



James Schmitt  
Town Supervisor  
**TOWN OF PAWLING**  
*The Pride of the Harlem Valley*

## Pawling 2022. A Year End Summary

As we enter the New Year, I would like to take the time to reflect on what we have accomplished, together, as a community. First, I'd like to thank our amazing team of department heads, employees, and elected officials for all that they do in offering valued services to our residents; they truly keep this government functioning to the highest standards of efficiency. I continue to have the upmost appreciation for our residents, either Town or Village, you support our programs, parks, and services. Whether you are an annual permit holder at the Transfer Station, or at the beach at Lakeside Park, thank you for making use of all our great Town has to offer!

We have made great progress when it comes to our parks and recreation facilities here in Pawling. Our Buildings and Grounds team are actively working to improve and upgrade various aspects of our parks. This year they have installed **new generators** at the Highway Department and Transfer Station as well as at the Lathrop Center at Lakeside Park which was purchased with funds received by a grant. We partnered with Pawling Rotary to open and furnish our **new Teen Center** with brand new a/v equipment and furniture so it is now ready for programming. We undertook a massive **asbestos removal** and renovation of the ground level of Town Hall also removing unsafe stairs, **installing windows and exterior door**, as well as a **new boiler**. The "Chalet" at Murrow Park got a much-needed facelift with a **new roof** over the restrooms, **siding, and lights**. A huge addition to Lakeside is the newly finished, brand **new commercial kitchen** at the Lathrop Center, which we are now partnering with members of the community to offer a soup kitchen out of this space as well. Our Holmes -Whaley Lake Civic Center got a **new flagpole** which welcomes guests into this great facility!

Further improvements to our parks include the highly anticipated **Great Lawn restoration** project which was graciously funded by the Pawling Community Foundation as well as an additional \$75,000 commitment from the Town Board. Through an amazing partnership with the **New York Rangers and Benjamin Moore** our **Roller Rink** has been reconstructed and reopened for youth hockey programs with an additional \$74,620 commitment from the Town. The Town of Pawling, **a tree city**, officially launched our **Arbor Day Tree Planting** initiative following our **newly adopted Tree Ordinance**, as well as finished the tree inventory which was done through a DEC grant and the help of SavATree. Our ball fields also got some attention this year with the Middle field at Murrow Park now having **an extended clay infield** so it can be used for baseball, with the help of the funding from the Pawling Panthers and

Little league clay. The lower girls' softball field also had the **outfield redone** and brush was cleared around the backstop. The Holmes Pond got a **new flagpole with lighting** and a **new slide at the playground** and Lakeside Park received **new parking lot lights** for the main lot, teen center, and by the flagpole. We received a special year end surprise from New York State, with a **\$500,000 grant** to demolish the former Inn at Lakeside Park and construct a **beautiful new four-season pavilion** on its foundation overlooking Green Mountain Lake. This new facility will include new restrooms and changing areas for the Lake, a new kitchen, architectural elements from the former Inn, and more. This will be a true destination for families, events, and programming.

At the **Whaley Lake Dam**, the Buildings and Grounds team erected a new shed, regraded the roadway, added topsoil and seed for the top of the dam, and pulled weir boards and managed the level of the lake.

We are proud here in Pawling to own one of the **oldest municipal golf courses in the Nation**, Dutcher Golf Course. This year, a number of improvements were made including the demolition of the old shed and its replacement with a new one, a new driving net, additional irrigation, and additional topsoil and seed.

Our always innovative Recreation Department continued to grow and flourish this year with brand new events and programs! In order to ensure all in our community can participate, the Department reached out to partners to secure financial **scholarships** for twenty-nine children to attend a session of camp. Scholarships were funded by: **The Fred Hauser Memorial Fund, Ingersoll Auto of Pawling, Pawling Rotary, Community members and Community Day Donations**. New to our lineup of events were: **"UP!" Hot Air Balloon Rides + Family Movie Night and the Community BBQ and Bonfire**. 385 and 307 people respectively, registered for these first-time events. We hosted fun filled **monthly Senior Lunches** with about 75-80 senior citizens at each one and we are so grateful to our eight sponsors who helped make this happen! Additionally, we had **167 activities offered, 547 full season waterfront memberships** sold (residents only), **204 monthly waterfront memberships** sold, **221 outdoor pickleball memberships** sold, **489 campers** over 4 sessions in 8 weeks; with a total of **\$382,000 in revenue**, ending the year with a fully staffed, highly energized, willing to try anything Recreation Department that is planning another exciting year of programs, events and activities for community members of all ages.

This year was a record year in the Building Department as well as the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Planning Board approved projects such as **The Woods at Pawling, ASPCA, Girl Scouts Council of Greater New York and Hannaford Brothers**. The Zoning Board of Appeals new Board members took on active roles in overseeing an increase in area variances for the Town. Our Planning / Zoning and Building department have been actively working towards restructuring the office. Year end, the Planning Zoning Building and Environmental department generated \$500,000.00 in revenue.

Our Finance Office has been keeping busy with **\$1 Million Bond issued for paving** our Town roadways, a **\$500k Bond for equipment and Building improvements**, and a final 2023 Budget with minimal tax impact (under 4%).

Led by Superintendent of Highways Bob Brill, the Highway Department continues to reconstruct Town roadways and make them safe. This year, the last portion of Harmony Hill Rd (.26 miles), Sage Rd (.31 miles), Noel Ct. (.09 miles), South Quaker Hill (four corners to Tower Hill) (.59 miles), Westmount (.25 miles), and Prospect (.36 miles). We also did a small portion of Old 22 across from Getty at .1 miles.

This year we have worked to **submit 19 grants** and reimbursements to the State and other agencies with at year end over **\$1 Million in funding received** to get projects accomplished here in Pawling.

As we enter a new year, I am looking forward to working collaboratively with you on enhancing the quality of life of those who live here in Pawling. "The Holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us." It is the honor of my life to serve my hometown and work with you.

As always reach out to me or our members of our Town Board, Deputy Supervisor James McCarthy, Phil DeRosa, Coleen Snow, Corinne Musella-Pitt if you ever need anything.



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