



Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk &lt;ulysses.clerk@gmail.com&gt;

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## Ulysses Updates for 6/30/23

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Carissa Parlato, Town Clerk <ulysses.clerk@gmail.com>  
To: Google Groups <town-of-ulysses@googlegroups.com>

Fri, Jun 30, 2023 at 3:03 PM

Hello Ulysses,

It's still a bit smoky out there. Keep track of air quality through:

- your phone's weather app
- [airnow.gov](https://airnow.gov)
- NYS DEC [website](#)
- the air quality hotline: 800-535-1345

We still have KN95 masks here at town hall, should you need one.

See updates for this week below and hope you enjoy your weekend!

### IN THIS WEEK'S ULYSSES NEWSLETTER:

NYS DEC Tips for Reducing Smoke Exposure  
Harmful Algal Blooms- Cayuga Lake  
Dog Census  
Village Beautification  
NYS Health Insurance Info  
Library Summer Reading Program

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### NYS DEC TIPS FOR DEALING WITH WILDFIRE SMOKE:

Here are a few ways to [reduce smoke exposure \(PDF\)](#) for yourself and those you care about:

- **Be aware of your air:** Before heading out to work, exercise, or to the park with the kids, check the [AQI forecast](#) and adjust your outdoor activities if there is poor air quality. Plan ahead by signing up for email [air quality alerts](#).
- **Stay inside:** Keep windows and doors closed to keep indoor air clean. If smoke gets inside, buy or make your own portable air cleaner to [reduce particles indoors](#), or use HEPA air filters in your HVAC system.
- **Wear a mask:** If you must go out, a properly worn N95 mask can filter out large smoke particles, reducing the amount of PM you breathe in.
- **Take it easy:** Avoid strenuous outdoor activities that may cause you to breathe heavier.
- **Protect the vulnerable:** Caretakers of children, the elderly, and those with asthma should be especially careful. When the AQI is elevated, be sure to limit their outdoor activities to keep them safe.
- **Take care of four-legged friends:** Keep outdoor trips with your pet brief and low-key to protect them from the same nose, eye, throat, and lung irritation people experience.

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### HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM ALERT- CAYUGA LAKE

Tompkins County Whole Health is alerting the community that blue-green algae blooms, also known as [HABs \(Harmful Algal Blooms\)](#), have recently been reported in northern portions of Cayuga Lake and monitoring is continuing. These blooms may be small in size and confined to specific areas of the shoreline and bays, though they can form in open waters as well. Areas where blooms are not observed

can continue to be used for recreational use.

Tompkins County Whole Health urges residents and visitors to be aware of HABs. These blooms can occur in any calm body of water and may produce toxins that are harmful to people and animals. Do not drink the water and avoid contact with the water if it appears discolored or has an unpleasant odor. Do not allow pets to swim in water where suspicious cyanobacteria blooms are present. Hot weather and intense rain and runoff events can lead to an increase in the presence of HABs.

#### Identifying HABs:

It might be cyanobacteria if you see: strongly colored water, paint-like appearance, blue-green oily swirls, parallel green streaks, floating mats or scum.

View these images for examples: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81962.html>

View this video for more information about identifying HABs: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nL\\_s77FV-o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nL_s77FV-o)

For more information about cyanobacteria blooms, please visit the Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Page on the Community Science Institute's (CSI's) website: <http://www.communityscience.org/volunteer/harmful-algal-bloom-monitoring/>

If contact occurs with suspicious HABs,

**Rinse thoroughly** with clean water to remove cyanobacteria.

**Rinse dogs** that may have gone in the water, so they do not lick their coats. Dry the dog thoroughly. If the dog has drank any of the water, contact veterinarian for assistance. Click here for more information on the risks HABs present to dogs: [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/habspets.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/habspets.pdf)

Stop using the water and **seek medical attention immediately** if symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur after drinking or having contact with blooms or untreated surface water.

The Community Science Institute (CSI), Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, and Discover Cayuga Lake lead a volunteer program to monitor the Cayuga Lake shoreline for HABs during the summer months. If you'd like to contribute to the HABs monitoring program yourself, please contact Grace Haynes at [aghaynes@communityscience.org](mailto:aghaynes@communityscience.org) for more information.

To stay alert to blooms occurring on Cayuga Lake, check the Cayuga Lake HABs Reporting Page on CSI's website at: <http://www.database.communityscience.org/hab>

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has a map of reported HABs across the State here: <https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae91142c812a4ab997ba739ed9723e6e>

HABs can also be present in smaller ponds. Residents who have private ponds should monitor their ponds for signs of blooms and avoid contact. Residents may contact [Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District](#) (SWCD) for guidance on pond management and a possible site visit to view the suspicious bloom.

If a private resident is interested in testing a bloom, please contact the [Community Science Institute](#) (607-257-6606) to determine testing options and fees.

#### Reporting:

Report any HAB-related health symptoms to the NYS Health Department at [harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov) and call your healthcare provider.

If you see a suspicious bloom in Cayuga Lake, stay out of the water and report the sighting to the Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program by emailing [HABsHotline@gmail.com](mailto:HABsHotline@gmail.com).

If you see a suspicious bloom in another public body of water, stay out of the water and report the sighting to the NYSDEC by filling out and submitting a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form, found here: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/66337b887ccd465ab7645c0a9c1bc5c0>. Email [HABSInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HABSInfo@dec.ny.gov) if you are unable to complete the form.

Learn more about HABs online at: <https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health/habs>

Tompkins County Whole Health (formerly the Tompkins County Health Department): envisioning a future where every person in Tompkins County can achieve wellness. Find us online at [TompkinsCountyNY.gov/health](https://TompkinsCountyNY.gov/health), and follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TompkinsWholeHealth](https://Facebook.com/TompkinsWholeHealth) and on Twitter at [@TCWholeHealth](https://twitter.com/TCWholeHealth). [Sign up](#) to receive Whole Health updates or other county announcements via email or text.

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For health-related questions regarding drinking water or recreational water activities, contact the Environmental Health Division: 607-274-6688

For private ponds, contact the Soil and Water Conservation District: (607) 257-2340

#### **DOG CENSUS- STILL TIME TO LICENSE YOUR DOG:**

The town is conducting a town-wide dog census and needs your help...

- **If you DO NOT have a dog**, please respond at <https://forms.gle/PmQ49SPsvESGZind9> so that we can eliminate you from our mailing list.
- **If you DO have a dog that does not yet have a license**, complete the form at [https://townofulyssesny.gov/\\_cms/docs/Dog-license-form-2022.pdf](https://townofulyssesny.gov/_cms/docs/Dog-license-form-2022.pdf) and return along with rabies/spay information.

Any dogs found to be unlicensed after the census period will be assessed **a \$25 fee** in addition to the usual licensing fees. For information, contact the clerk's office at [ulysses.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:ulysses.clerk@gmail.com) or call (607)387-5767 ext. 221.

Thanks for your help!

#### **VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION:**

Takin' Care of Tburg will hold its third work session of the season Saturday July 8th from 9-11am at the Mini Village. General garden and street cleanup will be done along with the monthly cleanup of the Mini Village. Everyone is welcome, kids included. Thank you to all those who are keeping the planter boxes beautifully blooming.

#### **NYS HEALTH INS INFO:**

Folks who have health insurance through [New York State of Health \(NYSOH\)](https://www.ny.gov/health), such as Essential Plan, Medicaid, and Child Health Plus, may need to update and renew their health insurance applications so that they do not lose health insurance coverage and/or or experience a lag in coverage. Call 2-1-1 or (1-877-211-8667) to make an appointment If you have Medicaid, Essential Plan or Child Health Plus.

During the pandemic, people who had health insurance through (NYSOH) had their applications automatically renewed, but this has come to an end. Tompkins County Human Services Coalition navigators Liz Hoyt ([ehoyt@hsctc.org](mailto:ehoyt@hsctc.org)), and JD Drader ([jdrader@hsctc.org](mailto:jdrader@hsctc.org)), can walk people through the process of updating and renewing their health insurance applications, as well as getting those who do not have health insurance, connected to health insurance. They can also help people with

health insurance challenges they face even if they have private health insurance.

Health Insurance Navigators can help you:

- Understand your insurance options
- Complete an application
- Renew Health Insurance
- Find out eligibility for free or low cost plans
- Make changes to your plan if your situation changes

**LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM:**

**Starting July 5th**, youth aged birth to 18 can register for the program and earn a free book to keep. Throughout the summer, youth can report to us what they are reading by drawing or writing about a book they read. Each time they submit a reading report they will earn another book! (While supplies last; please limit to one report per child per week).

All of the reading reports will be counted toward our **Community Reading Goal of 1,000 books!**

Grown-ups, we'll have a reading challenge for you, too – with some fun prizes!

Check out our [program calendar](#) for information on all of the free programs this summer, both inside and outside of the library.

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*If you are receiving this as a forwarded message and would like to sign up to receive it directly, visit <https://groups.google.com/g/town-of-ulysses>*

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Best,

[Carissa Parlato, CMC \(Certified Municipal Clerk\), RMC \(Registered Municipal Clerk\)](#)

Ulysses Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Records Manager, Notary Public

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Hours: M-F, 10am-3pm (or by appointment)

<https://townofulyssesny.gov/>

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