



STAFFORD NEWSLETTER FALL 2024

TOWN OF STAFFORD GOVERNMENT

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TOWN COURT

Judge Robert Penepent

Judge Robert Mattice

Court Clerk-Terry Maid

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(585) 344-4020

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

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DEPUTY CLERK

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BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

David Kent
Carol Queal
John Muehlbauer

ZONING BOARD

Michael Lathan - Chairman
Crista Boldt
Leslie Krajewski
Tim Thomas
Rob Chapman
Sherry Roberts-Snell-Alternate
Walt Kershenski-Secretary

PLANNING BOARD

William VanAlst – Chairman
Sharon Valyear-Gray
Carol Queal
Lindsay Yoder
Anita Taylor
Paul Tenney
Richard Squires
Lucas Torrey – Alternate
Walt Kershenski-Secretary

POST OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:45-1:45, 2:45-4:45
Saturday 10:00-12:00



A Note from the Supervisor

Hello there, another season has come and gone. We had a wonderful summer, and we will miss it. The fall season is here and nice to have warm days and cool evenings again. The Town is still buzzing with activity, the newest water district is complete except for the paperwork which will be done soon. Work was completed a short time ago by a great construction crew and guided by a very talented and well-versed engineering group as well as our financial advisors, THANK YOU. We are looking ahead to having Water District 14 & 15 started soon; this will take time to complete, but it will be worth it.

Have a great winter, stay warm,

Kindest regards,

Bob Clement

Supervisor

A Note from the Town Clerk

The taxes have been turned into the County and for the third year the taxes were successfully collected with no errors. I am happy to have collected the taxes here in Stafford, saving the taxpayers many dollars.

With the help of my Deputy, Jane, we have again used the United Way Day of Caring. This year we were able to weed and mulch the south side of the Town Hall and walkway to the Museum and have painted the hallway, Board Room, and Copy Room of the Town Hall. This was completed with volunteers of Tom Radley, Joe Frongetta, Dusty and me. The border was chosen by a great team of Jane, Lori Frongetta as well as me; we were able to paste the wallpaper border with all volunteer hours, NO labor was used and saved many dollars of Taxpayer money; the only expense was the paint, border rollers and brushes.

We are now in the Hunting Season, and we have been selling many licenses. This year the State has changed a few things, no back tags and using regular paper for the licenses. Freezer bags are given out to help protect the paper when you are hunting; we will see if that really does help.

Thank you all for the support you have given me and my Deputy, Jane. We really appreciate it and are very pleased to be able to serve you.

FROM THE STAFFORD PLANNING BOARD

Most residents of the Town of Stafford are unaware of the training commitment that the members of the Stafford Planning Board (as well as the Zoning Board of Appeals) are responsible for. Due to State regulations each member is required to participate in training each and every year for Workplace Violence as well as Harassment & Discrimination Prevention. The Town Board, Town Clerk, Zoning Officials, etc. are also required to participate in these two trainings.

Along with these mandatory trainings, we are required to participate and qualify for 4 hrs. (or more if a member so chooses to participate) of additional training every year. This is a State requirement in order to participate and remain on the Planning or ZBA Boards. These four hours are available through Local Government Workshops that are scheduled in the Spring and Fall of each year, or an individual can register in Zoom Training sessions throughout the year offered by the County, State and individual agencies with a large scope of topics.

Examples of topics covered in these sessions include but are not limited to the following:

Challenges & Opportunities with Historical Hometown

From Big to Small – Translating Comprehensive Plans into Land Use Regulation

Under the Tent – Open Meetings, Record Keeping and engaging the public in community development

Small Streams & Wetland Workshop

Municipal Bootcamp Program – Environmentally Speaking – the Nuts & Bolts of SEQR

Subdivision Regulation

Land Use Moratoria

Public Meetings & Hearings

Freshwater Wetland Regulations

Stormwater MS4 Permit Overview

Genesee River Watershed implementation Plan

Flood Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Funding Opportunities

Environmental Facilities Corporation Funding

Brownfields to Brightfields

Transforming Polluted Sites for Renewable Energy

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Clean Energy Communities

Fall 2024 Newsletter Article

From: Lori Frongetta, Assessor

It's that time of year again!

ALL EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS must be filed with me by Taxable Status Date, MARCH 1, 2025.

ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTIONS REMINDER

On the state's Office of Real Property Services website, www.tax.ny.gov, you will see that the maximum income to be eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, for the 2025-2025 school year, is \$107,300. Resident property owners, who are at least 65 by the end of 2025 (born on or before December 31, 1960), whose 2023 Federal Adjusted Gross Income (minus any taxable IRA distribution) fits into this category, must apply by March 1, 2025. If a husband and wife, or siblings, own a property together and at least one of them is 65 and is a resident property owner, you may be eligible.

For those who are currently Enhanced STAR recipients, renewal notices are no longer required. You no longer need to bring your tax information to the Assessor's office.

First time Enhanced STAR applicant (meaning you already have the Basic STAR, and you believe you're entitled to the Enhanced STAR) you will need to file an Enhanced STAR application with the Assessor. This is a one-time application that gets you into the IVP program.

New residents who wish to apply for the Basic or Enhanced STAR will need to apply online at www.tax.ny.gov/star or call (518)-457-2036.

Residents who are delinquent with their NYS Taxes NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance will instruct me to remove your Basic or Enhanced STAR exemption.

LIMITED INCOME SENIOR EXEMPTION CHANGES (This is NOT STAR)

As of the 2024 Calendar year, there have been some changes to the Limited Income Senior Exemption income calculations. NYS has tried to restructure the income calculations to be more like the STAR exemption, but of course with exceptions:

· Your New York State tax return is no longer required or needed – just the Federal tax return. However, if your full Social Security is not shown on the tax return, then your

Social Security 1099 form will be required. This is also the case with non-taxable interest and IRA distributions, as well as income from a deceased spouse.

· If you do not file a tax return, there will be a new Income Worksheet that needs to be filled out.

· There is a limitation on losses: \$3,000 net loss per Schedule C, D, E, F \$3,000 net loss per “any other separate category” Provided – “the Aggregate amount of ALL losses shall not exceed \$15,000”.

The “Mandate” Calculations from Form 1040

FAGI (Federal Adjusted Gross Income) Line 11

+ Tax-exempt interest and dividends +Line 2a

- Any Taxable IRA Distributions -Line 4b

+ Social Security not included in AGI +(Line 6a – 6b)

Limiting Losses SEE Lines 7&8

= INCOME

Now with all that information comes the fact that the amount of the exemption you will receive is based on what income level each taxing jurisdiction (County, Town, and School) has adopted.

Low Income Senior Citizen exemption renewals were mailed in September. You must be 65 before the end of 2025 and meet the income requirement, which includes Social Security, including Medicare.

STAR check program. Basic STAR has a maximum income requirement of \$250,000. New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants (not those that are receiving an exemption already) who qualify for STAR will need to register with the New York State Tax Department (www.tax.ny.gov or call (518) 457-2036 instead of applying with the assessor. If you qualify, you will receive a STAR credit in the form of a check, rather than receiving a property tax exemption directly on your school tax bill.

Agricultural, Clergy, Non-Profit, and Disabled with Limited Income renewal applications were sent out in September.

If you have questions, and I can be of assistance, please give me a call at the town hall –

344-1554 extension 106.



Stafford United Methodist Church

Come visit our small loving church any Sunday at 10:15 with Pastor Eric McHugh (585-532-8412) and Organist Joann Collier for worship and fellowship.

Upcoming and Ongoing Events (Dates and Times to be announced at a later date)

Sunday November 10th Christmas Card Signing for our local Veterans. Snacks provided while you sign cards that will be delivered to both the Federal and State VA Nursing Homes in Batavia. Can't stay? You can take cards with you and return later. (11:30-1:30) We collect 2024 calendars for the residents as well as birthday cards.

Book Study: Read at your leisure and then discuss the book at a later date. At present we are reading The Invisible Child by Andrea Elliott.

Advent Studies: Come share the messages of hope, love joy and peace. December 1-24. Study books will be provided.

High Tea: Invite your friends to have tea, scones, finger sandwiches and so much more on a warm Sunday afternoon, April 27, 2025 at 1:30pm contact Catherine at the phone number below.

Free Give-a-way of clothing, household items, toys and more. Have items to donate, information will be forthcoming. (Early Summer)

Having an event, party or meeting? Need a location? Dinner? Contact Catherine @ 409-0800 for pricing and assistance.

St. Paul's Church

This fall, as you drive past St. Paul's Church, you may notice stacks of stones nestled in our border gardens. In biblical times, these stone stacks, known as cairns, were a physical reminder of God's faithfulness, provision, and miracles. This year, members of the congregation built these cairns in preparation for the Season of Creation, from September 1st to October 4th. This is a time of honoring our creation, and renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God.

All are welcome to join us for Sunday services held at 9:00 at our historic church, where Stafford residents have been worshipping since 1842.