

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 109

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

August 2018

## News from the Mayor's Office

What a warm beautiful summer we are having. So deserved after that long extended winter! I hope you are enjoying our Village and all it has to offer, from numerous cultural activities to recreation. Our parks have been fully staffed this year so perhaps you have even enjoyed a swim in Lake Otsego.

By the time you read this, Hall of Fame Induction Weekend will be over. A great deal of planning goes into that event and our local economy truly benefits from the influx of visitors. I hope you joined me in welcoming our visitors. Yes, we "locals" experience some inconveniences, but before you know it, the summer season will be over and we will be gathering together on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> for our annual Community Dinner.

I am always impressed with all the useful information the trustees and staff put in our Village Voices newsletter. It is a really useful communication tool which is mailed quarterly with the water and sewer statements. We realized many apartment dwellers who do not pay separately for W&S were unaware of Village Voices. For this August 2018 newsletter, for the first time, we are mailing it to residents of Cooper Lane Apartments, so that they can benefit from the Village update. If you know of others who might like to receive a copy, let us know.

Let me give a quick report on our newly formed Housing committee which has been meeting every other week since early June. Among other factors, we have been looking at our zoning law to ensure it is not restricting in any way the creation of housing, including multi-unit or apartment housing. Numerous resources including a 2017 Bassett housing survey, the 2007 Notre Dame study of Cooperstown, a list of downtown apartments as well as housing assessments from other communities, have contributed to our discussions. These meetings are public and listed on the Village calendar. You are welcome to attend and observe.

- Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor

## Downtown Pedestrian Project

In 2013 the Village of Cooperstown was awarded over \$1.2 million in Transportation Enhancement

Program (TEP) funding through NYSDOT and FHWA. The past five years have been filled with

planning, local public input, and lots of federal and state approvals. We are now ready to move forward!

The project is slated to begin the Tuesday after Labor Day and continue until the weather prevents additional work. Construction will resume in the spring and will be suspended again prior to Memorial Day weekend to ensure that our business district can shine during the summer season.

As part of this project, you can expect:

- New sidewalks on portions of Pioneer Street and Main Street
- Improvements to the intersection at Main and Chestnut including the addition of walk/don't walk pedestrian signals
- Improvements to the mid-block crosswalks on Main Street and the crosswalks on Main Street at Chestnut, Pioneer, and Fair Streets
- New wayfinding and business directional signage at key intersections
- New, more secure trash and recycling receptacles
- Better lighting on Pioneer Street in the business district
- Replanting of trees that have been lost over the years
- Additional plantings in the rain gardens
- Bike racks and new matching benches
- A water-bottle filling station and bike repair station

The Village will be holding a public information session in August to ensure that those impacted have information about the project and timeline. We are excited about this next phase in our Main Street revitalization.

## Electric Vehicle Charging

The Village is installing two electric vehicle charging stations in the Doubleday Field parking lot. This project is funded through the NYS 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.

### **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](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.

### **Tree Inventory**

The Village of Cooperstown received a DEC award of over \$13,000 to inventory street and park trees. This work will update the last street tree inventory, which was completed in 2008. Additionally, the project will lead to an urban forest management plan (UFMP). The plan will allow for better planning for tree planting, trimming, removal, and replacement moving forward.

This project is funded entirely by DEC with no local match required. After a competitive bidding process, the Village has contracted with the low bidder, Davey Resource Group, for the inventory and plan. Davey is a national company headquartered in Ohio with local offices here in upstate New York. Staff member Lucas Myzel will be in the Village in the coming weeks documenting our trees.

The Otsego County Conservation Association will be working with the Village and Davey to present public programs on Sept. 20 and Oct. 6 to help spread the word about our findings. Stay tuned for more information!

### **Trolley Passes**

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 through Labor Day weekend. After Labor Day through Columbus Day the trolley runs weekends only from 9:30 AM to 7:15 PM.

Throughout the month of August, trolleys will be running two routes: one servicing the blue lot and the other servicing the red and yellow lots. 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 day; daily family passes are \$5 per day for 2 adults and up to 3 dependent children.

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

### Lakefront Concert Series

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

Cooperstown Lakefront Concert Series, in its 14<sup>th</sup> season, continues through August, every Tuesday at 7 PM, at Lakefront Park

August 7: Cooperstown Community Band - Celebrating 157 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, Dixieland, jazz, themes & 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!  
www.scottfreemanband.com

August 21: Wintergreen - This folk trio performs a mixture of traditional and contemporary music from the British Isles and America, along with their own compositions. www.wintergreentrio.com

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

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

Sponsored by the Village of Cooperstown Parks Commission, [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org), with support from Central NY Mobile Marketing, [cnymobilemarketing.com](http://cnymobilemarketing.com).

**NEW FOR THE CONCERT SEASON:** Want to take a break from preparing dinner prior to attending the concerts? A new feature each week will be our local Tickled Pink BBQ Full Service Caterers. They offer pulled pork sandwiches, Hamburger(fresh meat ) angus hot dogs, pulled pork or cheese nachos, giant dill pickles and a variety of beverages. They will be ready to serve at 5:30 pm.

### Property Tax Reminder

Village residents are reminded that the second installment of the Village Property Taxes is due on or before August 31, 2018 to avoid penalties. If you have any questions please contact the Village Treasurer, Debra Guerin at 547-8558 Ext 108 or e-mail [dguerin@cooperstownny.org](mailto:dguerin@cooperstownny.org).

### 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](http://www.cooperstownny.org) under the "permits" tab or in person at the Village offices at 22 Main Street.

### Storm Drains

The Village of Cooperstown expresses its sincere thanks to the various residents, businesses, and organizations that have so willingly adopted a catch basin to help keep storm water flowing as it should, especially during and after heavy 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.

A digital map of storm drains is available online at <http://cooperstownny.org/volunteers/>. Find the drain(s) nearest to your home, business, or organization and email the drain number(s) along with your contact information to Village Volunteer Rich McCaffrey at [ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com](mailto:ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com) or call 547-5256 to adopt a drain.

To clean your drain, 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. Please place leaves and debris in your yard debris container for easy removal and recycling.

### 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 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 3rd. 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.

### **Ballroom at 22 Main**

Did you know that the ballroom on the upper level of Village Hall can be rented for public and private events during periods when it is not in use by the Village Library or Cooperstown Art Association, including many dates from November to April?

The Village, with generous support from the Friends of 22 Main and Friends of the Village Library, has invested in lighting, AV equipment, sound-deadening panels, and chairs. Fees vary depending on the type of event and the number of users. To encourage use, the space rental fees have been kept low, and non-profits offering free public programs are exempt from all charges except a security deposit. The space is accessible by both stairs and an elevator. Contact the Village office at 547-2411 if you are interested in learning more.