

VILLAGE VOICES

Number 105

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

August 2017

News from the Mayor's Office

The summer rains haven't seemed to deter activity in Cooperstown. As always, the season brings a lot of energy to the village. The Hall of Fame, Fenimore Art Museum, Farmers' Museum and Glimmerglass Festival are in high gear. Because Village Voices goes to print before Induction weekend ends, I can't tell you how things went, but I hope everyone had a great time.

The Village government has been busy as well. At the July Board of Trustees meeting, we approved the first Planned District Development for the Bank of Cooperstown. The PDD law is a way for the Trustees to field concepts that, in the best of circumstances, can lead to appropriate business/residential growth in areas of the village that are not zoned in a way that would be conducive to good ideas. We are pleased that the Bank of Cooperstown applied for a PDD and, now that it has been approved by the Trustees, await the guidance of the Planning Board, which still will do Site Plan Review.

Our street paving was done in June but, as you will read later in Village Voices, a full Pioneer St. reconstruction is slated to start in fall. Also coming is more work at Village Hall. In the last year, and in the next four years, we are focused on getting our historic building back to the condition it belongs.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and don't forget that this year's Harvest Supper will take place on Sunday, September 24, at 4 PM, on Main St. between Fair and River Sts. Come out to see your neighbors who may have become lost in the summer crowds!

- Mayor Katz

Pioneer Street

The Village is pleased to announce that infrastructure improvements are coming to Pioneer Street this year. The first phase of the Pioneer Street project involved paving from Beaver to Elm Street this spring.

The second phase will involve the portion of Pioneer Street from Elm Street to Otsego Lake. This project will include replacement of all water and sewer lines and the addition of more storm

water infrastructure. This will require excavation of the street up to a depth of 14 feet in some locations and the removal of a small number of trees that will be threatened by the work. Once the utility work is complete, curbing can be replaced or reset and the street paved.

The Village is committed to limiting construction within the business district portion of Pioneer Street to the period after Labor Day and before Memorial Day. While street closures will be necessary, the Village intends to provide for pedestrian access throughout the work period. This winter streets will be made passable, although final paving is planned for the spring to allow for settling over the winter and reopening of asphalt plants.

The Village is planning a public information session with more details about the project on Tuesday, August 22 at the Fire Hall at 24 Chestnut Street at 7pm. If you live in the affected area and know that your water or sewer lateral is in need of repairs, please contact DPW Superintendent Mitchell Hotaling at 547-2411 to discuss alternatives as soon as possible.

Beginning in 2018, the Village anticipates work on sidewalks on Pioneer Street between Church and Lake Streets and on Main Street west of the Cooperstown Diner and east of Hoffman Lane. Again, work within the business district will not occur during the busy summer season in June, July, or August. This is part of our exciting federal TEP award, which is designed to improve the experience of pedestrians and bicyclists within the downtown area.

Fall Yard Work

The Village of Cooperstown continues to offer leaf pickup for residents and property owners this fall, beginning in mid-October. You can facilitate this process by following these guidelines:

- 1) Leaves should be placed loose between the curb and sidewalk. You should not use plastic or paper bags or hard containers as we will pick them up using the leaf vacuum.
- 2) Place brush in a separate pile between the curb and sidewalk. Do not put brush in containers. Keep brush separated from leaves. Root balls,

stumps, and large tree limbs will not be picked up, as we can only take material that will go through our shredder.

- 3) Do not include non-compostable materials like plastic flower pots, construction debris, processed lumber, bricks, or stones with leaves or brush.
- 4) Do not place leaves or brush in the street where they can clog drains and lead to flooding.
- 5) Residents may also bring green waste (leaves, brush, grass clippings) at any time to the Village Street Garage on Linden Avenue and deposit it themselves in the appropriate area. Commercial dumping is prohibited.

Leaf pickup will be scheduled on four routes. Both the website www.cooperstownny.org and the sign at the fire hall will be updated to indicate what route is upcoming. Remember that pickup starts early, so please have everything out before 7 a.m.

Route 1: Linden Ave., Chestnut St., Main St, Averill Rd., Hill St., Beech St., Rock St., Spring St., Westridge Rd., Doubleday Parking Lot

Route 2: West Beaver St., Maple St., Glen Ave., Grove St., Railroad Ave., Leatherstocking St., Fair St. (Main-Otsego Lake), Lake St., Prospect Pl., Pine Blvd., Nelson Ave.

Route 3: River St., Estli Ave., Mill St., Elk St., Fernleigh Dr., Brooklyn Ave., Lakeland Shores, any remaining portions of Chestnut St. and Main St.

Route 4: Walnut St., Beaver St., Fair St. (Beaver-Church), Elm St., Church St., Delaware Ave., South Ave., Susquehanna Ave., Pioneer St., Eagle St., Cooper Ln.

If you have any questions please call Mitch Hotaling, DPW Superintendent at 607-547-2411.

Movie at Doubleday Field

The Village is proud to present *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* at Doubleday Field on Thursday, August 24 at 8:30 p.m. *Rogue One* was released by Lucasfilm in 2016 and is a stand-alone addition to the Star Wars story. Whether you are already a Star Wars fan or new to the series, come out and join us for a free movie at Doubleday!

Village Rain Gardens

Thank You Village Volunteers

We kicked off the 2017 season of cleaning the 37 Rain Gardens along Cooperstown's Main Street on April 27. A good deal of trash was eliminated as well as leaves that gathered after the late fall clean up. In 2016, the first clean up was March 13 but this Spring the weather just didn't cooperate. And...in case you're wondering, in 2016, 6 volunteers cleaned the gardens 20 times and contributed 57.5 volunteer hours to the Village. We thank John Saphier, Karen Katz, Vicki Gates, Ed Bischof and Catherine Tuttle - you are excellent Cooperstown Ambassadors. For the 2017 season we welcome new volunteers Rob & Jack Gollhofer.

Submitted by Rich McCaffery, Rain Garden Volunteer Coordinator.

Lakefront Concert Series

Bring a chair or blanket and relax on the shore of Otsego Lake

Cooperstown Lakefront Concert Series continues through August, every Tuesday at 7 PM, at Lakefront Park

1: **Realtime Dixieland Band** - A 7 piece ensemble performing some of Dixieland's most popular standards.

8: **Cooperstown Community Band** - Celebrating 156 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, Dixieland, jazz, themes & favorites!

15: **Scott Freeman Band** - A quartet playing a diverse repertoire of classical, jazz, oldies, Irish and pop music. A Half Century Of Music & A Whole Evening Of Entertainment!

22: **Fritz Henry** - Solo singer and guitar offers fun and interactive variety of music for all ages - always a treat! Come on down and enjoy!

29: **Lipbone Redding** - One-man orchestra. Unplugged. Unexpected. This no-tech performance weaves stories, rhythms, melodies, humor, singing, & inventive guitar playing.

For more information and sign up for e-mail alerts, contact Concert Coordinator Rich McCaffery at richcooperstown@gmail.com or 607-547-5256. For updates go to www.richcooperstown.org

Sponsored by the Village of Cooperstown Parks Commission, www.CooperstownNY.org, with support from Central NY Mobile Marketing, cnymobilemarketing.com.

Village Holiday Schedule

The Village Offices will be closed:

- ❖ September 4 (in observance of Labor Day)
- ❖ October 9 (in observance of Columbus Day)

Property Tax Reminder

Village residents are reminded that the second installment of the Village Property Taxes is due on or before August 31, 2016 to avoid penalties. If you have any questions please contact the Village Treasurer, Debra Guerin at 547-8558 Ext 108 or e-mail cooperstowntreasurer@stny.rr.com.

Parking Permits

Still need a parking pass? Paid parking continues until Columbus Day, Monday, October 9. Passes are still available for \$25; after Labor Day, the price drops to \$10. Your pass will allow you to park:

- 1) In a legal space on the street in the paid parking area for up to two hours a day
- 2) In the Fowler Way lot anytime from 6am to 2am
- 3) In the Doubleday Field lot after 4pm

You can get the required paperwork online at www.cooperstownny.org under the "permits" tab or in person at the Village offices at 22 Main Street.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant and/or Storm Drain

We continue to be appreciative of our Village volunteers who so diligently help keep our community safer by clearing snow from around fire hydrants and drains free from debris we still have both hydrants & drains looking for care takers. If you are currently cleaning either or both of these and have not notified us, we encourage you to do so....it's very simple. We maintain an on-going list of the 126 hydrants and 313 water drains (each has a number) and who has adopted each. This helps when new people come on board we can quickly see if the hydrant or drain is available to adopt. So, please help us keep our records up to date.

For more information see the Village website at www.cooperstownny.org and contact volunteer Rich McCaffery at ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com or call 547-5256 to care for your hydrant or drain.

Sidewalk Use

Residents and property owners are reminded that motor vehicles should not use the sidewalks other than to enter or exit driveways. This is particularly important for the new sidewalks

with pavers on Main Street, as the pavers are rated for foot traffic only. In the future watering plants in baskets hanging from lampposts will be accomplished from the street side and snow removal will be accomplished using lighter equipment. Please help us to promote pedestrian safety and maintain our infrastructure for years to come by keeping vehicles off sidewalks.

RV Parking

Have friends in town with an RV who don't know where to park while they spend time downtown? Vehicles over 20 feet in length are prohibited from parking on all Village streets. However, larger vehicles can be accommodated at the three trolley lots. New signage in the Blue Lot (off Route 28 South) will designate a limited number of easy pull-in RV parking spaces as we begin the fall travel season. Campgrounds for overnight stays are listed on the ThisIsCooperstown.com website.

Village Parks

Looking for an inexpensive family outing? Fairy Spring and Three Mile Point parks are free for Village residents. Both parks are open for the season, 7 days a week through Labor Day, September 4th. Three Mile Point Park opens at 10 AM and Fairy Spring Park opens at 11 AM both remain open until dusk with swimming as staffing permits. *(The staff works diligently to ensure lifeguards are on duty at both parks whenever possible however there are times when one or both parks shut down the swimming areas due to lack of staff.)*

Village residents may get their free park pass at either park or at the Village Office with just their identification which includes their village address. This pass will allow you and your immediate family (i.e. 2 adults and their children, living within the same household), access to either Fairy Spring or Three Mile Point Park *(If your family chooses to bring guests they will either need to purchase their own pass or pay \$5.00 per person admission price at the park.)*

To ensure a family friendly environment and the safety of all patrons we remind you:

- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted;
- Pets must be leashed at all times and owners must clean up after pets.
- Charcoal grills and picnic tables are available for your enjoyment;
- Pavilions are available on a first come first serve basis unless rented to a group or organization;
- To carry out whatever you bring in (i.e. food, garbage, bottles, cans, etc.);
- Parking is limited, please car pool if possible

Incentives for Commercial Projects

The Village of Cooperstown is pleased to continue two property tax abatement programs for commercial and mixed-use buildings. These programs do not affect current tax assessments, but they do allow for the gradual phase-in of increased value when improvements are made. As a result, increases in property taxes are incurred more slowly, allowing building owners to better prepare and recoup some of their costs without a dramatic spike in assessed value.

The first program provides an incentive to make improvements to existing commercial buildings or for new commercial construction. Approved renovations or new construction by businesses may be eligible for a 50 percent exemption of real property taxes on all improvements for the first year. After the first year, assessed value would be increased by 5 percent per year until the eleventh year, when the property becomes fully taxed.

The second program is for the conversion of nonresidential real property to mixed-use property, when the cost exceeds \$10,000. Often this means the conversion of underutilized commercial upper floors to apartments. For the first eight years, increased assessed tax value as a result of an approved conversion would be 100 percent abated. In years 9 to 12, the new assessed value would be phased in, increasing 20 percent per year.

To take advantage of either of these programs, contact Village Assessor Al Keck at 547-6057.

Additionally, businesses can qualify for both state and federal historic preservation income tax credits. Owners of income-producing real properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including those contributing in our Glimmerglass Historic District, may be eligible for a 20% federal income tax credit. The work performed (both interior and exterior) must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and be approved by the National Park Service. Owners who qualify for the federal credit can also take advantage of a 20% state income tax credit. For more information, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at (518) 237-8643 or Otsego 2000 at 547-8881.

Want Money for Repairing your Historic Home

If you live in the Village of Cooperstown and your house was built before 1949, you might qualify for a state income tax credit for work on your home. New York State offers income tax credits for homeowners in qualifying census tracts (of which ours is one) who do more than \$5,000 of approved work on their historic house. At least 5% must be spent on the exterior of the home, and all work must

be approved by the State Historic Preservation Office before it begins. The tax credit is equal to 20% of approved qualifying expenses up to \$50,000. For more information, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at (518) 237-8643 or Otsego 2000 at 547-8881.

Recent Staff Promotions

The Village of Cooperstown is very pleased to announce the promotion of the following employees:

On June 1, Debra Guerin was appointed to the position of Village Treasurer.

Ms. Guerin was promoted from the position of Deputy Clerk-Treasurer with the Village of Cooperstown, a position she has held since April of 2016. Ms. Guerin has both educational and professional experience in the field of accounting. Prior to joining the Village of Cooperstown staff, she was a subcontractor with Green Circle Accounting and worked in the Glimmerglass Festival's accounting department.

Mitch Hotaling was appointed to the position of Public Works Superintendent on June 28.

Mr. Hotaling was promoted from the position of Village Street Superintendent a position he has held since September of 2015. Mr. Hotaling has worked in the Village of Cooperstown since June of 2003, originally holding the position of seasonal laborer at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, moving to the Streets Department in June of 2005 as a Laborer with promotion to Heavy Motor Equipment Operator, followed by promotion to Working Supervisor prior to his appointment as Street Superintendent.

Village Telephone Numbers

Main Office	547-2411
Administrator- Teri Barown	ext. 102
Zoning Officer- Jane Gentile	ext. 112
Public Works Sup. – Mitch Hotaling	ext. 104
Treasurer's Office	547-8558
Treasurer – Debra Guerin	ext. 108

Village Police	547-2500
Village Library	547-8344
Village Street Dept.	547-5521
Village Water Dept.	547-5591
Village Sewer Dept.	547-8501
Doubleday Field	547-2270