

VILLAGE VOICES

Number 108

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

May 2018

News from the Mayor's Office

On April 2nd I was sworn in as mayor – what a busy three weeks it has been! I would like to thank all the Village residents for their support and extend a warm welcome to Jeanne Dewey whom I appointed to fill my former trustee position. Jeanne is chairing the Parks Committee on which she has served for several years so she is able to hit the ground running. The Parks Board has been working to update a Parks Action Plan. Please take a moment and complete the Parks Survey included in this issue of Village Voices and return it to the Village Office.

At our April 23rd Trustee meeting we adopted the 2018-2019 budget. I am pleased to report that for the sixth budget year, since our 2013-14 budget, there has been no increase in the tax levy. It has remained at \$1,779,194 and this year represents a tax rate of \$5.205 per \$1000 of assessed value. The complete budget is on the Village's website (cooperstownny.org) under "Government" and the "Board of Trustee Meetings" drop down menu.

And yet without increasing the levy, we have been able to make tremendous strides in improving the Village's infrastructure with even more improvements on the way. In Lakefront Park the new boat dock will be in place by early May and on Pioneer Street, the final coat of paving will be complete before Memorial Day Weekend. Our \$7.5 million grant funded work on the Waste Water Treatment Plant will be going to bid soon, as will (finally!) our federally funded Transportation Enhancement Program which will bring much needed upgrades to our Main Street intersections and provide for improved pedestrian and cyclist access. In addition, the Grove Street Culvert Project will begin in the fall and address issues with Willow Creek as well as inflow and infiltration issues with adjacent sewer lines. Work also continues on Village Hall, with several large projects including gutters, window replacements, and elevator upgrades on the agenda.

I am sincerely honored to be serving as Mayor of our wonderful Village and look forward to all that we can accomplish together.

Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor

Park Survey

The Parks Board has assembled the enclosed Opinion Survey for the Village's six parks. We hope you will take a moment and complete the Survey and return it to the Village Office. Your responses will be useful as park improvements and long range plans are made. Thank you!

Electric Vehicle Charging

The Village is pleased to announce that it has received an award from the NYS DEC to install two electric vehicle charging stations in the Doubleday Field parking lot. This project is funded through the DEC and user fees. It is one of many steps that the Village of Cooperstown is undertaking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning away from fossil fuel consumption. The electricity used by the Village is fully produced by renewal sources.

Pioneer Park

The Village of Cooperstown is working with the Cooperstown Area Chamber of Commerce to better serve visitors to the area. The Chamber has proposed moving the kiosk from the Pioneer Street side of the park to the front of the park near

Riverwood on Main Street. As envisioned by the Chamber, the relocated kiosk will include touch screen technology to help visitors better navigate Cooperstown.

The Village is likewise engaged in plans to make Pioneer Park a more welcoming place for residents as well as out of town guests. Stay tuned for more information about new bike racks, a bike repair station, and a drinking fountain/water bottle filling station that will be added as part of the Transportation Enhancement Program downtown project. The landscaping, generously planned by the Lake and Valley Garden Club and other Village organizations when the park was created, will be updated to address maturing shrubbery and new community uses.

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.

Outdoor Dining and Vending

In 2013 the Village of Cooperstown first began permitting outdoor eating areas. We are happy to see that so many local eateries have been able to take advantage of outdoor dining. It provides the perfect opportunity for locals and tourists to enjoy great food and a beautiful streetscape in an increasingly accessible environment.

This summer we are adding to the mix by promoting sidewalk vending in the business district on Wednesday evenings. Businesses that wish to participate should contact the Village Administrator Teri Barown at 547-2411 or tbarown@cooperstownny.org for a permit application. Fees will be waived this inaugural year.

Music on Main

In a joint effort of the Village of Cooperstown and the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, this summer Music on Main will continue. Musicians will be performing in Pioneer Park, and artisans who would like to demonstrate a craft may also participate. Those interested should contact the Chamber of Commerce at 547-9983 or hanna@cooperstownchamber.org to reserve dates and times. CD sales and a donation container are permitted.

Upcoming Street Work

Beginning in late April the Village will be completing the Pioneer Street reconstruction project between Church Street and Otsego Lake. Work, including final paving, will be finished in advance of the Memorial Day weekend.

Later in the year, Fair Street between Beaver and Church is slated to be resurfaced, as is West Beaver. Property owners on the effected streets who anticipate conducting work on their water or sewer laterals in the near future are encouraged to contact Village Administrator Teri Barown at 547-2411 as soon as possible to coordinate scheduling. With proper planning we can avoid the need to dig up a freshly paved street to address utility concerns.

The Village is also planning a major pedestrian improvement project in the business district on Main and Pioneer Streets. This project is funded through the federal Transportation Enhancement Program and has been in the works since 2013. Construction may begin as early as fall 2018. Stay tuned for additional information as it becomes available.

Downtown Parking Permits & Paid Parking

The paid parking season will run from the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day.

The paid parking area includes the same portions of Main, Chestnut, Pioneer, and Fair Streets as in the past. And, the rate remains \$2 per hour, payable in 15-minute increments, with a \$14 all-day option at the Doubleday Field parking lot. On the streets, parking will continue to be limited to a 2-hour purchase, with the ability to buy additional time by re-upping at a Pay and Display Machine. Doubleday Field provides an all-day option.

Downtown parking permits provide an alternative to using Pay and Display machines for parking in the paid parking area. Anyone—local or tourist—can buy a permit. Permit holders can park for up to 2 hours daily in 2-hour areas without purchasing a ticket from a Pay and Display machine. The same permit can be used to park in the Doubleday Field lot after 4 pm and all day in the permit-only Fowler Way parking lot (located behind the Chamber of Commerce) if an all-day option is needed. Please remember that the purchase and display of a parking permit does not guarantee a parking space.

Parking permits can be purchased in person from the Village Clerk's office at 22 Main Street or by mail or email. Applications can be accessed on the village website www.cooperstownny.org (under permits) or at the Clerk's office. A completed application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, payable by cash or check. Credit cards can also be accepted at the Village office. Permits remain a great deal at a cost of \$25 for the first permit, and \$15 for additional permits at the same address.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Village of Cooperstown has prepared its annual Drinking Water Quality Report to comply with State regulations. The purpose of the report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources.

Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. You may access a complete report at the Village website www.cooperstownny.org, pick up a copy at the Village Office, 22 Main Street, or call 607-547-2411 to request a copy be mailed to you. The report will provide you with an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

Village Parks Projects

The new west boat dock at Lake Front Park will be completed in early May to complete the floating dock system that started in 2016 with the eastern dock.

Parks Board member Rich McCaffery has once again lined up a great schedule for our Tuesday night Lakefront Concert Series. Check out this year's schedule of concerts contained in this newsletter and bring your lawn chair to enjoy this wonderful, free entertainment on the shores of Lake Otsego!

AND FINALLY... this spring the Village will install a new railing on the bandstand at Lakefront Park, construct new stairs leading to the shore at Fairy Spring and extend the retaining wall and railings at Fairy Spring. So plan on using and enjoying your Village Parks this summer!

Village Parks

Looking for an inexpensive family outing? Fairy Spring and Three Mile Point parks are free for Village residents. Both parks will open for weekends beginning Saturday, May 26th. On Saturday, June 16th the weekend prior to high school graduation, the parks will be open seven days a week. 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

Arbor Day

The Village of Cooperstown is pleased to announce that for the 28th year it has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Village of Cooperstown will hold its annual Arbor Day celebration on Friday, May 18 at 1pm. A

memorial tree will be planted on Eagle Street to recognize the many contributions of Paul Lambert to our community. Lambert was a former principal and superintendent of schools for the Cooperstown Central School District, a former director of the Clark Foundation Scholarship Program, and a coach and well-respected member of the community. He passed away on December 27, 2017.

Cooperstown's Arbor Day celebration will include a proclamation by Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh and a presentation by a DEC forester. Arbor Day began in 1872 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The event, held in late April or May across the country, is meant to recognize and support the planting of trees, which provide many benefits to local communities like Cooperstown.

Grate Keepers

The Village of Cooperstown expresses its sincere thanks to the various residents/businesses/organizations who have so willingly adopted a drain to help keep storm water flowing as it should especially during and after heavy rain storms. Do you know there are 313 drains throughout the Village? This is an enthusiastic charge to keep them clear, so we can keep our roadways safer, especially during rain storms.

The Village will continue monitoring storm drains, but the assistance of volunteers will reduce the possibility of flooding due to inoperable or clogged drains, especially in light of the more frequent and severe storms we have been seeing.

When the forecast calls for a heavy rainfall, snow, or ice, remove the debris from each catch basin prior to a storm. Stand on the curb and use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the catch basin. Do not attempt to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

If you see a catch basin filled with debris below the grate, or if you cannot clear the grate yourself or notice any other problems with the drain, please notify the Village at 547-2411 and report the particular location. Never remove the grate or put debris into the drain.

Contact Village Volunteer Rich McCaffery at ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com or call 547-5256 to adopt a drain.

Trolley Passes

The trolley season will soon be underway. This year the Village will be offering improved trolley service with the generous support of the Scriven Foundation. During July and August, two trolleys

will be running two routes: one providing service from the Blue Lot to downtown and the other serving the Red and Yellow Lots and downtown. Having two trolleys will reduce wait times making the trolley more convenient to use.

Season trolley passes are a bargain and great way for local residents and employees to find transportation around Cooperstown. The trolleys run daily, from 8:30 AM – 9 PM beginning Saturday, May 26th. Season passes are \$35 for a family; \$20 for an adult; \$15 for a senior citizen and \$10 for students under 18 years old. You can purchase season passes at the Village Office, or on the trolleys.

Daily passes are available for \$2 per person. A new daily family pass including two adults and minor children will be available for \$5.

Trolley riders will be able to track the progress and location of the Cooperstown trolleys on a smartphone friendly website at www.cooperstowntrolley.com. Refreshed every 2.5 seconds, GPS will provide the location of the nearest trolley, as well as the others in operation.

Driveway Blocked

Parking in front of public and private driveways is prohibited under New York State law. If you have an ongoing problem with people obstructing your street visibility or blocking your driveway and you feel that yellow curbing on either side of your driveway would be helpful, you can apply for yellow curbing to remind motorists of their responsibility not to block your driveway. Contact the Village office at 547-2411 for more information.

Spring Clean Up

Beginning in April the Village crew has been regularly picking up green waste to coordinate with spring yard work. Beginning May 18 the Village will limit green waste pickup to the last Thursday of each month.

Compostable Waste and Brush Curbside Pickup Procedures:

- 1) The Village will pickup compostable yard waste and brush separately. There will be two pickups per street, one for soft green waste and a second for brush.
- 2) Place any soft green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and other soft

garden waste in compostable bags or in reusable hard plastic containers.

Place containers between the sidewalk and the curb.

- Do not use plastic bags.
- Do not include non-compostable materials like plastic flower pots.
- Do not assume that we can lift containers that you cannot lift. Containers that are too heavy will be left at the curb.

3) Place brush in a pile between the curb and sidewalk.

- Do not put brush in containers.
- Keep brush separated from green waste.
- Root balls, stumps, and large tree limbs will not be picked up. We can only take material that will go through our shredder.

4) We do not pick up any kind of construction debris or processed lumber.

5) Residents may also bring green waste at any time to the Village Street Garage on Linden Avenue and deposit it themselves in the appropriate area. Commercial dumping is prohibited.

Pooper Scooper Law

With spring upon us, we finally have the opportunity to get outside more often with our furry friends. If you walk your dog, please plan ahead. Village law requires that anyone walking a dog not allow the dog to defecate on any public or private property without the permission of the owner of such property unless action is taken immediately to remove any feces. This applies to sidewalks, parks, or other public or private property. Dog waste must be disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner.

Property Taxes

Village property tax bills will be mailed on or about May 31, 2018. If for any reason you or your escrow company does not receive a tax bill, please call the Treasurer's Office at 547-8558, for a duplicate. The first installment is due without penalty no later than Friday, June 29, 2018 and the second installment is

due without penalty no later than Friday, August 31, 2018. If you have any further questions, please call the Village Treasurer's Office at 547-8558.

Yard Sales

The Village encourages residents to participate in Yard Sale Day on Saturday, June 2. For a minimal fee, residents can have their yard sale placed on a community map, marked with corresponding signage, and registered with the Village. Contact Village Volunteer Rich McCafferty at richcooperstown@gmail.com or call 547-5256 for more information and to sign up. Deadline for inclusion on printed and promotional materials is Friday, May 17.

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 that is not registered through Yard Sale Day 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.

Induction Parking

Property owners may rent parking spaces on their own private property in residential zones during days approved by the Board of Trustees, including Hall of Fame Induction Weekend. No vehicle may be parked less than three feet from any property line. A permit is required from the Village Clerk; applications for a Special Event Parking Permit are available online at cooperstownny.org under the "Permits" tab. Contact Teri Barown, Village Administrator at 547-2411 for more information.

Home Based Businesses

Do you work from home or are you planning to start a new home-based business? Part-time activities may be carried out in the home in a residential district without obtaining a special permit so long as the activity is carried out exclusively by a permanent inhabitant of the residence, the activity brings no clients or customers to the residence, and

no sign of any sort relating to the activity is displayed on or at the residence. A special permit for a home occupation is required when a home-based business includes an employee, exterior signage, or client or customer visits. For more information contact Zoning Enforcement Officer Jane Gentile at 607-547-2411.

Advertising Opportunities

The Village of Cooperstown provides advertising opportunities at Doubleday Field, on its trolleys, and on the new trolley app. For more information, contact Village Administrator Teri Barown at 547-2411 or tbarown@cooperstownny.org.

Cooperstown Lakefront Concert Series 2018

Our 14th season of fun, summer family entertainment every Tuesday, 7pm at the historic bandstand in Lakefront Park.

FREE ADMISSION

Bring a chair or blanket and join the fun!

For full details & updates, visit www.richcooperstown.org.

July 3: The Small Town Big Band – A 14 piece band featuring brass, reeds and rhythm, performs music from the 1930's up to present day, in the style of the Big Band era.

July 10: Cooperstown Community Band – Celebrating 157 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, dixieland, jazz, themes and favorites!

July 17: Leatherstocking Jazz – A 16 piece Big Band made up of local music teachers, professionals and students. We play classic big band jazz as well as contemporary sounds.

July 24: Dyer Switch Band – Versatile and engaging, playing traditional tunes from first-generation bluegrass giants along with powerful originals and fresh, innovative versions of songs from other genres.

July 31: Hanzolo – An alternative/funk band with groovy, soulful, originals and fun, funky, covers. Music that makes people move. These long-time friends play music that comes from the soul.

August 7: Cooperstown Community Band – Celebrating 157 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, dixieland, jazz, themes and favorites!

August 14: 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.

August 21: Wintergreen – A folk trio who perform traditional and contemporary music, along with their own compositions. Instrumentals, intricate vocal harmonies, and a variety of folk instruments.

August 28: Fritz Henry – Solo singer and guitar offers fun and interactive variety of music for all ages – always a treat! Come on down and enjoy!

Committee/Board Vacancies

We have thirteen Village committees and boards on which volunteers provide a wonderful civic service to our community. In assembling the boards for this year I was pleased to fill vacancies on several committees and appreciate the willingness of residents Allen Ruffles, Ellen Pope, Ann Brown and Dave Wood to serve our community. A few vacancies remain including an Alternate on Planning Board, and an Alternate on Sewer & Water Board. If you are interested in participating on either of those Boards, please call the Village Office at 547 2411.

Recent Staff Promotion

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

On April 16, Chris Satriano was promoted to the position of Streets Superintendent for the Village of Cooperstown. Chris had previously been in the position of Heavy Motor Equipment Operator, a position he held with the Village since October of 2015 and previous to that worked with the Village as a seasonal groundskeeper at Doubleday Field during his summer breaks from college.

Upcoming Events

May 19 - Spring Fling in Doubleday Parking Lot

May 26 - Hall of Fame Classic

May 28 - Canoe Regatta

June 2 - Village-wide Yard Sale Day

Village Telephone Numbers

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