

VILLAGE VOICES

Number 97

Editor, Jennifer Truax, Deputy Village Clerk

August 2015

News from the Mayor's Office

Summer is always exciting in Cooperstown. July brought the energy of a fabulous Hall of Fame Induction, with tens of thousands of fans coming to see Pedro Martinez, Randy Johnson, John Smoltz and Craig Biggio get their well-deserved plaques. July also brought the paving of many Village streets, also well-deserved.

While we welcomed the four new Hall of Famers to the Cooperstown family, I'd also like to welcome Derek Bloomfield, our new Village Treasurer. Derek brings an amazing array of experience to village finances and, in his first weeks on the job, implemented long overdue changes to make the treasurer's office work more efficiently.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Don't forget the annual Community Harvest Supper on Sunday, September 27. Hope to see you all there!

- Mayor Katz

Street Repair Update

The Village has begun an ambitious street repair program for 2015. Already we have been able to:

- Complete the sidewalks on the south side of Main Street.
- Pug mill (1) Main Street east of the Susquehanna River, (2) Pine Boulevard, (3) Church Street, (4) Hoffman Lane, (5) Cooper Lane, and (6) Delaware Street between Beaver and Elm.

The following projects will still be completed in the coming months:

- Sealing with oil and stone of Linden Avenue, and all the recently pug milled streets—Main Street east of the Susquehanna River, Pine Boulevard, Church Street, Hoffman Lane, Cooper Lane, and Delaware Street between Beaver and Elm.
- Repaving of portions of Beaver Street and River Street.
- Placing sidewalk from 2 Main Street to Lakeview Drive.

We know that road construction is always disruptive, and here in Cooperstown we have a limited construction period that corresponds with many summer activities. We appreciate your patience as we make strides to improve street conditions.

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 residence 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.

Summer Programs & Storytime at the Library

The 2015 summer programming season is coming to a close. The remaining programs include Family LEGO #4, on Saturday, August 1, 10:30 AM, the State Police K-9 Unit on Monday, August 3, 7 PM and the Glimmerglass Festival's introduction to the children's opera, The Odyssey, on Wednesday, August 5, 6:30 PM. All programs are free and sponsored by the Friends of the Village Library of Cooperstown.

Our regular Storytime Hour continues uninterrupted throughout the year every Wednesday at 10:30 AM. We often have guest speakers or a special theme, and the story is followed by a craft session. We will also be hosting monthly Saturday programs for families during the fall and winter. Please keep an eye out for upcoming programs to be announced.

Lakefront Concert Series

Celebrating 11 years of summer family entertainment every Tuesday, 7 PM, during July & August, at the historic bandstand in Lakefront Park. The remainder of the lineup includes:

August 4: Cooperstown Community Band
Celebrating 153 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, dixieland, jazz, themes and favorites!

****MOVIE NIGHT** (following the concert) – The Princess Bride

August 10: Cooperstown Community Band
Celebrating 153 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, dixieland, jazz, themes and favorites! Re-scheduled from July 14, *in memory of Bertha Mae Clancy*

August 11: Flux Capacitor – A local, five-piece rock band playing hits from the '80s – a high-energy show for fans & folks who love to have a great time.

****MOVIE NIGHT** (following the concert) – Last of the Mohicans

August 18: Dyer Switch – A versatile, engaging band playing hard-driving traditional & original bluegrass & acoustic music.

August 25: Small Town Big Band – This 12 piece group, comprised of people from all walks of life plays music from the big band era & current tunes in the big band style.

The summer concert series is sponsored by the Village of Cooperstown Parks Commission, www.cooperstownny.org, with support from Central NY Mobile Marketing, www.cnymobilemarketing.com Movie nights are made possible with support from the Clark Sports Center.



Village Holiday Schedule

The Village Offices will be closed:

- ❖ September 7 (in observance of Labor Day)
- ❖ October 12 (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 September 3, 2013 to avoid penalties. If you have any questions please contact the Village Treasurer, Derek Bloomfield at 547-8558 Ext 108 or e-mail cooperstowntreasurer@stny.rr.com.

Cooperstown Comprehensive Plan Update

Thank you to all of the Village residents who stopped by the Cooperstown Fire Hall on June 11th to attend the Community Open House. If you weren't able to attend the Open House 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.

In addition to the Open House, the Steering Committee met with the Project Team for an economic development site visit and walking tour on June 3rd.

Next steps include a Steering Committee meeting to develop a Vision Statement and Goals based on information gathered from participants at the Design Charrette and Open House, and a site visit by the Project Team later this summer to prepare Concept Plans for Doubleday Field and the Railroad District. Keep up with all the latest at the project website: <https://coopplan.wordpress.com>.

Paid Parking & Downtown Parking Permits

Paid parking is in effect on portions of Main, Pioneer, Chestnut, and Fair Streets through Labor Day, September 7. Paid parking continues in the Doubleday Field lot through Columbus Day, October 12.

You can still purchase a downtown parking permit so you can:

- park for up to two hours daily in an on-street paid parking space without purchasing a ticket from a Pay and Display machine (after the first two hours, additional time can be purchased at a machine).
- park in the permit-only Fowler Way parking lot (located behind the batting cages, formerly the Chestnut Street lot) if an all-day option is needed.
- park in the Doubleday Field lot after 4 p.m. without having to purchase a ticket from the Pay and Display machine.

Parking permits can be purchased in person from the Village Clerk's office at 22 Main Street or by mail. Applications can be accessed on the village website www.cooperstownny.org or at the Clerk's office. A completed application must be accompanied by a copy of the vehicle's registration and appropriate fee, payable by cash or check. The cost is \$25 for the first permit, \$15 for additional permits at the same address.

Keeping Otsego Lake Clean

The new Main Street sidewalks are about more than just aesthetics. Rainwater and snow melt can carry sediment and pollutants from the Village of Cooperstown into Otsego Lake, the Susquehanna River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. To curb this process, the permeable pavers, permeable asphalt, and rain gardens on Main Street capture rainwater from the sidewalks and streets and help it to slowly soak into the ground. The soil naturally filters the water, ridding it of contaminants before it reaches the water table.

From 2013 to 2015, the Village of Cooperstown installed 37 rain gardens with 12 different species of trees on Main Street, as well as permeable pavers adjacent to the concrete sidewalk and porous asphalt along the curb. The shade tree varieties include:

- Regal Prince Oak
- Heritage Oak
- Sienna Glen Maple
- Armstrong Maple
- Norwegian Sunset Truncatum Maple
- Skyline Honeylocust
- Sterling Silver Linden
- Harvest Gold Linden
- Homestead Elm
- Emerald Sunshine Elm

More decorative flowering trees, specifically Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilacs and Aristocrat Pears, are interspersed among the larger species.

The rain gardens and permeable surfaces all will help improve water quality locally in Otsego Lake and throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The rain gardens capture water that sheets off the sidewalks, while the porous asphalt at the curb collects water from the street as well as rain garden overflow. The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation supported the project through the Green Innovation Grant Program. Soon signage located near the General Store across from Hoffman Lane will explain the benefits of the project and tree tags will identify the various trees.

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.

Historic Architecture Survey

The Village of Cooperstown received a grant from the New York State Historic Preservation Office to update the survey that the Historic Preservation and Architectural Review Board (HPARB) uses to inform its decisions when considering Certificates of Appropriateness. The last survey was completed in 1999 when the Village of Cooperstown was incorporated in Glimmerglass Historic District, which is listed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places. We were able to hire Jessie Ravage, a trained architectural historian who has completed similar projects throughout our region, to work on our own Village update.

Since 1999 there have been numerous changes, large and small, within the Village that were never thoroughly recorded in a way HPARB members and property owners could easily access. For instance, the Thanksgiving Home was rebuilt in 2004 following a devastating fire, but the survey still indicated an 1896 construction date. On a smaller scale, property owners have made additions to their homes, removed siding to expose original clapboards, restored or rebuilt porches, replaced features that had deteriorated beyond repair, or added garages, sheds, or solar panels to their properties. Documenting these changes helps HPARB make informed decisions about newly proposed work and helps owners plan for future repairs and upgrades.

In addition to written descriptions, the new survey will include photographs, many of which were taken by students in the Cooperstown Graduate Program late this spring after the snow melted and before the leaves came out on the trees. ZEO Tavis Austin has been compiling all the information in an easy-to-use database. We plan to make the information available via the Village website.

Keep in mind that because the Village of Cooperstown is included in the Glimmerglass Historic District many property owners are eligible for New York State tax credits when they make repairs to their historic (usually pre-1949) properties. New York State offers both a homeowner and a commercial tax credit. Owners of income-producing properties may be eligible for federal tax credits as well. Property owners are encouraged to contact Sloane Bullough before they begin work at 518-268-2158 about the tax credits. They must contact Tavis Austin at 547-2411 for an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness if they are making exterior changes.

Leaf Pickup

The Village continues to offer leaf pickup for residents and property owners this fall. You can facilitate this process by following the following guidelines:

- 1) Each Friday we will post the streets on which leaf pickup will take place the following week on the Village website www.cooperstownny.org. Leaves should be at the curb before 7 a.m. the following Monday morning when pickup starts.
- 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) Do not place leaves or brush in the street where they can clog drains and lead to flooding.
- 6) 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.

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

Yard Sale Regulations

All residents are permitted to have up to three garage or yard sales per year, each sale not to exceed three days. Yard sales must be conducted wholly on the owner's property and at least three feet from a property line. All residents planning to have a sale, should contact the Village Clerk's office at 547-2411 to provide their name, date, time, and location of the sale.

Please be aware that in accordance with the Village Zoning Law, residents may post temporary signs of up to six square feet to advertise their sales on their own property or on other private property with the permission of that property's owner. Signs are not permitted in the median between the sidewalk and curb, and they cannot be attached to trees, bushes, support wire, street signs, nor utility poles. All signs must be removed at the conclusion of the sale.

Village Parks & Park Passes

Looking for an inexpensive family outing? Fairy Spring and Three Mile Point parks are free for Village residents. Take the opportunity, enjoy the sights and sounds, stroll around the park, bring your canoe or kayak and paddle the lake, have a picnic or just sit on the beach. Three Mile Point Park opens at 10 AM and Fairy Spring Park opens at 11 AM and 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 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 household*), access to either Fairy Spring or Three Mile Point Park. If your family chooses to bring other guests they will either need to purchase their own pass or pay the \$5.00 per person admission price at the park.

As our lifeguards return to college and begin fall sports it becomes difficult to keep both parks open for swimming. The staff will continue to work diligently to ensure lifeguards are on duty at both parks whenever possible; however, there are times when one or both parks may have to shut down the swimming areas due to lack of staff.

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

- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted;
- Charcoal grills and picnic tables are available for your enjoyment;
- Pavilions are available on a first come first serve basis unless rented to a family, group or organization;
- To carryout whatever you bring in (*i.e. food, garbage, bottles, cans, etc.*);
- Parking is limited, please car pool if possible.

Village Telephone Numbers

Main Office	547-2411
Clerk- Teri Barown	ext. 102
Deputy Clerk- Jennifer Truax	ext. 101
Zoning Officer- Tavis Austin	ext. 112
Public Works Sup. - Brian Clancy	ext. 104
Treasurer's Office	547-8558
Treasurer – Derek Bloomfield	ext. 108
Deputy Treas. – Laurie Torres	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