

Rich History



Quilderland, NY

“Crossroads of the Capital District”



Bright Future



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This publication has been funded in part by a grant from the Town of Guilderland Industrial Development Agency. The I.D.A. works to promote economic development in Guilderland by providing new and expanding businesses that are creating or retaining jobs in the community with a variety of economic incentives, including exemptions from real property, mortgage, and sales taxes on qualifying transactions.

Please contact Guilderland Town Hall at 356-1980 for additional information regarding the Industrial Development Agency.

Welcome to Guilderland. The Town of Guilderland is pleased to present this Guilderland Community Profile and Directory. This resource has been compiled to help new residents find the information that they need to feel at home here in Guilderland, the Capital Region's premier residential community.

“Guilderland is a desirable and attainable place for families and individuals of all ages to live and work”

from "Town of Guilderland 2001 Comprehensive Plan"



Tawasentha Park Gardens

Guilderland is readily accessible from, and offers access to, all locations within the region and beyond. Interstate highway interchanges in or near Guilderland offer easy routes to Boston, Syracuse, and Buffalo on I-90, to New York City and Montreal on I-87, and to Binghamton and the Southern Tier on I-88. Passenger rail service is provided at the nearby Amtrak stations in Schenectady and Albany/Rensselaer, and the expanded and upgraded Albany International Airport is a short drive from anywhere in Guilderland.

Schools in Guilderland are among the best in New York State. Shopping and professional services of all varieties are located within or in close proximity to the Town. Recreational opportunities

that include both Town facilities and organized programs abound.

The uniquely varied nature of the Capital District provides Guilderland residents with the opportunities represented by world-class higher education, research, health care, retail, wholesale, commerce, transportation, and cultural affairs.

At the same time, Guilderland provides a community environment offering quiet and secure residential living in both suburban and rural settings.

Please keep this brochure for your reference. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Town Hall at 356-1980.



Executive Park

Vital Statistics (from 2000 Census)

- Town population of 34,045
- 13,422 households
- 8,945 owner-occupied homes
- 17.2% of homes 10 years old or less
- Median home value of \$135,300
- Median resident age of 38 years
- 4,299 residents aged 65 or over
- 6,507 residents aged 18 or younger
- 70.5% of adult residents attended college
- 54.9% of adult residents have at least an associates' degree
- Median household income of \$58,669
- 25.9% of families have income in excess of \$100,000
- 2.4% of families have income below the poverty threshold
- 53.2% of working adults hold professional or managerial jobs
- 64.9% of workers are private-sector employees
- 29.1% of workers are government employees
- 93.2% of population is U.S.-born; 6.8% is foreign-born

History. In colonial times, Guilderland was part of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, granted by the Dutch West India Company to Killian Van Rensselaer in 1630. The area became known as "Hellerburgh" in the early 1700s for the mountains to the southwest. This Dutch name evolved over time to the current name "Helderberg."

The area became part of the Town of Watervliet in 1778, then became a separate entity when the Town of Guilderland was formed in 1803. The first organizational meeting of the Town Board took place on April 3, 1803. The name honors the Dutch province of Gelderland, the home of many of the early settlers along the Normanskill, the Town's principal waterway.

During the 1800s, the Great Western Turnpike (currently known as U.S. Route 20) served as a primary thoroughfare for the flow of commerce from Albany to the areas to the west. The first railroad tracks were laid in the Town in 1803, and rail traffic gradually surpassed traffic on the roadway.

Early settlements in the Town included West Brighton (now McKownville), Hamilton (now Guilderland), Guilderland Center, and Knowersville (now Altamont). Local businesses in the early days of the Town included a glass factory, an iron foundry, grist mills, saw mills, and taverns.

Guilderland has evolved into a thriving community with a mixture of residential and commercial areas and a 2000 population of over 34,000 residents. The Town's land area of over 58 square miles includes farmland, open space, varied residential neighborhoods, and a broad spectrum of commercial uses, including manufacturing, offices, research facilities, and an array of stores, professional, and service businesses.



Western Turnpike Golf Course



Pathway, Tawasentha Park



Guilderland Town Hall

Government.

Local government services for Guilderland residents are provided by a number of entities, including: Town of Guilderland; Albany County; Guilderland Central School District; Village of Altamont; and various Special Districts for Water, Sewer, Fire, Ambulance, Library, and Street Lighting services. New residents can obtain information regarding which entities service their address from Town Hall.

These units of government operate independently of one another in most respects, each providing its own designated services and generating its own revenue through taxes and/or user fees. Depending on location, residences may be served by varying numbers of these entities. All of these units derive their authority from, and are limited by, New York State laws. A complete description of local government

operations is available on-line through the Local Government Office of the New York State Department of State.

Local government administration is directed by the Town Supervisor, who functions as the Town's chief fiscal and administrative officer, and by the Town Board, which consists of the Town Supervisor and four other members, all elected on a Town-wide basis. The Town Board approves the Town budget, levies taxes, enacts Town laws, provides administrative oversight to Special Districts, and appoints personnel to Town positions.

The Town Clerk registers legal transactions and vital statistics, issues licenses and permits, supervises elections, and maintains custody of official Town records and maps.

The Assessor assigns valuations to real property based on market value. These assessments are used to levy property taxes at the rates assigned by the Town Board and the other entities that assess such taxes.

The Receiver of Taxes collects taxes on behalf of the Town and the other entities that assess real property taxes.

Town Court is presided over by two Town Justices. This jurisdiction handles traffic violations, civil matters, small claims, misdemeanors, and various other violations of Town and New York State Law.



Frederick House Historical Site



A Guilderland Streetscape

The Town of Guilderland

provides the following services

- Police services
- Emergency medical service
- Town parks
- Recreational programs
- Solid waste and recycling services
- Town Court operations
- Supervision of elections
- Youth programs
- Senior citizen services
- Real property assessment
- Collection of property taxes and water/sewer fees
- Land use planning
- Maintenance of birth, death, and marriage records
- Enforcement of land use, zoning, and building codes
- Animal control services
- Maintenance of Town roads
- Maintenance of historical sites

A seven-member Planning Board advises the Town Board on matters relative to land use and zoning law changes, and hears requests from developers and other property owners for proposed developments.

A seven-member Zoning Board of Appeals advises the Town Board on matters relating to zoning law changes, and hears requests for special use permits (required of all business

IDA reviews requests for such benefits in relation to the job creation/retention and other economic benefits that the business proposal adds to the community.

The Economic Development Advisory Council and the Conservation Advisory Council provide informal guidance to new and expanding businesses on the potential economic and environmental impacts of development proposals.

Real property taxes are based on assessments which are representative of the fair market value of properties within the Town. Payments for real property taxes levied by the Town, County, and various Special Districts are due in January. School District and Town Library taxes are due in September. Individual assessments may be discussed with the Assessor at any time. An annual Grievance Day is held each June to provide property owners with an opportunity to be heard in a formal setting when they feel that their property has been improperly assessed.

Town residents can keep informed on matters of current interest in Town government and community affairs by logging on to the Guilderland website at www.townofguilderland.org or by tuning in to Channel 17, the local government access channel on cable television.

“Guilderland’s settlement patterns are focused around attractive and vibrant neighborhoods”

from “Town of Guilderland 2001 Comprehensive Plan”

operations in the town) and for variances from specific provisions of the zoning law with respect to the utilization of specific properties.

The Guilderland Industrial Development Agency has the authority to provide new and expanding businesses with low-cost financing and abatement from property, sales, and mortgage recording taxes. The

The revenues that support Town government operations come from property taxes, sales tax, mortgage recording tax, state aid, revenue sharing, grants from various government agencies, and user fees. Town budgets are developed in a series of public meetings in the fall, followed by public hearings before the Town Board. Town budgets must, by law, be approved on or before November 20.

Recreation. The Town of Guilderland maintains an outstanding park system, which offers a wide variety of year-round outdoor opportunities. Residents may obtain a vehicle registration sticker at no charge at Town Hall that allows free access to all Town parks.

Tawasentha Park on Route 146, together with the adjoining Winter Recreation Area, is the centerpiece of the parks



Tawasentha Park Public Pool



Western Turnpike Golf Course

system. The swimming pool area includes diving, lap area, kiddy pool, changing area, and concession stand. Swimming classes for all age and skill levels are offered each summer, and the Guilderland Parks Department operates the popular Day Camp and Sports Camp programs from Tawasentha each summer. Day Camp programs include swimming and arts and crafts. Sports Camp offerings include golf, soccer, softball, tennis, football, wrestling, gymnastics, and archery.

The Tawasentha complex also offers hiking, canoeing, fishing, tennis, basketball, and playground areas. The local Babe Ruth League plays at Tawasentha, which also has another field available for recreational use. Picnic tables and grills are available throughout the park, and the park's two pavilions may be reserved for group events.

During the winter months, sledding is available at the Winter Recreation Area, and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are available throughout the complex. GRAB, the Guilderland Rock Adventure Barn, provides an opportunity to engage in this popular recreational activity.

The Town of Guilderland now owns and operates the Western Turnpike Golf Course, a 27-hole facility complete with driving range and unique 18-hole putting course. Western Turnpike also offers a variety of golf leagues, a fully-stocked pro shop, lessons from P.G.A.-certified teaching professionals, and extensive banquet facilities. Town of Guilderland residents who present resident photo identification cards which are available at Town Hall receive discounts on annual passes and daily greens fees.

During the winter, Western Turnpike offers cross-country skiing on over five miles of groomed trails, along with other cold-weather recreational activities. The clubhouse is open for warmth and refreshments.

Baseball, softball, and soccer fields are offered for league and recreational play at Keenholts Park on French's Mill Road and at Nott Road Park. The latest addition to the Town's sports-oriented park program has come with the development of a number of soccer fields at DiCaprio Park on East Lydius Street. Volunteer groups direct the sports leagues that operate at Town Park facilities.

Smaller neighborhood parks offering ball fields, basketball courts, picnic areas, and playgrounds include Abele Park in McKownville, Fort Hunter Park on Ronald Place, and Lone Pine Park on Benjamin Street.

The Guilderland Parks Department also operates the Community Gardens on Route 146 where Town residents can obtain free use of garden plots.

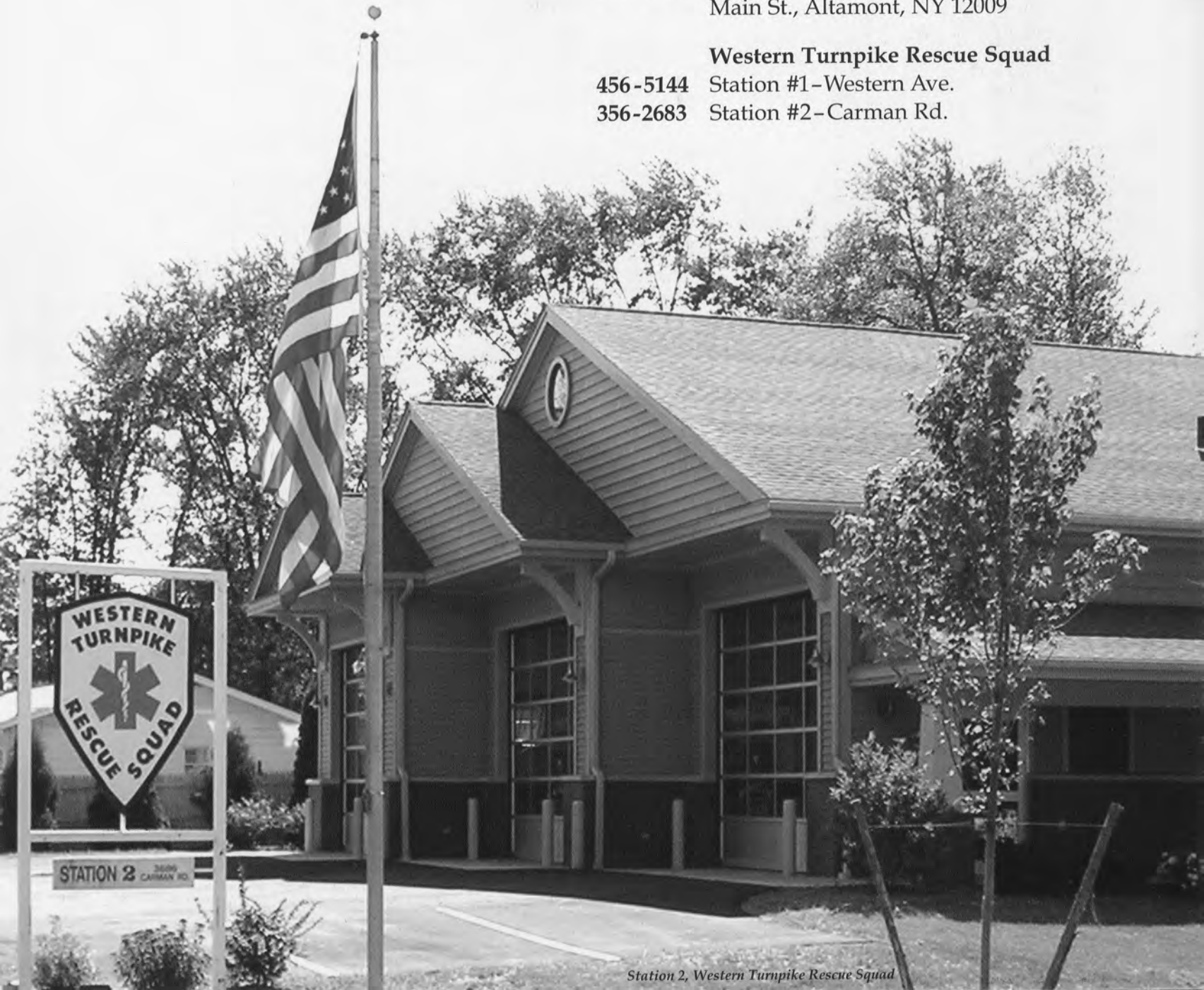


Guilderland Community Gardens

Emergency Services.

Guilderland has an excellent network of emergency services. This network is comprised almost entirely of volunteer personnel. Residents are urged to become involved with these organizations.

- 861-8171 **Altamont Fire Department**
Main St., Altamont, NY 12009
- 355-2434 **Fort Hunter Fire District**
Carman Rd., Schenectady, NY 12303
- 456-5000 **Guilderland Fire Department**
Western Turnpike, Guilderland, NY 12084
- 861-8871 **Guilderland Center Fire Department**
School Rd., Guilderland Center, NY 12085
- 489-4340 **McKownville Fire Department**
1250 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12203
- 456-5200 **Westmere Fire Department**
1741 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12203
- 861-6715 **Altamont Rescue Squad**
Main St., Altamont, NY 12009
- Western Turnpike Rescue Squad**
- 456-5144 Station #1 - Western Ave.
356-2683 Station #2 - Carman Rd.



Station 2, Western Turnpike Rescue Squad

Schools in Guilderland.

The Guilderland Central School District was created in 1950 through the consolidation of ten smaller districts. The School District is an entity separate from and independent of the Town of Guilderland. It is governed by an elected nine-member School Board, and funds its operations through its own property tax levy, state aid, and other sources of income. Questions regarding the District may be directed to its Administrative Offices, 6076 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084 (456-6200).



Lynwood Elementary School

The School District operates five elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. Guilderland's schools are highly regarded for academic excellence, and offer a full range of academic programs, including college preparation and advanced placement, as well as an outstanding special education program. There is a comprehensive program of interscholastic athletics, intramural sports and extracurricular activities, and an extensive range of adult and continuing education offerings.

The Guilderland Central School District is a member of the Capital Region Bureau of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), a consortium of area school districts that collaboratively offers and funds a variety of vocational and special education programs that would be costly for member districts to offer individually.

Guilderland Central School District facilities include:

- 861-8528 Altamont Elementary School**
117 Grand St., Altamont

- 456-3771 Westmere Elementary**
6270 Johnston Rd., Westmere

- 869-0293 Guilderland Elementary School**
2225 Western Ave., Guilderland

- 355-7930 Lynnwood Elementary School**
8 Regina Dr., Guilderland

- 357-2770 Pine Bush Elementary School**
3437 Carman Rd., Guilderland

- 456-6010 Farnsworth Middle School**
6072 State Farm Rd., Guilderland

- 861-8591 Guilderland Central High School**
School Rd., Guilderland Center

Private schools located in the Town of Guilderland include:

- 456-6400 Christ the King**
Sumpter Ave., Westmere

- 355-3080 Saint Madeline Sophie**
3510 Carman Rd., Guilderland

Not all residents of the Town of Guilderland are residents of the Guilderland Central School District. Portions of the Town are located in:

- 356-8200 Mohonasen Central School District**

- 355-9200 Schalmont Central School District**

- 869-3576 South Colonie Central School District**

- 765-3314 Voorheesville Central School District**

None of these districts operates a school facility within the Town of Guilderland.



Farnsworth Middle School



Lynnwood Reformed Church



Altamont Reformed Church

Houses of Worship

861-8711 Altamont Reformed Church
129 Lincoln Avenue
Altamont, NY 12009

861-6695 Berean Baptist Church
Main Street
Guilderland Center, NY 12085

356-1671 Carman Road Alliance Church
3313 Carman Road
Schenectady, NY 12303

456-8063 Christ's Church
2 Charles Boulevard
Guilderland, NY 12084

456-1530 Christ Lutheran Church
1500 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

456-1644 Christ the King Roman Catholic Church
20 Sumpter Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

862-0944 Cornerstone Christian Church
183 Schoolhouse Road
Albany, NY 12203

456-5410 Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church
2291 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY 12084

861-6213 Helderberg Reformed Church
Main Street
Guilderland Center, NY 12085

861-5965 Kingdom Hall, Jehovah's Witnesses
Depot Road
Altamont, NY 12009

356-4237 Lynnwood Reformed Church
3700 Carman Road
Schenectady, NY 12303

456-1148 McKownville United Methodist Church
1565 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

482-5781 Shabbos House Jewish Community
67 Fuller Road
Albany, NY 12203

355-0134 St. Boniface Episcopal Church
Route 20, McCormack's Corners
Guilderland, NY 12084

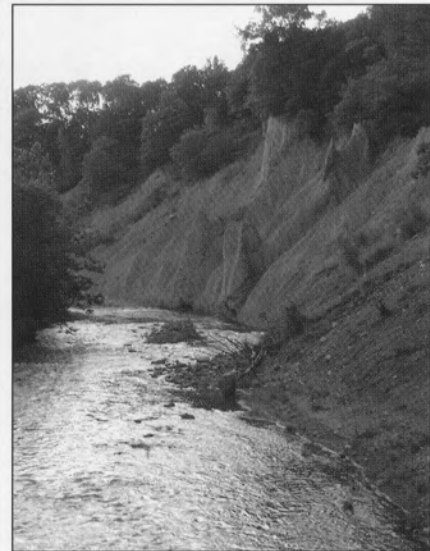
861-8862 St. John's Lutheran Church
142 Maple Avenue
Altamont, NY 12009

861-8770 St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church
109 Grand Street
Altamont, NY 12009

355-0421 St. Madeleine Sophie Roman Catholic Church
3500 Carman Road
Schenectady, NY 12303



The Helderberg Escarpment



The Normnskill Gorge

Community Organizations

- 218-1167 **Community Caregivers**
300 Millrose Court
Guilderland, NY 12084
- 355-2480 **Guilderland Elks Lodge**
3867 Carman Road
Schenectady, NY 12303
- 456-6611 **Guilderland Chamber of Commerce**
2021 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203
- 456-3634 **Guilderland YMCA**
250 Winding Brook Drive
Guilderland, NY 12084
- 356-1980 **Guilderland Senior Services Department**
Town Hall, McCormack's Corners
Guilderland, NY 12084

“Guilderland is a community that looks to the future in the belief that through continued community dialogue and action it can manage and shape change for the better”

from "Town of Guilderland 2001 Comprehensive Plan"

Town of Guilderland

Guilderland Town Hall

P.O. Box 339

Guilderland, NY 12084

(518) 356-1980

