

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 110

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

November 2018

## News from the Mayor's Office

I hope you are all enjoying the fall season in Cooperstown – and found time to attend the annual Community Dinner on Main Street in September. It is one of my favorite gatherings – a chance to reconnect with everyone after our busy summer season. The following weekend brought another successful Cooptoberfest, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual, complete with many locals and visitors participating in activities at the center of our Village.

Your Village Board has been quite busy overseeing many infrastructure projects and improvements. Check out the updates in this newsletter on work at the Village Hall, progress on various energy projects, including our two electric vehicle charging stations, and the Village tree inventory, in addition to major sidewalk upgrades.

The federal Transportation Enhancement Program grant we received in 2013 finally reached the implementation stage in mid August when NYSDOT gave approval for us to proceed on a nearly \$2.1 million dollar project. In September sidewalk work started on Pioneer Street, between Lake and Church streets. It will ultimately include new concrete sidewalks, and brick pavers similar to the look of our Main Street sidewalks. In addition, decorative street lamps, again like those on Main Street will be installed on those two blocks of Pioneer. Along the edges of Pioneer Park, bike racks, a bike repair station, and a drinking fountain will be installed. Ultimately new street benches and refuse/recycle bins will provide a unified look to our streetscape. Email alerts are keeping businesses and residents informed of work areas. Residents may also check out those email postings on the Village website, under the “News” drop down menu. Next year work will proceed to the Chestnut-Main intersection.

At the end of July we learned that Governor Cuomo awarded the Village \$3 million in ESD funding toward the planned \$5.8 million Doubleday Field upgrades. You may recall that earlier in the year Sen. Seward provided \$1 million in State and Municipal Facilities funding. The largest project cost will be the replacement of the deteriorated 3<sup>rd</sup> base bleachers, with new bleachers and a building which will provide ADA compliant seating and restrooms as well as administrative space and changing rooms. While the final design plans are still being worked out we presented the project

scope last month at HPARB and they set a public hearing for their November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to receive input on the demolition of the present bleachers. As plans progress later this year, the Village will also schedule an information meeting, so that residents and particularly neighbors of the Field, can stay informed.

All in all a very busy fall. I am really looking forward to the holiday season – And my first time to officially welcome Santa to Cooperstown!! Cooperstown is a perfect Christmas Village. Enjoy all we have to offer and remember to shop locally !!

*Ellen Tillapaugh – Mayor*

## Village Elections - 2018

Election Day for the Village will be Tuesday, March 19, 2019. The following offices are up for re-election:

- ❖ Trustee (2 positions) – Three year term each
- ❖ Trustee (1 position) – One 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 19, 2018.



## Trees

The Village of Cooperstown received a DEC award of over \$13,000 to inventory street and park trees. The work has updated the last street tree inventory, which was completed in 2008. The results of the 2018 inventory are available to the public at <https://cooperstownny.treekeepersoftware.com/>.

The inventory project is funded entirely through DEC with no local match required. After a competitive bidding process, the Village contracted with the low bidder, Davey Resource Group, for the inventory as well as an urban forest management plan (UFMP). Davey is a national company headquartered in Ohio with local offices here in upstate New York. The UFMP will allow for better

planning for tree planting, trimming, removal, and replacement moving forward.

### **Street Work**

The Village is pleased to report that after years of deferred maintenance Cooperstown has been able to undertake a robust street repair program since the implementation of seasonal paid parking in 2013. Money is budgeted each year for immediate needs—such as resurfacing—as well as for savings for larger projects that typically involve complete reconstructions. This budget year West Beaver Street, portions of Fair Street, and Spring Street were repaved.

In the previous five years, work has occurred on Beaver, Chestnut, Church, Cooper Lane, Delaware, Eagle, Elm, Glen, Grove, Hoffman, Lake, Linden, Main, Pine, Pioneer, River, Susquehanna, and Walnut.

### **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.

### **Holiday Shopping**

Small Business Saturday is November 24, but you shouldn't limit your local shopping to just one day this holiday season. Before you buy gifts on-line or drive to Utica or Albany, consider buying gifts right here in Cooperstown. 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).

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



Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in Cooperstown on November 23, 2018 by horse drawn wagon, at 5:00 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 8, 2018 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.

### **Energy Updates**

You may have noticed the two EV (electric vehicle) charging stations that have been installed in the Doubleday Field parking lot. These will provide charging, mainly for visitors, with plug in hybrid electric vehicles or all electric vehicles. The cost was covered through a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with a 20% match from the Village credited mostly against installation work done by the Village Streets Crew. Users of the stations will pay the normal parking fee in season plus \$0.20 per kilowatt hour to cover the cost of the electricity as well as billing costs and a reserve for maintenance. Drivers activate the system using a key fob or their cell phones. They can also use their cell phone to locate the Cooperstown charging stations and determine when they are available and the cost. The system can be easily expanded if usage increases.

Another change in the Village's energy supply is not visible at all. Last year we were able to contract with Constellation Energy, a large electricity supply company, for 100% renewable wind energy for all Village municipal electricity uses at a price approximately 10% below the cost of supply from NYSEG. The wind component is guaranteed through Renewable Energy Credits, which assures that our consumption of electricity is matched with wind generated electricity.

### **Support our Firefighters: Clear a Hydrant**

The Village of Cooperstown offers an opportunity for its residents, businesses, organizations, and others to get involved in helping to keep the Village safer. There are 127 fire hydrants in and around the Village. A map with numbered hydrants is available on the Village website at <http://cooperstownny.org/volunteers/>.

Clearing a hydrant means shoveling the snow 3 feet around the hydrant on all sides. This will ensure that in the event of a fire, firefighters can quickly access water to extinguish it. For the safety of drivers and pedestrians, snow should be piled on the tree lawn and not deposited in the street or on the sidewalk. More serious hydrant issues should be reported to the Village at 547-2411.

If everyone pitches in, we can ensure that access to fire hydrants is more continuous, especially following a large snow storm. The ultimate goal is to help ensure a safer Village for all who live, work, and visit here. Would you like to join the team? Contact Rich McCaffery at [ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com](mailto:ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com) or call 547-5256.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Overnight 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.

### **Village Hall Update**

Work has continued on making the third floor ballroom more user friendly as a multipurpose gathering place, thanks to funds donated by Friends of the Village Library and Friends of 22 Main Street. This past spring, we completed a closet to store the chairs out of the way when the space is being used for art exhibits or other activities where the chairs are not needed. We have also recently completed painting of the ceiling. The remaining funds from the donations will go toward improvements in the acoustics to further reduce unwanted sound to allow for better programming use.

A new joint project between the Library and the Village to restore all of the large double hung windows in the library and bathroom area is about to begin. Many of the original windows are inoperable, create drafts, and allow for heat leakage. The work will entail covering the window openings while all the old sashes are removed for repairs. The sashes will be reinstalled into repaired frames and casings. The results will be improved operation, aesthetics, and energy efficiency. We will work to get this done as quickly and with as little disruption as possible.

Repairs to the Fair Street entrance door and the roof over it were recently completed.

The small conference room on the lower level next to the Village offices is temporarily occupied by the construction observer for the TEP Main/Pioneer Street project. When work stops for the winter season that space will be again available as meeting/tutoring space for up to eight to ten people. To reserve the space, contact the Village Clerk's office.

New interior directional signs have been ordered to help people unfamiliar with the building find what they are looking for. These should be installed in the next few weeks.

### **Paid Parking**

During the 2018 Paid Parking Season the Village of Cooperstown collected \$438,198.90 from transactions at its twenty parking kiosks. This is an

increase of more than \$8,700 over last year and above the \$424,000 budgeted for parking revenue for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. In the six seasons since on-street paid parking was instituted in 2013, revenues from the Doubleday Field lot and on-street kiosks have totaled almost \$2.5 million dollars.

On the expense side, after the initial purchase of the parking kiosks, ongoing direct costs for paid parking are limited. They include communication fees, service and repair charges, and the purchase of paper for receipts, the only expendable supply. This calendar year we have paid our contractor, ATI, Inc. of Wynantskill, New York, \$2,799.95. Additionally, since the majority of parking transactions are conducted by credit or debit card, we have to date spent \$22,005.20 on credit card fees this season.

On-street revenues, collected from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day, amounted to 76 percent of the total parking income this year. Paid parking in the Doubleday Field lot accounted for the remainder. The Village additionally sold 1,239 parking permits for the paid parking area.

### **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 12  
(in observance of Veteran's Day)
- ❖ November 22 & 23  
(in observance of Thanksgiving)
- ❖ December 24 & 25  
(in observance of Christmas)
- ❖ December 31 & January 1  
(in observance of New Year's)

