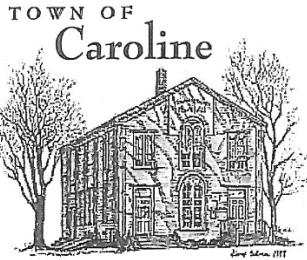


# Caroline Quarterly

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2668 Slaterville Rd -PO Box 136  
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

Newsletter #1 of 2024

## Town Board

**Supervisor: Mark Witmer:**

supervisor@townofcaroline.org

**Councilmembers:**

**Calvin Snow** cal\_snow@townofcaroline.org

**Tim Murray** tim\_murray@townofcaroline.org

**Kate Kelley-Mackenzie** kate\_kelley-mackenzie@townofcaroline.org

**Michele Brown** michele.brown@townofcaroline.org

## Town Hall

607-539-6400

**Town Clerk: Jessie Townsend**

clerk@townofcaroline.org

**Bookkeeper and Assistant to the Supervisor:**

**Velvet Lyke** bookkeeper@townofcaroline.org

**Code Enforcement Officer: Clifford Babson**

codeofficer@townofcaroline.org

**Planning Board: Bill Podulka, Chair**

planning\_board@townofcaroline.org

**Review Board: Craig Modisher, Chair**

review\_board@townofcaroline.org

**Town Historian and Librarian: Barbara Kone**

carolinehistorian@yahoo.com

## Highway Department

607-539-7610

**Superintendent: Bob Spencer**

highway@townofcaroline.org

## Town of Caroline Library

Saturday/Sunday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Monday – Wednesday 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Friday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

## Town Court

607-539-7796

carolinetowncourt@nycourts.gov

**Town Justices: Susan Barr and Gary Reinbolt**

**Court Clerk: Diane Gair**

Court Office Hours: Monday 12 pm -5 pm

Tuesday 11:30 am – 2 pm

Court Session: Monday @ 4 pm

## History Room

Thursday 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Room is Handicap Accessible



## 2024 calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Thursday – 4 <sup>th</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 17 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup>
Watershed Committee	4:00 pm	Tuesday – 9 <sup>th</sup>
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 11 <sup>th</sup>
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 1 <sup>st</sup>
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 8 <sup>th</sup>
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 15 <sup>th</sup>



## 2024 calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 1 <sup>st</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 15 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00-5:00 pm	Mondays – 6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30 am-2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
Watershed Committee	4:00 pm	Tuesday – 14 <sup>th</sup>
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 9 <sup>th</sup>
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 13 <sup>th</sup>
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 20 <sup>th</sup>



## 2024 calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 5 <sup>th</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 19 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
Watershed Committee	4:00 pm	Tuesdays – 11 <sup>th</sup>
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 13 <sup>th</sup>
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 10 <sup>th</sup>
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 17 <sup>th</sup>

Note: Please check website for latest information including ZOOM call in information for any meetings held remotely.

For legal notices refer to the Ithaca Journal, our website at [www.townofcaroline.org](http://www.townofcaroline.org) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 607-539-6400 x 1

# What's Happening in Caroline

## Supervisor's Notes

**Town of Caroline Zoning Law:** I am very happy to report that on March 20, 2024, the Caroline Town Board adopted the town's first zoning law. Thanks to the many community volunteers who made this a reality by their diligent work on the Planning Board, the Task Force for Land Use and Economic Development, and especially, the Zoning Commission. The zoning law promotes the goals of the town's Comprehensive Plan. It is designed to promote livable residential centers while protecting open space. Highlights of the proposed zoning law include:

- Four types of districts are established: Agricultural/Rural, Hamlets (7), Focused Commercial, and a "Stream Corridor Overlay" District. These districts were defined by current patterns of development and environmental conditions, with the goal of protecting and promoting the quality of life in each of the parts of the town and the town overall.
- Housing of all types is permitted in all districts and there are incentives for senior and affordable housing units.
- Design Standards are established for commercial businesses.
- Home Business and Residential Secondary Businesses are permitted throughout Caroline, supporting local businesses and the local economy.
- Agricultural Operations and Structures are permitted in all districts. Major Subdivisions and commercial developments are required to establish buffers with adjacent Agricultural Operations.
- Two measures promote preservation of open space and are protective of agriculture in the town. In the Ag/Rural District the zoning law establishes a 3-acre average for future subdivisions. This is a modest subdivision limit that promotes the preservation of open space and gives landowners the right to establish how their land is subdivided. The second measure is the Conservation Subdivision provision for Major Subdivisions in the Ag/Rural District. It is designed to conserve open land (50%) and protect the environment.
- The Stream Corridor Overlay District establishes riparian (stream) buffers to protect our waterways and fresh waters, as well as property owners and their assets. Riparian buffers for Six Mile Creek (horizontal distance from the top of the stream bank on each side of the stream) are 75-ft in the hamlets and 100-ft in the Ag/Rural and Focused Commercial Districts. For other perennial streams, the riparian buffer width is 50-ft. For intermittent streams the riparian buffer width is 25-ft.

**Broadband:** We submitted a joint application with the Town of Dryden to New York State's ConnectAll Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP) for buildout of municipal broadband in our communities. Hunt Engineers assisted with design and grant submission. We are hopeful given that the MIP program explicitly calls for publicly owned and/or controlled last mile fiber broadband infrastructure to deliver reliable high-speed internet service to homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions across the state.

**Emergency Services Planning:** I am delighted to report that the Tompkins County Emergency Medical Service Program began operation on April 2nd. This program will enhance emergency medical response throughout Tompkins County. Thanks to the Tompkins County Legislature and the great work of the folks at the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response for embracing this initiative and making it happen.

**Recreational Trail:** The Towns of Ithaca, Dryden, Danby, and Caroline have been working collaboratively with NYSEG for some time to develop an easement agreement to extend the South Hill Recreational Way Trail on NYSEG's property from its current terminus at Burns Road to the county border. This will be a 7.8-mile extension, of which 5.1 miles are in the Town of Caroline. The trail extension will provide a safe and direct corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists across the town. This recreational easement agreement is an acquisition of property from NYSEG (\$16,416 from the Town of Caroline), which requires a public hearing. We will be holding the public hearing at 7 pm on April 17 at the Caroline Town Hall (and by Zoom; [www.townofcaroline.org](http://www.townofcaroline.org)). This has been a work in progress for decades now. We look forward to providing our community this wonderful amenity.

**Caroline Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign:** Energy Independent Caroline (EIC), the Town's sustainability committee, is running a Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign to help Caroline residents who are interested in reducing energy use and increasing the comfort of their home through weatherization, building upgrades, and installing efficient and clean heat pumps in their home or business for building heating/cooling or water heating. EIC is proud to partner with several local programs to facilitate home heating and cooling improvements.

### Supervisor Notes cont.

Homeowners may qualify for a free building energy audit and free energy advising through our Regional Clean Energy Hub. More at: <https://smartenergychoices.org/heating-options>

If you own your own mobile home or manufactured housing, you may qualify for additional incentives through the Sustainable Finger Lakes Mobile Home Pilot. Renters and landlords of 1-4 units can now qualify for building upgrade assistance through Sustainable Finger Lakes' Clean Energy and Equity. More at: <https://sustainablefingerlakes.org/finger-lakes-climate-fund/mhupgrades/>

If you have already installed a heat pump (either a building heating/cooling system or water heater) within the past few years, or plan to, we would love to hear about it! Cornell Cooperative Extension has provided the following link for folks in Tompkins County to record their heat pump installations once they are complete: <https://forms.gle/otKpy3gCXqi5XkdZ7>. For questions about the campaign, please contact Chris Skawski of Cornell Cooperative Extension at [cjs359@cornell.edu](mailto:cjs359@cornell.edu) or (607) 272-2292 x293.

*The town newsletter with active links is posted on the Town website (under Documents Tab). If you do not wish to receive a paper copy, please let us know (email Velvet Lyke at [bookkeeper@townofcaroline.org](mailto:bookkeeper@townofcaroline.org))*

### Public Meetings

Town meetings are now being held by hybrid in-person/videoconference at the Historic Town Hall. We urge that attendees continue to wear masks to maximize safety to all attendees. Meetings can be attended from your computer or phone via Zoom teleconference (link available on the Home Page of the Town's website). Minutes and recordings of meetings are available on the town website. Comments for the Town Board may be provided at Privilege of the Floor during the Zoom meeting, by email ([clerk@townofcaroline.org](mailto:clerk@townofcaroline.org)), or by mail (P.O. Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881).

### CAROLINE HISTORY ROOM

#### In Old Town Hall Offers You:

Displays and Exhibits of Local Antiques  
Help with Family and Genealogy Searches  
Research into Local Organizations, Churches,  
Schools, etc.

Handicap Accessible  
For Appointments email Barbara, Jennifer or Shuly

[carolinehistorian@yahoo.com](mailto:carolinehistorian@yahoo.com)  
[Shuly@frontiernet.net](mailto:Shuly@frontiernet.net)

### Property Assessments

Property revaluations by the Tompkins County Assessment Department have recently been sent out. As many folks have noted, property assessments showed marked increases overall. This is because the real estate market in Tompkins County right now is very hot. This reflects how much your place might sell for, but it does not determine your taxes!

The revaluation process happens every year (since 2009) in order to keep everyone's property value on a par with all other properties in the county. The total for all properties is the Total Assessed Value, into which the next year's tax levy is apportioned. For a set tax levy, if everyone's assessment doubles, the tax rate will be halved (because the tax levy is divided into a two-times larger Total Assessed Value), and your taxed amount will not change. What DOES determine your tax amount is the tax levy set by the respective governing board (town board, county legislature, or school board).

If you think that your particular assessment is out of line, that's another matter. The Tompkins County Assessment Department welcomes feedback (and has a review process). They are currently holding informal hearings that will run through April 12. If you disagree with your Preliminary Assessment and wish to make an appointment for an informal hearing, please call them (607 274-5516) to schedule an appointment by April 11 or submit the 2024 Informal Assessment Review Application by April 12. This is not a prerequisite for filing a formal appeal. That process runs from May 1 to May 28, 2024.

For more information go to:  
<https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/assessment>.

## Town Clerk

### 2024 Tax Season:

My office collected 92% of the tax due in the Town of Caroline for the 2024 Caroline Town & County Tax Year since January. If you have an unpaid tax bill or need to pay your 2<sup>nd</sup> installment you must make the payment to the Tompkins County Finance Office by mail, or in person at 125 E. Court St., Ithaca NY 14850.

### Summer Hours: June 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept 1<sup>st</sup>

Mon, Tues, Thu: 8 am – 2 pm

Wed, Fri.: Office Closed

## Highway Department

**Summer Hours:** Monday – Thursday 6:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Winter Hours:** Monday – Friday 6:00 am – 2:30 pm

### Caroline Clean-up Week

**Monday – Thursday 6:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Friday 6:30 am – 2:00 pm**

**Saturday 6:30 am – 12:00 pm**

Drop off at the Town of Caroline Highway Department  
852 Valley Road

Appliances, Furniture, Scrap Metal, Mattresses, Rugs, etc.

**No Constructional Material, Paint, Hazardous  
Material, House Garbage**

**No Tires**

**This Clean-Up Week is for Town of Caroline Residents  
ONLY!! ID Required.**

Any questions please call the Highway Department at  
607.539.7610

## Code Enforcement

Building Permits are available at the Town Hall or on the Town website.

### Code Enforcement Hours:

Monday and Wednesday – 8 am – 2 pm (appointment preferred)

## 7th Annual Town of Caroline Volunteer Community

### Roadside and Ditch Clean up Week

**April 20, April 22 – 27, 2024**

From Lucy Gagliardo and the Town of Caroline Watershed Committee

Our goal: To keep the garbage out of the waterways. Garbage tossed along the roadsides ends up in the ditches, which carries it to creeks and streams, such as Six Mile Creek and West Owego Creek

**Pick up supplies on April 20, clean up at your convenience until April 27**

**Please stop by any time from 9 am – noon on Saturday April 20 in front of the Old Fire Hall at the Brooktondale Community Center** to get trash bags, nitrile gloves, borrow garbage grabbers and reflective vests and to learn more about the program. Clean up supplies will also be available from April 21- 27, at 53 White Church Rd, contact Lucy at [LFG1@cornell.edu](mailto:LFG1@cornell.edu)

**The clean-up coincides with the Highway Department Junk/clean up week, April 22- 27.**

Monday, April 22 is Earth Day, what a great way to acknowledge the importance of a healthy Earth by helping to clean it up!

Roadside litter you collect during this time can be brought to the highway barns during clean up week between April 22 – April 27, Mon – Thurs, 6:30 am – 4 pm, Friday, 7 am – 2 pm, Saturday 7 am – 12 noon. Please inform the Highway Dept crew that you are volunteers for the Town Watershed Committee and are disposing of roadside litter. If you find discarded large items (TV's, furniture, etc) please call the highway barns at 607-539-7610 so they can assess it.

List of Town Roads can be found at the Town of Caroline website

<http://www.townofcaroline.org/highway-department.html> For this event you can also clean up County roads that run through the Town

Contact Lucy with any questions [LFG1@cornell.edu](mailto:LFG1@cornell.edu)