2023 has been an exciting year in Brighton and we wrapped up the year by completing two important projects. First, was the opening of the Brighton Winter Market building on Westfall Rd. in Buckland Park. In my year-end column last year, I made note of the fact that we had purchased the final 44 acres of land along Winton Rd., completing a 190 acre “Central Park” for Brighton, and that we would be starting work on the Winter Market project at that location. With the Winter Market building open, we will now hold the Winter Farmers Market indoors in this new location every Sunday through April 7, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The new location is larger and more visible, and is more accessible to cyclists and pedestrians. The Market will return to the Brighton High School parking lot on April 21 for the summer season. At the Winter Market opening we thanked Congressmember Joe Morelle, as well as Senator Jeremy Cooney and Assemblymember Sarah Clark who provided the support needed to complete the Winter Market project. This is the sixteenth year for the Brighton Farmers Market, and so much of the credit for this exceptional community asset goes to Sue Gardner Smith, who has been Market Manager since the Market first opened.

Also in December, the Town Board adopted the Town of Brighton Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan is a comprehensive effort to quantify and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Brighton, both from government operations as well as from the community as a whole. It is also an educational vehicle to make Brighton residents aware of the importance of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change and ways in which residents can reduce emissions in their own lives and activities. It will serve as a framework for the Brighton community to meet the requirements of the New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85% from 1990 levels by 2050. Brighton is recognized by the State of New York as a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community and a Clean Energy Community, and the Climate Action Plan will help further focus our sustainability efforts and qualify for grant funding for new projects to reduce emissions.

There were other accolades as the year came to an end. The Rochester Community Design Center honored the Brighton Auburn Trail project at its annual Awards Luncheon. The Auburn Trail was built by the developer of the Whole Foods Plaza project as an incentive zoning amenity at no cost to taxpayers. This rail-to-trail project runs from Highland Ave. to the Pittsford Town line, near Clover Street, and connects to the existing Auburn Trail through Pittsford and into the Finger Lakes. This is one more important piece of Brighton’s expanding trail system, which helps enhance Brighton’s quality of life. The Finger Lakes Recreation and Park Society recognized Town Historian Mary Jo Lanphear with its ABCD Award, recognizing Mary Jo’s commitment to go Above and Beyond the Call of Duty. In addition, the Society recognized other Recreation activities during the past year, including the Mighty Motors open house at the Highway Department and the Brickyard Bunny Trail.

2023 marks the first full calendar year of having Chief Diversity Officer Miriam Moore as a member of our senior staff. As outlined in the Town’s Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Action Plan, we have worked both internally and externally to advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in Brighton during 2023. Miriam led staff training, including a particularly effective and well received training cycle in our Recreation Department. She worked with Farmers Market Manager Sue Gardner Smith to continue to diversify the music offerings at the Market, and organized community activities, including celebrations of holidays like MLK Day and Juneteenth, and a series of Tuesday Talks about topics related to issues of DEI. We have ambitious DEI goals for 2024 as we continue to recognize that the diversity of the Brighton community is one of our great strengths.

Of course, the Whole Foods Plaza opened earlier in 2023, and it is now nearly fully rented, with a variety of national and local businesses, supporting our Monroe Ave. commercial corridor and expanding Brighton’s tax base. Thanks to incentive zoning, we will continue to strengthen Brighton’s balance between residential and commercial development and tax base, with amenities that satisfy important community needs.

None of this would be possible without our exceptional Town staff. Whether it is our Highway Department crews picking up leaves in rain and snow or our Police Department keeping Brighton safe, every member of our team works hard to make Brighton a place we all are proud to call home. I wish all of our residents a very happy 2024 and I look forward to providing these continued community updates in
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Winter Program Update

It’s hard to believe that it’s time to start a new season of programs. As we say goodbye to 2023, we look forward to a successful 2024! The Brookside Recreation Center continues to serve as our home, and we are excited about our planned programs and events for the community. We embrace every season of recreation and look forward to the winter with enthusiasm!

Brighton Seniors are important members of our fun, fit community who actively pursue recreation, health and happiness. Our Brighton Senior Program is here for adults of ALL ages (especially those age 60 and over)!

Stop by or visit our website to see all available senior programs and to register so we know to expect you and can communicate program updates. Drop-in and in-person activities for adults and Brighton Seniors are ongoing. Join us for our weekly Tuesday Brown Bag Bunch, Wii games, fitness classes, and more. We love seeing all your faces at our programs and events. Please contact the Recreation Office for details.

As our list of activities and events continues to grow and improve, we welcome all members of the community to participate!

All our program offerings will continue to be featured online (www.townofbrighton.org/rec)!
Please check our website often, keep an eye on your email, and like us on Facebook, as we continue to add more programs and events throughout the season.

WINTER/SPRING REGISTRATION DATES:
January 2   (Brighton Residents)
January 9   (Non-Residents)

There is a lot going on here at the Recreation Department. Please contact us with any questions at:
Phone: 585-784-5260 x0
Email: brighton.recreation@townofbrighton.org
Website/Register: www.townofbrighton.org/rec

We hope to see you at programs soon!

BRIGHTON FIRE DISTRICT

Family & Service

During the holiday season, there’s one word on most people’s minds: family. This word is closely aligned with the fire service, as departments across the country often resemble families. We cherish the close bonds created within the firehouse. For many volunteer firefighters in particular, it is these close bonds that have kept us serving our community for decades.

“There is nowhere I feel more supported than the firehouse. My peers, mentors, and officers at BFD have always made sure I feel confident and capable – not just in my firefighting skills, but as a person. I am so grateful for my fellow firefighters and thankful for how much they believe in me.”
F/F Alannah Scardino
Volunteer Firefighter at BFD since 2022

Becoming a volunteer firefighter in Brighton offers you more than the opportunity to experience exciting scenes, develop a unique skill set, and serve your community. When you join BFD, you are welcomed into our firefighting family. From growing technical firefighting knowledge to supporting each other outside of the firehouse, our firefighters can always count on each other. We learn, grow, and succeed alongside peers who care about our wellbeing.

“It’s an honor to serve the community, and I am deeply thankful to the Brighton Fire Department for allowing us to join their family, and for their loving induction into mine.”
F/F Mike Burger Volunteer Firefighter at BFD since 2020

WE ARE RECRUITSING!
The Brighton Fire District is seeking more community members to become volunteer firefighters. No experience is required! If you have time to give and an eagerness to learn, you could be our newest star recruit. Anyone can be a good firefighter, regardless of gender, race, age, sexual orientation or any other identity. Residency is preferred but not required and we are open to ages 15 and over.

If you’re interested in learning more about joining our firefighting family, Continued on Page 4
We have been busy in recent weeks processing the many renewal exemption applications we have received. If you have not done so already, please take note that March 1, 2024 is the filing deadline for all Real Property Tax Exemptions.

If you are turning 65 in 2024 and your 2022 gross income is less than $98,700 you may be eligible for the Enhanced Star exemption. Call our office at (585) 784-5215 or stop by for the application. If you qualify, you will receive these additional savings on your 2024 school tax bill.

New homeowners may apply for their STAR credit check through NYS Department of Taxation and Finance at (518) 457-2036 or www.tax.ny.gov.

The Limited Income Senior Citizen exemption is available if you are over 65 and your total income based upon the 2022 Federal tax returns is below $58,400. If you believe you are entitled to this exemption, stop by the Assessor’s Office, or visit the Assessor’s page on our website at www.townofbrighton.org for the application and instructions on how to apply.

If you have any questions or concerns about your assessment, we are always happy to hear from you. Please call (585) 784-5215.

Embracing Tolerance
Miriam Moore, Chief Diversity Officer

Practicing tolerance is about making the intentional choice to not interfere with the behaviors and/or practices of others that may be unpopular, misunderstood, or different from your own. The first step in tolerance is to accept the notion that you are in fact not in agreement with a person or group, practice or belief. The second step is to allow those differences to exist, without harm or ridicule.

Traits of tolerance include acceptance, appreciation, and respect. To exhibit tolerance means to embrace the differences in cultures, religions and expressions of human life that we find all around us. Tolerance is essential to peaceful coexistence, a worthy goal I hope everyone considers as we greet the new year.

Continued from Page 3

please visit brightonfd.org/join, or email us at join@brightonfd.org.

Join us at our upcoming information session on Monday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. at 3100 East Avenue, Station One.

Come and learn all about the benefits of being a Volunteer Firefighter:

• 10% property tax exemption.
• Free access to fitness training.
• Specialized training to respond to emergency situations.
• Lasting friendships with other community members.
• The great feeling of helping your community.

Assessor’s News
Pamela Post, Town Assessor

2024 Town Board Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
(unless otherwise indicated)

January 2
Organizational Meeting
(Tues. at noon)*

February 14
February 28
March 13
March 27
April 10
April 24
May 8
May 22
June 12
June 26
July 10
July 24
August 14
August 28
Sept. 11
Sept. 25
October 9
October 23

November 13
November 26
(Tues.)
December 11
Second Dec. mtg. TBD

*No Open Forum.

Town Board meetings can be attended in person or on Zoom. To attend via Zoom, go to the Town’s webpage and click on the Streaming Meetings button on the homepage. Meetings are streamed on the Town’s YouTube channel.

The 2024 schedules of our Citizen Boards and Commissions will be available online in January.

Good Numbers to Know

Town Hall Reception (585) 784-5250
Complaint Line (585) 784-5370
Animal Control (585) 784-5120
Assessor (585) 784-5215
Clerk (585) 784-5240
Court (585) 784-5152
Fire Marshal (585) 784-5220
Highway & Sewer (585) 784-5280
Historian (584) 784-5238
Library (585) 784-5300
Parks & Recreation (585) 784-5260
Planning & Zoning (585) 784-5226
Police 911 (emergencies & any call for service/police dispatch)
(585) 784-5150 (administrative/non-emergency/non-dispatch)

Remember: 911 is the number to call for police, fire, & ambulance response.

Public Works (585) 784-5221
Town Supervisor (585) 784-5252
CONVERSATION WITH THE
Town Clerk

Daniel Aman, Town Clerk

The 2024 Town and County Tax bills will be mailed at the end of December. If you have not received your bill by January 15, please call my office at (585) 784-5240 right away so we can investigate.

Installments or full payments can be mailed to Daniel Aman, Receiver of Taxes, 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618. You can also utilize our payment drop box located next to entrance #9 at the rear of Town Hall. The drop box is available 24/7 for your convenience. Please make sure to write your name and property address on the outside of the envelope before you drop it in the slot. There is also a payment drop box inside the Brighton Police lobby, available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You are also welcome to come into the office to pay in person.

Everyone whose taxes are paid via escrow is automatically sent a receipt for their taxes. If you pay your taxes directly, please check the box if you would like a receipt. We only send receipts when you finish paying off the bill. I would ask for your patience in this endeavor. It is a manual process, so it takes some time to get done, but don’t worry, we will get it mailed out to you. If you need a receipt for an installment, just give us a call and we will be happy to mail it to you. You can also request a receipt at any time from our website at townofbrighton.org/taxinfo.

Your full payment or first installment is due (without interest) by February 10. As always, complete payment instructions and due dates can be found on the reverse side of your bill. A quick thought on installments: Since I cannot change the first installment due date, I have been trying to change people’s thinking about it. Forget about February 10. Instead, think of that first installment as being due on January 31. There is no reason to strain your household budget to try and squeeze two payments into the shortest month of the year!

Brighton Memorial Library

2300 Elmwood Avenue
585.784.5300
www.BrightonLibrary.org

HOURS:

9AM–8PM
MONDAY–THURSDAY

9AM–6PM FRIDAY

12–4PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY

• Print books
• eBooks (OverDrive & Hoopla)
• Audiobooks
• Magazines & Newspapers
• Streaming videos
• DVDs & Blu-Rays
• Music CDs
• Puzzles
• Multimedia
• Discount museum & park passes
• Internet access & Wi-Fi
• Research databases
• Curbside pickup
• Themed book bundles for all ages
• Programs for all ages
• Quiet Study Room
• Small study rooms for tutoring
• Reference and technology help
• Printer/copy/scan/fax machine
• Partners in Reading Program for Seniors (PIRS)
• Friends of the Library Book Store
• Brighton Kiwanis Discovery Room for children
• Learning Center meeting room for non-profits
• And more!

(585) 784-5250
BRIGHTON HIGHWAY

WINTER POLICIES

The Town of Brighton is responsible for snow and ice control on town, county, and state roads within the Town of Brighton except for state expressways. As winter approaches, we want to remind everyone of the necessary rules and regulations that provide for your safety and the safety of the traveling public on main roads and neighborhood streets within the town during the winter snow and ice season. Our Highway Department dispatchers are on duty 24 hours a day during the winter season and may be reached at (585) 784-5280.

IMPORTANT WINTER POLICIES TO KNOW

- **Highway and Road Salting** - Our Highway Department follows the “Sensible Salting Guidelines” established by Monroe County, in conjunction with the Environmental Management Council. A study conducted in 1970 concluded that extensive use of road-deicing salts in the drainage basin of Irondequoit Bay changed the bay’s chemical and thermal characteristics. The bay’s drainage basin contains urban, suburban, and rural land and is intersected by highways and roads that were heavily treated with deicing salts in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In the mid-1970s, Monroe County began a cooperative effort with towns in the county to decrease the amount of salt being used for deicing. This effort is commonly referred to as “Sensible Salting.” Sensible Salting is defined by the Salt Institute as applying the right amount in the right place at the right time. Sensible salting requires, among other things, careful application of salt, good spreading equipment, calibration of spreaders, automatic controls, adequate covered storage, proper maintenance around storage areas and an awareness by all who use salt of the need to protect the environment. Sensible salting also requires sensible driving. The Town of Brighton’s Sensible Salting program requires that the use of salt on local roads (Town of Brighton roads) be limited to hills, sharp turns, traffic signals and stop signs. State, county and local arterial roads are fully treated and receive salt in accordance with the “Recommended Snow and Ice Treatment for Monroe County Highways and Streets.”

- **Mailboxes** - It is the Town’s policy to repair mailboxes that are damaged by Town plows during snow plowing operations or to replace them with a standard rural mailbox and post. Since there is no

Winter at the Market

The new Winter Farmers Market building is open! Located at 1435 Westfall Road, the building is on the old farm near the Buckland House in Buckland Park. The Town renovated an existing barn on the property and extended it with a new addition with a rustic feel. Situated on a small bluff overlooking Buckland’s meadow trails, this bright, airy building greatly enhances the market experience.

On November 26, we heralded the start of the winter season with a ribbon cutting and unveiled the winter market to the public. We are thankful for support from Congressman Joe Morelle, Senator Jeremy Cooney and Assembly Member Sarah Clark for securing grant funding for this community project. Join us every Sunday through April 14 (except March 31) from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM for shopping and socializing. The summer market returns to Brighton High School on April 21.

Every Sunday
NOV. 26 TO APR. 14 (EXCEPT MAR. 31)
10AM-1PM
NEW WINTER FARMERS MARKET BUILDING
1435 WESTFALL RD.
EBT/SNAP and WIC welcome! Ask about SNAP bonus program. www.brightonfarmersmarket.org

Winter at the Market

The new Winter Farmers Market building is open! Located at 1435 Westfall Road, the building is on the old farm near the Buckland House in Buckland Park. The Town renovated an existing barn on the property and extended it with a new addition with a rustic feel. Situated on a small bluff overlooking Buckland’s meadow trails, this bright, airy building greatly enhances the market experience.

On November 26, we heralded the start of the winter season with a ribbon cutting and unveiled the winter market to the public. We are thankful for support from Congressman Joe Morelle, Senator Jeremy Cooney and Assembly Member Sarah Clark for securing grant funding for this community project. Join us every Sunday through April 14 (except March 31) from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM for shopping and socializing. The summer market returns to Brighton High School on April 21.

Every Sunday
NOV. 26 TO APR. 14 (EXCEPT MAR. 31)
10AM-1PM
NEW WINTER FARMERS MARKET BUILDING
1435 WESTFALL RD.
EBT/SNAP and WIC welcome! Ask about SNAP bonus program. www.brightonfarmersmarket.org

Winter at the Market

The new Winter Farmers Market building is open! Located at 1435 Westfall Road, the building is on the old farm near the Buckland House in Buckland Park. The Town renovated an existing barn on the property and extended it with a new addition with a rustic feel. Situated on a small bluff overlooking Buckland’s meadow trails, this bright, airy building greatly enhances the market experience.

On November 26, we heralded the start of the winter season with a ribbon cutting and unveiled the winter market to the public. We are thankful for support from Congressman Joe Morelle, Senator Jeremy Cooney and Assembly Member Sarah Clark for securing grant funding for this community project. Join us every Sunday through April 14 (except March 31) from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM for shopping and socializing. The summer market returns to Brighton High School on April 21.

Every Sunday
NOV. 26 TO APR. 14 (EXCEPT MAR. 31)
10AM-1PM
NEW WINTER FARMERS MARKET BUILDING
1435 WESTFALL RD.
EBT/SNAP and WIC welcome! Ask about SNAP bonus program. www.brightonfarmersmarket.org

Winter at the Market

The new Winter Farmers Market building is open! Located at 1435 Westfall Road, the building is on the old farm near the Buckland House in Buckland Park. The Town renovated an existing barn on the property and extended it with a new addition with a rustic feel. Situated on a small bluff overlooking Buckland’s meadow trails, this bright, airy building greatly enhances the market experience.

On November 26, we heralded the start of the winter season with a ribbon cutting and unveiled the winter market to the public. We are thankful for support from Congressman Joe Morelle, Senator Jeremy Cooney and Assembly Member Sarah Clark for securing grant funding for this community project. Join us every Sunday through April 14 (except March 31) from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM for shopping and socializing. The summer market returns to Brighton High School on April 21.

Every Sunday
NOV. 26 TO APR. 14 (EXCEPT MAR. 31)
10AM-1PM
NEW WINTER FARMERS MARKET BUILDING
1435 WESTFALL RD.
EBT/SNAP and WIC welcome! Ask about SNAP bonus program. www.brightonfarmersmarket.org
The Town generally begins lawn damage restoration in May and continues through the summer months. In most cases, the Town relies on resident reports to identify lawn damage. Once the Town receives a report of lawn damage, a service request is created. Lawn damage restoration consists of placing topsoil and grass seed. It is the owner’s responsibility to water and maintain the restored areas.

**WINTER DRIVING TIPS**

Winter driving can be very dangerous and requires motorists to be fully alert and aware of their surrounding conditions. There are some things that can be done by motorists to improve their chances for a safe driving experience. Some of the following tips can help:

- Don’t drive unless you have to.
- If you must drive, drive defensively, wear your seatbelt, turn your headlights on if conditions warrant their use, be alert and exercise extreme caution. Driving on snow and ice packed roads requires your full attention and demands your best driving skills.
- Be informed of the current and predicted weather conditions for your area.
- Prepare your vehicle in advance of inclement weather. Regularly check the battery, antifreeze, windshield wipers, heater and defroster. Have at least a half a tank of fuel and have adequate snow tires or chains on your vehicle.
- Clean all snow and ice from your vehicle including all glass areas, headlights, and taillights before driving.
- Have some basic equipment and extra clothing in your vehicle in case of an accident, long delay, or mechanical problems. Some useful items to have are a flashlight, jumper cables, first aid kit, a hat, gloves, boots, blanket, ice scraper, and possibly a small shovel.
- Allow yourself extra distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. This is especially true at intersections where other motorists might skid and have difficulty stopping their vehicle.
- Remember to brake slowly to avoid skidding.
- Allow yourself extra time to get to your destination, as you will likely travel at a slower speed than normal. This is especially true of vehicles that get caught behind a snowplow.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

There are several things that motorists and the public can do to help the Highway Department best perform their snow and ice control duties:

- Be patient and be assured that during a snow or ice event, every reasonable effort will be made to keep the roads open.
- Be considerate of the snowplow operators.
- Do not attempt to stop a snowplow or obstruct its path. Plow trucks, when loaded with sand and salt weigh approximately 31 tons. That is a lot of weight and responsibility for the driver to deal with and the trucks simply are not as maneuverable and agile as a passenger vehicle. They require extra time and distance to stop or avoid trouble.
- When approaching snow removal equipment from the rear, travel a minimum of 200 feet behind the equipment, allowing for salting and abrupt movements.
- Use extreme caution when passing snow removal equipment. Before you pass please flash your headlights and/or honk your horn to alert the operator of your intentions.

**Winter Parking** – In order to facilitate snow removal and to eliminate potential hazards, the parking of vehicles on all highways, shoulders, or within three feet of the pavement within the Town is prohibited between the hours of 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM from November 1 to April 15. Vehicles in violation of this ordinance are subject to a parking ticket. Repeat violators or vehicles that prevent plowing of a street will be towed and the vehicles’ owner will be responsible for all towing and storage charges.

**Driveway Clearing** – When clearing your driveway of snow, the snow shall be kept on your own property. Any snow pushed, blown or plowed onto any street is a ticketable offense under both New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and the New York State Penal Law. If your driveway is plowed by a private contractor, both you (as the property owner) and the plow operator may be ticketed. Snow should be pushed to the left side of your driveway (if you are facing your house) so that when Town snowplows go past your house, it will minimize the amount of snow going back into your driveway.

**Lawn Damage** - The Town will repair lawn damage resulting from our snow removal process.
The Brighton Police Department has recently launched a new online platform aimed at enhancing community engagement and combating crime. Developed in partnership with CRIMEWATCH Technologies, this innovative website is part of the CRIMEWATCH Network which grants the public direct access to timely crime and public safety related information in their local area. People can easily report crimes, submit tips, register cameras, and find information about recent incidents. The website also offers features such as crime mapping, alerts, and community events.

Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for people to stay informed and play an active role in preventing crime in our area. I encourage everyone to visit BrightonPDNY.org and register for notifications. Subscribe to CRIMEWATCH by using the QR code below or go to crimewatch.net/us/ny/monroe/brighton-pd/user/register and follow the on-screen instructions. To learn more about how CRIMEWATCH works, visit crimewatch.net.