

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

August 27, 2026

<https://TownOfCaroga.com> contains all issues of the *Caroga News Flash*.

This Town Board “emergency meeting to address road closure requests” was held at Town Hall. It began at 5:00 PM and lasted one hour. Notice was posted 8/26. The meeting was led by Supervisor Jack Glenn. Council Members Rick Sturgess, Matt Cooper, Kim Walker, and Greta Frasier Cronin were present, along with Town Clerk Linda Gilbert, Highway Superintendent Roy Stock, and 28 members of the public.

Resolutions:

1. **Adirondack Taproom Liquor License Application** — (5-0 vote)
 - Approved waiving the 30-day waiting period, at the request of Taproom owner Trista Everest.
2. **Temporary Closure of the Local Shore Road Through Sherman’s Park** — (5-0 vote)
 - Approved closing the section of East Shore Road West Caroga Lake through Sherman’s Park, specifically for the remaining six 2026 townwide special events hosted by Caroga Arts:

★ CAROGA ARTS COLLECTIVE PRESENTS ★

Nashville Day

★ IN COLLABORATION WITH VROOMANS & ADK TAPROOM ★

BIG SKY COUNTRY

TAME THE ROOSTER • GLENN ROCKS BAND



NASHVILLE IS COMING TO CAROGA
3 BANDS • 3 VENUES • 1 UNFORGETTABLE DAY

Saturday, August 29th, 2026

- ★ 3:30-4:45 PM GLENN ROCKS BAND @ VROOMANS Vroomans
- ★ 5:15-6:30 PM TAME THE ROOSTER @ ADK TAPROOM
- ★ 7:00-9:15 PM BIG SKY COUNTRY @ SHERMAN'S
- ★ 10:00 PM HOOTENANNY JAM @ SHERMAN'S DANCE HALL

\$15 ALL DAY TICKET
On Sale 3/1/26 - Caroga Lake, NY

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CarogaArts COLLECTIVE



SEP 5

Completely Unchained

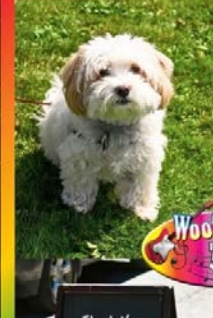
THE ULTIMATE VAN HALEN PRODUCTION

FIREWORKS AFTER THE SHOW!

- Labor Day Celebration -

📍 Sherman's Park, Caroga Lake, NY

#carogartscollective



Thank You for Supporting FCRSPCA

14th annual Woofstock

a benefit for the Fulton County Regional SPCA, in collaboration with Caroga Arts Collective

Saturday, September 12th
1p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sherman's Park
114 East Shore Road West
Caroga Lake, NY 12032

SHERMANS PARK CAR SHOW

Sat. September 19, 2026

Rain date: Sept. 20

10:00am - 2:00pm
Carousel is open
10:00am - 2:00pm



114 East Shore Road West
Caroga Lake, NY 12032

TOP 30 FAVORITES

- Dash plaques
- Spectators free
- Open to All Years
- Participant judged
- Door Prizes
- 50/50 Raffle & DJ Matt
- Registration \$20 D.O.S.

WEATHER PERMITTING
STAY UPDATED AT:
www.CapitolCarShows.com

CONTACT BILL AT
oldcorvettes@gmail.com

CAROGA ARTS COLLECTIVE & THE TOWN OF CAROGA TOURISM COMMISSION PRESENT:

HALLOWEEN AT SHERMAN'S

OCTOBER 31, 2026



HAUNTED CAROUSEL

THRESHOLD PARK

OCTOBER 24, 4-7PM
OCTOBER 25 & 26, 12-2PM

More info at carogarts.org



Trunk Treat

Saturday, Oct 25th, 12-2 PM

More info at carogarts.org

FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT!
DONATIONS APPRECIATED
RIDE THE CAROUSEL & EXPLORE THE SPOOKY DECORATIONS!

FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT!
DONATIONS APPRECIATED
TRUNK OR TREATING, CAROUSEL RIDES, COSTUME CONTEST & MORE

📍 Sherman's Park, Caroga Lake, NY
114 East Shore Road W Caroga Lake
More info at CarogaArts.org

CAROGA ARTS PRESENTS

Holiday Tree Lighting



Sat. Nov 28, 2026
2:00 - 5:00 PM

Sherman's Park

Music by CLMF Artists & SPACE students

Meet Santa • Carriage Rides
Cocoa • Crafts
Carousel Rides • Bon Fire
Carols • Story Time

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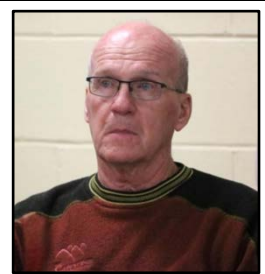
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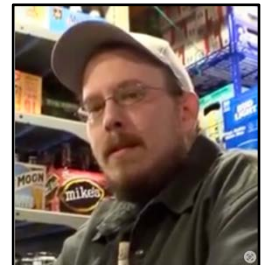
Town Board Meeting Highlights

August 27, 2026 Town Hall Meeting Background:

- On Monday, August 24, a letter was sent from Caroga Arts to Supervisor Glenn, after he officially reported, ***"The Town will not close the road for events."***
- August 12 Board meeting minutes showed emails from Caroga Arts' On-Site Manager *"requesting the road be closed in front of Sherman's"* for events on specified dates. (see https://townofcaroga.com/minutes/tb_2026-08-12.pdf).
- At the August 12 meeting, Council Member Sturgess said, ***"[J]ust because someone made a request, it doesn't have to happen."***
- § • On August 12, the Board said they would **spend taxpayer money to pay the Town Attorney to address the request to close the road at Sherman's.**
- At the June 8 meeting, Caroga Arts Facilities Manager repeated the request to the Highway Superintendent and Town Board for permission to close the road through Sherman's Park for specified large events, as done in the past.
- On June 8, Council Member Sturgess stated in public session: ***"You want the road closed. We don't want the road closed"*** (see https://townofcaroga.com/minutes/tb_2026-07-08.pdf).
- At the May 13 Town Board meeting, officials took no action when Caroga Arts' Managers gave them a typed list of events and *"asked permission to close the road in front of Sherman's during large concerts"* (see https://www.townofcaroga.com/minutes/tb_2026-05-13.pdf).
- On May 13, the Town Board adopted Caroga Local Law #2 of 2026 (see https://townofcaroga.com/news_flashes/flash_2026-05-13.pdf and https://townofcaroga.com/news_flashes/flash_2026-04-08.pdf).
- Local Law #2 law requires *"Operating Permits"* for various uses including: *"outdoor events where the planned attendance exceeds 1,000 persons"* AND provides, *"Exemptions. Operating permits shall not be required for processes or activities... provided that the use is expressly authorized by a certificate of occupancy or certificate of compliance."*
Nothing in Local Law #2 refers to any procedures for "road closures."
- For more than 8 years, Caroga Arts has closed the 600' section of road through Sherman's Park for events at **NO COST** by making requests and receiving authorization from the Highway Superintendent, pursuant to NYS Highway Law § 140 (see <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/HAY/140>).



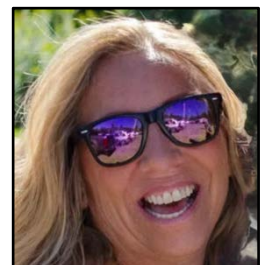
Supervisor Glenn



Council Member Sturgess



Council Member Cooper



Council Member Walker



Council Member Cronin

See also, Board delay of road reconfigurations (https://www.townofcaroga.com/news_flashes/flash_2025-08-05.pdf) to implement the 2011 *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan* (https://townofcaroga.com/comprehensive_plan/plans.htm).

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Town Board Meeting Highlights

August 27, 2026 Town Hall Meeting Transcript

Supervisor Glenn: This is the August 27, 2026 emergency meeting of the Town Board. The number one subject is a road closure. And Trista, I just found out you have a waiver that you want us to sign?

Trista Everest: I just needed something to say that you guys are still cool with me doing what I was doing. If not, I can just do a 30-day thing again. It's not a big deal.

Council Member Sturgess: I make a resolution to waive the 30-day waiting period for Adirondack Taproom... [A second was given.]

Supervisor Glenn: All a favor? [5-0 vote]

Supervisor Glenn: Okay, so then I have to speak about the special emergency meeting concerning a decision to close the road or not close of road at Sherman's Park for events.

Does anyone from the Board or public want to speak to that?

[Town Board members and the audience spoke freely for almost an hour without a moderator. The audience included Caroga Republican Committee Chair and Board of Assessment Review Chair John Livingston, who spoke in opposition to closing the road. Other residents in the audience in favor of closing the road for large events included Caroga Arts' directors, staff, board members, and volunteers, along with a number of other concerned neighbors, local business owners, tourism committee members, and various community event organizers, such as the Sherman's Car Show.]

Resident: What are you talking about?

Resident: Yes, why is it a problem now?

Resident: Just out of curiosity...

Resident, Caroga Tourism Committee Member: There have been so many events down there at Sherman's Park for the public — not just Caroga Arts' music events — for 8 or 9 years, like I have organized Trunk-or-Treat for Halloween. There, the Highway Superintendent came down to authorize closing the road for the event. We put up sawhorse barriers and cones, and that was it. Until this year, it has never been an issue. I just don't understand why all sudden this is an issue on a little tiny strip of road through the middle of Sherman's Park. Why is it now a problem all of a sudden?

Supervisor Glenn: Well, I guess that's what we're looking into.

Resident: Yeah, we're looking for an explanation!

Mr. Sturgess: Okay. So, there's a bunch of reasons why. It's not necessarily all about safety. There was a new law that came into effect in January 2026 with the Department of State, requiring mass gathering permits (see https://townofcaroga.com/news_flashes/flash_2026-05-13.pdf). We're still trying to work out everything with that. We're working on the legal side of it. It's coming into play from that.

Resident: And so that leads to this decision? To not let us close the road for any different events, for the year? Just because of something that you guys are just kind of doing? I'm trying to understand.

Council Member Cooper: So I'll talk to this, about closing the road. There are three basic reasons you can temporarily close the road for a municipality:

(1) for EMERGENCY: fire, police, supervisor, can do it. Also, if there is, you know, a large-scale disaster event, or the county tells us to close a road down for that, we can do it that way.

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(2) A second one is for REPAIRS. And if you're going to close your road for repair, then you need to notify the town, there's a document that needs to be filed, and then you need to publish, so people know that the road will be closed.

(3) The third way of doing it is for large scale EVENTS. So, for the large-scale events, that happens with the Highway Superintendent. We believe the Town Board also has authority on that, working with the Highway Superintendent. The town needs to have a plan in place, a document to authorize and do a permit for large scale events. We don't have that process in place right now.

Resident: What's the metric for large events now?

Mr. Cooper: So the metric for large scale of events now is 1,000 people.

Resident: Under what law?

Mr. Cooper: Department of State, under the new Caroga Local Law Number Two of 2026:

https://townofcaroga.com/laws/law_2026_2.pdf .

Resident: Oh, a Caroga Law?

Mr. Sturgess: No! No! It's State! A Department of State law came out in January. It went into effect here in April or May 2026!

Local Law #2-2026, Section 10. Operating Permits: The new local law requires “*Operating Permits*” for various uses including: “*outdoor events where the planned attendance exceeds 1,000 persons,*”

AND provides, “*Exemptions. Operating permits shall not be required for processes or activities... provided that the use is expressly authorized by a certificate of occupancy or certificate of compliance*” (see https://townofcaroga.com/news_flashes/flash_2026-04-08.pdf).

Nothing in Local Law #2-2026 refers to any law or procedure for “road closures.”

Resident: And how long has this been planned? And why is it an issue now? You would think that if you were going to close the road—or come up with a law—then you would have done it by now, based on all this from April. You had more than enough time to look at it, assess it, and get it in place. You didn't.

Resident: I don't understand why it's happening today. Maybe I'm lost.

Mr. Sturgess: It's happening today because the Nashville Day Event is in 2 days! We're trying to get it figured out! That is why it's happening today!

Resident: It has been planned and discussed for more than 2 days.

Caroga Arts Director: Correct. Events have been planned and the request was made in the Spring.

Resident: So why is now the time to respond?

Mr. Sturgess: But remember it's been planned by everybody for more than two days! Including the town!

Organizer with Sherman's Park Car Show: *So why has it not been answered then? I was just told tonight. If you refuse to approve closing the road, then the Sherman's Park Car Show will not happen.*

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Mr. Sturgess: Oh, by the way, you gotta catch yourself up on all the details!

Organizer of Sherman's Park Car Show: What details do I need?

Supervisor: That's why we're here.

Organizer of Sherman's Park Car Show: What details do I need?

Mr. Sturgess: That the town is now looking at every option for the decision!

Resident: Two days away from the Nashville Day event that's been planned for many months?

Supervisor: **We're trying to be here right now to close the road. That is why we're here.**

Resident: Good. I'm glad to hear that.

Mr. Sturgess: So, I'm glad you're happy.

Resident: Yeah, that part of the...

Mr. Sturgess: Yeah. I don't understand why you didn't believe it.

Council Member Walker: **First of all, this is very important. There is not a Town Board member up here that is against Sherman's, that is, against the people of Caroga Lake. I am 100% for Sherman's, okay? Yes. I think Sherman's is a good asset to Caroga Lake.**

Ms. Walker: But with that being said, I was told—and correct me if I'm wrong—the town has to pay for a town worker to close the road.

Mr. Sturgess: Correct! So here's the thing. We had to pay for our Town Attorney's advice! Per his advice, we think that it needs to be done by our Highway Department. Ok? And we decided to pay them too!

Resident: It is not fair suddenly to change how you do it like this!

Mr. Sturgess: So what? Is it not fair for the town members, or non-members?

Ms. Walker: For citizens who pay taxes! To pay for a town employee to close the road for one event! That would be like saying, "I need a new fence, and I want the town to come and fix it!"

Caroga Arts Attorney: It's not even close to that.

Resident: Not even close!

Resident: Not even close!

Mr. Sturgess: Buddy! You know...

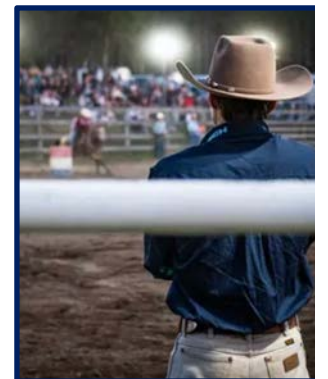
Resident: Do you guys think...

Supervisor: Okay. Okay. Yeah. Okay. So here's the deal. You can...

Highway Superintendent Roy Stock: Oh, hang on. Let me explain it a little bit more. The Nashville Day event is two days from now, on Saturday, and I think that per our town highway employees, because they unionized with the Teamsters four years ago, if we have to pay them, then it has to be paid overtime. We cannot call an employee in for 10 minutes to close the road. We have to pay him a minimum of four hours to close that road. That's in their contract.

Resident: Even though it's bringing in commerce? Even though it's bringing in money to the town?

Mr. Sturgess: It's not bringing the money to the contract, guys! You can't dispute that!



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Caroga Arts Facilities Manager: Okay, can I respond to the gentleman there who was mentioning how much time you've known that this is going to be an event?

Resident: It seems like new issues are getting added on, like, starting to pay the highway employees?

Resident: That's amazing! That's amazing!

Resident: Yeah, wait, wait, wait!

Resident: I have a question. So the question is...

Resident: What?

Resident: So my question then is: why are we doing this now? Why not back in the spring?

Mr. Sturgess: How do we pay for it?

Trista Everest: Well, I'll pay for it!

Supervisor: You got it.

Council Member: I do not agree with that!

Supervisor: Who pays for it?

Council Member: I don't agree with that!

Supervisor: Okay, so I'll explain the situation. I'd like to finish.

Council Member: Okay, I'm sorry.

Supervisor: It's okay.

Council Member: Yeah.

Resident: I'm never...

Resident: You're saying that...

Caroga Arts Facilities Manager: I was here in May asking for this. Now, I'm making another suggestion. The suggestion I'm making is that going forward, and I'm sure you've considered this, that there are likely to be more events held on the weekend where we all benefit from having these events here. In many, many ways: financially, culturally...

Resident: And so to have this be, like, two days before the event, you can't do that!



Caroga Arts Attorney: So this is just temporary. The road's been closed before. It worked.

Supervisor: Can I interrupt? Sorry. I know audience members sure do. She wants to speak.

Caroga Arts Attorney: I am the author, Attorney Nora Murphy, of the letter that you Board members all received yesterday. I have spoken with your town counsel. I understand you have, as well. Frankly, he and I might have a different type of conversation.

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Caroga Arts Attorney Nora Murphy:

- The reason why this became an issue is this — and I appreciate the Board's questions and responsibility here. I appreciate the passion that these community members have shown on social media and by their presence here tonight. But what I think we need to focus on is that for almost 9 years, this has gone on without any costs to the Town. It worked.
- I am familiar with the Department of State rules that you're talking about. I am very familiar with Town Law, and I don't agree with you that those are the only 3 circumstances where a road can be closed. I think you'll agree with me that the Town of Caroga does NOT have a Local Law and a permitting process and parameter set for road closures now. So that's just where we are.
- But the issue is that on Monday the Supervisor stated a change — after at least 8 years of doing this — including while the town highway workers were unionized, and under different Town administrations, different Supervisors.
- I think the community needs to know that just because there's a new Supervisor or Highway Superintendent, the policies and procedures are NOT changed without hearings and a process undertaken. You cannot have a new Supervisor and just change customs, procedures, and policies without the process playing out and community members being able to have their input.
- So, the reason why — in answer to everyone's question — this came up, and I was asked to write that letter, is because after eight years, with the consent of the Town Board and the consent of the Highway Department, for all of those years, this is how that small section of road was closed for a bit.
- There was a history. I understand it wasn't law. It was not a policy either, because policy is written. There was no policy. But PRACTICE, under legal terms, is actually something that sets the legal and enforceable PRECEDENT.

Mr. Sturgess: Show me our policy that we had previous!

Attorney Murphy: Your past nine years is your past practice.

Mr. Sturgess: Because we did it wrong, doesn't mean that's policy!

Attorney Murphy: Well, let me finish. Let me finish, please.

Mr. Sturgess: I'm not trying to be argumentative!

Attorney Murphy: It's kind of argumentative. But I understand why.

Mr. Sturgess: Now, we have to put something in place!

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Resident: Why today? Why today?

Supervisor: We're not here to put that policy in place today, guys. That is not why we're here.

Attorney Murphy: **No, I know, we are here because this practice—I won't call it a policy—this practice has been in place for eight or more years. Caroga Arts and others relied on it. The Car Show relied on it. Others relied on it. Community members are comfortable with it, and are in support of it. And that was condoned by the Highway Department and Highway Superintendent, including last year. Now, the Town Board suddenly changed course. On Monday, with no notice, a statement by the Supervisor to Caroga Arts documented that the road would not be closed. There was never a public notice that, as I understand...**

John Livingston: There was a permanent closure issue last year!

Supervisor: Okay, it's been discussed at a few board meetings.

John Livingston: Who was the supervisor, then?

Attorney Murphy: Pardon me, sir?

John Livingston: Who was the supervisor? Was it Jim Selmser?

Supervisor: No, no. That wasn't decided on Monday. The request to close the road for events had been presented at our Town Board meetings. I have heard you want to finish, Attorney?

Attorney Murphy: **Yeah, I have read all the minutes, and I understand it was a discussion, but no input from the community was sought, and no process was followed to change the practice.**

Caroga Arts Director: So I can enlighten on that a little bit. So at the beginning of the season, I believe that [Caroga Arts' Sherman's On-Site Manager] Kathy Manning came here with a request list of closures for the road, okay? I believe that was in April or May or around there...

Council Member Sturgess: And we got into discussion about the union issues! Okay? When we find out that we're not doing something the right way, it's our obligation to find a way to do it the right way! Okay? We're not having them do it! It is not proper just to have [Highway Superintendent] Roy [Stock] go and close the road! We have to have the highway guys go do it! Any pay them! Okay?

Attorney Murphy: **Your Attorney suggested that idea may or may not be proper. But the Highway Superintendent approval is what has been the precedent.**

Council Member Sturgess: Excuse me, no!

Highway Superintendent Stock: I can address that. So the union increased...

Town Board: The union has agreed?

Highway Superintendent Stock: They can.

Town Board: They have not! But it's because...

Highway Superintendent Stock: No, they will. They can.

Attorney Murphy: If you change the practice and the precedent to make any changes, I'll point out...

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Highway Superintendent Stock: Any highway employees can say, I wanted that job.

Attorney Murphy: **It has been done without cost and without objection for 8 years...**

Council Member Sturgess: The wrong way!

Attorney Murphy: Who's to say it's the wrong way?

Council Member Cooper: The thing in the highway contract...

Council Member Sturgess: That right!

Council Member Cooper: The Union Contract, which has not been around for eight years. It's a union contract that did come into play.

Attorney Murphy: Three or four years, already?

Highway Superintendent Stock: Four years ago.

Attorney Murphy: Okay, anyway, to answer your question about...

Council Member Sturgess: It was decided when we got through how much it was gonna cost the town, we voted against it, that we're not gonna close the road for temporary events. Okay? That was that, because we couldn't figure out who's gonna pay tens of thousands of dollars?

Attorney Murphy: I don't know if there was an action by the Board. Was there was a resolution?

Council Member Sturgess: We decided that we're not budgeted for tens of thousands of dollars!

Attorney Murphy: What?

Council Member Sturgess: In May! Or I don't know when exactly it was. Whenever Kathy brought it, I voted not to cross the road. [Discussion tabled approval.]

Town Clerk: In May, yeah. [May13, 2026]

Council Member: No. This one she presented.

Council Member: Did Kathy bring this in May?

Town Clerk: I don't know.

Attorney Murphy: I don't have a recollection of there being a Resolution and an official action by the town. It is not in the record.

Council Member Sturgess: But I know there was a question of a difference between people! It was left off with, okay, this is gonna cost over \$10,000 to make this happen throughout the course of these X amount of events! Who is going to cover that?

Attorney Murphy: Okay, and then it went stale until...

Caroga Arts Manager: No.

Attorney Murphy: At the last board meeting, which was August 12, however many days ago, okay? And now we're here.

Caroga Arts: It was raised twice at meetings — in May and June — plus emails in August, and the Supervisor stated that it's with the attorneys. He said, "I'm waiting to hear from the attorneys." And a couple of your Board members expressed opinions on the record. If you have information from the attorneys, why haven't we been provided it?

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Attorney Murphys: **Exactly. So it was never decided. It was kind of kicking the can down the road. Let's agree on that. There was never a resolution or action or notice...**

Council Member Walker: I was under the impression that our Attorney was working on the solution.

Council Member Cronin: I thought that it was with the Highway Superintendent. The Board wanted to go put the crosswalk in. We were trying to find solutions while we were gathering information.

Town Board: It didn't say stagnant.

Attorney Murphy: No, of course.

Council Member Cronin: We went ahead with a safety plan that we knew we could put in place.

Council Member Sturgess: Furthermore, this Board has asked the CAC for a parking plan for how long?

Kyle Price: Here is another copy of the Town-approved parking plan. This one goes back to the Planning Board when it was mentioned on the Planning Board Review, including Mr. Cooper.

Supervisor: Yes, thank you.

Kyle Price: In June 2023, Caroga Arts presented this to the Town of Caroga Planning Board. We got approval from the Planning Board. It involves an event traffic and marketing management plan. It is multiple pages long. You can talk to the Town Planning Board. It was all provided.

Council Member Sturgess: So why don't you just give it to us when we asked you for it?

Kyle Price: This is already in the possession of the Town. It went through the Town Planning Board. You guys have it, the most...

Council Member Sturgess: The first step!

Kyle Price: To raise it as Caroga Arts not providing it misses that the Planning Board has the exclusive jurisdiction over those kind of site approvals. The Planning Board, considered occupancy, considered the parking plan, considered the area to be covered, and they exercised their review and decision.

Council Member Sturgess: So they have the parking plan figured out there for 1,500 people per event?

Kyle Price: Yes. That plan was approved in 2023.

Council Member Sturgess: Where?

Kyle Price: By the Caroga Planning Board. Just to finish?

Council Member Sturgess: Yeah, fine.

Supervisor: **I don't want to see all this arguing back and forth. I think we can reach a resolution that says, "Let's continue as we are to the end of the year, and then work on the law." That's why we're here.**

Attorney Murphy: **That's exactly why we're here.**

Supervisor: Then...

Council Member Sturgess: What other...

Supervisor: **Just a moment. That's exactly where we were half an hour ago.**

Attorney Murphy: **Okay, then maybe we could have started that way? Let's hear it.**

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Supervisor: I spoke with Attorney Chris Langlois, maybe 45 minutes ago. I said, “It has come up again. Because it's the 10th time. I'm sick of it. I'm totally sick. Done. I'm out, and then the parking under it. We've got to put this to rest.

Supervisor: One way, or the other, it has to be quite sure first. Our Attorney said that. I'm running on it. He's getting different templates, of other municipalities. You can give us a template to work from. It continues to work on that. He agrees exactly with you. I call it the Wild West. Let's keep it going, like the Wild West, till the end of the year, and then in 2027, we will come out with details how we, as the Town Board will put a local law in place to describe everything we'll do.

Attorney Murphy: Well, I applaud that and thank you very much.

Council Member Walker: I, again, don't think that everybody realizes we're not against you. We really aren't. Everybody thinks they are, and everybody's got their right to their own opinion. I know for a fact, I'm not. I used to work at Sherman's. Yeah, no. I'm 100% for Sherman's. But with that being said, I also don't want to see the residents of Caroga have to pay, through income tax, or through their, uh, property tax, a fee, to shut the road!

Council Member Cronin: I totally, I totally understand what you're saying.

Kyle Price: Just keep in mind, almost every municipality across New York State, and across the country, has events — like farmers' markets, car shows, and fairs — that happen that include road closures, and they do that for basic safety precautions of the community.

- And so, here there are reasons the same way. Like, we called Fulton County Emergency Management, and they put up 2 caution signs right away. And so there are reasons in time to protect people's safety.
- That is more valuable than the cost of workers for these types of events. We're not sure what the amount per event is, when it comes to expense.
- I mean, I kind of feel like, you know, we're saying this, without a response. And I really appreciate the crosswalk, but the crosswalk at the same time, I think— my take on this — I feel like it sets it up so that if there's something that happens outside of the crosswalk, if there is an emergency, and we can't close the road, then somehow the Town decides that they aren't liable for that.
- And that's not really a great solution when we're having car shows come in, and there are people judging and walking through areas, and there are dogs and kids.
- We're focused on safety and the execution of these events, and we want to make sure that all of that happens, you know, in a really good and healthy manner for everyone.
- So I don't disagree with you, but there are reasons that community and safety become a priority for Town Board members and for us as event organizers.
- **So I think that's where we're trying to collaborate together with you on this now.**

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Council Member Sturgess: We're knocking on almost \$14,000! Yes! To shut that road down for all of them events being held by the CAC!

Resident: So, I'm curious. Ah, sorry to cut you off, but I ain't interested in Sherman's or CAC or anything else. I've been here for 20 years, watching this town go around in circles. And as far as tax costs, where was the town when Sherman's got donated? Why is the town still going around in circles on this?

Council Member Sturgess: Come on! So you can't blame me!

Resident: I'm not blaming anybody!

Council Member Sturgess: You're asking questions!

Resident: And so my question, again, is, as always, you might be for it, and if you are for it, and you are the Town Council, I don't understand the necessity of this meeting! Make the decision, close the road, and let's go on!

Council Member Sturgess: I'm the one that said, "NO!"

Resident: Well, I've been listening. To force this meaning here tonight, to listen to you...

Supervisor: So that's why we're here tonight. Okay. To get this out in the air. Hopefully for the last frickin' time. All right? So why don't we just close rolling up the dozer and give it over? Ok?

Resident: You know what, Supervisor...

Trista Everest: I'm gonna sneak in something. I'm sorry. I'm just going to say, I don't know what happened to our home. I've lived up here my whole life. I'm 45 years old, right? We used to be a Town where we all worked together. Everybody helped each other.

Resident: And now we have pissing matches everywhere you go!

Trista Everest: What happened? Like, I get the legality of things. I'm not gonna try to double into that now. I'm not in that state of mind. But I'm just saying, like, I don't understand what happened, and why everybody acts like they don't want to work together to get stuff done in Caroga. Like, come on!

Council Member Sturgess: I'm gonna blame it on attorneys!

Attorney Murphy: Well, no. No. No. I don't. I don't, I will say...

Council Member Sturgess: No offense! Well, I don't think everybody behaves that way. No, because Trista, when it's your name, that's about ready to get or could potentially get sued over making a change and a decision! That's what gives you cold feet on everything!

Trista Everest: They have been working on this for so long. It's not just these voices in this room.

Council Member Cronin: I think everybody sitting at this table has been out talking to taxpayers about this issue, because we take it seriously. 19 phone calls! We are not just getting the feedback in this

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room when there's an emergency meeting or from the five people that show up monthly at Board meetings. Okay? We are out there talking to the taxpayers and getting their feedback.

Council Member Walker: It is a lot of money for taxpayers! Who's to say that we've got to pay this to close that road! And safety is all of our concerns!

Kyle Price: **Working together is our concern.**

Council Member Sturgess: So I take the blame! And the offense!

Council Member Walker: No, no, I'm happy to take the offense!

Attorney Murphy: Maybe we can rewind to a few minutes ago to that wonderful moment between the Supervisor and myself where we agreed that we had a solution, or were working out a solution. Well, that we have something that would satisfy each party for now.

Stephanie Price: Sorry, I'm curious. Stephanie Price, 115 Shore Road. I'm curious why the Town and Highway Superintendent haven't considered closing the road during regular business hours on Friday?

- Why not have the regular highway people close the road while they are already paid to work?
- Then Monday morning, like at 7:00 AM, go to the normal workday and open the road again at no cost?
- It's very common to have signs that are up for a week prior. You would work with some people who also own the property to say, hey, this is gonna happen. We're in collaboration with that, again, to prevent any kind of situation.
- Why hasn't that been considered? Because that would save a lot of money, because it's very normal work hours?

Resident: Okay, if I can say something, this is, you're talking about policies and procedures, is what you're talking about! There should be a procedure in place that allows it!

Council Member Sturgess: Well, I can't! Okay! Go ahead, taxpayer money!

Stephanie Price: Why can't they close the road during their normal work hours on Friday?

Highway Superintendent Stock: We don't work on Fridays. Okay?

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Stephanie Price: Then Thursday? Who cares? We don't care. As business owners with insurance, whether it's profit or nonprofit, we would be in collaboration with doing whatever the normal highway work hours are, for them to close it, and then reopen it and save everybody some money.

Resident: But you're assuming that that works for the taxpayers that now want a town to close down Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. It's still a Town road!

Stephanie Price: **It is a small portion for a short a time. And I live on that road. It's less than 600 feet. That is just a small portion of that road.**

Town Board: I'm not saying that's bad. It's not bad. Maybe that's something that is how many people should go down. It can be considered when you're...

Resident: You're in the rough run! It should be everybody! Bring it up in the balance box, and vote on it.

Council Member Walker: Yeah. Absolutely. Let's put out a referendum to get an opinion.

Town Board: Does it work that way? No, no, no.

Council Member Walker: Do you want a public vote? You should not be...

Council Member Cronin: So I do have one question that I want to ask just for this current weekend's event. I think it's the only time that it comes into play. What is the plan to get traffic over to Trista, over to the Taproom from Vroman's and to Sherman's?

Council Member Walker: Because if that road is closed, everybody's going to be parking on Route 10 more than likely. That is kind of how I'm envisioning it. Mm hmm.

Kyle Price: For previous events, when we've had the road closed, people do not park on Route 10. There's plenty of parking. We'd have people who volunteer to help with parking. In the parking plan there that you have, it mentions that if you close the road, you have the parking behind the blue building. It's the Abdella's lot. Plus, you have the beach lot. You have that lot. And plus, you know, you'll have Vrooman's Romans, where there's an event happening at Vroomans. You'll have things happening at Lakeview Store. You'll have events at the ADK Taproom. So we're gonna utilize all that parking and make it work.

Resident: How are they crossing 29?

Kyle Price: Well, there's volunteers who help with that. We have talked to DOT also. And so, yeah, I mean, there's caution signs. That's why we put caution signs up. But really, I would say on most days, people are going from Vroomans to Mike's Lakeview Store anyway. So it's not like this is, you know, a crazier ordeal. And there's caution signs that we've been putting up, saying, watch out people moving. There's been precautionary measures taken, but the one safety measure that has not yet been taken is closing this road for this event.

Council Member Cronin: And that's why we're here. Only for this.

Resident: So why wasn't it brought to Town Board months ago?

Caroga Arts Manager: It was happily presented for this event and many other events much earlier on.

Town Board: We never talked about Nashville Day!

Caroga Arts Manager: You did. We brought up. What are we gonna close through in town?

Caroga Arts Manager:

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- Yeah. This was presented. That happened in May. And this is also an issue now because the car show has stated on Monday that they will likely have to cancel their event unless the road can be closed.
- It's for how they function, and they've done that historically for many years, that Joe Ricciardi and many others have helped with. And so he's saying he can't follow through with that event if the town won't close the road.
- And so there's also the SPCA fundraiser that is also saying similar things.
- So it's not just us. It's trunk or treat too, which was also mentioned earlier.
- And the tree lighting. These are events that have carriage rides and kids involved.
- And so, just making a blanket statement's not getting it, you know. We've listed those dates out.
- They've been a part of the schedule we gave you for quite a while.
- So I don't think that's a new surprise.

Supervisor: Yeah. How many more events do you have?

Kyle Price: Right? For the rest of the calendar year? (1) There's Nashville Day. (2) There's the Labor Day event. (3) There's Woofstock. (4) There's the Car Show. (5) Then Trunk or Treat. (6) And the Tree Lighting. So there's six. Okay?

Town Board: You anticipate needing to close the road for all six?

Kyle Price: Yes, given what those events entail, yes. Okay.

Supervisor: Somebody offered to pay for it over here. I'm not sure who it was. So, Roy, if that's six more events. We have four hours? Right?

Resident: I will pay for your workers, if you need two of them, from one each side of the road.

Highway Superintendent Stock: Yeah, to eight hours. Just one. That's fine.

Council Member Sturgess: Trust me. I don't think you understand the number that it is. And I don't think there's eight hours a day? We're four hours over. It's not for you, eight hours of overtime.

Town Board: Okay, okay. So the overtime, long, long story. How many bucks?

Trista Everest: I did not say that was an issue, did I? So how much. Who do I write the check out to?

Town Board: Thank you, Trista.

Caroga Arts: And if this is too much of an expense, we can also permanently close the road and we can invest \$400,000 to do the reconfiguration and development plan, as we originally proposed to you, and that would save the town a lot of money over time. So that's a better thing to do. Not only will that fix that problem, and everything, the overall safety problems will be addressed, and ...

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Council Member Sturgess: I mean, you gotta understand. There's no safety part, 'cause there's never been an accident!

Resident: In August 2025, Sherriff Giordino reported on the accidents on the road, including a child hit by a car on a bicycle. Plus, numerous resident complained about near miss accidents and speeding cars.

Resident: Back in the day, there were many more people there at that time! I'm going back. I'm going back decades. Those cars were faster.

Town Board: Bring it back down.

Town Board: What is the \$400,000 for the road? I don't know? There's no money that...

Town Board: Of course, I don't... You know...

Town Board: No, no, no, no.

Highway: I do understand it's overtime, but then, because my dad needs to work, um, with Roy's father, okay? I do understand that, and I respect it 100%. I will take on this weekend's with their normal fees. I don't want any surprises, okay? They're normal overtime fees.

Trista Everest: I will pay for that. Because the exposure for me is important. One, and I'm very thankful to be in this position to be involved. I will pay that. I am telling you, right? I have no issue. Okay? I might not even be able to serve alcohol, so I'm saving a ton of money that way. So I can say, Roy's saying, We are just gonna have a big open house at my place. Well see, I'll find out tomorrow if I can serve the alcohol. I'm more than happy. I would love to see Roy there. I was his neighbor for 22 years.

Attorney Murphy: I have to say, I understood that the proposal to compromising and get this moving was to allow the temporary road closure — as it has been done — through the end of the year.

- Then next year we can work on a permitting process. This is for the temporary closure, correct? correct?
- That's my point. Okay. Without a payment, because imposing a payment when we're kind of throwing these numbers around. We're kind of throwing around how many people it has to be, what their union contract says, without any notice to the public as to whether or not it will be that way.
- I think, if we can go back to the compromise that we're going to continue the way it's been done till the end of the year, and then the cost, everything, can be part of that collaborative process to create the new law.

Response: I agree. I agree. No problems closing the road, but with that being said...

Response: We have to still pay somebody to do it? Oh, no.

Council Member Sturgess: We're just gonna say, sorry, guys, sorry for your luck? But what happens if that person, decides and says, go to read it? It wasn't paid for Fleetwood Mac when that road was closed for that.

Highway Superintendent Stock: No. No. I'm gonna say, I don't know anybody who works on it.

Caroga Arts: Is that the thing that we closed earlier in this year?

Council Member Sturgess: Yes. Yeah, that was there, guys. Manning. Manning's on the town payroll.

Council Member Cooper: He can't close a road.

Caroga Arts: With the consent of the Highway Superintendent, he did close the road. The Highway Superintendent. They were not paid extra to do it.

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Caroga Arts: It was just that. What we've all been asking for is to continue the practice that was in place. The Highway Department, the Board, the Supervisor can allow CAC to do it. In fact, they're sitting at Sherman's. They just bring out the two wooden barricades that are 10 feet long and put a cone at each end. We're acting like the closure of the road entails more than that, and it just simply does not.

Town Board: I think the legal approval, it has to be done very time, doesn't it?

Supervisor: Well, that's what the Attorney said to me. That's right. Yes.

Council Member Sturgess: If we can continue this, and get something in writing from the town attorney, because that is not my understanding, and I do not believe, pardon me.

Attorney Murphy: You know, it's one day to Nashville Day. I don't believe that the town or the board is in a position to give the public the actual cost. You're just shooting numbers tonight. So, to pass any kind of resolution...

Highway Superintendent Stock: No, this is the Highway Superintendent. We've had documents that have been provided. It's a simple calculation.

Town Board: Who's gonna be doing it? What is their hourly rate of pay? What was the contract with it?

Highway Superintendent Stock: \$40 an hour. \$40 an hour overtime. How do we know? Right here's my union contract. You're welcome to look. Okay.

Town Board: You think you're paying four hours? Let's go. Roy, let me know what you want me to write.

Attorney Murphy: I can tell you that to pass such a resolution with an actual...

Town Board: That's six more times tonight. How would put your offer? How much did that cost? I think that's what we're looking for. But it's part of the spreading across the whole parking lot here.

Highway Superintendent Stock: So, for the crosswalk, we don't have it broken down. It was a total cost of what it was for this parking lot on that crosswalk. We don't have it broken down total.

One, one, one of us. So, if, like, a total, we can set the date possible. I believe it was \$1,500. \$1,500 to put in the crosswalk.

Caroga Arts: Which we did not ask for.

Highway Superintendent Stock: No, no, no. Crosswalk is in, strike the parking lot out front. Correct, right. Okay. So, but us asking this now is too much. We didn't get that.

Supervisor: It looks like we need a resolution. I make a resolution. I make a resolution. We don't care for the rest of the year, whatever it was paying for.

Supervisor: I make a resolution to close the road for these concerts or special events. Can we have dates, please? Yeah. On the 6 Saturdays, and the town will be reimbursed for any cost...

Caroga Arts: August 29th? September 5th? Hang on. September 12 and 19 for the Car Show (20th if it rains). And Halloween October 31 and November 28.

Resident: Oh, sorry. Citizen, I just want to write a check to the town to cover a cost? Yeah.

Caroga Arts: August 29th, September 5th, September 12th, September 19th, October 31st, November 28. Those are 6 should be 6 dates.

Highway Superintendent Stock: Well, November 28th, if it snows, you're not shutting the road. Physically, you can't if it snows.

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Caroga Arts: You said the 20th is a rain date for the Car Show.

Response: It will be fine.

Ms. Germany: Can I ask a question, just out of the blue? Is anybody running the tourism anymore?

Council Member Cronin: We were actually working on it. We're working on that for the next meeting.

Ms. Germany: Okay. And I'm just curious, since I had a seat...

Council Member Cronin: I need administrative rights to a Facebook page that was created a long time ago, and nobody seems to know who has the rights.

Ms. Germany: I have no idea, but I just, you know, like I said, I haven't seen one thing about it. We've been through an entire summer, and one person has, you know, promoted one thing here.

Council Member Cronin: Well, that's not quite right. I mean, a little bit, personally. But in general, like, we do have to try to form or decide what the community wants to look like.

Ms. Germany: I'm just curious.

Council Member Cronin: I mean, I have been working a lot with Sue Collins, trying to...

Ms. Germany: You know, typically, the tourism committee worked hand in hand on the trunk or treat, and, you know, it tired out, you knew or not, this year, I don't know.

Council Member Cronin: I understand. Oh, uh, I think Kathy's right now doing Trunk-or-Treat. Yeah, Jack had said something that she hadn't reached out.

Caroga Arts: Angela had sent me a message about Trunk-or-Treat.

Resident: So I just got a quick question, I guess. So the way it was done in the past, the Highway Superintendent approved shutting it, shut the road down for these guys?

Resident: Then it was was the Arts people who did it.

Resident: What I asked was, I believe the CAC shut it down.

Resident: They had permission to shut it down.

Caroga Arts: We physically put the barricades out, and then took them back.

Resident: Who gains permission for the Superintendent's instruction to be given?

Resident: Yeah, so the Highway Superintendent.

Resident: Yeah. So why is it an issue now, I guess? You think that it was wrong. Okay, but finding out that it's not wrong and to not correct it isn't the right path. It sure is.

Resident Union President: Past practice holds more sway. If you're violating a policy, then past practice pulls more weight than that. I was a union president for years, for a huge group of people. Past practice holds in a court. Past practice holds up the strongest. Even if you're not doing it, past practice holds more weight and wins every time. Just so you guys know. You can ask your attorney that.

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Supervisor: All right, thank you very much. Thank you. We will act on it now, okay? Thanks. Thanks. Uh, I, started the resolution. I'd like to bring the resolution for a vote, as far as we're going to open or close, that Sherman's Road, the total cost, according to our Highway Superintendent, and \$1,120.28. Yes, you're one person, or was that one employee?

Highway Superintendent Stock: I don't even want to add that as part of it. There's no way that's part of the cost. No, it has nothing to do with it. Is that one? That's the one. It's the hourly rate. Right? You know what I'm saying? There's so much more than that. 34% more than that. For a good one, they're ways to things out. As they go over the four hours, man, just say the articles are... I mean, well, it will be a reservation. You're just got to pay from your general fund.

Supervisor: Can you go roll for a vote, please?

Town Clerk Gilbert: I'm sorry. You've got to make the Resolution.

Supervisor: I'll make the Resolution. We will close the road for these special events, six in total. I need a second.

Town Board: I second.

Supervisor: Any discussion?

Council Member Cooper: I'd like to know if Roy has anything he wants to say or add.

Highway Superintendent Stock: Sure. For truck-or-treat, we're usually there, so November 28 is the one that I'm worried about. I would like to just figure out how we can come to the agreement next year.

Town Board: You just can't do that right now. We're not doing that now, right?

Supervisor: Any further discussion? All in favor?

Town Board: Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. (5-0 vote)

Supervisor: Opposed? [none] Perfect. Now, folks, all right? Everybody happy? You're welcome. Thanks.

Resident: It wasn't clear. I mean, I think that they were considering putting the payment in there and then they said, we're not going to specify that now. So...

Supervisor: Yeah, so it's... Right, fine, great. That's it. End of meeting.

Resident: Public discussion about the road closure procedure has gone around in circles with the Board and others randomly interjecting — just like this evening — since the May meeting three months ago.

Resident: That was it?

Meeting Adjourned.



Caroga News Flash

AUGUST 29

Town Board Meeting Highlights

2026

THANK YOU FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE NASHVILLE DAY!

"What a day! Nashville came to Caroga Lake, and the community showed up in a big way — over 1,000 people came out to celebrate music, community, and everything that makes Caroga Lake special."



Thank you, Caroga Arts, for the abundance of America's young award-winning musicians at CLMF2026!
Check it out: <https://cacarchive.org> and <https://carogaarts.org/2026-clmf-resident-artists/>.

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