



# Supervisor Mary F. Holtz

January, 2012

This column will again coincide with the day that I have the honor of presenting my State of the Town address to the Cheektowaga Chamber of Commerce. I welcome the opportunity to annually showcase the accomplishments of our various town departments and the expectations for the future and I would like to share a few here.

2011 saw some significant projects and improvements undertaken in Cheektowaga. Most notably and visibly, the Police and Court Building addition and renovations were well underway and demolition of the former incinerator building had been accomplished. When the project is completed later this year it will dramatically change and improve the appearance of the Town campus fronting on Union Road but, most importantly, the building improvements will provide for safer and more efficient police and court operations for all concerned.

Solar panel energy systems were installed on the roofs of four Town municipal facilities including the Town Hall, Highway garage, Parks garage, on Losson Road, and on the roofs of three circular garage structures at the Main Pump Station. The four solar energy systems will provide a combined total of 175 kilowatts of energy which will act to reduce the Town's electrical utility billings by approximately \$20,000 in the first year of operation. As a result of a Federal grant and NYSERDA incentives, the Town's investment in this project is anticipated to be recouped over a four year period. The service life of the solar energy project components is 25 years.

A number of drainage improvement projects, paving projects and ditch and creek maintenance projects were also initiated or accomplished. The North Creek Drive Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project which involves the installation of new sanitary sewer pipeline was undertaken and will re-direct wastewater flows from the North Creek Drive/JFK Drive intersection to a downstream sanitary sewer having available capacity. This project will improve both the ecology of the area and the environment for the residents of this well-populated area of our town. Other projects included the total reconstruction of North Meadowbrook Parkway, drainage improvements on Medina Street and remedial drainage improvements on North Transithill, East Delavan Avenue and numerous other Town highways in advance of milling and resurfacing operations. The Southgate Road/South Century Road Storm Sewer Improvements Project will provide a major secondary outlet for storm water in the northwest quadrant of Town which was developed in the 1940's and 50's with inadequate storm drainage facilities. Construction of the new pipeline on Cedar Road is scheduled for completion in late spring.

Our Engineering Department, headed up by the eminently professional Bill Pugh, has primary responsibility for key 2011 projects I have singled out above, along with many others, while also assisting various other Town departments. I am proud to say that so many of our departments, like Engineering, work together determinedly to improve the quality of life for our residents.

There is one other area that I need to mention here in closing. Town Attorney Kevin Schenk also works with every department as well as the Town Board and the various other boards and committees which compose our Town government. Kevin is widely regarded as being a very detail-oriented individual who is capable of working on numerous significant issues simultaneously and getting them right. He has provided important contributions not only last year but each year since being appointed.