of Town Planning Board (George Dowse):

- Meets the third (3rd) Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Town Building
- Forwarded to the Town Board a recommendation for Local Law No. 3-2025 "A Local Law to Amend Regulations Pertaining to Solar Energy Systems". This was the product of a Solar Committee composed of George Dowse, Vanessa Goff, Bruce Henderson, and Floyd Hoover.
- There is still an opening on the Planning Board. Anyone interested should see Betty Daggett, Town Clerk, for information.

From the Desk of Town Judge (Hon. James Smith)

- Court is held each Tuesday at 2:00pm on the West side of the Town Building. The phone number is 315.536.5655
- Criminal court is held the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm
- Also, all Yates County Town and Village justices are responsible for a scheduled share of arraignments at the County Jail where defendants are arraigned every day at 8:00AM and 6:00PM. It is called CAP Court, an abbreviation standing for Central Arraignment Part. These may involve issuance of orders of protection, contempt of court charges for violation of orders of protection, harassment, DWI chemical test refusals, aggravated unlicensed

operators, arrests for failure to appear for past citations causing bench warrants to be issued, initial arraignments for felony charges, to name a few. A representative of the District Attorney and a member of the Public Defender's office also appear at CAP arraignments to make recommendations on holding or releasing defendants or requiring bail.

From the Desk of Town Assessor (Stephanie Holtz)

- NYS Tax and Finance (**NYSTF**) determined the Town of Torrey has an equalization rate of 90 for the 2025 assessment roll! The Town of Torrey website www.townoftorrey.com has the **2025 Final Assessment Roll**.
- The Yates County website- www.yatescountyny.gov also has all the assessment rolls for each town in the county as well as from previous years. These rolls can be found at the website by going to **Government** → **Departments** → **Real Property**, then on the left locate assessment rolls.
- NYSTF has certified the **STAR** exemption amounts:
 - Basic **STAR** is \$30,000
 - Enhanced **STAR** is \$86,100
- Grievance Day was held Thursday May 29th from 4:00 - 8:00 pm at the Town Building with only 1 stipulation filed.
- The School file of assessments was turned in on July 31st from which School Tax bills will be generated.
- The Special Assessment Roll for Water District 1 (WD1) is available for review. The figures on this roll will be used to calculate the debt unit charge which will appear on the January 2026 Town and County Tax bill.
- **Exemption** renewal applications will be mailed at the end of the year and are due **March 1,2026**.

From the Desk of Town Watershed Inspector (Yates County Soil & Water)

The Town's inspectors can be contacted at the Yates County Soil and Water Conservation Department 315- 536-5188.

FEMA has produced a new (2023) Flood Plain Map for Yates County. The result is 134 homes in the Town of Torrey have been **removed** from the designated Flood Plain. This may affect your House Insurance premium, if you were considered in the Flood Plain previously, but now are not.

The Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District provides the watershed inspection services for the Town of Torrey and Village of Dresden. Educating homeowners on the function of their wastewater treatment systems has proven to be a tremendous benefit.

In November of 2014, the Town of Torrey passed a local Wastewater Law effective January 1, 2015. Under the new law, any onsite wastewater treatment system within 200' of Seneca Lake or a DEC classified stream is required to be inspected every 5 years. The cost of the inspection is borne by the Town of Torrey (unless this is a property transfer). However any pumping of the septic or repair is a cost to the homeowner. We are now in year 10 of these inspections.

If any residents have questions regarding the watershed inspection program, they may call the office at 315-536-5188.

Soil & Water also continues to interact with all of our local farmers utilizing NYS's Agricultural Environmental Management program. This program has been utilized in the county since 1997. We have worked with local farmers on a suite of practices including soil erosion and field runoff, manure storage, barnyard runoff, and manure and nutrient management.

From the Desk of the Mayor of Dresden (Brian Flynn):

- Mayor Brian Flynn (Term: April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2027)
- Village Trustees
 - Bret Siegrist (Term: April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2027)
 - Jon Stryker (Term: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2026)
- Village Board meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm
- Colleen Riviello is the Village Clerk and Kathy Whitney is the Deputy Clerk. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 2:00pm. The office phone number is 315-536-2477 and email addr is villageclerk@villageofdresden.org
- Village Clerk - Treasurer, Colleen Riviello was authorized to carry out the Tax Warrant of \$265,342 for 2025-2026.

- The Penn Yan 2025-2026 Wholesale Water Customer Budget has been set. The Village of Dresden's Annual cost is \$129,439 total for Operating Cost and Capital Cost.
- The Village of Dresden will hold a public meeting September 17,2025 at 6:45 pm regarding partial discontinuance of Main Street and Seneca Street and amending the Official Map of the Village of Dresden.
- The Village's Comprehensive Plan has been completed and adopted laying out the direction of the Village for the 10 - 15 years.
- All 57 village streetlights have been upgraded to high-efficiency LED fixtures with help from **NYSERDA**. This upgrade qualified Dresden for official designation as a **New York State Clean Energy Community** through **NYSERDA**. This unlocked over \$20,000 in grant funding for clean energy initiatives.
- The Village has secured both a **WIIA** and **CDBG** funding to help defray the costs of replacing the water mains throughout the Village, from the water tank down to the distribution system. The project is expected to kick off in late Fall of 2025 or early Spring of 2026.
- In partnership with the Town of Torrey, the Village is moving forward with the construction of a larger parking lot behind the playground as well as a sidewalk from Main Street to the parking lot.
- The last brush pick up will be September 26 and October 1 - 3 for 2025.
- Fall leaf pick up should begin in the Village around the second week of October.
- Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Fulkrod, has completed all the required certifications for 2025.
- Held "MUSIC at the Gazebo" twice a month in June, July, and August. Randy Knapp was featured at the final concert held August 26th, when a free "Thank You" picnic was held for all who have come out to support the concerts.
- On the weekend of July 19th and July 20th **Dresden Days Yard Sale** was held including a Chicken Barbecue on Saturday
- The Dresden Fire Department meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. On May 6th, 2025, the Dresden Fire Department held their annual election of officers effective June 1st 2025 - May 31st 2026. The officers elected to serve are:

Chief

Jeremy Henries

First Assistant Chief

Brian Ellis

Second Assistant Chief

Howard Leach

Third Assistant Chief

Dan Eburton

- There are currently 29 members of the Fire Department, although there is still a need for volunteer firemen. All residents of the Town of Torrey are encouraged to volunteer.
- The Dresden Fire Department is sponsoring a “Touch a Truck” event on September 27th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the ABTEX parking lot (89 Main Street, Dresden) . Besides a fire truck there will also be a dump truck, tractor, and other equipment.
- The Dresden Fire Department will hold a BREAKFAST Fundraiser on Sunday September 21st from 8:00AM - 11AM. The menu includes Pancakes, French Toast, Eggs, Sausage, Homefries, Toast, and Drinks. The cost is Adults: \$12.00 and those 12 & Under: \$6.00.
- Unfortunately, despite the efforts by everyone to improve the appearance of the village, there have been acts of vandalism. This includes graffiti on the new playground equipment as well as destruction of the concrete benches at the end of Seneca Street. The Yates County Sheriff Department advises residents that “**if you see something, say something**” and report the incident to their department.

From Yates County Legislators (Terry Button, Richard Harper, Rick Willson)

- Construction on the new County Highway and EMS Services in Benton Center is nearing completion. Yates County has applied for a grant to establish a county Fire Training Facility at the complex.
- Yates County held a Hazardous Material dropoff in conjunction with Schulyer County. This year the event will be held at the Yates County Fairground on September 13th. Those seeking information of how/where to dispose of such materials (e.g. paint) in the interim should contact Jeff Ayers, Yates County Planner, at 315 536 5153.
- A **Special Legislative Meeting** featuring Senator O’Mara and Assemblyman Palmesano will be held October 14, 2025 at 12:00 pm in the Legislative Chamber at 417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
- Required changes must be made to the Yates County Jail. The county has contracted with the architecture firm SMRT to produce proposals to meet the

mandated changes. The three(3) options are renovate the existing structure, build a new facility, or build an extension to the existing facility.

- A County subcommittee (Terry Button, Rick Willson, and Jeff Ayers) are working on a solid waste program for the County.
- The County held a property tax auction in August.

Community Events

- **YATES COUNTY Board of Elections (BOE)** will hold elections November 4, 2025. Votes in the Town of Torrey will be cast at the Town Office at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden. Early voting will be at the Yates County Office Building a week before election day. There is a need for election inspectors for this election cycle. Check website- www.yatescountyny-gov/310/Election-Inspectors , if you are interested.
- **The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** puts out a weekly bulletin each week detailing proposals and actions throughout the State.

The Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) is available at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>

Yates County is in Region 8

- **Memorial Day Observance** for the Town of Torrey was held at the Gazebo in Dresden with a ceremony at the Evergreen Cemetery as well. This was the 103rd year of this observance!
- **Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO)** most recent meeting was held July 29th. This group is composed of the elected officials in the counties, towns, and villages located in the Seneca Watershed. Ian Smith is the Watershed Steward, who seeks out and implements grants to address issues outlined in the Seneca Watershed's 9E Plan.

- **Torrey Cleanup Day** was held June 14th. There were 6 dumpsters filled with household items, a recyclable “metal only” dumpster, a dump truck full of tires, and containers of electronics.
- **Auction for the New York State Haiti Benefit** was held on June 20 -21. It was held at the Yates County Fairgrounds in Penn Yan.
- **Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA)** will hold its Annual Meeting on September 11,2025 at The Oasis@Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, 5712 NY-414 Hector, NY 14841. A Social Hour starts at 5:0 pm with the annual meeting to follow.

The monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) began on Monday July 7th and will end on Sunday October 8th. Stream Sampling was conducted on June 4th, with a second sampling scheduled on September 24th. Check their website www.SenecaLake.org for additional information or to volunteer!

- **Friends of the Keuka Outlet (FOTO)** will hold the 5th Annual “Celebration at Cascade Falls” on Saturday September 13,2025 from Noon to 4:00 pm (Rain or Shine). This is a *FREE* event with live music provided by **BLUE EYED SOUL**. There will be numerous local food and beverage vendors.

Also on that day there will be a “Mill to Mill Race with Willow Running- 5K & 10K events starting at 10:30 am. Signup can be done at <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/PennYan/MilltoMill5K10KKeukaOutletTrail>

Check the **FOTO** website www.KeukaOutletTrail.org for details of this and other events.

Finally, **FOTO** has obtained from Greenidge a ” right-of-way” to extend the Keuka Outlet Trail from the Charles Street Bridge to Seneca Lake. FOTO’s volunteer maintenance team is working on making a viable pathway, although it will be restricted to a “Nature” trail.

- **Yates Transit Services** provides public bus service throughout the County including a route from/to Dresden and Penn Yan.

Call 315.694.7700 or go to their website- yatestransitservice.com for additional information.

From the Desk of the Newsletter Editor (*Grant Downs*):

The response to the town newsletter continues to be very positive. Additional feedback and/or comments are welcome and can be submitted by either

- calling 315-536-6376 or sending an email to: townclerk@townoftorrey.com or to the editor, gjdowns1946@gmail.com.
- Newsletters will also be posted on the Town of Torrey website: www.townoftorrey.com
- Delivery of the Town Newsletter will be electronically only, although there will be a limited number available at the Torrey Town Office and Village of Dresden Office. If you are forwarding or emailing the newsletter to a neighbor or friend, please encourage them to send me an email address. I will add them to my distribution list which is private and not available to the public.

Those wishing to have future newsletters sent by email should provide the following information to me at gjdowns1946@gmail.com

NAME: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____