

# City of Sherrill Winter 2015 Newsletter

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

*From The City Manager*

*Michael R. Sayles*



I hope this letter finds you all well. Fortunately, or **unfortunately**, winter weather is upon us.

It has been a long couple of months for the City Public Works Department. However, at the end of day, the crews did a great job rebuilding and coordinating the street projects on Gordon Ave., Allen St., East Hamilton Ave. and Sherrill Rd. In addition, the crews installed 1,200 feet of sidewalks and completed the late fall leaf cleanup while keeping the City clean and orderly and getting ready for the winter months ahead. As you may have seen, the new pump station near the East Hamilton Ave. reservoir is nearing completion. This was a critical project to ensure a high quality of continuous drinking water throughout the City. The Water Board has dedicated the pump station in the name of Nick Vanderwall who was an active member of the Board for 37 years. He was an amazing man.

Over the last few months we have had a number of personnel changes. I am pleased to welcome Sergeant Shawn Platt to the Police Department. Shawn came to us from the Rome Police Department and will be relocating to Sherrill in the near future. I want to welcome Greg Pickard to the City Public Works Department as a full time employee. Greg is a hard-working guy and very dedicated to the City of Sherrill. I would like you all to join me in congratulating Fred Johnson on his retirement at the end of this year. Fred has been a fixture in the water department for many years. Many thanks and best wishes to Fred. Lastly, congratulations also go out to Greg Talbot who is now working full time in the Water Department; replacing Fred. I think Greg T. is following in someone's footsteps that many of us remember well. Congratulations to all of these people as they embark on their new endeavors.

I also wanted to publicly thank our Volunteer Fire Department and the City Commission for their ongoing support of the Fire Department. Through their efforts, a recent Public Protection Classification survey was conducted and the Fire Department received an ISO rating of 03/3X. This safety rating is almost unheard of for an all-volunteer Fire Department. It is truly a remarkable achievement. This lofty rating will actually help control City fire insurance rates as well as off-set and possibly reduce your own personal homeowner insurance rates next year. Again, many thanks!

May you all enjoy a blessed Christmas and holiday season. Enjoy your family and friends. Most importantly, be healthy, happy and hopeful.

God Bless.

Michael R. Sayles

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**The City of Sherrill will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016!**

If you're a resident who is interested in helping to plan the centennial events and celebrations please call City Hall, 363-2440 or email Sara Getman, [sgetman@sherrillny.org](mailto:sgetman@sherrillny.org).

## From the Fire Department

**Carbon Monoxide-** Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. 94% of incidents occur in residential properties. Protect yourself by installing a carbon monoxide detector. Not only is a detector a good idea, it's the law.

**Please note- Kidde recalled smoke and combination smoke/CO alarms due to alarm failure.** This recall applies to units manufactured 12/13-5/14 and affects 1.2 million detectors in the US. For more information contact Kidde, (844) 553-9011 or [www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com).

**Snow is coming! Please be sure to keep the hydrant near your home clear of snow.** Please remember not to push snow against hydrants or place snow on top of hydrants with snow blowers. Precious time is wasted if the fire department has to shovel out a hydrant before they can establish a water supply. **Remember, the house you save may be your own!**

**Be careful when removing snow.** *If you use a snow thrower:*

- Become familiar with your machine. Read and understand the operator's manual and familiarize yourself with all the controls.
- Always keep hands and feet away from all moving parts of the machine. Never place your hands in the auger.
- Walk behind the machine, keeping a firm grip on the handles at all times. Work slowly; there will be less chance for clogging if you don't rush the job.
- Before beginning to remove snow, make sure the area is clear. Remove doormats or any other objects that may be picked up by the machine.
- Avoid long scarves and outerwear with strings that may become entangled in the moving parts of the machine.

*If you shovel:*

- While shoveling snow can be good exercise, it can also be dangerous for optimistic shovelers who take on more than they can handle.
- Individuals over the age of 40, or those who are relatively inactive, should be especially careful.
- If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel without a doctor's permission.
- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow! Shoveling (like lifting weights) can raise your heart rate and blood pressure dramatically; so pace yourself.
- Shovel only fresh snow. Freshly fallen, powdery snow is easier to shovel than the wet, packed-down variety.
- Push the snow- it's easier on your back than lifting snow.
- Lift with your legs bent, not your back. Keep your back straight.

*Safety tips from NFPA, Minnesota Safety Council and the NSC*

## Department of Public Works News

### Garbage Pick-Up Date Changes-

Garbage pick-up in the Village of Vernon changes from Thursdays to Tuesdays on these dates- 12/25 changes to 12/23, 1/1 changes to 12/30. Also garbage pick-up in the City of Sherrill changes from Monday 2/16 to Tuesday 2/17.

### Winter Garbage Pick-Up Reminders-

Please do not place garbage cans or recyclables in the sidewalk because it interferes with sidewalk clearing. The best place to put your containers is at the edge of your driveway between the sidewalk and the road.

**Transfer Station News-** NYS laws for electronics and equipment disposal change on January 1. Best Buy and Staples accept electronics and most cell phone stores will take back your device free of charge. Tube televisions are no longer accepted at LoJo Technology in Oneida. The Sherrill Transfer Station accepts all electronics with coupons at these rates: Computer items (monitors, printers, scanners, hard drives, laptops, keyboards, etc)- 1 coupon per item, Tube or flat screen televisions- 3 coupons, Vacuums- 1 coupon, Grills- 1 coupon, Exercise Equipment- 2 coupons, Mattress and box spring sets- 3 coupons

The City Transfer Station is open on Saturdays, 8am-1pm until spring. *Please note- the Transfer Station will no longer extend privileges to anyone without coupons on the day of disposal.* Contact City Hall to ask questions or purchase coupons. Please visit [www.sherrillny.org/departments/public-works/](http://www.sherrillny.org/departments/public-works/) for a complete fee schedule.

**Spring White Goods Pick Up-** The city plans a curbside white goods pickup this spring. Look for more details in the next city newsletter.

## Community Activity Center News

Stop by or call 363-6525 for more information!



**Bowling Hours-** Wednesdays 11am-2pm, Fridays 6-11pm or 9:30-11pm (because of a league every other Friday), Saturdays 1-5pm and 9:30-11pm, Sundays 12-5pm; please call for hours on school half days, holidays and snow days.

### Ongoing Programs and Events

#### Mondays

**Bone Builders-** Strength Training for the Older Adult, 9am, Contact Polly 853-6258. \$1.50/class

#### Tuesdays

**Community Fine Arts Guild-** Join this group of artists 9am-12pm to paint, work together, share ideas, and to have the opportunity for critique, if desired.

#### Wednesdays

**Oneida County Office for the Aging-** On the first Wednesday of each month at 11am a representative is at the CAC to provide people ages 60 and over, and people of any age with disabilities, with many services.

**CAC Craft and Chat Group-** Join this group the first, third and fifth Wednesday of each month, 11am-1pm, to knit, sew, or create any other craft. Buy lunch at the CAC or bring your own.

#### Thursdays

**Rescue Me K-9 Dog Rescue Dog Socialization Classes-** Come to these free classes for anybody who wants to bring their dog. Donations are accepted. Thursdays 6-7pm, Contact Debbie Martin, 829-3454 with questions.

#### Daily Programs

**Walking in the gym-** This is a self-monitored program open to all, weekday mornings 8-9:30am.

**Kids Play Time-** Monday-Friday, 9:30am-12pm- Parents are welcome to bring their children, ages 5 and younger, for indoor play in the gym. Some toys are available or bring your own! Children must be supervised by an adult.

### Birthday Parties and Events

Schedule a bowling birthday party, baby shower, or other event at the CAC! Or if you are interested in teaching a class at the CAC please call for more information.

**Sherrill Youth Center -** Youth Center at the CAC continues through early spring for VVS students. Youth Center is open Monday and Tuesday, 6-9pm, for students in grades 4-6 and Friday and Saturday, 6:30-10pm, for students in grades 7-12.

### Winter Playground



Come to the CAC Monday-Wednesday December 29-31 and Friday January 2 from 10am-12pm! Play in the gym, make crafts, and have fun! This program is for kids who attend E.A. McAllister elementary school who are in kindergarten-sixth grade. Parents must fill out a form and bring it on the first day the child attends. Forms were distributed at school and are also available at the CAC, City Hall or to download at [www.sherrillny.org](http://www.sherrillny.org).

### Ice Skating Rink



The Ice Skating rink will be open throughout the winter weather permitting. If you see the STOP sign the ice is not fit to skate on and the rink is closed. Skating with hockey sticks and puck passing, etc. can be done at times when the rink is not crowded. Hockey games are not allowed on the rink at anytime. All skating is at your own risk. The Rotary building will generally be open the following hours: Monday-Friday- 4-8pm, Saturdays, Sundays and when school is closed- 2-8pm.

## Sherrill-Kenwood Free Library News



*Stop by and pickup a copy of our newsletter, give us a call at 363-5980, "Like" us on Facebook, or visit our website at [www.sherrillkenwoodlibrary.org](http://www.sherrillkenwoodlibrary.org) for more information and additional events!*

**Did you know that the library only receives 54% of its funding through stable funding sources?** Please consider donating to the library to help us continue to serve the community. As always, your donations to the library are tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation, or would like more information about library funding, contact Jennifer Milligan at 363-5980.

### Family Movie Night at the Library

Come to the library at 6pm for a free night at the movies! Popcorn & juice will be provided.

*January 7:* Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

*January 21:* Ice Age

*January 14:* Hero of Color City

*January 28:* Box Trolls

Check back at the library for the schedule of movies for February & March including Big Hero 6!

### Creation Lab



*January 17, February 21, March 14, 11am-* There will be Legos, Play-Doh, beads, and other seasonal craft supplies available for you to use and create!

### Space Scavenger Hunt



Get a scavenger hunt sheet from the front desk. Successfully complete the scavenger hunt and select a great prize provided by NASA!

### Sleepytime Stories

*December 18, 7pm-* a special Polar Express Pajama Party! Also, *January 22, February 12, March 19 at 7pm*

### Family Story Hour

*Tuesdays at 11am-* for toddlers, preschoolers, and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers

### Book Discussion Group

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien- February 4, 6:30pm, Books will be available at the library and everyone is welcome to attend the discussions!

### February Break Fun!

*Closed Monday, February 16*

*Tuesday, February 17-* Duct Tape Crafts, 11am- Make a cell phone case, a wallet, jewelry, and more!

*Wednesday, February 18-* Frozen Party, 1pm- There will be *Frozen* games, crafts, and snacks. And then hang out a little longer to watch the movie!

*Thursday, February 19 -* Snow Festival, 11am- Come to the library to build a snowman! There will be activities inside if the weather doesn't cooperate!

*Friday, February 20-* Super Hero Movie Marathon, 1pm- Stop by to watch superhero movies and enjoy popcorn!

*Everyone is welcome, but please call if you plan to attend- that way we're sure to have enough supplies!*

### Dr. Seuss Birthday Party!

*March 7, 11am-* Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with stories, crafts, and other fun activities! And cake! And fun stuff to take home!

### Ukrainian Egg Decorating Class

*March 21, 10am-2pm-* Linda Evans will be providing this course on Ukrainian Egg Decorating again! The cost of the class is \$25 and all materials are supplied. Bring a lunch. Dessert and coffee/tea will be provided. Limited space is available, so sign up at the library!

### Watercolor Classes



Both of these courses are open to beginners or anyone who wants extra tips, camaraderie, and time to paint!

*Tuesdays, 1-4pm starting*

*January 6-* Linda Evans will be teaching this course. The cost for the 7 week class is \$70.

*Thursdays, 6:30-9:30pm starting*

*January 8-* Laura Diddle will be teaching this course. The cost for the 6 week class is \$60.

## Notes and News from "The Hall"



-City Commission meetings are at City Hall in the City Court room on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 7pm. The schedule may fluctuate during June, July and August. Contact City Hall or check the city website for the updated summer schedule.

-The 2015 City budget was due to pass after the December 8th public hearing. The tax rate increased from \$7.13 to \$7.18 per \$1,000 of assessment (0.7% increase). The 2014 Tax levy raised was \$892,304 and the 2015 tax levy will be \$893,363. Tax bills will be mailed out the first of March and are due March 31 without penalty. The City has received over \$90,000 to date from its revenue sharing agreement with Oneida County with an estimated \$40,000 to be received for the last quarter of 2014. These monies were used to replenish the City's fund balance and a portion of the 2014 monies are set to be used for one-time projects in the 2015 budget as opposed to recurring expenses. The City will continue to look forward and explore all options to continue providing current public services that residents have become accustomed to while working within the Property Tax Cap guidelines.

-Additionally the water and sewer rates remained the same with no increase from 2014. The City completed an electric rate study this year, a public hearing was held in August and the proposed increase in electric rates was passed on to the New York Power Authority for their approval. The Board of Trustees of the Power Authority was due to act upon the rates December 16. If approved, the rates will go into effect in January 2015. In addition to the rate increase there will now be a late fee for unpaid delinquent electric charges. This base rate increase is the first in over six years and only the second base rate adjustment since 1977.

-The City Planning Board meets at City Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm.

-The Sherrill Power & Light Utility Board meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 3:30pm at City Hall.

-The Sherrill-Kenwood Water District Board meets at City Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:30am.

## Police Department Reminders

-Please note these phone numbers and call the correct number for efficient communication and response. *Please do not call City Hall about police matters.*

-For emergencies call 911.

-To file a complaint, police report or if you have a police related question to speak to an officer about call 363-3200.

-To leave a message for an officer on an existing case or to leave information if you are going on vacation call 363-6221.

-Let the police know if you are going on vacation so you can be added to their premises check list.

-There is no overnight parking on city streets, November 1-April 30, 2-7am.

-Studded tires are allowed October 15-May 1.

## News from Local Organizations

### Sherrill Rotary News

On Tuesday January 13th the Sherrill Rotary will hold its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at 7pm at Plymouth Alliance Church. Past Rotary members are invited to attend. Please call Susan Allen, 264-3999 for more information.

### Sherrill-Kenwood Community Chest News

The SKCC annual fund drive letters were mailed in late October. If you did not receive a letter and would like to donate, checks can be mailed to: Sherrill Kenwood Community Chest, PO Box 14, Sherrill NY, 13461. 100% of the proceeds are paid to over 20 local organizations that directly affect our community. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## More News from Local Businesses and Organizations

### Souls Tranquility Massage

Leigh A Bartlett, Licensed Massage Therapist  
620 Sherrill Road



Gift certificates make very good gifts! Stop in to buy your loved ones a gift certificate! A variety of services are offered- there's something for everyone. New clients who mention this notice receive \$10 off!

### Oneida Community Mansion House Happenings

*The Oneida Community Mansion House is located at 170 Kenwood Ave, Oneida, NY 13421. Please call 363-0745 for more information.*

#### -Sweetback Sisters Country Christmas Sing-along

**Spectacular-** On Friday, December 19 at 8pm join the Sweetback Sisters with their swinging, razor sharp band for a concert at the Oneida Community Mansion House brought to you by the Earlville Opera House. Advance tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth. Tickets are \$22 or \$12 the day of show. For tickets or more information, call the EOH, 691-3550 or visit [www.earlvilleoperahouse.com](http://www.earlvilleoperahouse.com).

#### -The Oneida Community Mansion House Gift Shop is

chock full of gift ideas from local artisans. Baskets, soaps, candles, jewelry and pottery are examples of how you can fill all the stockings at reasonable prices. Open 7 days a week.

#### -The Historic Sales Office of Oneida Limited Exhibit-

Open now in the Gorman Gallery of the Mansion House, this photographic exhibit honors an industrial building that would feel at home on an Ivy League campus. The noble 1926 edifice was created as a visual monument to the ideals of Oneida Community, Ltd.; a company dedicated to the highest quality in both silverware and worker relations. Designed in the English Gothic style by Syracuse architect Albert Brockway, it also happened to be "the most beautiful building of its kind in the country," according to the company's president. This exhibit surveys the background, construction, and life of the building in about thirty photographs selected from the archives of the Oneida Community Mansion House.

### Sherrill Garden Club News

The Sherrill Garden Club will welcome 2015 with an organizational meeting on January 6 to coordinate programs for the upcoming year. On February 3 the group will welcome Steve Adamkowski of Freedom Farm Market who will present a program on planting a garden landscape with perennials that with careful selection and thoughtful planning can result in a full season of color. On March 3 Master Gardener Sally Townsend will share products and ideas for ergonomic gardening. This concept is designed to use specific tools and techniques that create less stress on the body and allow more time in the garden without discomfort. Visitors are always welcomed to the meetings which are held at 7pm in the conference room of the Sherrill Public Library where we learn and share together.

### Sherrill Boy Scout Troop 30 News

The scouts had a busy summer and fall with a High Adventure Trek, Bike Hikes, Tuesday concert concessions, and advancement in scout ranks and awards. This summer the scouts needed to complete some mountain bike hikes for their Cycling Merit Badge so Walter Schmidt and Tim Beal hit the Olympic cross country ski trails and biked along bobsled trails in Lake Placid. Walter and Tim also completed their Camping Merit Badge. Robbie Case joined the group for biking the Cedarlands access road in Long Lake. The group also enjoyed canoeing and swimming in the scenic Rich Lake at the AEC facility of the Environmental School of Science and Forestry in Newcomb.

The scouts thank the Sherrill concert goers who bought concessions this summer and residents who donated generously to the annual Scouting-For-Food drive this fall. Robbie, Walter, Tim and Pat put in the leg work to deliver and pick up the food bags, which went to Holy Family Church Food Pantry in Vernon.

Finally, the group has had some advancement- Robbie is now a 1st Class Scout, Walter earned his Order of the Arrow (Scouting's Honor Society), Omar Gould is very close to his Eagle Award, and Tim Beal has just earned his Eagle Scout Award!

If this kind of adventure sounds like fun and you'd like to join scouting please call Mr. Bill Beal, 361-1400.

**City of Sherrill  
Contact Information**



*City Commissioners*

William Vineall, Mayor  
366-5430  
[mayor@sherrillny.org](mailto:mayor@sherrillny.org)

Jeffrey Gilbert, Deputy Mayor  
813-3301  
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*City Officials*

Michael Sayles, City Manager  
363-2440  
[msayles@sherrillny.org](mailto:msayles@sherrillny.org)

Michael Holmes, City Clerk/Comptroller  
363-2440  
[mholmes@sherrillny.org](mailto:mholmes@sherrillny.org)

**Assessor's News**

March 1, 2015 is the deadline for filing certain property tax exemption applications with the Assessor's office. Many exemptions including the Senior Citizen's and Enhanced STAR exemptions do not automatically renew and require annual applications and proof of qualifying income.

The Senior Citizen's exemption, with far lower income limits than the Enhanced STAR exemption, is normally based on the previous year's income. For the Senior Citizen's exemption, you must provide proof of your previous year's income. Form SS 1099 is one of the documents, in addition to tax returns, often needed to prove your income level. Please also bring in receipts for your out-of-pocket unreimbursed medical and prescription expenses which are used to reduce your income. These expenses include dental, health insurance premiums, eyeglasses, hearing aids and others as defined by the IRS.

For Enhanced STAR the required age is 65 regardless of when you turn 65 during 2015 and 2013 income. Those applying for an Enhanced STAR exemption may elect to participate in a voluntary program whereby the Assessor's office is automatically notified in future years by the State regarding the income eligibility of the applicant. This process is only useful for those filing New York State income tax returns. Applications for the Income Verification Program are available at the Assessor's office. This process cannot be used for any other income-related exemption including the Senior Citizen's exemption.

The Basic STAR property tax exemption, which is easy to qualify for, must be applied for although renewal is not necessary. If you have recently purchased a residence in Sherrill or have not previously applied for the Basic STAR exemption, you may qualify for this significant property tax exemption designed to lower your school tax bill. The residence must be your primary residence to qualify for Basic STAR.

Bob Comis, Assessor for the City of Sherrill, has set the following dates and times to process exemptions at City Hall by the March 1 deadline: January 6-8 for Enhanced STAR; All exemptions January 28 & 29, February 10-12, 17-20 & 23-25, 9am-12pm; changes to this schedule, if necessary, will be posted at [www.sherrillny.org](http://www.sherrillny.org). An appointment can be scheduled by contacting Bob at 264-6362 if that is more convenient. Property owners who are considering construction this year are welcome to meet with Bob to discuss the potential change to your City assessed value.

The Town of Vernon Assessor's Office, located in the Vernon Town Hall next to the elementary school, welcomes inquiries from all town property owners, residents, and taxpayers. Sherrill residents can receive some of the same services that they receive from the Sherrill Assessor's Office at the Vernon Assessor's office, including assistance relating to exemption applications. The Vernon Assessor's hours are Monday & Thursday, 9am-2pm through the month of February. Frank Laguzza, 829-2587, is the Chairman of the Town of Vernon Board of Assessors.

City of Sherrill  
377 Sherrill Road  
Sherrill, New York 13461

## Holiday Humor?!?!?!?!?!?



"OK. You see me when I'm sleeping.  
You know when I'm awake ... but no way  
you follow me on Twitter, right?"



"Oh yeah? More like the three wise guys, I'd say."