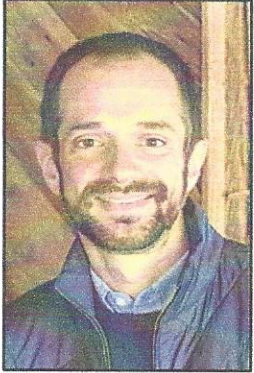




NEWSLETTER

FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR



Dear Thurston Residents,

It's hard to believe summer is wrapping up. Nearly 100 of you came to our playground grand opening on 7/27 – thank you to everyone who joined us to enjoy the new space! We, however, have a busy season ahead of us in Thurston. Here are two significant updates:

1. Casella is planning a Sewage Sludge Composting Facility on Bonny Hill. Please head to materials provided in this newsletter (one from me, one from Casella) to get the details on what we know so far.
2. The 2025 Budget Season has begun. Please see the budget calendar in the newsletter for the details on upcoming budget events. These are your tax dollars, so please tell us how you want to see them used.

These are both topics that require all of us to come together. We've made incredible progress

Over the last year and half together, and we've proven that real progress can happen when we work together. We need to sustain that momentum to face this upcoming challenge.

As always, my door is always open. It's an absolute please to serve as Town Supervisor.

Michael J. Volino - Thurston Town Supervisor

CONTACT - 607-227-5621 - Thurston.supervisor@gmail.com

2025 BUDGET CALENDAR

Budget Workshop	Tentative Budget Presented	Budget Workshop	Public Hearing on 2025 Budget
Thursday, September 12th	Wednesday, September 18th	Wednesday, October 2nd	Wednesday, November 13th
7pm	7pm	7pm	6:30pm

**All Events above in the Thurston Town Hall Meeting Room. Date/time subject to change; check Thurston Town website for updates.*

TOWN HALL RENTALS

Holiday & Family Gatherings ~ Birthday Parties ~ Office Meetings ~ Dinners

Residents can book and rent the Town Hall, including use of the kitchenette and playground for **\$50**.

(\$100 for non-residents)

Please contact the Town Clerk for available dates and rental agreement/application.

FALL RABIES CLINIC

Thurs, Sept. 26th 6PM – 8PM

The Deputy Town Clerk, Sue Conklin, will be at the rabies clinic to accept dog license money.

**Dog Control Officer Contact:
Randy Akins - 607-776-5177**



TOWN OF THURSTON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town Highway Department has been working extremely hard to get as much roadwork done as possible while the weather permits.

As we begin to transition into the winter months, please be aware and cautious of the ongoing roadwork and plow trucks as soon as the weather begins to change.

If you have told us, you want ditch dirt, and we are not able to get to your side of town to get that to you before winter sets in we will still have your name on the list and will keep you there unless requested otherwise for next year.

CODE ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION

Contact Code Enforcement
Nick Lewis- Nolton
607-968-5175
thurston.codeenforcement@gmail.com



TOWN JUSTICE CORNER

Thurston Town Court was awarded just over \$6000.00 from the Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) grant this year. The purpose of the grant is to assist town and village courts with the cost of updating and modernizing their courts. The JCAP grant allowed the court to replace old, outdated furniture with new, professional furniture as well as covering the expenditure of installing a panic button located at the bench. In case of an emergency or courtroom crisis, once activated with just a push, a call goes directly to 911 for immediate assistance and dispatch. This feature greatly enhances the safety and security of the courtroom and town hall.

GET YOUR HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE

At the Thurston Town Hall

SOLD
Wed. & Thurs
from
6:30pm to 8:30pm.



TOWN CLERK MEMO

CLERK HOURS: Every Wednesday, except the 3rd
Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-8:30pm.
Every Thursday from 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Services:

Hunting/Fishing Licenses
Death Certificates
Town Hall Rental Application
Marriage Licenses
Genealogy Reports

Cemetery Plots Available in Aldrich Cemetery

Plot size is 5'x10' & includes space for one
internment and 2 cremations.
Resident Fee: \$300
Non-resident Fee: \$600

HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS



Thurston is
Honoring its Service
Members
& First Responders

*The Hometown Hero Banner Program is a living
tribute for our community to honor past and present
members of the Armed Forces, First responders,
and their family members.*

If you have a loved one that you would like to honor banners
are available by contacting the Town of Thurston Program
Coordinator, Michael Volino. 607-227-5621 –
Thurston.supervisor@gmail.com

Total purchase cost is \$174.90
*Residents can choose to have the sign displayed
in the Town or keep it for their personal use.*



THURSTON TOWN BOARD

Michael Volino, Town Supervisor – Holly Chase, Deputy Supervisor
Dan Gee, Housing Committee – Jennifer Hargrave, Housing Committee
Noel Sylvester, Deputy Historian

Town of Thurston
7578 County Route 333
Campbell, NY 14821
607-527-4494

TOWN ASSESSORS UPDATE

Highlights of the School Tax Relief (STAR) program:

STAR is the New York State School Tax Relief program. STAR offers property tax relief to eligible New York State homeowners.

Eligibility requirements:

Factor	Basic STAR	Enhanced STAR
Residency	The property must be the primary residence of an owner.	The property must be the primary residence of at least one age-eligible owner.
Age	No age restriction	65 or older All owners must be at least age 65 as of December 31 of the year of the exemption, except where the property is jointly owned by only a married couple or only siblings, in which case only one owner needs to meet the age requirement. Surviving spouses may be eligible to retain the Enhanced STAR benefit. See Surviving spouse eligibility.
Income	\$500,000 or less for the STAR credit \$250,000 or less for the STAR exemption The income limit applies to the combined incomes of only the owners and owners' spouses who reside at the property.	For 2024 benefits: \$98,700 or less For 2025 benefits: \$107,300 or less The income limit applies to the combined incomes of all owners (residents and non-residents), and any owner's spouse who resides at the property.
Ownership	The property must be owned by the eligible applicant(s). A married couple can receive only one STAR benefit regardless of how many properties they own, unless they are legally separated. Purchaser(s) in possession of the home under an executory contract of sale (aka land contract) are considered owners(s). Corporations, partnerships, and LLCs are not eligible unless it is a farm dwelling.	

If you are eligible and enrolled in the STAR program, you'll receive your benefit each year in one of two ways:

- STAR credit. If you are registered for the STAR credit, the Tax Department will issue your STAR benefit via check or direct deposit. You can use your STAR benefit to pay your school taxes.
- STAR exemption: a reduction on your school tax bill. If you've been receiving the STAR exemption since 2015, you can continue to receive it for the same primary residence. As long as you remain eligible, you'll see a reduction on your school tax bill for the amount of your STAR exemption. Note: The STAR exemption is no longer available to new homeowners.

Based on 2023 data you might wish to convert to the STAR Credit vs. STAR Exemption.

Municipality	School district	Tax class	Enhanced STAR credit	Enhanced STAR exemption savings	Difference between Enhanced STAR credit and exemption savings*	Basic STAR credit	Basic STAR exemption savings	Difference between Basic STAR credit and exemption savings*
Town of Thurston	Addison		\$1,213.00	\$1,160.00	\$53.00	\$446.83	\$446.83	\$0.00
Town of Thurston	Bath		\$1,093.00	\$990.00	\$103.00	\$462.48	\$448.00	\$14.48
Town of Thurston	Campbell-Savona		\$1,220.00	\$1,146.00	\$74.00	\$473.50	\$473.50	\$0.00

ASSESSORS UPDATE CONT.

*These are other factors that might impact the actual savings.

Based on this, it may be advantageous to move to Star credit. However, once you switch to the STAR credit, you **cannot** switch back to the exemption. The due date to do this is December 31st.

To receive the STAR credit, access the Homeowner Benefit Portal in your Individual Online Services account:

1. Log in to (or create) your Individual Online Services account.
2. Select the ≡ *Services* menu in the upper-left corner of your *Account Summary*
3. Select *Real property tax*, then choose *Homeowner Benefit Portal* from the expanded menu.
4. Select *Actions* and choose *Switch to credit* from the drop-down menu.

If you have any questions, the assessor's hours are 7pm – 8:30pm starting the second week in September at the Thurston Town Hall. Or by contacting the assessors to set up an appointment.

The Assessors will also hold an informal meeting at 6:30 on October 16th before the Thurston Town Board meeting to answer questions from Town residents on the Star program.

LEARN MORE & ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STAR PROGRAM UPDATES OCTOBER 16th @ 6:30PM



Roots & Wings

By Rosalyn Reed Renner

Thurston is home. I live in the house my parents bought in 1944. My maternal great grandfather Lyman Phillips and his wife Olive, along with his parents Vulkert and Ruth Phillips are buried in the Thurston Cemetery. Lyman served in Co. E 141 N.Y. Vol. (Lookout Mt., Resaca, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta...) My paternal great grandfather Andean Knowles Co. G 107 N.Y. Inf (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Antietam, Gettysburg...) is also buried in the Thurston Cemetery along with 16 other Civil War Veterans. -Hallowed Ground-

My father's homestead on Reed Hill Rd. still stands but the one room schoolhouse he attended at the corner of Dee Rd. and Wood Hill is gone. My mother was a student in the one room schoolhouse located in the Thurston church yard. They walked to Campbell for their high school education.

This is a picture of my grandmother Mary Frawley Phillips holding my mother Rose Phillips Reed (about 1915) on the Thurston Church steps. You can see tombstones in the background. The step ladder in front of the church would indicate men were making repairs.



Noel Sylvester and I are privileged to be the town historians. If you would like us to make copies of your family history or photos, we can preserve your records in the historian's office at the town hall. With your permission we will share you family history in future newsletters. So please contact us.

Contact the Town Historian's: Roselyn Renner 607-527-8299 - Deputy Historian, Noel Sylvester 607-776-8018

THURSTON TOWN BOARD

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UPDATE ON CASELLA BONNY HILL ORGANICS

See Casella's Bonny Hill Organics Proposed Plans on next page.

Update re: Casella Biosolids aka Sewage Sludge Composting Facility
(Prepared by Town of Thurston Board as of 8/25/23)

1. Residents – we have created a document to share what we know so far re: Casella’s plans to build a Sewage Sludge Composting Facility on Bonny Hill. Please note, we are sharing what we know so far to help answer immediate questions you may have. We will continue to provide updates as we learn more. This information is subject to change as we learn more.
2. Please note in this newsletter, we have also included the facility plan presented to the Town Board by Larry Shilling, Casella rep, on August 21, 2024, at our Regular Board Meeting.
3. For additional updates, please log in or attend the upcoming Thurston Town Board Meetings. Dates, times, and Zoom links can be found on our website, <https://townofthurstonny.org/>. You may also contact me directly at 607-227-5621 or Thurston.Supervisor@gmail.com.

What is going on now?

- On 8/5/24, the legal team representing Casella notified the Town Board of their intent to build a sewage sludge composting facility on Bonny Hill. See the letter from Casella, on our town website. Also, note sewage sludge derives from wastewater treatment plants.

I thought we had a moratorium on sludge permit expansion, and passed a ban law in Thurston?

- The ban law, passed in October 2023, bans land application of liquid or composted sewage sludge. The proposed facility is not covered under our current ban law.
- Our moratorium (which runs until February 2025) does ban any solid waste management facility and new or major modifications to existing permits through DEC. Under this moratorium, Casella could not build the composting facility until February 2025.

How is composted sewage sludge different from liquid biosolids?

- The only difference is one is dried and the other isn't
- Both are still highly contaminated with PFAS compounds (cancer causing and found in Thurston last year adjacent land spread sites through certified and uncertified water testing)

What is the Board planning to do?

- The Town Board is currently working with our legal team to pass a local law to ban the construction of solid waste management facilities in the Town.

Is Earth Justice still supporting us?

- Yes, they are our legal team working entirely pro bono.

How can I help?

- Contact Tim Walsh, DEC Region 8 Director by phone at 585-226-5370 or by email at tim.walsh@dec.ny.gov and express your concerns or questions about this proposed project

How can I stay informed re: this issue?

- Board meetings (Held the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7p-8p.)
Newsletter. Website. Facebook.



Casella Bonny Hill Organics Facility

- Engineered Compost Systems (ECSO, Seattle, WA)
 - Receive approved Class B Biosolids
 - Phase 1: 4,600 dry tons per year
 - Phase 2: 10,000 dry tons per year
 - System design: push or pull air for complete compost conditioning and BMP
 - Biofilter for odor containment in air pull mode
 - Roof over entire active composting process, minimize contact water.
 - ECS: 68 composting facilities installed globally
 - Approved Class B biosolids accepted at a roofed storage area
 - Monday through Saturday: 6:30 am to 6:00pm
 - Material mixed with wood chips under roof at approximately 60% wood chips and 40% biosolids
 - Material mix minimizes odor and is BMP for proper compost process.
- Primary composting to meet all permit requirements then moved to curing for compost stabilization
- Compost stabilization will be determined by a state approved lab
- After primary composting, curing and stabilization
- Compost can be sent to market
- We will also make a manufactured topsoil to meet state specifications
- Exported material, Monday through Saturday: 6:30am to 6:00pm
- Anticipate permit application August 1, 2024
- Facility construction spring 2025
- Facility operation fall 2025

