

BALANCING THE PAST & THE FUTURE

Town of Brunswick Mixes Growth with Green Space



The rolling hills and open spaces of the Town of Brunswick are juxtaposed with commercial and residential growth in a purposeful balancing act. "It's the best of both worlds and we want to be sure we keep it that way," said Town Supervisor Phil Herrington, a lifelong Brunswick resident and dairy farmer (photo, left). "People who live here never want to leave."

The demand for Brunswick's quality of life led to a need for increased housing inventory, both single family homes and apartment/condominium units. It's an effort that has been keeping the part-time supervisor busy for the past decade. From 2015 to 2019, Brunswick experienced a 40% increase in apartment and condo units and averaged 30 new homes per year.

"We had to get the housing in place first," said Herrington. "Then we started attracting the quality commercial developers to provide the services and the tax revenue that make for a healthy economy. We work with businesses that are good neighbors, who care about our community's future. Things are really coming together."

Some of the region's most respected commercial developers and businesses agree, investing in properties and new construction along Brunswick's busy Route 7 - Hoosick Road corridor, from the City of Troy east toward Cropseyville. The corridor is home to locally-owned businesses like **ACE Hardware**, **Stewart's Shops**, **Carbone Auto Group** and **Rosenblum Companies' ValuSpace Personal Storage**. Route 7 is also home to **Nigro Companies' Brunswick Plaza**, including Market 32 and **St. Peter's Diabetes & Endocrine Care**, along with other businesses. Under construction at the plaza is a new **Sunmark Federal Credit Union** branch.

From its origins in the early 18th century, when it was part of Albany County, the Dutch patroonship of Rensselaerwyck and Troy, through its incorporation in 1807 and up until the latter part of the 20th century, the Town of Brunswick was an agricultural-based community. Development of the town's two major thoroughfares, New York Route 7 (Hoosick Road) and New York Route 2 (Brunswick Road), made it a sought-after suburban community. But the town has held fast to its farming roots, seeking ways to keep the developers from making inroads into the pastoral landscape.

"You drive off Route 7 or Route 2 and you still see acres of corn and soy beans, dairy cows, barns and farmland," said Herrington. "It's still a rural town. We're very lucky to have farmers who find new ways to supplement their incomes." The Hewitt family, which owns more than 2,000 acres in the town, operates a successful trucking company. Other farmers sell beef, eggs or vegetables and run farm stands. Herrington's family makes and sells top soil, mulch and peat moss. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms are popular with residents, who pay a membership fee and show up weekly to pick up fresh foods. "We are grateful for neighbors who find ways to help us keep the land green and open and farmed," said Herrington. "We want to maintain this quality of life for future generations to appreciate."

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Champion



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Brunswick Central School District is a Community

Brunswick Central School District Superintendent Angelina Maloney knows that her district's demographics are a bit unusual: a mostly rural and suburban population on the outskirts of urban Troy. But it's exactly that diversity that makes Brunswick schools so strong. "Diversity makes for a rich and exciting experience that benefits all of us in our school community," said Maloney. "I am very proud of our inclusion efforts."

The district's mission is to provide pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students with an education that fosters excellence, creativity, responsibility, citizenship and lifelong learning. Three schools — Tamarac Elementary School, Tamarac Secondary School and Brunswick High School — are located on one campus, which encourages shared resources and a sense of



community. "We value the arts, including music and theater, and community service is an important part of our students' education. They are incredibly giving to others," said Maloney. Outreach to the greater community includes collaborations with **The Arc of Rensselaer County** and **Unity House of Troy, Inc.**

Offering French, Spanish and Russian language classes, the district supports cultural exchange programs and service projects abroad. In addition to traditional sports and clubs, students participate in Olympics of Visual Arts and Odyssey of the Mind in national competitions.

The district is seeking to make connections with the local business community, to give students and faculty the opportunity for real-world experiences and career exploration. For more information, contact the superintendent's office. VISIT brunswickcsd.org



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With the Chamber's **WE Advance** program you can invest in the success of our regional business community.

In conjunction with the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency and the Center for Economic Growth, we serve as a catalyst for businesses starting up, expanding, or looking to make a profitable move.

Our high-impact marketing attracts regional, national, and international attention to our county's dynamic quality of life and thriving business environment. Join the Chamber in this economic and workforce advancement initiative.

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