

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 106

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

November 2017

## News from the Mayor's Office

A wonderful September and October brought great events – the Harvest Supper on Main St., Cooptoberfest, Local Foods, Local Spirits – and great news. The Village was notified that it received \$880,590 in Water Infrastructure Improvement money. That brings the grand total of state funds to \$4,880,590 towards the \$7.5 million cost to rebuild the Wastewater Treatment plant.

That work is to come, but I'm sure you've noticed the massive Pioneer Street project. Thank you all for bearing with this much needed work. (Remember when a water pipe on Pioneer and Main burst during Winter Carnival?) While the Village was always going to replace the flagpole with a taller one, to be covered under the TEP award, the removal of the flagpole due to construction led to more immediate Board of Trustee action. A new 50' flagpole and base is on its way.

Improvements continue with new lighting, AV equipment and chairs in the ballroom at Village Hall. Infrastructure improvements and great events often go hand in hand and the refurbished ballroom space will be used during Glimmerglass Film Days, November 9-12. Hope to see you all there, and elsewhere, as we head into winter.

*Jeff Katz – Mayor*

## Village Elections - 2018

Election Day for the Village will be Tuesday, March 20, 2018. The following offices are up for re-election:

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

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 20, 2017.



## New Multi-Purpose Space in Village Hall

A large area of the upper floor of the Village Hall will soon be available for film screenings, lectures, performances, educational programs, and social events, in addition to continued use for Cooperstown Art Association exhibits. Enhancing the Village Hall to accommodate more and varied activities for the community was one of the recommendations in last year's update of the Comprehensive Plan.

Glimmerglass Film Days, November 9-12, will be the first event in the new space, followed by Adorn-a-Door on November 25.

Thanks to generous donations from Friends of 22 Main Street and Friends of the Village Library, we now have quality projection and sound equipment, designed and installed by local professionals Joel Morain and Simone Scalici. We have also purchased cushioned chairs. To enhance film projection and sound quality, we will have acoustic panels to reduce noise levels and blackout curtains to darken the room.

The Village and the Art Association have funded new track lighting, which was installed by Kaps Krew. A more reliable and user-friendly elevator will replace the existing one. Most of the work will have been completed by the time you receive this newsletter, but the elevator and some painting and other work will be finished later.

We anticipate that the Cooperstown Art Association and the Village Library will each have part-time use of the space reserved under long-term lease arrangements. Other groups and individuals may arrange short term use of the space at other times for their own functions, similar to the way space can be reserved in Village parks. For more information about scheduling group or private events, call 607-547-2411 or visit the Village Clerk's Office on the lower level of the Village Hall.

Readers are encouraged to participate in one or more of the events at 22 Main Street and in downtown Cooperstown in November. Attend Glimmerglass Film Day's opening party at 22 Main Street on Nov. 9, and take in a film screening in the updated ballroom November 10 - 12. For an earlier look at the new space, visit Glimmerglass Film Days' companion art exhibit, *On Arrival: Pooh Kaye and Cara Wood-Ginder*, opening November 3 and

*running through November 19.* And be sure to visit the Cooperstown Art Association's Holiday Member Show, opening Nov. 10. While you are downtown, dine out during Cooperstown Eats Nov. 8 - 14 at one of the participating local restaurants, which will be offering prix-fixe dinners in addition to regular menu items. For more details about events, go to: <http://www.glimmerglassfilmdays.org> or [cooperstownart.org](http://cooperstownart.org).

### **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 25. 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).

### **Brush and Leaf Pickup**

The Village 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) Do not blow or rake leaves into the street!
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Do not include non-compostable materials like plastic flower pots, construction debris, processed lumber, bricks, or stones with leaves or brush.
- 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](http://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.

### **Pioneer Street Infrastructure Project**

This fall the Village has been engaged in a major infrastructure improvement project on Pioneer Street from Otsego Lake south to Elm Street. This project includes replacing sewer and water lines, some of which are more than 100 years old. Stormwater systems and drainage are being improved, curbing replaced, and new pavement installed. The Village is working with Delaware Engineering and G. DeVincentis on this important and long overdue project, and we appreciate the patience and flexibility of the business owners and residents in the affected area.

Funding for this work is the result of monies put aside annually in streets reserves, as well as funding from sewer and water accounts. Since the institution of paid parking, the Village has made a commitment to undertake immediate projects, such as this year's paving of Pioneer Street south of Elm Street, and saving for larger infrastructure improvements. The Pioneer Street project is the first of those major projects to be addressed. It is being completed without raising taxes and without going into debt.

At the time of this printing, sewer and water work is almost complete. Curbing will be next, followed by preparation of the street for paving. If the weather holds we expect the project to continue through

mid-December. The street will be made drivable and plowable for the winter, and sidewalks will be patched. In the spring, crews will be back, once any settling of the utility trenches has occurred, to provide the final paving of the street surface.

As part of the project, the flagpole at Main and Pioneer Street was temporarily removed to allow for sewer line replacement. This was an unexpected decision necessitated by the discovery of communications lines that made the planned placement difficult. We are grateful to the individuals and businesses that have contributed services and funding toward the new flagpole, which will be 50 feet in height like the pole placed in this location in 1946. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original wooden flagpole installed during World War I in 1917 at Pioneer Street, and we look forward to the reinstallation of a new pole in the near future.

### ***Santa Claus is coming to Town.....***



Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in Cooperstown on November 24, 2017 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 2, 2017 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.

### ***Removing Snow and Ice from the Public Sidewalk***

As we prepare for the winter season, please remember:

- Owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks adjoining their properties. If this duty is neglected, the Village will remove ice and snow and the owner will be charged a fee of \$100 per occurrence.
- The use of sodium chloride (rock salt) is not permitted on public sidewalks. Look for deicers labeled as safe for concrete.
- In the business district it is not necessary to remove snow and ice from the pavers, but the pavers can be carefully cleared if desired.

- 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.

### ***TEP Project***

In 2013 the Village applied for and received funding in the amount of \$1.7 million through the Transportation Enhancement Program. This money, administered by NYS DOT, will improve the experience of pedestrians and bicyclists in the business district. The project's area includes Main Street from Pine Boulevard to River Street and Pioneer Street from Church Street to Lake Street. One of the project's goals is to visually unite the area on Main Street west of the traffic light and on Pioneer Street with the core of Main Street.

Since the award was announced the Village has been engaged with its consultants in a long process of approvals and planning. In May of 2015, the Village held a public information session to unveil the preliminary plans for the project to the public.

We are pleased to report that a second public information session is scheduled for November 30, 2017 at the Cooperstown Fire Department at 24 Chestnut Street. This event will include details about crosswalks and pedestrian signals, street furniture such as benches, interpretative signage and wayfinding, bike racks, new street trees, and more energy efficient and attractive lighting. From 6-7 pm plans for the project will be available for the public to examine. A brief presentation at 7pm will be followed by a question and answer period. Participants will have the opportunity to provide written comments as well.

### ***Help Keep Our Village Safe – Adopt A Fire Hydrant and/or Water Drain***

There are still Water Drains for you to become a Grate Keeper and Fire Hydrants for you to keep clear of snow.

This is a vital service and tremendously compliments the hard work of our streets crew. Go to the Village website [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org) for a description of both. Contact Village Volunteer Rich McCaffery at [ctownadoptahydrant/drain@gmail.com](mailto:ctownadoptahydrant/drain@gmail.com) or call 547-5256 to adopt a drain and/or hydrant...or ask any questions. We're very grateful to our residents, business owners and /organization representatives already assisting to keep Cooperstown safer.

### ***Promoting Accessibility***

The Village of Cooperstown is committed to providing access to people of all ages and abilities. For more than a year the Village has been a learning laboratory for students in the Cooperstown Graduate Program who are studying ways to make services and facilities more accessible to everyone.

This semester CGP students are working on a Transition Plan for the Village. A Transition Plan is a document required by the Americans with Disabilities Act that identifies and prioritizes areas for improvement. The students invite you to join them for a public information session about their findings on Monday, December 4 at 7pm at 22 Main Street in the newly renovated ballroom in Village Hall.

### ***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 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.

### ***All Night Parking***

A reminder that overnight parking is prohibited on Village streets from November 1 to April 1. Overnight parking is available in designated spaces in the Doubleday Field parking lot and the Fowler Way parking lot.

### ***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 requires 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.

### ***DEC Awards***

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently made two awards to the Village of Cooperstown. The first, in the amount of \$16,000, is targeted toward the installation of a two-port charger for electric vehicles to be installed in the Doubleday Field parking lot. This unit will allow locals and visitors to the area to charge all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles for all a small fee (in addition to parking fees during the paid parking season). We are pleased that this DEC funding will allow the Village to continue its efforts to promote sustainability through the use of alternative fuels. All Village electricity comes from renewable sources.

The second DEC award of over \$13,000 is to update the Village inventory of street trees and to create an urban forest management plan. Our street trees provide many benefits by helping to curb heat and provide shade, creating habitats for animals, filtering pollutants, and contributing to the beauty of our neighborhoods. This DEC award will allow for better planning for tree planting, trimming, removal, and replacement. Trained foresters will be mapping tree locations, identifying species, and creating a plan for the future.

### ***Rain Garden Volunteers***

The Village is grateful for the committed crew of volunteers, led by Rich McCaffery, who have regularly cleaned the rain gardens on Main Street. Rainwater and snowmelt can carry sediment and pollutants from Village streets and sidewalks into Otsego Lake, the Susquehanna River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. To curb this process, the rain gardens on Main Street capture rainwater, allowing it to slowly soak into the ground. The soil naturally filters the water, ridding it of contaminants before it reaches the water table. As a result of their function and their convenient location, the rain gardens also collect trash and falling leaves. A big thank you is due to the volunteers who have helped keep them clean.

### ***Paid Parking***

During the 2017 Paid Parking Season the Village of Cooperstown collected \$429,455.40 from transactions at its twenty parking kiosks. This is an increase of more than \$11,600 over last year and above the \$424,000 budgeted for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

With a general fund budget of almost \$3.7 million, paid parking revenue provides a significant source of income, more than 11 percent of the total budget. A tax increase that would generate comparable

funds would amount to more than 24 percent of the current tax levy of \$1,779,194. Parking fees help keep property taxes level without sacrificing services. In the five seasons since on-street paid parking was instituted in 2013, revenues from the Doubleday Field lot and on-street kiosks have totaled almost \$2 million dollars.

This year, on-street revenues, collected from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day, amounted to 58 percent of the total parking income. Paid parking in the Doubleday Field lot 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.

### **Tax Credits**

Did you know that you might qualify for a state income tax credit for work you do on your historic house or business property? New York State offers 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. The house must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or as contributing in a National Register historic district. Fortunately, most homes built before 1949 in the Village of Cooperstown are contributing in the Glimmerglass Historic District. 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 credit is equal to 20% of approved qualifying expenses up to \$50,000.

Businesses can take advantage of both state and federal income tax credits. Owners of income producing real properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including those contributing in the Glimmerglass Historic District, may be eligible for a 20% federal income tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation of historic properties. 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.

### **Review of 2017 Summer Parks Season**

We have enjoyed such a warm and glorious fall, that the rainy days of summer seem a distant memory! We hope that despite occasional inclement weather, you were able to enjoy the Village's six parks.

Yes, we know that there were concerns with a shortage of lifeguards on duty this past summer, which led to each of our swimming parks closing for a few days. Every attempt was made to address the problem during the summer. At our September meeting, the Parks Board reviewed the season and recommendations from the final reports submitted by our Senior Lifeguard and the Caretakers at both Fairy Spring Park and 3 Mile Point Park. These are helpful in planning for a successful season next year. As in past years in the fall, the Parks Board compares wage rates for lifeguards at other sites (The Otesaga, Baker Beach, Springfield Landing, Sports Center, etc.) and makes a recommendation for the following summer. You may be interested to know our pay rates are equal to or often exceed these other locations. The Board confirmed the need to establish a season long schedule with routine hours for lifeguards so that we are not caught short with no coverage due to lifeguards finding work elsewhere. We also approved a subsidy in 2018 for recertification costs for lifeguards; those lifeguards who work a minimum of 220 hours for the Village over the summer and produce a receipt for recertification costs, will be reimbursed. We are also working with the Sports Center to ensure certification classes including waterfront training will be routinely offered this year. Major infrastructure improvements were made to Fairy Spring Park this year. The deteriorating roadway and retaining wall were repaired – a project which was first identified in a park plan over thirty years ago as a priority! The entrance road was paved, and repairs were made to the Pavilion fireplace and chimney.

At Lakefront Park our Tuesday evening concerts at the bandstand were once again popular - when not rained out! The Village really appreciates the efforts of Parks Board member Rich McCaffery who arranges and oversees the Lakefront Concert series. Also at Lakefront Park, the new Boat Wash Station was installed and dedicated, and even more importantly, much used in the important mission of keeping Aquatic Invasive Species out of Lake Otsego. Fish Road was paved and the new parking rules there from Memorial Weekend to Columbus Day, ensured that boaters and park visitors would have an opportunity to enjoy the Park and the Lake.

In addition to all the above, expect to see additional park improvements this fall and next spring. At Fairy Spring we will rebuild the stairs, trim and remove trees and make major repairs (roof, foundation) to the Pavilion. At Lakefront Park the second floating motorboat dock will be installed and the bandstand railing replaced. The Village appreciates all the community support we receive for maintaining and improving our park infrastructure.

**Think Rink**

The Village Parks Board will begin planning for the skating season at Badger Park in early November. Collette Tangel, a member of the Rink Advocates will be attending Board meetings during the winter months to ensure strong lines of communication so that we can have as successful a season as the weather will permit.

You can find the rink schedule and updates on the rink status under the "Play" drop down menu on the Village's website ([www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org)), or updates on the Facebook page of Friends of the Parks (Cooperstown Friends of the Parks).

**Doubleday Field Wordmark**

The Village of Cooperstown is the owner of the wordmark DOUBLEDAY FIELD™ and has developed a special logo for use with this mark. Any use of the wordmark, logo or images of Doubleday Field for any commercial purposes, including not limited to, use on merchandise, in business advertising is subject to a license agreement and/or location fee for said use. Anyone interested in entering into an agreement should contact the Village Administrator at 547-2411.

**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, Deb Guerin, at 607-547-8558 extension, 108.

**Snow Emergencies**

Last year the Village has made updates to its snow emergency law. A snow emergency, or other emergency, will now be declared by the mayor, village administrator, or DWP superintendent. An emergency will be announced via media outlets including TV, radio, and the Village website. Parking is prohibited on all Village streets during a declared emergency. Parking will be made available in the Doubleday Field parking lot whenever an emergency prevents parking on the streets. Cars that remain on the street during an emergency may be towed.

**Village Telephone Numbers**

<b>Main Office</b>	<b>547-2411</b>
Administrator- Teri Barown	ext. 102
Zoning Officer- Jane Gentile	ext. 112
Public Works Sup. – Mitch Hotaling	ext. 104
<b>Treasurer's Office</b>	<b>547-8558</b>
Treasurer – Debra Guerin	ext. 108
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cyndi Miller	ext. 109
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

**Village Holiday Schedule**

- The Village Offices will be closed:
- ❖ November 10  
(in observance of Veteran's Day)
  - ❖ November 23 & 24  
(in observance of Thanksgiving)
  - ❖ December 22 & 25  
(in observance of Christmas)
  - ❖ December 29 & January 1  
(in observance of New Year's)

