

In This Issue

[Solarize Syracuse comes to DeWitt](#)

[Save the Rain in DeWitt](#)

[Town Completes Sustainability Plan](#)

Monarchs and Milkweed



The Town of DeWitt Recreation Department will be releasing monarch butterflies to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the former Butterfly House on Canal Day, Saturday August 2nd at 4:00. The house underwent renovation last summer and transformed into a Butterfly Garden full of native pollinator friendly plants including a selection of milkweed plants.

Monarch butterflies have been in decline for the past several years in part due to the lack of milkweed. Female monarchs will only lay eggs on milkweed plants. If you want to help the monarchs, devote a section of your yard or garden to milkweed plants.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Summer 2014

Welcome to the Town of DeWitt eNews! Inside, discover the latest sustainability news from the Town of DeWitt. For more details on any of these stories, or to forward information for our next newsletter, [e-mail us here](#).

Solarize Syracuse comes to DeWitt



Homeowners and businesses in DeWitt are being offered the opportunity to enjoy special bulk purchasing discounts, and an easy, streamlined permitting and solar installation process through a special program created by Solarize Syracuse, a community initiative that aims to double the amount of solar installations in the City of Syracuse and surrounding towns.

"Many people don't realize that even in Upstate New York, we have plenty of sun to make solar a viable and economical energy choice," said Pete Wirth, a Solarize Syracuse proponent who had solar installed at his Manlius home in 2011. "With our program, it will be easy for homeowners and businesses to switch to a clean, renewable energy source that's price-competitive with what they might be paying for electricity now."

"The Town of DeWitt is proud that our residents and businesses will be able to participate in the savings made possible by the Solarize Syracuse program," said Ed



EAB was confirmed in DeWitt and Syracuse in August of 2013. EAB is a small invasive insect whose larvae feed on the living tissue of ash trees—eventually killing the tree. The Town began removing infested trees over the winter. We have also treated approximately 41 street trees and 53 park trees. More treatments and removals are anticipated. We encourage everybody that has an ash tree on their property to contact a tree specialist

Tree City USA



The Town recently received designation as a Tree City USA for the third consecutive year. This program is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America.

DeWitt also received a Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation for outstanding efforts in our planting initiatives. DeWitt planted 85 new trees in 2013, 109 trees in the spring of 2014 and we plan to plant close to 200 in the fall of 2014. Call Chris Manchester today at 446-3910 ext. 137 to request a street tree in front of your home.

Seasonal Tips

ENERGY STAR® qualified room air conditioners use up to 25 percent less energy than a standard new model and up to 40 percent less energy than a model that is more than 10 years old. Look for a high Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER). Units with high EERs cost less to operate. Turn in your old, room air conditioner to your local waste management facility and turn on a new ENERGY STAR air conditioner.

Michalenko, PhD. Town Supervisor for DeWitt, "Participation in this program continues the Town's commitment to sustainability."

Beginning July 31, Solarize Syracuse will hold a series of nine free workshops throughout these communities. Local solar experts will explain how solar works, and answer questions to help people decide whether solar energy is right for their home or business. The workshops will also cover information about state and federal tax credits, subsidies and low-interest financing available. Enrollment in the Solarize Syracuse program can take place at any workshop or online.

Interested property owners can enroll in the program to receive a free site assessment to determine the suitability of their property. If their sites are suitable, they will be able to purchase a solar installation at substantial cost savings from a local installer chosen by the program, using such criteria as quality workmanship, positive reputation, and good business practices.

The Town of DeWitt will host a Solarize Syracuse workshop at the DeWitt Town Hall on Tuesday, August 12 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Attending a free workshop is not a requirement for participation in the Solarize Syracuse program; information and enrollment is also available through the website www.solarizesyracuse.org.

To take advantage of the bulk discounts, participants must sign a contract with the installer by September 30.

Save the Rain in DeWitt

This Rain Barrel to the left was designed by CNY Decorative Artists and is available for raffle. All proceeds will directly benefit the Butterfly Garden in Ryder Park. Raffle Tickets are available at the Recreation office until Friday 8/1 at 4:30 and at Canal Day on Saturday 8/2 from 3 - 7p. Cost is \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00 or 10 for \$15.00.

The Town of DeWitt received funding to provide approximately 900 rain barrels and plant 350 trees in the neighborhoods of Franklin Park and Park Hill in DeWitt through a Save the Rain Grant. Save the Rain is a county initiative to clean up Onondaga Lake by reducing the amount of rainwater flowing into waste water treatment plants. Currently, we have planted approximately 100 trees and provided 120 rain barrels under this initiative. Call Chris Manchester, Town Naturalist today, 446-

A dirty filter will increase energy use and can damage the air conditioner leading to early failures, so check the filter every month and replace as needed.

Home Performance:

Schedule a Comprehensive Home Assessment conducted by a BPI Accredited Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Contractor. Find a contractor at NYSERDA.NY.GOV.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



3910 ext. 137 to find out if you qualify.

Town Completes Sustainability Plan



The Town of DeWitt Sustainability Committee worked with the [Central New York Regional Planning & Development](#)

[Board](#) and a team of SUNY-ESF students to develop a Town Sustainability Plan through the [Central New York Climate Change Innovation Program \(C2IP\)](#).

In 2011, the Town completed a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory to assess the carbon footprint of government operations and community activities. A GHG Inventory is an analysis of the greenhouse gases emitted by various sectors (e.g., government vehicles, residential energy use) over a period of time. In this case, the Town used data from 2008-2010. The GHG Inventory conducted by the Town served as a baseline for the sustainability planning process.

The Plan is a blueprint for a sustainable future and it outlines actions to reduce the carbon footprint of Town government operations and community activities, while saving energy and reducing costs. The plan consists of a list of measures that the Town can implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020; an analysis of energy and GHG reductions achieved since the 2008 GHG baseline; an assessment of projects currently underway in the Town; and a projection of the impacts of proposed projects to be completed before the 2020 inventory forecast year. The plan highlights steps that the Town can take



to reach GHG reduction targets for both government operations and community activities.

Click [here](#) to review the document.

Thank you for your interest. Visit the [Town of DeWitt Website](#) to learn more about our green initiatives.