

Supervisor's Column
2/7/2007
Sandra L. Frankel

From time to time, it is my privilege to introduce you to members of the Town of Brighton staff who serve you day in and day out to make our community the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Our team comprises people of the highest order, whose employment is based upon professional expertise, experience and dedication to public service, not politics. In fact, if you check the voter registration of our staff, you will find people of diverse political persuasions.

Tom Low has served the Town of Brighton for more than 15 years, and his responsibilities include Commissioner of Public Works, Highway Superintendent, and Superintendent of Sewers for the Town of Brighton.

Since our team brought Tom on board in December 1992, he has served the town in an exemplary manner. Tom has been pivotal in projects that include the resurfacing and reconstruction of town roads, the installation and improvement of key sanitary sewers, the construction and maintenance of storm sewer and drainage systems, and the building and maintenance of sidewalks.

He has worked in partnership with our Parks and Recreation Department to acquire, design and construct our new town-wide park system that comprises more than 400 acres, with the addition of new land to expand Buckland Park and the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas. Tom's fingerprints can also be seen at Meridian Centre Park, Buckland Park, Corbett's Glen Nature Park, and the Lehigh Valley Multi-use Trail.

He provides professional management for highway and sewer operations such as ice and snow removal, leaf and yard debris collection, public pocket park and rights-of-way maintenance, and infrastructure construction and maintenance. He is liaison to federal, state, county and other local governments to plan cooperative projects that save tax dollars through grants and inter-municipal agreements.

He has been instrumental in planning and implementing Monroe Avenue improvements like the Twelve Corners Memorial Park and a Business Improvement District. And his hands-on involvement on issues ranges from major development projects to smaller constituent complaints.

Tom manages a staff of 65 people and a budget of \$7 million for public works, building and planning, highway and sewer work. As an emergency-response decision maker, he is on-call to respond quickly and directly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

He has stood up for his highway and sewer crews to ensure that they receive the respect and compensation that they deserve, and to improve their work environment with renovated lockers, restrooms and showers. He diversified his department and hired the first women in the town's history to serve on road crews and drive heavy equipment. He worked cooperatively with the union to enable our own crews to undertake major projects that would otherwise have gone to private contractors, saving money and getting excellent results. He has high standards, high expectations, and demands a day's work for a day's pay.

Tom has a distinguished career as a public servant, and his experience is broad and deep. He served as Deputy Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Syracuse for two years before coming to the Town of Greece, where he was Commissioner of

Public Works and Highway Superintendent for six years. During his tenure in Greece, which is approximately three times the size of Brighton, he oversaw one-person plowing, which had been implemented and was well established before he arrived and assumed its direction. Their established neighborhoods like Brighton's have received safe and efficient one-person plowing for 30 or more years.

Tom was then tapped to become Director of Public Works for the County of Monroe under County Executive Tom Frey. In that capacity, he oversaw not only the county's highway and sewer operations, but also oversaw planning, permitting and design of the Riga landfill, built the new Rochester International Airport [terminal](#), and established county-wide recycling.

With the winds of political change came a change of employment for Tom, who tried the private sector at a local engineering firm; however, he was soon convinced that public service was his preference.

I am proud of the contributions that Tom Low has made to the Brighton community, and we are fortunate to have him on our team.