



The Historic Town of Haverstraw



FALL 2023

SUPERVISOR

**HOWARD T.
PHILLIPS, JR.**

TOWN COUNCIL

**ISIDRO CANCEL
VINCENT GAMBOLI
JOHN GOULD
JOHNNY ORTIZ**

Visit our website at
www.townofhaverstraw.org

**HISTORIC HAVERSTRAW
FOUNDED 1616**

**WHERE HENRY
HUDSON FIRST DOCKED
THE HALF MOON**

**THE HOME OF THE
BRICKS THAT BUILT
NEW YORK**

**THE HOME OF THREE
MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENTS**

**THE HOME OF THE
95TH CIVIL WAR
REGIMENT FLAG WHICH
WAS CARRIED AT THE
BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG**

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

Dear Residents,

It is my pleasure to write to you regarding our accomplishments during the 2023 fiscal year. This year we had the Grand Opening of the Town of Haverstraw Sports & Recreation Complex. It is wonderful to see so many residents use the walking path and dog parks. There were tremendous amounts of youth activities on both the multipurpose field and baseball-softball field. We are very proud that we were able to construct this complex without having to bond a single penny. That means that this park is completely paid off with no debt! We are planning additional amenities. Currently, we are looking at constructing pickleball courts and possibly a skate park.

At Bowline Point Park we installed new physical fitness equipment around the walking path and we are currently reconstructing the tennis courts which will also accommodate pickleball. We had a very active season at Bowline with our summer fitness classes. I would like to thank all of the instructors for doing such an excellent job.

We continue with our road maintenance by repaving several roads each year. The Highway Department, Parks Department, Golf Course and Waste Water Treatment Plant staff have done an outstanding job in maintaining all our public facilities. The Town Golf Course was rated by Golf Magazine as the top Municipal Golf Course in Rockland County. We are also proud of the work the Town Police Department has performed in keeping the Haverstraw community safe.

I would like to thank Councilman John Gould, Superintendent of Highways George Wargo and County Legislator Michael Grant for their years of service to the people of Haverstraw. They will be stepping down at the end of this year. These gentlemen worked tirelessly for our residents. We would like to wish them the very best as they get to spend more time with their grandchildren.

Most importantly, we would like to thank all of our residents for your continued support and confidence in our administration. We will continue to provide the most affordable and efficient Town Government in the State of New York!

Sincerely,

HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR.
SUPERVISOR

Town Of Haverstraw's Current and Future Fiscal Outlook

The New York State Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Test (which is a measurement of a municipality's financial health) has once again given the Town of Haverstraw an excellent score on their 2022 Fiscal Stress Test. The Town's rating shows a **3.3% rating of stress which is the same rating received in 2021. Our Fiscal Stress rating continues to be one of the best in all of New York State. The Town of Haverstraw also has the Highest Bond Rating (Aa2) for a Town our size.**

The 2024 New York State Tax Levy Cap limit is either the lower of Inflation Factor which is 6.26% **OR** the allowable Levy Growth Factor which is 2.23% with allowable exclusions per the New York State Comptroller's Office. In 2024, the Town's allowable Tax Levy dollar increase is approximately \$803,164. The Town's proposed 2024 levy increase is \$1,704,853.

In 2024, Homeowner Town tax bills will see an average increase of about \$117.81 or \$9.82 per month and for special districts (Fire, Ambulance, Water, Lighting and Sewer) about \$53.43 or \$4.45 per month.

Also in 2024, in the Unincorporated Area of the Town of Haverstraw the Recycling Collection Services will increase from \$5.50 per month to \$8.50 per month or \$1.96 per pick-up and Garbage Collection Services will increase from \$19.11 per month to \$26.75 per month or \$3.15 per pick-up. These increases are due to the increase tipping fee per ton at Rockland Green from \$76 to \$99 per ton and the normal cost of business increases.

Breaking down the 2024 Budget, the General Fund Budget expenses reflects an increase in Police Salaries, Police Equipment & Contractual, Police & Employee Retirement, Health Insurance, Parks Salaries & Contractual, Lease Principal & Interest Expense, and Community College Chargebacks. These (7) seven budget line items total a \$1,955,000 increase. All other General Fund Budget expenditure line expense items had a net increase of \$134,000.

In 2024, the Town was able to increase estimated revenues by \$800,000 to offset the 2024 Expenditures, therefore netting a total increase in the General Fund of approximately \$1,289,000.

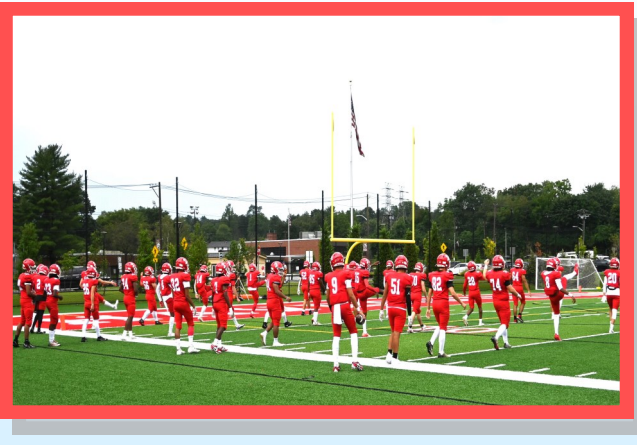
The Part-Town Fund and Highway Funds have a total approximate increase of \$158,000 and \$95,000 respectively. The Ambulance District Fund represents a total increase of approximately \$98,000 due to staffing and replacing of aging Ambulance Vehicles and all other special districts have a combined increase of \$101,565 over last year's Budget.

The Town of Haverstraw continues to work with our **New York Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski** on issues that affect our community and applying for funding for different projects that can help improve our roads and parks. Over the years Assemblyman Zebrowski has secured over \$3,500,000 in funding for various projects within the Town of Haverstraw.

On behalf of the Town of Haverstraw residents, we would like to give a special thank you to **Assemblyman Zebrowski** and **Senator Weber** for their continuous support of the Town of Haverstraw and all our residents.

The Town of Haverstraw would like to give a special thank you to our **Congressman Mike Lawler** for his continual outreach to our elected officials and residents on issues within our Town and any funding requests for our community.

Town Of Haverstraw Sports & Recreation Complex Grand Opening



The Town of Haverstraw had its Grand Opening of the new Sports & Recreation Complex on September 8, 2023. Former NY Jet Marty Lions was the guest speaker as the North Rockland Varsity Football team hosted Mamaroneck, which the NR Raiders won 39 –23. At half time, there was a special recognition for members of the 1977 Varsity Football team.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



The Town of Haverstraw celebrated another great Halloween at Head Start and the Annual Festival at Bowline Point Park with several inflatable rides, a costume contest, hay rides, and our famous Haunted House. Everyone who attended had an enjoyable day with their family and friends.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



The Town of Haverstraw hosted its 13th Annual Air Show with the Hudson Valley Radio Control Club. We would like to thank Bruce Leach and all the members of the HVRCC. Each year the members of the HVRCC put on an incredible show for the general public.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



Once again the Town of Haverstraw said THANK YOU to all of our Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Corp members with their families at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Night at Bowline Point Park. All the volunteers enjoyed the music by DJ Milkweed, swimming activities and all the refreshments that were served.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



The 2023 Watch Fire Ceremony at Bowline Point Park was well attended. Each year the Watchfire is lit to symbolize how the lost soldiers in combat were able to find their way back home.

From the Desk of Our Rockland County Legislators Michael M. Grant and Jay Hood, Jr.



We thank you for taking a few minutes to review these important Rockland County government updates and want to begin by reporting that County government finances are standing on solid ground - with a strong surplus and excellent credit scores – even after **zero county property tax increases for both 2023 and 2022.**

Additionally, thanks to the elimination of the county Motor Vehicle and Residential Energy Sales Taxes for 2023, **the equivalent of a 9.54 percent property tax cut has resulted this year.**



At the same time, **County government continues to provide vital services** our residents and businesses rely on, including rental housing assistance, public safety and child care assistance, while **also supporting nonprofits that so diligently serve our community**, among them the Haverstraw Brick Museum, Haverstraw African American Connection, Catholic Charities Community Services, Head Start, Garnerville Arts Center, Leo Laders American Legion Post 130, Harold B. Holt – Manny Lopez American Legion Post 46, and a new partner organization, Riverwide Arts.

This year, County government opted into a new state law to increase the income eligibility limits **for our seniors aged 65 and older** who are seeking a property tax reduction, increasing the limit from \$29,000 to \$50,000.

In gratitude for their service, and to encourage others to join, we also implemented a new law that allows municipalities to exempt up to 10 percent of assessed value on a **volunteer firefighter and ambulance corps workers'** primary home.

We continue to award funding to assist the **North Rockland Central School District** through the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program, allowing the Rockland Department of Health to establish health improvement programs throughout district schools, with \$300,000 awarded annually through 2025. The school district is also among those to join the County's **new School Bus Safety program**, which installs cameras on buses in an effort to cut down on drivers who pass school buses with activated stop-arms. Violations are being issued.

We also wanted to let you know that a **new Rockland County Highway Department Complex** will soon open to provide an updated facility to house highway trucks and a proper work space for employees. The department parks most equipment outdoors because there is no other place for it. The new complex will extend their life expectancy, resulting in a savings to taxpayers of millions of dollars over the new facility's lifespan.

County government also continues to identify appropriate uses for the \$63 million in funding we've received from the American Rescue Plan, a national economic relief package. Already, **more than \$1 million has been or is in the process of being awarded to small businesses and restaurants, with \$10 million slated for municipalities and nonprofits for green space projects.**

County government has also reopened its **Open Space Acquisition Program**, which has already set aside 1,200 acres, providing public access to the Hudson River, and preserving floodplains & scenic vistas, and is now looking to do even more.

If you would like to contact us regarding County government issues, please call (845) 638-5100 or email us: GrantM@co.rockland.ny.us or HoodJ@co.rockland.ny.us.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



Honorees for Black History Month were recognized at the February Town of Haverstraw Board meeting.



Supervisor Phillips reading to students at Head Start.



Veolia Water of New York donated IPADS to Head Start of Rockland for their students.



Dominican Independence Day Flag raising in the Village of Haverstraw.



Supervisor Phillips reading to students at West Haverstraw Elementary School.



Each year, the Town of Haverstraw partners with the NRHS Academy of Finance Internship Program.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



The Town of Haverstraw celebrated its annual July 4th Independence Day with the sounds from the “Stolen Moments” band. The Summer Concert Series at Bowline Point Park was well attended with a variety of great bands. Our Latin Night was another big hit with some professional dancers in attendance to show people various Latin dances.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



During 2023, we had several new Businesses open within the Town of Haverstraw. One was Lynch's on the Green Restaurant at the Philip J. Rotella Memorial Golf Course. In the Village of Haverstraw, on Gurnee Avenue a new 7-Eleven & Gas Station opened along with "South Beach Restaurant Bar & Lounge" on Broadway. Also please look out for additional new business that will be opening in the near future. Please support our local Businesses!

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



July 18, 2023 was Haverstraw Night at Clover Stadium. WWII veteran Frank Picarello sang the National Anthem and Councilman Vincent Gamboli threw out the first pitch. The New York Boulders made a donation to Leo Laders Post 130 and the Harold B. Holt/ Manny Lopez Post 46. Haverstraw children were able to play on the field before the game with HPAL and several Haverstraw Police Officers.

2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



This year's 18th annual North Rockland Community Family Day 5K Run/Walk was another success. The Town of Haverstraw, Town of Stony Point and NRCSD have always collaborated and worked together to raise funds for families in need in the North Rockland Community.

Town of Haverstraw Department Updates

Town Court

Court sessions on Mondays, Civil starts at 4:00PM and Criminal starts at 5:00PM.

Court sessions on Thursdays, Criminal starts at 9:00AM and Civil starts at 10:00AM.

The Court Office is open: Monday through Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM.

Any questions please call (845) 947-0020.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm.

We offer a bilingual staff and have extended hours during the year.

The Town Clerk's office provides a number of services that include: **Notary Public, Marriage Licenses and Officers, Conservation Licenses, Dog Licenses, Landscaping Licenses, Snowplowing Licenses, Handicap Permits and Mt. Ivy Commuter Parking Lot Permits.**

At the end of the year all renewal applications will be mailed out.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (845) 942-3727.

Building Department

The Building Department operating hours are **8AM – 5PM**, Monday through Friday. If any homeowner has any questions regarding **alterations, renovations, repairs, building permits**, etc., please feel free to contact the Building Department at (845) 942-3710, or by fax (845) 786-7647.

Receiver of Taxes

In January the Town tax bills are due. We will have extended hours for payment on Monday, January 29, 2024 and Tuesday, January 30, 2024; we will be open from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm on those days. If you have any questions, please call (845) 942-3720.

TAXES CAN BE REVIEWED ONLINE ONLY. A CREDIT CARD FORM IS ON THE TOWN WEBSITE TO FILL OUT AND SEND TO RECEIVER OF TAXES TO PAY WITH CREDIT CARD BY JANUARY 31, 2024.

Please go to: **WWW.TOWNOFHAVERSTRAW.ORG**

Credit and Debit cards are accepted **IN PERSON** with ID and a 3.25% convenience fee will apply.

Superintendent of Highways

The Highway Department has continued to update their vehicle fleet in 2023 with a New Plow Truck to help improve the snow removal services for our residents.

In 2023, we have continued our road resurfacing program with Paver-Placed Surface Treatment on 9 Streets and Micro-Surfacing on 6 Streets in the unincorporated area of the Town of Haverstraw.

We have been repairing numerous catch basins and are gearing up for Winter Operations for the Winter of 2023-2024.

Please remember that Bulk pick-up is by appointment only on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Any questions please call (845) 429-9126.

Town of Haverstraw Department Updates

Town Of Haverstraw Police Department

The Police Department is located at 101 West Ramapo Road, Garnerville NY 10923.

For Police matters, please call 845-354-1500 or visit www.haverstrawpolice.org.

Assessor's Office

All new Enhanced or Senior exemption applicants must file an Income Verification Program Form (IVP) with the Assessor's office by March 1, 2024. All exemption applications must be filed between January 1, 2024 and March 1, 2024.

Senior Citizen Exemption is available if your income is **\$58,400 or less** using your **2022** Tax return. The Renewal application for **Senior Citizen Exemption** will be mailed to homeowners and must be returned between January 1, 2024 and March 1, 2024 with a copy of your 2022 Federal Income Tax Return.

Also available is an exemption up to 10 percent of assessed value on a **volunteer firefighter and ambulance corps workers' primary home.**

New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants need to be registered with the New York State Tax Department. You will receive a credit in the form of a check from New York State instead of receiving a school property tax exemption.

The **Enhanced Star Exemption** is available for seniors over 65 with a combined income of **less than \$98,700** for 2024.

Any questions please call (845) 942-3717.

Philip J. Rotella Memorial Golf Course

In 2023, the Philip J. Rotella Memorial Golf Course continued to attract new golfers. We thank the public for their support of the Philip J. Rotella Memorial Golf Course.

Also in 2023, the Town has continued its Deep Tine Aeration of the greens twice a year. By adding the maintenance of rolling the greens, we continue to have the best greens in New York State on a public golf course.

The Town has made several upgrades to the Golf Course. In addition, this Fall and in 2024, the Town will look to reshape several Bunkers around the Golf Course and upgrade the original irrigation system.

Also in 2024, the Town will be replacing the fleet of Golf Carts to enhance the golfers' experience.

Park's Department

During 2023, Bowline Point Park continued to provide many amenities to the public. The facilities were in pristine condition which made our 2023 season another success.

Our Summer Activities continued in 2023 at Bowline Point Park. This year we added MOVIE NIGHT which was well attended and our Saturday Senior Aquatic Aerobic Classes and Sunday Senior Open Swim were a big success. The Thursday Summer Concert Series and the Summer Fitness Classes were enjoyed by all.

This year, the Town has added 8 fitness apparatus along the walking path around Bowline Point Park. In the Fall a new Pergola will be installed over the existing Fitness Equipment Station in the front of the Park. This Fall the old Tennis Courts will be removed and **NEW TENNIS COURTS** will be installed with the option to also play **Pickleball**.

Our Parks Department continues to make improvements, increase activities and enhance the overall recreational experience for our residents.



TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW

ONE ROSMAN ROAD
GARNERVILLE, NY

10923

PHONE: 845 429-2200

FAX: 845 429-4701

Building Dept.

Mon. – Fri. 8am-5pm

845-942-3710

Justice Court

Mon. – Fri. 8am-4pm

845-947-0020

Highway Dept.

Mon. – Fri. 7am – 3:30pm

845-429-9126

Receiver of Taxes

Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm

845-942-3720

Town Clerk

Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm

845-942-3727

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TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW NEWSLETTER

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2023 Town of Haverstraw Events



The Town of Haverstraw, HPAL and NRCSD sponsored the North Rockland Family Charity and Law Enforcement Sports Day at the Town of Haverstraw Sports & Recreation Complex. The event was well attended by the North Rockland Community.