

VILLAGE VOICES

Number 98

Editor, Jennifer Truax, Deputy Village Clerk

November 2015

News from the Mayor's Office

Is there any place more beautiful than Cooperstown in fall? (Answer: no). Not only have we been fortunate to have wonderful weather, but we also shared two great events on Main St. In September, hundreds of us gathered for the 4th Annual Community Harvest Supper, sponsored by Growing Community. It's an amazing afternoon into evening, with old and new friends and neighbors sharing food and drink, a family dinner writ large. In October, thousands of locals and visitors came to Main St. for the 1st Cooptoberfest. Thanks to the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, Brewery Ommegang, and Townsquare Media for working together to bring this to Cooperstown.

The flip side of fall is that winter, though still beautiful, is coming. The Village will be finished with a huge amount of infrastructure work and will be getting ready for the coming snow. We'll also be getting ready to hear word on our CFA grant applications. For this round, we put in applications for improvements to 22 Main St., the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Fairy Spring. We're also awaiting word as to whether the Mohawk Valley will be awarded one of three \$500 million prizes in the Upstate Revitalization Initiative. Winning that money will transform the region and no doubt help Cooperstown and Otsego County in huge ways. Appropriate projects, in tourism, agriculture and technology, may be in our future.

Enjoy the rest of the fall and the beginning of winter.

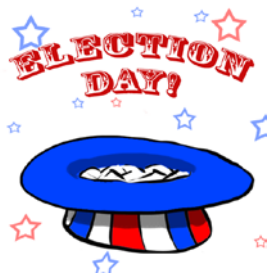
Jeff Katz – Mayor

Village Elections - 2016

Election Day for the Village will be Tuesday, March 15, 2016. The following offices are up for re-election:

- ❖ Mayor – Two year term
- ❖ Trustee (2) – Three year term

Absentee ballot applications are available at the Village Office during regular office hours, Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 4 PM. Applications may be returned on or after November 15, 2015.



Paid Parking

During the 2015 Paid Parking Season the Village of Cooperstown collected \$384,347.55 from transactions at its twenty parking kiosks. This is an increase of more than \$30,000 over last year. Actual receipts are on target with the budgeted projection of \$385,000 in parking revenue for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

With a general fund budget of approximately \$3.6 million, paid parking revenue provides a significant source of income, more than 10 percent of the total budget. A tax increase that would generate comparable funds would amount to more than 21 percent of the current tax levy of \$1,779,726. Parking fees help keep property taxes level without sacrificing services. In the three seasons since on-street paid parking was instituted in 2013, revenues from the Doubleday Field lot and on-street kiosks have totaled over a million dollars.

This year, on-street revenues, collected from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, amounted to 56 percent of the total parking income. Paid parking in the Doubleday Field lot, in effect from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day, accounted for the remainder.

The Village appreciates the support of its residents, business owners, and visitors as paid parking has been implemented. Any comments can be directed to the Streets Committee at 22 Main St., P.O. Box 346, Cooperstown, NY 13326.

Small Business Saturday

Before you buy holiday gifts on-line or drive to Utica or Albany, join people around the country by participating in Small Business Saturday on November 28. Shopping in Cooperstown supports local business owners and keeps local money in our local community. While the discount prices at big box stores may be appealing, after factoring in time and gas, good deals are not always so good. Paying sales tax in Cooperstown—rather than somewhere else—also helps keep property taxes in check since a portion of local sales tax is returned to the Village.

If you think that all Cooperstown has to offer is baseball, explore further this holiday season. Remember that the 2-hour limit for parking is suspended on Main Street between Pine Boulevard and Fair Street from Thanksgiving through Martin Luther King Day (third Monday in January).

Leaf Pickup

Last year, our leaf pickup was inadequate due to light staffing at the streets department and, unfortunately, a breakdown in our equipment towards the end of fall. The Village is committed to doing a better job for our residents and property owners this fall. You can facilitate this process by following the following 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, and 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 Brian Clancy, DPW Superintendent at 607-547-2411.

Dangerous Situation & Helpful Pointersdra

A very serious situation has happened recently. Several times when there have been trees and wires knocked down, there have been onlookers way to close to the downed trees. When a tree (or a part of a tree) comes in contact with electrical wires, the tree can act as a grounding rod for the electrical current. If the electrical lines stay live, then anything they come in contact with also becomes live. At the last couple of tree down calls in the Village, there were wires that were draped on fences, and both energized. If curious bystanders had touched the fences or the trees, there is a very good chance they would not be reading this today. Electrical wires throughout the area carry very high voltage. A power line that falls down and makes contact with a fence, guardrail or water can energize those objects and the energy can travel on the object for a long distance. That is why we wait for NYSEG to come and shut down the power. Please, if there is a tree down stay away from the area.

Another concern is if you are leaving the area for the winter. Please make sure you have your driveway cleared in case there is a call at your house. Also, we now participate in the Knox Box Concept. This is a small box which the homeowner or business owner purchase from Knox Box Corporation. This box gets mounted on the outside of the structure with a set of the door keys locked inside of the box. The 3 fire Chiefs and the 2 Cooperstown PD vehicles have a key which will unlock the boxes in case we need to make entry into the structure. This would save having to break a window or force open a door during a call or an alarm. Contact me for further information about this system.

Help us help you.

- Jim Tallman – Chief

Santa Claus is coming to Town.....



Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in Cooperstown on November 27, 2015 by horse drawn wagon, at 5:30 p.m. Santa's cottage is located on Main Street in Pioneer Park. Stop in for a visit - he is looking forward to seeing everyone. Remember "He knows if you've been bad or good", so stop in and see him in person.

Children's Christmas Party

The children's Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 2- 4 p.m. at the Cooperstown Fire Department. This is one of the high points of our fall and winter activities. It is an event, which brings friends and families together. This year's event will include horse drawn wagon rides in addition to caroling, crafts, photos with Santa, games and refreshments.

Caring for your Sidewalk

Last year the Village adopted a new law for sidewalk maintenance and use.

- Trees and shrubs must be trimmed so as not to impede pedestrian use of public sidewalks.
- Parking is prohibited on public sidewalks.
- Driving on public sidewalks is prohibited except where a portion of the sidewalk is part of an established driveway.
- Owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks adjoining their properties. If this duty is neglected, the expenses incurred by the Village in removing ice and snow will be charged to the property owner.
- The use of sodium chloride (rock salt) is prohibited on public sidewalks. Look for deicers labeled as safe for concrete.
- In the business district it is not required that snow be removed from the new pavers, but business and property owners may choose to do so.
- Snow or ice you clear must not be deposited on streets or sidewalks.
- Snow or ice must not be deposited on someone else's property without express permission.

Street Repairs

This year the Village was able to undertake an ambitious street repair program that allowed for the resurfacing and/or preventative maintenance of portions of nine streets: Pine Blvd., Main St., Church St., River St., Beaver St., Delaware St., Linden Ave., Cooper Ln., and Hoffman Ln.

In addition \$200,000 was placed in a reserve fund to be used for the next phase of the Main Street project, extending sidewalk improvements from River St. to Pine Blvd. and providing for a complete reconstruction of Pioneer St. from Lake St. to Church St. That project, largely funded with federal dollars, is slated to begin in 2017.

The Village would like to recognize the assistance it received from the City of Oneonta, Town of Otsego, and Town of Middlefield with street work this summer. Thanks to shared services agreements with these municipalities, we are able help one another to ensure road work is completed efficiently and economically. This year's resurfacing and road sealing projects benefitted from equipment and labor provided by our neighbors, and we are grateful they could provide these services.

Costly News from the Water Department

- 1) Each residence has a black touch pad which is approximately 2" X 3" in size. This pad allows the Village to read the meter without gaining access to your home. Recently, we have encountered more and more residents removing this pad from the exterior of their home. These pads cost approximately \$50 each. Effective immediately, replacement touch pads will be charged to the home owner. If you are planning to do work to the exterior of the home please contact the Water Department prior to removal so that appropriate arrangements can be made and you are not accessed the \$50 charge.
- 2) All Water and Sewer Consumers are reminded that there is a monthly 2.00% Penalty for all amounts unpaid for any billing period. Your new bill should make the penalties easier to recognize. Also please note that the penalties reflected for late payment are only accurate for one month, new penalties are added each month.
- 3) The fee for final reads and reactivations for water and sewer accounts will be \$50.00.

If you have any questions regarding your touch pad please contact the Water Department at 607-547-5591. Questions regarding billing and fees should be directed to the Village Treasurer, Derek Bloomfield, at 607-547-8558 extension, 108.

Cooperstown Comprehensive Plan Update

Thank you to the all of the Village residents who stopped by the Cooperstown Fire Hall on June 11th to attend. If you weren't able to attend but still would like to have your voice heard, please visit the meetings and public involvement page of the project website at <https://coopplan.wordpress.com/meetings-public-involvement>. Click on the Open House Materials link and send your comments in an e-mail to: info@elanpd.com. Please include "Community Open House" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Steering Committee composed of elected officials, residents, and business people is meeting to develop a Vision Statement and Goals based on information gathered from participants at the Design Charrette and Open House. The project team at Elan has been working on Concept Plans for Doubleday Field and the Railroad District as well. Keep up with all the latest at the project website: <https://coopplan.wordpress.com>.

Reminders from the Water Department

- Meters will be read again in January.
- Remember to leave an opening for operators to access the water touch pad at your residence or business. For instance, if you have fencing around your shrubs, please leave an opening for them to access the touch pad.
- Even slight drafts during winter weather may cause your water meter to freeze and break. To avoid the expense and inconvenience, please ensure that your water meter is draft free.
- Leaving for the winter? Don't forget to drain your household water pipes and water meter to prevent the pipes from freezing while you're away.
- If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 547-5591.

Snow Pile

Remember the giant snow pile at the Blue Trolley Lot at the end of Linden Ave.? We recognize that it is unsightly. However, its location is anything but accidental. The Blue Lot was designed with excellent drainage for storm water and snow melt, and the pile was located in proximity to the drains. Before entering the Susquehanna River, water from melting snow that enters these drains is naturally filtered to remove chemicals, such as salt, which would otherwise pollute the river. Additionally, by piling plowed snow on the paved surface, debris left after the melt—stones, leaves, and trash, for example—can be swept up and properly disposed. Will there be a similar snow pile this year? Perhaps. We can, however, all do our part to make the pile less offensive by ensuring that trash is deposited in a trash can and not on the road or sidewalk

Snow & NYS Vehicle & Traffic Laws

The Cooperstown Police are reminding drivers to clear all snow and ice from their vehicles before driving. Not only does this practice provide better visibility for the driver, it prevents snow or ice from flying off the vehicle onto other moving vehicles.

The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law require drivers to have an unobstructed view from the front, rear and sides of a vehicle. This law also prohibits depositing snow on the roadway by any means, whether from shoveling, plowing or driving a snow-covered car out of your driveway to let the wind clean it off. Questions on snow removal in the Village can be directed to the Police at 547-2500.

All Night Parking

An all-night parking ban is in effect from November 1 – April 1. Vehicles are NOT permitted to be parked overnight on any Village street. All night parking is permitted only as indicated in Doubleday Parking lot and the Fowler Way Parking lot.

Fire Hydrants

As winter approaches please remember that your assistance in removing snow from around the fire hydrants within your neighborhood is extremely valuable. Please remember to completely remove all of the snow from around the hydrant, especially on the street side. This will allow easy access should the fire department need to hook up hoses and operate the hydrant. Your efforts will save valuable time should an unfortunate situation arise which calls our firefighters into action.

2016 Boat Dock & Rack Rental

We will begin to accept names for the boat dock & canoe/kayak rack waiting list on March 1st. To be put on the waiting list, you must come to the Village office on or after Tuesday, March 1st, during regular business hours. Spaces are assigned on a first come first assigned basis.

Last year's renters will automatically be assigned a slip/rack space and will have until March 31st to renew for the season. Slips that are not renewed will become available for those on the waiting list.

The trustees are continuing to work diligently to make upgrades to our current docks. Plans are still underway to replace one dock prior to opening for the 2016 season. We will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Village Holiday Schedule

The Village Offices will be closed:

- ❖ November 11
(in observance of Veteran's Day)
- ❖ November 26 & 27
(in observance of Thanksgiving)
- ❖ December 24 & 25
(in observance of Christmas)
- ❖ December 31 & January 1
(in observance of New Year's)

