

NEWSLETTER



THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

Thurston Residents, It's safe to say spring is finally here. As you may know, there are many roles of a Town Supervisor, however, one that often gets overlooked is the job of securing grant funding. We have many grants underway, with more hopefully on the horizon.

1 - CDBG Community Housing Block Grant - After a yearlong housing study, the town was awarded \$400,000 in December to help low to moderate income homeowners make necessary repairs to their homes. We have several eligible homeowners interested in the program. This is a 2-year grant, so as long as funding is available from NYS, the town will keep applying for more funding. The first construction projects are sent to begin later this month.

2 - Perma Safety Grant - A \$5,000 cash grant, which would be used to upgrade the electrical panel at the Highway Shop. Since the start of 2024 over 20 improvements have been made to the highway shop to make it a safer work environment, such as new LED lightening, garage doors with working sensors, new stairs, and handrails leading up to the office and breakroom to name a few. Currently, an upgraded electrical panel is one of the last improvements needed to be in total compliance with our workers' comp.

3 - Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant - The Governor recently announced grant funding for parks and recreation. Funds from this grant could be used to build a pavilion by the playground or improve the surface of the playground by removing the woodchips and instead installing playground grass.

4 - USDA Loan - This past month the Town was awarded a USDA loan to purchase a new 2025 John Deere 772GP Grader. Our grader is 16 years old & needs to be replaced, given it has over 5,000 hours and needs over \$65,000 in repairs. With this loan the town can finance, starting next year, over 15 years, at a fixed 4% interest rate the new grader. Far better than the 8 to 9% interest rates and 60-month financing period available with the town's bank.

As always, my door is always open if you have questions or suggestions. It's an absolute pleasure to serve as Town Supervisor.

Michael J. Volino - Thurston Town Supervisor
607-227-5621 - Thurston.supervisor@gmail.com



2025 TOWN BOARD MEETING DATES - 7:00 PM

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|---------------|
| • April 16 | • July 16 | • October 15 |
| • May 21 | • August 20 | • November 12 |
| • June 18 | • September 17 | • December 17 |

Rent the Town Hall for your next event!

Resident fee: \$50 (non-resident fee \$100)

Please contact the Town Clerk for available dates and rental agreement

Want to receive your newsletter and other town updates via email? Send your contact info and email address to thurston.clerk@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FREE DRIVE THRU

Rabies Clinic
Thurston Highway
Department Building
4525 County Rte. 24,
Cameron Mills, NY



Thursday, April 24th

6:00PM – 8:00PM

Dog licenses available at the clinic

2ND Annual Community Picnic

@ Thurston Town Hall

7578 County Route 333,
Campbell, NY



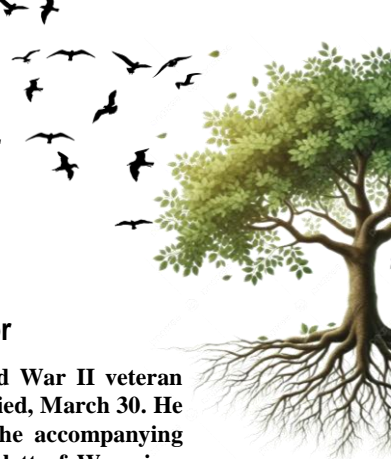
Saturday, Aug 2nd

11:00AM – 2:00PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Family Fun Day!

Bring the kids & join us for food, ice-cream by the Middletown Historical Society, see the new Town grader & dump truck, playground, town hall. Dish to pass is welcomed.



Special thanks for Neil Henshaw for sharing his remembrances, photos and articles.

*Letter to the editor credited to the Corning Leader. Henshaw Awarded Bronze Star article from an unknown newspaper and provided by the family. Retyped for clarity.

Tribute to Campbell Veteran ~ Letter to the Editor



Editor's note: Munroe W. Henshaw, World War II veteran and holder of the Bronze Star for bravery died, March 30. He was a resident of Campbell R.D. 1, and the accompanying tribute was written by Dr. William H. Hazlett of Wyoming, PA., a war-time buddy who apparently knew the man within the man known as Munroe Henshaw. Therefore, this tribute is printed.

I want to tell you about Munroe Henshaw from up around your way. He was my friend during the war.

The first time the Germans threw shells at me was the first I knew Henshaw the man. He was kneeling beside a soldier dressing his wound. The shells were coming his way too yet he kept working, looking around and listening, teaching me the uninitiated one with gesture and sign how to gauge the advancing barrage, whether the shells were getting too close for safety and when to take cover.

Henshaw was corporal, a litter bearer and aid station technician in the 2nd Battalion of the 333rd Infantry of the 84th Division. He was known as "Mother" because he insisted upon feeding his cooking to anyone coming into the aid station able to eat. (I was the aid station doctor). Whenever the aid was forward "dogfaces" about to go out on patrol made a special point of stopping by to get a cup of his famous "blackjohn". It was only coffee, but it was brewed by Mother. Such visits were the bitterest part of combat, he said, worse than shellfire, snipers or bombing, worse even than friends coming in wounded and close to death – sending those boys into the enemy night.

He was a farm boy from Campbell. During the Battle of the Bulge, when the snow fell so deep that the litter jeeps were all but useless and hand carrying was logistically impossible, we resorted to a captured German horse – a bay mare – and a sled picked up in the Ardennes village of Odeigne, to evacuate the wounded to the aid station from the front a thousand yards away. No one else but the farm boy could handle the mare under shellfire.

In a matter of eight hours, on January 12, 1945, during the push to close the Bulge, with a PFC helper, his mare and the sled he evacuated 110 casualties from the forward edge of a Belgian wood. He also carried back the dead, and though a medic he brought ammunition on return trips up to the front. The mare became quite famous there for awhile.

He coughed like his lungs were about to come out from the first time I knew him. We were aware he attracted enemy artillery and mortar fire, but we kept him on because we needed him. In the German village of Lindern, not far from Cologne, three times consecutively he started coughing at dawn: three times less than five minutes later, the shells came in.

About 17 years ago nostalgia drove me up to Campbell to see Henshaw. We sat and drank, and we talked until dawn. Each Christmas he called me to see how I was doing, not because it was Christmas we had gone through all that. Then on the way to my son's wedding in Pittsburgh I stopped by one night. That was in December. We sat and talked, and he fed me; and as I left descending the hill from his home, I saw him standing straight and tall and skinnier than he should have been in the houselight reflected on the snow. Since, 17 years he had coughed a hole in his diaphragm and twice it had been repaired unsatisfactorily. He had also gotten new teeth, and his smile was not at all so devilish as when there were gaps in his jaw. Nor was it as frequent but, when he did smile, his eyes lit up his face and I was assured that things were all right.

I know what makes me now so proud that I knew this man. It was because he was so terribly proud. The hills of Campbell that winter night when I last saw him created a moment of magic; it mystically reunited times and places. It was the Ardennes all over again. Henshaw was standing proud in the snow beside the German mare having his picture taken for "Stars and Stripes", the overseas newspaper. Perhaps it was because it came out too dark, but it was a picture that never was published.

Sincerely, William H. Hazlett, M.D.
415 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming, PA

After the war, Munroe returned to his Starr Road farm in Thurston and worked with his brother Bob at Ingersoll Rand. He cherished a 48 star pocket flag that he kept in his breast pocket during the war. It was blood stained from the soldiers he lifted from the battlefield. Munroe was forever haunted by the horrors of war, the loss of his buddies in the Ardennes and especially the death of his brother Vernon who was killed in Germany. Back then PTSD was not part of our vocabulary or veterans' care. Munroe took his life in March 1965. Dr. William Hazlett wrote the above tribute which was published in the Corning Leader. ----- "It says it all!"



Henshaw Awarded Bronze Star of Evacuating 40 Casualties Under Fire

Technician Fifth Grade Munroe Henshaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Henshaw of Thurston, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic service in connections with military operations against the enemy in Belgium on January 12 and 14. He has been overseas since last September.

The citation with the medal states that "when conditions prevented the use of motorized vehicles, Tech. Henshaw volunteered to remove casualties from the field of battle by means of horse-drawn sled. Laboring under enemy fire, Tech. Henshaw in this manner evacuated 40 casualties.

"Again on January 14, Tech Henshaw, with complete disregard for shells bursting within 30 feet of his improvised litter, removed a wounded officer approximately 600 yards to a waiting vehicle. The courage, ingenuity and unswerving devotion to duty displayed by Tech. Henshaw reflects high credit upon himself and the military service."

An article written in The Stars and Stripes tells of the heroic actions of the medics of the Second Battalion, 333rd Regiment, of which Tech. Henshaw is a member. The horse-drawn sled which was mentioned in Tech. Henshaw's citation was drawn by a former German artillery horse left behind by the Jerries in a hasty retreat, the article relates. The medics soon hit upon the idea of trying out the heavy-footed Dobbin in pulling litters of wounded men across snow covered battlefields.

"In the first trial he was used successfully in the evacuation of 60 wounded," the article reads. "His spiked shoes gave him a sure footing and the animal never bothered by battle noise. He's deaf.

"But the real pay-off came some time later when the battalion Commanding Officer lay wounded in a distant field – a 45-minute litter haul by foot. Technician Fifth Grade Munroe Henshaw of Campbell, N.Y., drove the horse and sled across the snow under artillery fire and completed the rescue in 10 minutes. "That's all that saved his life," said Captain William Hazlett, battalion doctor."

The same article reports that the boys of the medical corps had turned down an offer of 10 bottles of cognac for Dobbin.

Tech Henshaw has been in the service two and a half years, and previous to that he was an employee of the Ingersoll-Rand Company. A brother, Staff Sergeant Vernon Henshaw, died of wounds received in action in Germany April 15. Another brother, Robert, resides in Campbell.

CODE OFFICERS UPDATE

It is that time of year again, and spring cleaning is underway in the Town of Thurston!!

The Code Enforcement Officer is tasked with enforcing the NYS Property Maintenance Code, and making sure the community is a clean, safe, and desirable place to reside for all.

Exterior Property Maintenance - The purpose of the Town of Thurston and NYS Property Maintenance Code is to:

- Preserve and improve Town appearance, quality of life and citizen pride.
- Prevent the gradual encroachment of blight, deterioration, unsightliness and property devaluation.
- Assure the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

How are these laws enforced? - Voluntary compliance is always preferred. If the officer determines that a building or premise is in violation of any code, rule or regulation, notice will be made by either regular mail, personal service or the posting of an order on the property. The notice will provide a specified number of days to comply. Failure to comply within the time specified, may result in the issuance of an official Notice and Order and/or an Appearance Ticket for the Town Court. The Town may also have the necessary work performed to correct the violation(s) and bill the owner of the property for the cost of the work. Unpaid charges are added to the property tax bill.

What penalties are involved? - Any person convicted of a violation of the Property Maintenance Law may be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year or both, for each violation. Each day that the violation continues constitutes a separate offense, and the penalties above are applicable to each offense.

How can I lodge a complaint? - Any individual may anonymously register a complaint by visiting, writing, or calling Code Officer at (607)968-5175 to report an issue. It is not necessary to provide identification.

Areas Covered by the Property Maintenance Law - This law applies to all buildings and premises within the Town of Thurston, except publicly owned or controlled land. The ordinance applies to:

- Vacant land and buildings.
- Residential one, two, and multiple family dwellings, mixed occupancy, storage, and accessory buildings.
- All buildings or land under construction or demolition.

General Exterior Property Maintenance Lawns

All grass, weeds, or other plant growth must be cut or trimmed to avoid the development of places for the accumulation of blowing trash, dumping of trash or debris, rodent harborage or infestation, criminal activity or places which constitute a blighting or unsightly influence on the neighborhood. Any trees, shrubs, hedges, and bushes, or portions thereof which are hazardous to persons or property must be trimmed or removed. Farms and open or wooded land are not required to be mowed.

Painting - Building exterior surfaces must be maintained in good condition. Surfaces not normally resistant to deterioration must be treated with a protective coating of paint or other suitable preservative.

Accessory Structures - Fences, walls and other minor constructions must be maintained in a safe and substantial condition.

Property Access - Steps, walks, driveways, parking spaces and similar paved areas must be maintained to allow safe and convenient passage.

Open Areas - Yards, courts and vacant areas must be kept clean and free of hazards and refuse.

Garbage, Trash, and Junk - Accumulation of Garbage

The accumulation of garbage, trash or junk is not permitted except for normal weekly collection or when caused by construction or remodeling of a building or landscaping operations. Care must be taken to assure such accumulation isn't unsightly and is removed immediately upon work completion or within a reasonable time after. Garbage and refuse must be placed in covered, watertight containers.

Definition - *The definition of "junk" is any manufactured good, appliance, fixture, furniture, machinery, motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, trailer or similar object which is abandoned, demolished, discarded or generally unusable.*

Storage and Parking of Motor Vehicles - It is unlawful to store an unlicensed, wrecked, abandoned or dismantled motor vehicle outdoors on any residential premises. The owner must be able to demonstrate that the vehicle is road worthy and must be covered by a fitted commercial cover. There are no restrictions on the garaging of any vehicles.

Building Address Numbers - Building numbers allow emergency vehicles to locate a dwelling quickly and serve as well for the convenience of those trying to locate a building in non-emergency situations.

Address Numbers Must Be:

- Securely mounted to a building's front wall, entry-way from a public street, or main path leading to the main entrance from a public street.
- Arabic (1, 2, 3, etc. not script or Roman numerals).
- At least four (4) inches high in residential areas.
- Between four (4) and ten (10) feet above grade.
- Clearly visible from the street.

Building Permits - Building permits are required for many common residential projects; including remodeling and conversions, additions, decks, fences, swimming pools and pool decks, gas appliances, and chimneys.

The Code Enforcement Officer is also responsible for helping residents of the Town to comply with the regulations of the Town of Thurston and the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. Compliance is needed for new construction and for existing buildings undergoing expansion, repair or renovation. Assistance is available through reviews of applications and plans, the issuance of permits, inspections during the course of construction, and issuance of Certificates of Occupancy. The Code Enforcement Officer is charged with remedying violations of the New York Code as well. Before a resident begins any construction or alteration project, he or she should contact the Code Enforcement Officers to find out if a permit is required. (607)968-5175. Leave a voicemail or text message

Nick Lewis-Nolton
Code Enforcement Officer
607 968 5175

Introducing our new Town Clerk:



We are pleased to introduce our new Town Clerk, Sue Conklin. Sue & her husband Scott have resided in Thurston for 20 years. Sue previously held the position of Town Clerk from 2009 to 2012 & completed a year on the Town Council to fill a vacant seat. With 19 years of experience working for a municipality in Allegany County, Sue later spent several years at Alfred State College before retiring in 2011. Sue brings valuable experience in municipal matters to the town.

Office hours:

Wednesday - 4 PM to 7 PM

Thursday - 9 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage everyone to stop by and greet her!

Introducing our new Highway Superintendent:



"Hi, my name is Ben Smith, and my wife Brandi and I have lived in Thurston for nearly eight years. Over the years, I've held a variety of jobs that have given me insight into the challenges a Highway Superintendent might encounter. My past roles include Team Leader at Toshiba, welder, Facilities Manager for Five Star Bank, Paving Estimator for Quinn's Paving, & Propane Driver & Service Technician for Griffith & Mirabito. I also spent some time selling tires to local towns for All Season Tire. I'm eager to blend this diverse experience to serve our township as effectively as possible.

THURSTON TOWN COURT

DID YOU KNOW:

- All Town and Village Justices are required to complete 12 hours of continuing education credits per year? These are provided by the Office of Court Administration (OCA).
- Vehicle/Traffic, Civil & Criminal cases are heard & arraigned monthly at Town court.
- Thurston Town court is held twice monthly. V/TL is the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm and Criminal is held the third Tuesday of every month at 4:30 pm.
- For criminal court, Assistant District Attorney, Ron Yorio and Assistant Public Defender Jennifer Donlan are assigned as the attorneys for the cases. Attorneys are not available for V/TL infractions unless you hire your own.
- Almost all charges where the Defendant pleads guilty, a mandatory Town and Village surcharge is imposed. The amount varies based on the severity of the crime.
- OCA has state attorneys available for Town and Village Justices to consult with for questions and procedural concerns.
- All Town and Village Justices are part time.

The Town of Thurston Justice, Hon. Darlene R. Smith can be reached by leaving a voicemail on the court phone at 607-527-6157. I will return your call the next time I am in the Judge's office.

Assessor's Office

To better serve our community, we're sharing an overview of the work we do for the town and its residents. Below is a snapshot of the services we provide throughout the year. If we can assist you with any of these, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 607-527-4494 or email us at thurston.assessor@gmail.com.

Individual Assessor contact info is on the town's website <https://townofthurstonny.org/assessors>

We are also in the office on Thursday evenings September through April 7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Duties and Responsibilities of a Town Assessor

- Maintain all property data records – inventory, ownership, deeds
- Receive/Apply/maintain all property exemptions – over 200 available variations
- Notifications – regular annual mailings and determinations
- Analyze & record all Town Property Sales Reports (RP-5217) & assessment levels
- Review building permits, planning applications and petitions
- Grievance representation – provide informal hearings, small claims
- Provide constituent taxpayer support for valuation/exemption determinations
- Property inspections, updated maps, photo exhibits and structure specifications
- Trend analysis for market fluctuations and neighborhood boundary estimates
- Statistical valuation projections, New York State and local government reporting
- Consult with dependent taxing jurisdictions – school, county, New York State, fire districts
- Town Board meetings – provide assessment documentation; report on current affairs
- Attend Assessor Association meetings, satisfy New York State continuing education requirements
- Hold public information meetings and conduct taxpayer seminars
- Manage an Assessor's Department of three elected Assessors
- Creates brochures, publications and information for assessment understanding

Annual Tax Calendar Dates

March 1st - Taxable Status Date

May 1st – Tentative Assessment Roll Filing

May 27th – Grievance Day (fourth Tuesday in May)

July 1st – Final Assessment Roll Filing

Detailed information of how the New York property tax cycle operates can be found at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/taxworks.pdf>



Honoring our local Service Members & First Responders

Do you have a loved one that you would like to honor? Banners are available by contacting Michael Volino, program coordinator. 607-227-5621 ~ Thurston.supervisor@gmail.com
Total purchase cost is \$174.90. Residents can choose to have the sign displayed in the Town or keep it for their personal use.

NOW AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN HALL



Steuben County Landfill tickets.

Tickets cost \$20.00 ea.



Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Tickets and licenses sold @ Town Hall
Wed. - 4PM - 7PM & Thurs - 9AM to 12PM

THURSTON TOWN BOARD

Michael Volino, Town Supervisor
Holly Chase, Deputy Supervisor
Dan Gee, Council Member
Jennifer Hargrave, Council Member
Noel Sylvester, Deputy Historian

Dog Control Officer Contact:
Randy Akins - 607-368-0320

Contact Code Enforcement

Nick Lewis- Nolton
607-968-5175

thurston.codeenforcement@gmail.com

Town of Thurston

7578 County Route 333

Campbell, NY 14821

607-527-4494

<https://townofthurstonny.org>

