

the TOWN BUZZ



OUR COMMUNITY OUR FUTURE

MAY/JUNE
COMBINED EDITION

Rooted
in our
Rural
Community!

Small town values.
Wide open possibilities.
Stronger together.

SUPPORT LOCAL

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

STRONG FARMS
STRONG FUTURE

KIND HEARTS
BRIGHT FUTURES

MAKE MEMORIES



COUNTY UPDATES

What's happening across the county.



TOWN UPDATES

News, projects & initiatives close to home.



RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

Planning for growth that protects what we value.



Our People
Our Place
Our Future



Proud of our past Focused on today Building a better tomorrow!



Dear Neighbors,

One of the greatest strengths of our community is the residents who step forward to volunteer their time, knowledge, and ideas to help our town grow and thrive. As we continue working on important projects and planning for Lincoln's future, we are currently looking for residents interested in serving on town boards, committees, and potential backup or alternate positions.

Getting involved is a great way to learn more about local government, help guide decisions that impact our community, and support the future of our rural town. We encourage anyone interested to reach out — even if you are simply looking to learn more or help in a smaller capacity.

I would also like to sincerely thank Brynley Wilcox and Bryn on the Books for her dedication and service to the Town of Lincoln. Bryn stepped into the role of Financial Director and Budget Officer during an important transition period and helped strengthen the Town's financial organization and operations. We are incredibly grateful for her hard work, professionalism, and willingness to help despite her already busy schedule.

While we will miss working with her in this role, we fully support her decision to focus more on family time and wish her and her family the very best moving forward.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Farrow & Locke CPA Associates PLLC and look forward to continuing to strengthen Town operations and services for our residents.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and serve our community.

Sincerely,



Melissa During
Town Supervisor
MelissaDuring@LincolnNY.gov



Learn How to Reduce Your Energy Bills

Looking for ways to make your home more comfortable while lowering your monthly energy costs?

Join us on Thursday, June 4th at 6:00 PM at the Lincoln Town Hall for a free informational event hosted by EnergySmart CNY.

This local program is designed to help residents better understand available energy-saving opportunities, home improvement programs, and funding options that may be available for households of all income levels.

During this free event, you will learn about:

- Ways to make your home more comfortable year-round
- Programs and funding opportunities that may help reduce energy costs
- Heating and energy upgrades to consider for your home
- Practical steps you can take now to improve efficiency and save money

Experts will be available to answer questions and provide personalized guidance in a relaxed, no-pressure environment. Whether you own your home, are planning future upgrades, or simply want to learn more about lowering utility costs, this event is a great opportunity to gather information and resources.

There is no sales pitch – just straightforward answers, practical advice, and helpful information to support our community.

Registration is encouraged to reserve your seat.

☎ Register by calling: 315-313-5050

We hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE • June 4 at 6 PM

Lincoln Town Hall
6886 Tuttle Rd, Canastota NY 13032

High energy bills this winter?

Learn About:

- Ways to lower your heating and energy costs
- What options might work for your home
- Options for insulation, solar and heat pumps
- Where to go for trusted help

Register



for events



NYSERDA
Regional Clean
Energy Hub

Start now to be ready for next season

Real CNY homes. Real upgrades.

A community workshop led by EnergySmart CNY

EnergySmartCNY.org
☎ 315-313-5050

Help Plan for Lincoln's Future

The Town of Lincoln is taking proactive steps to help guide responsible growth and preserve the values that make our community special. As development associated with the Micron project and growth in neighboring counties continues to expand, Lincoln is expected to experience a ripple effect in housing demand, business opportunities, infrastructure needs, and overall community growth.

To help prepare for the future, the Town is partnering with organizations including the Partnership for Community Development (PCD) and The Hub to begin discussions and planning efforts focused on Lincoln's next 3-5 years. Our goal is simple: embrace thoughtful growth while protecting the rural character, agricultural heritage, scenic beauty, and sense of community that residents value most.

Planning ahead also gives us an opportunity to better position the Town financially. With rising costs, inflation, and increasing demands on local services, responsible growth may help strengthen the local economy and assist in stabilizing taxes or slowing future tax increases.

Most importantly – we want to hear directly from YOU.

Your feedback will help identify:

- ***Community priorities and values***
- ***Areas where improvements may be needed***
- ***Ideas for future development and preservation***
- ***Ways residents would like to stay involved in shaping Lincoln's future***

Please take a few moments to complete the community survey using the QR code below. Paper copies are also available at the Town Office.

The Town is also seeking residents interested in serving on a Future Planning Committee. This committee will help guide conversations and provide community input throughout the planning process.

If you are interested in learning more or participating, please contact

Deputy Supervisor Peggy LeClair at:

✉ PeggyLeClair@LincolnNY.gov

Together, we can help ensure Lincoln remains a strong, welcoming, and vibrant rural community for generations to come.



HELP PLAN FOR LINCOLN'S FUTURE!

The Town of Lincoln is gathering your feedback to help create a roadmap for community planning efforts over the next 3-5 years.

Use this QR code to take our survey and help us identify community values and priorities, areas for improvement, and how you might like to stay involved.

Prefer a paper survey? Stop by
the Town Office for a copy

Take our survey!



Open your phone's camera,
center the image above, and tap
the link that appears

Town of Lincoln – May 2026 Town Board Meeting Highlights

The Lincoln Town Board held its May meeting with several important updates and discussions focused on infrastructure, planning, community services, and preparing for the future growth expected in our region.

Weisbrod Solar Project Update

The Board continued discussions regarding the Weisbrod Solar Project, particularly focusing on vegetative screening along the roadway and neighboring properties. Representatives from the project and engineering team participated in discussions regarding the Board's request for enhanced screening using Austrian pine trees and additional landscaping.

The Board emphasized the importance of preserving the rural character of the area while ensuring neighboring residents receive adequate year-round visual buffering. Additional discussion also took place regarding the project's future decommissioning plan to ensure proper removal and restoration at the end of the project's lifespan.

Town Hall Roof Evaluation

The Town received a professional assessment of the Town Hall roof due to ongoing leaks throughout the building. The contractor recommended a full roof replacement, explaining that multiple leak locations make spot repairs ineffective long term.

Options discussed included:

- Asphalt shingle replacement
- Standing seam metal roof system

The Board will continue reviewing costs, warranties, and long-term maintenance considerations before making a final decision.



Insurance Review & Cybersecurity Discussion

Representatives from NBT Insurance/NYMIR provided the Board with an overview of the Town's insurance coverage. Good news was shared that the Town's insurance premiums decreased this year, along with an upcoming refund due to a policy correction.

The Board also discussed the growing importance of cybersecurity insurance due to increasing risks involving data breaches, ransomware, and cyber-attacks affecting municipalities across New York State.

4-H Landfill & Recycling Tour

Lincoln's 4-H members partnered with Madison County 4-H and Madison County Solid Waste & Recycling for an educational tour of the county landfill and recycling operations. Participants learned about:

- Recycling processes
- Waste management
- Environmental stewardship
- Landfill operations

The event included hands-on activities and educational games and was considered a great success.

Responsible Growth & Community Planning

The Board discussed ongoing work with the PCD and The Hub regarding proactive planning for future growth associated with Micron development in neighboring counties.

As large-scale development continues in Central New York, the Town is working to:

- Protect Lincoln's rural character
- Prepare for possible housing and business growth
- Gather community input
- Plan responsibly rather than reactively

Community surveys are now available both online and in paper format for residents to share thoughts on Lincoln's future.

New Website Update

The Town's new website through CivicPlus is nearing completion and is expected to go live soon. The updated site will improve accessibility, communication, and public access to Town information and services.

Clerk & Department Updates

Additional updates included:

- Eleven building permits issued so far this year
- Ongoing subdivision and zoning review activity
- Water district mapping assistance for residents
- Dog licensing updates, including optional donations supporting Wanderers' Rest Humane Association
- Completion of annual code updates

The Highway Department reported:

- Completion of spring road sweeping and pothole repairs
- Significant equipment repairs this year
- Planned paving and road maintenance projects funded through CHIPS
- Drainage and erosion work in several areas of town
- Continued concerns regarding vehicles parking in roadways during winter operations

The Board also discussed roadway safety concerns involving mud, manure, snow, and debris left on roads and plans to continue working with county officials and law enforcement regarding enforcement options.

Board Appointments

The Board approved appointments to:

- Board of Assessment Review
- Zoning Board of Appeals

The Town is grateful for residents willing to volunteer and serve the community.

AED Donation from Fire Department

The Lincoln Fire Department generously donated two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) to the Town. One unit will remain in Town Hall and another will be available for Highway Department use in the field. CPR/AED training opportunities will also be coordinated.

Cemetery Maintenance Review

The Board began discussions regarding cemetery maintenance responsibilities and future planning for Town-maintained cemeteries, including fencing, upkeep, and long-term maintenance scheduling.

Looking Ahead

The Board continues working on:

- Updating hobby farm policies
- Complaint procedure policies
- Infrastructure planning
- Responsible development initiatives
- Continued improvements to Town operations and communication

As always, the Town Board appreciates resident involvement, feedback, and participation in helping shape Lincoln's future.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on:

Tuesday, June 10, 2026

Residents are encouraged to attend.

Supporting Hobby Farms in the Town of Lincoln

The Town of Lincoln has always been proud of its strong agricultural roots, rural character, and sense of community. Earlier this year, the Town adopted a Hobby Farm Law with the goal of creating opportunities for residents who may not have previously been permitted to have small-scale livestock or hobby farm activities on their property.

The intent of the law was never to make things more difficult for residents. In fact, it was created to do the opposite – to provide a pathway for responsible hobby farming while supporting self-sustainability, local agriculture, and the rural lifestyle that many residents value and enjoy.

As we have begun implementing the new law, we created a policy to act as a guideline and hearing feedback from residents and the Planning Board, we recognize that portions of the original guidance may not have clearly reflected that intent. Because this is still new territory for many communities – including ours – we believe it is important to listen, learn, and make improvements where needed.

Following discussions with the Planning Board Chair and several residents, the Town Board is now working to revise the Hobby Farm Policy to better clarify our approach and goals. The updated framework is intended to:

- Emphasize flexibility and site-specific review
- Encourage education and cooperative problem-solving
- Support residents interested in responsible hobby farming
- Preserve the agricultural and rural character of Lincoln
- Align more closely with New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets guidance on farm-friendly planning practices

The Town of Lincoln is not looking to overregulate hobby farms or create unnecessary barriers. Instead, we want to work collaboratively with residents to help make hobby farming successful while also balancing neighborhood concerns when needed.

We appreciate the thoughtful feedback we have received from residents and the Planning Board throughout this process. Open communication and community input help us continue improving local policies in a way that reflects Lincoln's values and priorities.

Our goal remains simple: to support rural living, encourage small-scale agriculture, and help preserve the unique character that makes Lincoln such a special place to call home.

Madison County Food Scrap Pilot Program Update

Madison County is beginning a small pilot Food Scrap Drop-Off Program at the Buyea Road Residential Station as part of ongoing efforts to reduce waste and improve sustainability initiatives throughout the county.

This is not a new composting facility, but rather a limited pilot program designed to test food scrap collection and evaluate participation, logistics, and operational management before considering any future expansion.

The pilot program is being operated through the Madison County Solid Waste & Recycling Department and builds upon an anonymous resident interest survey conducted in May 2025. The County was also awarded a Municipal Food Scrap Recycling Grant and is currently awaiting authorization from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) before fully utilizing grant funds. County staff have recently begun speaking with regular users of the Buyea Road Residential Station who may be interested in participating in the “soft launch” of the program. Initial participation is intentionally limited to help establish an efficient and manageable collection process.

The tentative goal is to begin limited food scrap collection during normal operating hours at the Buyea Road Residential Station beginning May 26. Following an evaluation period, the County will determine whether the program is ready for a larger public rollout and possible future expansion to additional locations.

The Madison County Local Solid Waste Management Plan has identified food waste diversion and composting as long-term goals to help reduce landfill waste and encourage sustainable waste management practices throughout the county.

The Local Solid Waste Management Plan can be viewed here:

<https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2999/Local-Solid-Waste-Management-Plan>

As Chair of the Madison County Solid Waste & Recycling Committee, I will continue providing updates as the program develops. Committee minutes are publicly available online, and residents are always welcome to reach out with questions.

Reduce
Reuse
Compost

COMPOST



Lincoln Featured at Madison County Board of Supervisors Meeting

At the May meeting of the Madison County Board of Supervisors, the Town of Lincoln Supervisor had the opportunity to showcase our community through a special town presentation highlighting Lincoln's history, community pride, rural character, and vision for the future.

Each town within Madison County was asked to create a presentation to help share what makes their community unique. Lincoln's presentation focused on the people, places, businesses, farms, organizations, and volunteers that make our town such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

The presentation highlighted Lincoln's rich agricultural roots, scenic rural landscapes, growing community events, local businesses, and ongoing efforts to responsibly plan for the future while preserving the town's rural identity. Topics also included community partnerships, sustainability efforts, economic development opportunities, and the importance of proactive planning as neighboring regions continue to grow.

We are incredibly proud of our community and thankful for the many residents, organizations, businesses, volunteers, and town employees who help make Lincoln a welcoming and vibrant place every day.

A special thank you to everyone who contributed ideas, photos, stories, and support for the presentation.

Residents who would like to view the full presentation can watch it online on Madison County's YouTube Page

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxRRT3HXsi4>

Water District Update

The Town of Lincoln continues to make progress exploring a potential water district, and we are excited to share some positive updates with residents.

An income survey completed in 2025 showed that the proposed project may qualify for several significant funding opportunities that could greatly reduce the financial burden on residents and the Town. According to Barton & Loguidice, the project currently qualifies for:

- NYSEFC Hardship Financing with potential 0% interest financing
- USDA Rural Development Poverty Rate funding, which could provide up to 75% grant funding
- Potential eligibility for additional grant funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program

These funding opportunities are an encouraging step forward as the Town evaluates the feasibility of improving access to reliable water infrastructure in the project area.

Town Board Moves Forward with Next Phase

Following discussions with Barton & Loguidice, the Town Board recently agreed to move forward with the next phase of project development and funding application preparation.

Engineering Amendment #1 will allow the Town to continue development of the project and submit funding applications during this fiscal year. This next step focuses on positioning the Town to pursue outside funding opportunities before any final decisions regarding district formation are made.

Recommended next steps include:

- Updating the preliminary engineering report
- Conducting additional well sampling within the project area
- Applying for state and federal funding opportunities throughout 2026
- Exploring additional grant funding sources
- Continuing discussions regarding possible district formation if the Town chooses to proceed

Why This Matters

Access to safe and reliable water infrastructure is an important issue for many rural communities. The Town Board is working proactively to explore opportunities that could improve water access while minimizing costs to taxpayers as much as possible. At this stage, the project remains in the planning, engineering, and funding exploration phase. Additional information, public discussion, and opportunities for community input will continue as the process moves forward.

We appreciate everyone who participated in the income survey and helped make these funding opportunities possible.

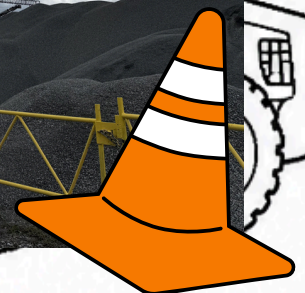


Thank You to Callanan Industries's for a Wonderful Open House

The Town of Lincoln would like to extend a sincere thank you to Callanan Industries for hosting such a wonderful open house event. It was great to see so many community members come together to support a local business, connect with neighbors, and enjoy a day filled with hospitality and community spirit.

Events like this help showcase the importance of our local businesses and the role they play in keeping our rural community strong, welcoming, and vibrant. We appreciate the time, effort, and generosity that went into organizing the event and opening your doors to the community.

Thank you again to everyone at Callanan Industries for a fantastic event and for your continued investment in our community. We wish you continued success and look forward to future events together!



Around MADISON COUNTY:

Community Events,
Summer Fun & County Happenings

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING IN MADISON COUNTY!

As we head into the summer season, there are many exciting events, programs, and activities happening across Madison County! From local farmers markets and fairs to educational workshops and community festivals, there are plenty of opportunities to explore, support local businesses and farms, and enjoy all that our rural communities have to offer.



FARMERS MARKETS & LOCAL FOOD

Farmers market season is beginning throughout the county, offering fresh produce, baked goods, handmade products, flowers, local meats, maple products, crafts, and more. The Madison County Historical Society's Cottage Lawn Farmers Market in Oneida will run weekly throughout the summer beginning in June.

Supporting local farms and small businesses helps strengthen our local economy while giving residents access to fresh, locally produced goods.

More information:
<https://mchs1900.org/events/>



Residents are also encouraged to keep an eye out for Madison County Open Farm Day later this year, which gives families the opportunity to visit local farms, learn about agriculture, and connect with the hardworking farm families that help shape our rural character.



COUNTY PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Madison County departments continue offering a variety of public programs, educational opportunities, fitness classes, committee meetings, and public events throughout the year. Residents can view county calendars online for updates on meetings, programs, road closures, health initiatives, and public workshops.

County calendar:
<https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/calendar.aspx>

Energy efficiency, sustainability, recycling, agriculture, and economic development continue to be important county-wide topics as communities work together to responsibly plan for the future while preserving the rural character that makes Madison County unique.



MADISON COUNTY FAIR & SUMMER FESTIVALS

Summer fair and festival season is right around the corner! The Madison County Fair returns July 30 through August 2 and will once again feature livestock shows, agricultural exhibits, midway rides, live entertainment, demonstrations, and family-friendly activities. The fair remains one of the county's longest-standing traditions and a celebration of agriculture and community.

More information:
<https://www.madisoncountyfairny.com>

Other annual county favorites continue throughout the summer and fall, including:

- ★ Madison-Bouckville Antique Week
- ★ Oz-Stravaganza in Chittenango
- ★ Cazenovia Lavender Festival
- ★ Community concerts and local festivals
- ★ Farm stands, craft fairs, and community celebrations throughout Madison County

Upcoming events calendar:
<https://www.visitmadisonny.com/calendar-of-events/>



GET OUT & EXPLORE LOCAL

Summer is one of the best times to rediscover everything our county has to offer — from scenic back roads and farm stands to local parks, trails, fairs, museums, and small-town events. Whether you attend a concert, visit a local business, participate in a community cleanup, or simply enjoy a sunset over the hills, every small moment helps support and strengthen our communities.

We hope to see everyone out enjoying a safe, fun, and community-filled summer season!



ADMIT ONE