

Pfeffer takes over as new Town of Ashford Supervisor



Photo by Max Borsuk

John Pfeffer is sworn in as the Town of Ashford Supervisor by Ashford Town Clerk Patricia Dashnaw.

Max Borsuk
Editor

Growing up in the Town of Ashford and serving on the town board for years, John Pfeffer will now be taking on a new challenge as the new town supervisor. Pfeffer was sworn in as Ashford Town Supervisor at the Jan. 8 Ashford Town Board meeting, replacing former supervisor Charles Davis.

Along with serving as a councilman in Ashford, Pfeffer has been a volunteer member of the **West Valley Citizens Task Force** since 1997, been a member of the Energy Communities Alliance and serves as an EMT and volunteer firefighter for the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company. As Pfeffer settles into his new position, he has started working with other officials in the town and planning new ways to help move the town forward.

"I've lived in the Town of Ashford my entire life ... and when I was in high school in West Valley, I always wanted to do something more for the town and serve the town," Pfeffer said. "I just want to serve the people there and help them get what they need to be successful."

JOURNAL

SPRINGVILLE

Vol. 151 - Issue 47

Published Each Thursday by Neighbor-to-Neighbor News Inc.

January 16, 2020

Davis, who will be staying on the town board as he was appointed to the vacant seat for 2020, has worked with Pfeffer on numerous projects for many years and is confident he will continue leading the town in the right direction as supervisor.

“John and I have worked together for 18 years and there was not anything that he and I didn’t work together on, talk about or come up with a plan,” Davis said.

Looking forward, one of the most important issues Pfeffer wants to handle with the town board is the **Western New York Nuclear Service Center in West Valley** and figuring out ways to keep the decommissioning process moving in the right direction. Working on the town’s comprehensive plan, keeping taxes low, continuing work to get better internet access within the town and finding more grant opportunities are other things Pfeffer would like to work on as supervisor.

“There are a lot of unanswered questions [at the **Western New York Nuclear Service Center**] and I want to help drive that through the federal government and the state government,” Pfeffer said. “I would also like to see some of that facility turned back over to the town or to the taxpayers. There is lots of land there that doesn’t need to be restricted and we need to think about that more.”

Listening to people in the community is also important to Pfeffer and to help hear from residents, he has started a monthly meetings with the supervisor at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240 in West Valley. Residents can share what is on their mind with Pfeffer and give the board ideas of what they want to see in the town.

“I want to make an informal way for people to talk and learn and share their concerns,” Pfeffer said.



Photo by Max Borsuk

New Ashford Supervisor John Pfeffer (right) with former Supervisor Charles Davis (left).

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Letters to the Editor

The opinions in this column are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of this newspaper. Letters should be under 500 words and legible. They must be signed by the writer and accompanied by an address and a daytime phone number. Letters that have appeared in other publications may not be used. Except under highly unusual circumstances, the writer's name will be used. Spelling and grammatical errors, and potentially libelous statements will be edited or deleted. Letters regarding upcoming elections will not be printed the week before Election Day.

West Valley Food Pantry appreciates help

Editor:

As we close out the old year and ring in the new, all of us at the West Valley Food Bank wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who were involved in helping us during the past year.

We would like to thank the West Valley Fire Department, the **West Valley Demonstration Project** (CHBWV), American DND, Tops Market in Springville, the West Valley Central School, the West Valley Post Office and the many private donations from churches and individuals.

So many have been instrumental in supporting our food pantry and helping us carry out our mission to help our neighbors in need. With your help we have been able to assist more than 70 families and provide over 8,500 meals. You all are an inspiration.

Thanks again from the West Valley Food Bank.

Kris Aldrow

West Valley Food Bank

EM site completes demolition of the main plant office building

Workers recently demolished the former main plant office building located at EM's **West Valley Demonstration Project site**. Waste disposition operations continue and are approximately 78 percent complete. This recent demolition brings EM's total number of structures removed to 66.

The main plant office building was a three-story facility that was built in 1964 as part of the original commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant. It was constructed with a steel frame and masonry exterior. It measured approximately 94' x 40' x 47' high or 3,760 sq. ft. The main plant office building housed many different departments over the years, which included operations and operations support personnel. This building also provided viewing access into the chemical process cell inside the main plant process building.

"Once again the CHBWV Team did an excellent job in their pre-planning and execution of this challenging work," WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. "This particular work evolution has certainly changed the landscape of the **WVDP** site. The main plant office building was one of the first buildings constructed on the site and its demolition is a reminder of the ongoing progress here."

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Photo provided

A large excavator, with a shear attachment, takes the first bite out of the main plant office building at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**.

“The **WVDP** team’s work was well-planned and executed in an effort to maintain safety and prevent any damage to the main plant process building, which is scheduled to be demolished in the near future,” CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley President Scott Anderson said, EM’s **WVDP** prime contractor. “Our team continues to leverage their combined knowledge and expertise to safely complete the demolition, disposition, and restoration of facilities no longer needed.”

The main plant office building is the fifth of seven ancillary support buildings that once supported the main plant process building. The remaining two facilities are supporting final main plant process building deactivation and will be demolished in the near future.