

# STATE OF THE TOWN 2023

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Town Supervisor



Town of Guilderland

<https://www.townofguilderland.org/>

THANK YOU

# Comprehensive Plan Update

## *CORE TOPICS:*

- Response to climate change
- Land use & open space conservation
- Beautification & reduction of blight
- Protecting natural resources
- Transportation and traffic
- Promoting pedestrian safety
- Advancing non-motorized connectivity
- Water, sewer & stormwater infrastructure

## PATHWAY TO OUR FUTURE **GUILDERLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**



**Public Visioning Workshop**  
**Monday, March 13 from 7-9pm**  
**Town Hall**

# Pandemic: Keeping You Informed

## *COVID-19 updates*

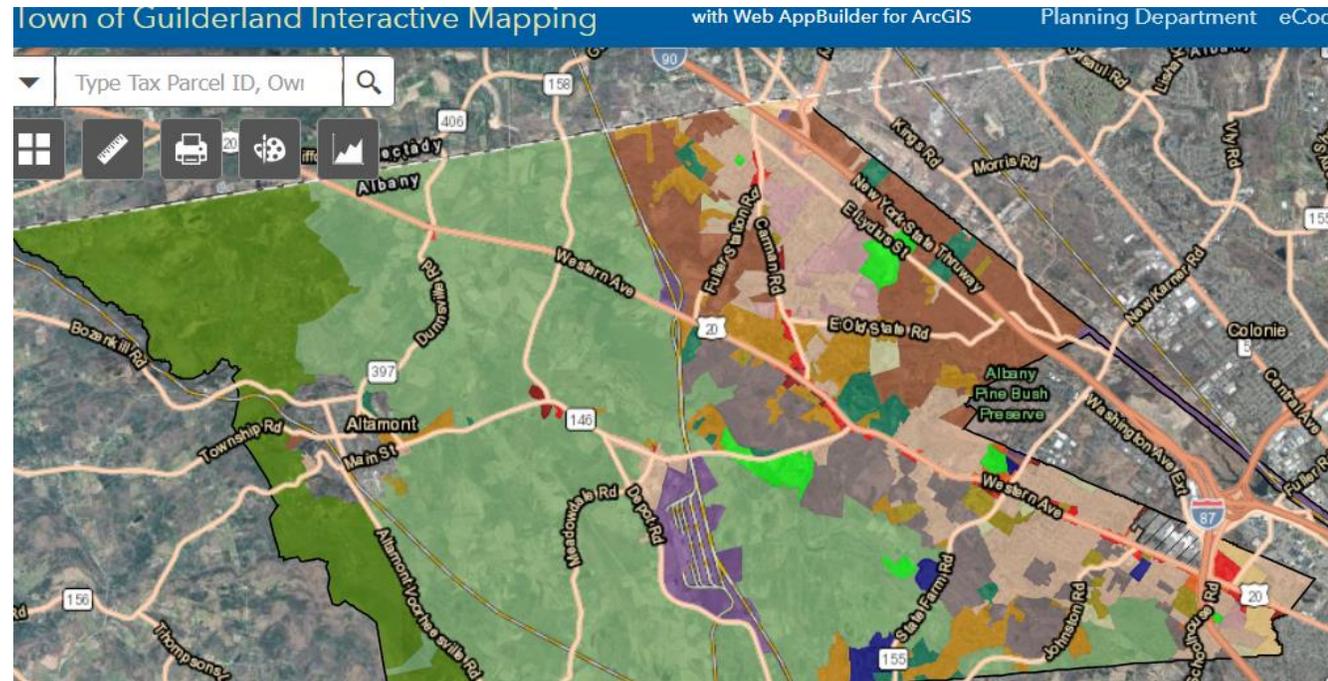
- Starting on March 12, 2020 for next 845 consecutive daily updates
- Weekly email newsletters

## *New Broadcast System*

- New cameras & audio enhancements
- Smart Board
- Large screen displays

## *Enhanced website*

- More online forms
- Posted agendas & digitized recordings
- Added GIS Property Information
- Online Building, Zoning & Planning applications and forms (in progress)



# Climate Action

## *Conversion to LED Lights*

- Town facilities upgraded
- Purchased 603 National Grid lights (2022)
  - conversion to LED (2022-23)

## *Community Solar*

- Amsterdam solar facility
  - National Grid credits on utility bills
- Transfer Station: contract for solar facility

## *Goal: Preserve 30% of land mass*

- Rezoning parks, open space, protected lands from residential etc. to open space

## *Clean Energy Community Campaign*

- Residential solar (fast building permit)
- Electric vehicles
- Clean heating & cooling



**Tawasentha Park**



**View of Normanskill from preserved parcel**

# Protecting Open Space

## *Conservation Easement Program*

- Special State law (2022)  
**Sponsored by State Senator Michelle Hinchey & Assemblymember Pat Fahy**
  - Tax exemption to preserve environmentally sensitive area & watercourse protection
- First application (2022-23)
  - 44 acres protected on Wormer Road
  - Adjacent to Normanskill (see photo)

## *New Native Tree Preservation Law*

- Protect Town's natural environment by preserving native trees and eradicating invasive
- Educational, not punitive
- Appoint Tree Preservation Committee
- Prepare and adopt a Forestry Plan

# Park & Open Space Expansions

## *Vosburgh Open Space (2022)*

- New hiking & snowshoeing trails

## *Westmere Trails Open Space (2022)*

- 13.78 acres off of Alton Road
- Nature trail connecting neighborhoods

## *New Westmere Dog Park (2023)*

- Now open behind EMS Station One

## *New Kaikout Kill Park (2023)*

- Former Hiawatha Trails Golf Course
- 24.59 acres protected
- Community gardens; picnic tables
- Multi-use trail system (ADA); bridge
- Bird watching with pond
- Pickleball courts
- Bike/Ped path to Campus Club Estates



Kiosk sign at Vosburgh Open Space

# Watervliet Reservoir

(FERC relicensing of hydroelectric plant)

## *Recreational Opportunities*

- FERC Recreation Plan (2023-24)
- Restoring Hurst Road parking area
- New ADA-compliant walking trail
- Hiking & snowshoeing trail system
- Linkage to Vosburgh Open Space
- DEC sponsored fishing platform
- Restoring shoreline fishing
- DEC downstream boat launch
- Anticipated opening by fall 2023



**View from Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge**

# Preserving Water Resources



**Watervliet Reservoir**

## *Protecting watercourses with land preservation efforts*

- Wormer Road (44 acres)
- Winding Brook Commons (29 acres)
- Kaikout Kill Park (24 acres)
- Tawasentha Park/Winter Rec Area

## *Rotterdam Interconnection*

- \$3.5 million (60% grant)
- Provides aquifer-sourced water with no costly processing at filtration plant
- Added capacity: 1.5 million gallons per day at low comparable costs

## *Green sand filtration for Town wells*

- Increase capacity (2023-24)

## *Reducing waste of water*

- Increased rates for over usage (2022)
- Replacing water meters (2024)
- GIS Mapping of water shutoff valves

# Park Improvements

## *Abele Park*

*Sponsored by Assemblymember Pat Fahy*

- New playground
- New bathroom
- Improved ball fields
- New entrance sign
- New access trail

## *Nott Road Park*

*Sponsored by State Senator Michelle Hinchey*

- Replace irrigation pump
- Improve drainage
- Regrade softball fields
- New trail adjacent to Normanskill



**New playground at Abele Park**

# More Park Improvements

## *Tawasentha Park*

- *GPAC renovations (2023 season)*  
*Sponsored by former State Senator Amedore*
  - Terraced platforms
  - Dance/patio area
  - New lighting & audio system
  - Roadway improvements
- *New main bathroom*
- *New pickleball courts*
- *Refurbished backstops*
- *Eagle Scout projects (100s of hours)*
  - New connecting trails
  - Removal of invasive species
  - Adirondack chairs
  - Picnic tables & benches



**GPAC terraced platforms with new lighting and sound system**

# Future Park Improvements

## *Tawasentha Park*

- Fitness Court (Albany County, MVP)
- Disc golf ?
- Fiber installation to GPAC, pool etc.
- EV charging stations
- New main bathroom

## *Volunteer Firefighters Mem. Park*

- Dog park ?
- Pickleball courts ?
- Gazebo ?
- Irrigation upgrade (water & power)

## *Nott Road Park*

- Playground ?
- Pickleball courts ?

## *Fort Hunter Park (Ronald Place)*

- Refurbish playfield & basketball court
- Possible movie night location

## *Western Turnpike Golf Course*

- Renovate clubhouse ?
- Replace clubhouse roof ?
- Convert tennis court to pickleball court
- Pickleball courts ?
- EV charging station

# Historic Preservation

## *Mynderse-Frederick House (1802)*

*Sponsored by Assemblymember Pat Fahy*

- Back porch deck (completed)
- Shutter removal & repair (grant)
- Foundation & cellar repair
- Exterior paint (grant)
- Replace window (grant)
- Replace rear roof extension

## *Schoolcraft House (circa 1840)*

- Furnace replacement (completed)
- Fix chimney leakage
- Replace roof
- Repair deteriorated siding
- Exterior paint
- Pave parking lot



# *Cobblestone Schoolhouse*

Built 1860 (original School No. 6)

Owned by Guilderland CSD

Possible Town acquisition? Use?

Current conditions per Parks Director:

- Floor & floor joist replaced – excellent
- Roof 20 years old, cedar shake – fair
- Interior walls and ceiling - poor
- Exterior walls – good
- Foundation – good (visual inspection)
- Power panel – good
- Bathroom (indoor) – not activated

Possible multi-use path linking core of hamlet to Keenholts Park

Other uses?



# Senior Services

**Full post COVID-19 resumption of programs, transports, and social events**

## **New senior bus (2022)**

- 22 person capacity with 2 wheelchairs
- 80% State grant; \$150,000 cost
- Fleet of four busses
- Medical appointments
- Shopping trips
- Special events

**New sound absorption panels in large gathering room at Senior Center**

## **Community Caregivers**

- Medical appointments
- Caring calls



# Economic Development

## Work with Guilderland Chamber of Commerce and Guilderland IDA

### More than a dozen new small businesses (2022)

- Mostly owned by and employ Town residents
- New restaurants, small shops, breweries & winery, etc.
- Professional and personal services

### Retail cannabis dispensaries only

- State law permits cannabis
- Local Law: limit to LB district on State highways
- Likely only one dispensary in Town

## Costco Warehouse Store

- Transit Oriented District (more intense commercial & residential development)
- New roundabout at Northway with direct access to interstate highway
- Walkability to expanded CDTA bus station and terminus of Purple Line
- New pedestrian & bicycle network, with bike connection to Washington Ave. Ext.
- On land lacking protection or preservation value per Albany Pine Bush Preserve
- DEC and US Fish & Wildlife concurred with environmental assessment
- Dedication of 8.4 acres of full protection parcel to Albany Pine Bush Preserve
- Local property & sale taxes, and employment
- Public hearing in Spring 2023

# Advancing Pedestrian Safety

## *Sidewalks (over 20 miles)*

### **Linking neighborhoods to local schools (2022)**

- Guilderland Elem. & Guilderland Library
- Lynnwood Elem.
- Pine Bush Elem.

### **New planned sidewalks (2023-2024)**

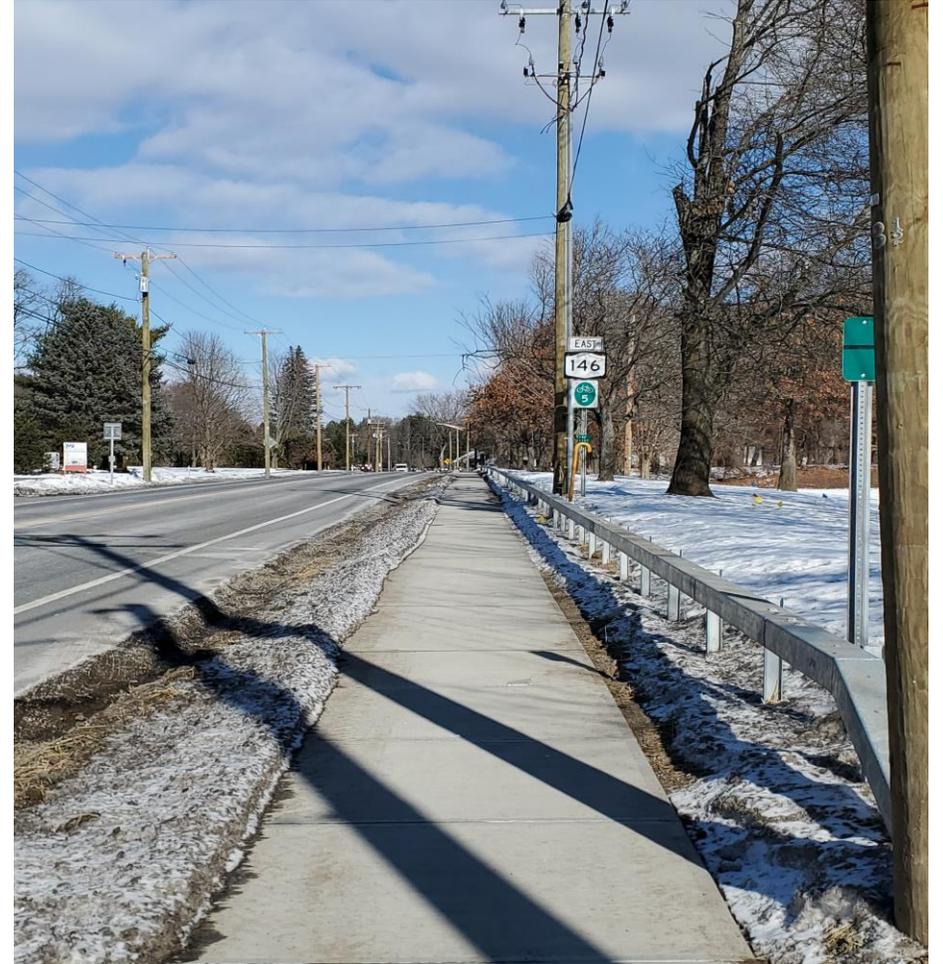
- Carman Rd (Western to E. Old State)
- E. Old State (Carman Road to Hillsdale)

### **ADA self-assessment (2023)**

- State grant to evaluate condition of all sidewalks for disabled persons
- Assessment will include access to Town-owned buildings, parks, and facilities

### **UAlbany Planning School Master Study (2022)**

- Recommendations for connecting neighborhoods to popular destinations.



Carman Road sidewalk

# Highway Dept. Improvements

## *Highway Dept. paving program*

- Acquired paving equipment
- Mechanics maintain and fabricate highway equipment in-house
- Allows for in-house paving of Town parking lots and Town park roads
- Saved substantial dollars
- 168.5 miles of Town road
- Scheduled annual paving of 16 miles; on average every 10 years
- Surging costs of materials kept paving last year to 8 miles

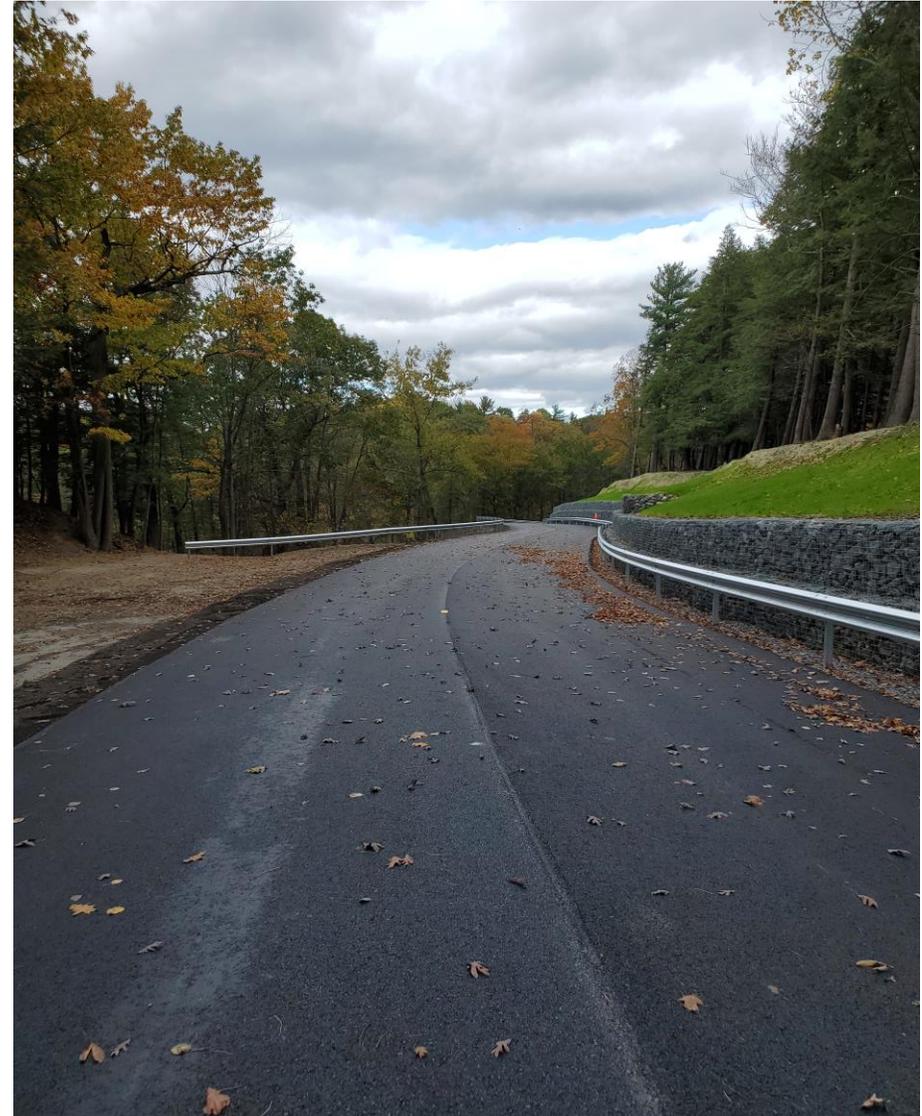


Paving Hawes Road (photo courtesy of Bob Haver, Highway Dept.)

# Road Safety Improvements

## *Rebuilding Grant Hill Road (2022)*

- In-house planning & design
- \$232,000 in-house project with \$200,000 grant (compare with \$1.3 - \$1.9 estimates)
- Peer-recognized project
- Fixed chronic washouts & hazards
- Safer bicycle access to Rail Trail



# Roundabouts

## *Two Roundabouts*

Accident-prone & dangerous traffic-lighted intersections

- Carman Rd./Lydius St (2022)
  - Federal Safety Program
  - Worked closely with DOT
  - Addresses chronic delays and hazardous left turns
- Northway/Crossgates Mall Rd (April 2023)
  - DOT endorsed safety project
  - CDTA Purple Line rapid transit line
  - Transit Oriented District
    - Place high-density housing and high-use commercial nearby
    - Key recommendation of Western Avenue Corridor Study



**Carman Rd./Lydius St. Roundabout**

# Public Safety

## *Traffic Safety Initiatives*

- New Traffic Safety Officer (2022)
  - enables dedicated effort to address speeding and other complaints
- More “Your Speed” signs (2023)
  - allows for permanent placement
- Televised Traffic Safety Comm. (2022)

## *Public Awareness Campaign (2023)*

- Reduce speeding & reckless driving
- Complete streets/ shared road



Guilderland Police Department Traffic Stop

# Next Steps?

## *Consider reducing speed limit on Town roads to 25mph?*

- Recent law enables the Town to lower speed limit on Town roads to 25mph
- Speed limits must satisfy factors in Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- Speed limits must be certified by a licensed professional traffic engineer

## *Consider use of Speed “Humps” to reduce speed on certain roads?*

- Speed humps, not bumps
- Potential cost impacts and maintenance issues



# Police Department



## *Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative Comm. (2021)*

- Adopted 33-page report with action plans
- Revision of policies & procedures
- Involve EMS in non-criminal responses
- Growing diversity in police staffing

## *NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation*

- Rigorous 110 standards of practices & training
- Accredited since 2009; only 1/3 police agencies

## *Department of Justice COPS grant (2022)*

*(sponsored by Congressman Paul Tonko)*

- Collaboration with Guilderland Central School District
- Enables emergency communication capacity in each of the school's seven buildings

# Police Department Enhancements

## *Body & Car Cameras*

- First area police department to deploy (2016)
- Replacing all cameras (2023)

## *Upgrading dispatch consoles (Feb. 2023)*

- Essential for 911 responses

## *Microwave communications (2023)*

- Required for Town-wide emergency response

## *Programs & Services*

- Civil Response to Active Shooter (CRASE)
- Neighborhood Watch
- School Resource Officers
- Take Me Home
- Project Child Safe
- Drug Take Back Day



YMCA Kids Day 2022

# EMS Accomplishments

## **NYS EMS Agency of the Year**

## **Leader in COVID-19 response**

- DOH license for vaccine clinics at EMS and schools
- Delivered vaccines to homebound residents
- Assisted libraries, schools and public places on best practices

## **Hospital wait time policy**

## **EMT training classes**

- Certified trainers for EMTs
- Full classes & scholarships



**Award Ceremony recognizing Guilderland EMS as State EMS Agency of the Year**

# EMS Enhancements

## **New ambulance (2023)**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> new ambulance in 2 years
- Fleet of 6 ambulances
- Added 4<sup>th</sup> ambulance during prime time shifts
- Excellent response times

## **Provides Advanced Life Support for all responses**

- intravenous therapy
- tracheal intubation
- administer medications
- electrocardiography & transmission
- medical control privileges



# New EMS Substation Three



New EMS Substation Three under construction

First EMS station in 40 years  
Maintain excellent response times  
At entrance to Western Turnpike  
Golf Course  
Direct access to Routes 20 & 146  
No financing or land costs  
Opening Spring 2023

# PATHWAY TO OUR FUTURE

## **GUILDERLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**



# CONCLUSION