

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 125

Editor, Jenna Utter, Village Clerk

August 2022

## **News from the Mayor's Office**

Summer in Cooperstown is just the best! Our 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, postponed due to rain, were enjoyed by many on Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>. We thank our Cooperstown Fire Department for coordinating the display. If you enjoyed being together with family and friends and celebrating our nation's birthday, please consider sending a donation to our volunteer CFD (PO Box 1, Cooperstown) and write "fireworks" on the memo line.

This issue of Village Voices also lists the schedule for our Tuesday evening, Lakefront Concert Series. The most recent performance by the Driftwoods brought out a large crowd and it was great to see so many locals. Hope to see you there!

AND we once again enjoyed a July HOF Induction. The weekend requires a lot of work and coordination with numerous agencies, including the Village, the Hall of Fame, as well as fire, medical and police agencies. We appreciate everyone's efforts for once again safely delivering a wonderful celebration of our nation's pastime. It is an important economic boost not only locally, but also regionally. This year's Induction was particularly meaningful for Cooperstown, as Bud Fowler, someone who grew up in our Village, was finally recognized and took his rightful place in the Hall of Fame.

Over Induction Weekend I often heard the refrain, we are finally back to normal. However, as we have reported before, your Village government never idled during the pandemic. We continued work on Village projects and infrastructure including renovations at the WWTP, Doubleday Field and Village Hall. Much of that work has been NYS grant supported and this year alone we have already received over \$3.5 million in reimbursements.

As we complete all those projects, we will be working to secure additional grants for needed infrastructure upgrades. Grant funding has allowed us not to increase the tax levy for nine years, while implementing projects to maintain our beautiful and historic community.

We hope you will attend our Board Meetings, join us for Breakfast with the Board and stay in touch

with your Village government. We are here to serve you!

Enjoy the summer!!

- Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor

## **The Fowler Pavilion**

At the July 25<sup>th</sup> Village Board meeting, the Trustees unanimously approved the naming of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> base building at Doubleday Field, "The Fowler Pavilion" in honor of 2022 HOF Inductee Bud Fowler.

Trustee Hanna Bergene who chairs the Doubleday Field Committee, brought the recommendation for the naming to the Board of Trustees. Friends of Doubleday President and former Village Mayor, Jeff Katz serves on the Doubleday Committee and had made the initial suggestion.

Mayor Tillapaugh noted that she felt that Dave Winfield's speech for Bud Fowler's induction at Sunday's HOF Ceremony, was excellent and highlighted not only Fowler's local connection but also his importance in the history of Baseball. Fowler played on integrated leagues in the 19<sup>th</sup> century decades before Jackie Robinson officially broke the major league baseball color barrier.

Born John Jackson in 1858 in Fort Plain, NY, Fowler's family moved to Cooperstown when he was just a few years old. As a young man, he adopted the name Bud Fowler and was forced to live a nomadic life playing for short periods of time on numerous white baseball teams where he faced racism and discrimination. Ultimately forced out of the game, Fowler became a founder of the Page Fence Giants and a major proponent of Black baseball leagues.

In 2013 the Village of Cooperstown named a lane adjacent to Doubleday Field, Fowler Way in recognition of Fowler's Cooperstown connection and his importance in the history of baseball.

The Village of Cooperstown began its \$6.5 million renovation of historic Doubleday Field in 2019. The final phase of the project includes the nearly complete 3<sup>rd</sup> base building, at which there was a community open house on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The

installation of the bleachers, which are back ordered until early 2023, will complete the renovations made feasible with grant support from Empire State Development and from a State and Municipal (SAM) Facilities grant.

### **ARP Funding**

The American Recovery Plan Act was the only federal government, COVID-19 relief funding for which the Village of Cooperstown, as a NEU (Non-Entitlement Unit), was eligible. NEU's are defined by the federal government as local governments typically serving populations of less than 50,000.

In total we received \$179,896.88. One half of that amount (\$89,948.44) was sent to the Village in August 2021, and the second and final amount was just received.

The ARP funds are less than we had hoped for, but the allocation is not based on any of our actual losses, which as we reported previously, were over \$800,000 in our 2020-21 fiscal year. As a NEU (non-entitlement unit) the Village was awarded funds based solely on a 2019 population estimate, which calculated our population as 1,754.

- Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor

### **Breakfast with the Board**

Come and have Breakfast with the Board!

Designed as a casual opportunity for hearing about projects in the Village and items on the agenda for that evening's Trustee Meeting, Breakfast with the Board will continue on Mondays from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. on these days: August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28 and December 19. We look forward to seeing you there!



### **Noise Law**

The following noise levels, as measured on a public sidewalk or adjacent property, are permitted in the Village of Cooperstown:

Residential Zoning Districts:

Up to 70dB between 7am and 10pm (day)  
Up to 60dB between 10pm and 7am (night)

Business and Commercial Zoning Districts:

Up to 80dB between 7am and 10pm (day)

Up to 60dB between 10pm and 7am (night)

Sound permits are available for up to four hours per occurrence, no more than three times per week, for up to 88dB. Permits allow for this sound level starting no earlier than 9am and continuing no later than 9pm on weekdays and 11pm on weekends.

Variances may also be considered by the Board of Trustees for unusual circumstances requiring louder, longer, earlier, or later sound levels.

The noise law includes some exceptions under certain circumstances for things such as emergency sirens, construction activities, lawn mowing, and snow removal.

### **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.

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



### **Trolley Passes**

Season trolley passes are a bargain and a great way for local residents and employees to find transportation around Cooperstown. The trolleys run daily from 8:30 AM – 7:30 PM through September 4.

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.

Daily passes are available for \$2 per day; daily family passes are \$5 per day for 2 adults and 2 dependent children.

### **Lakefront Concert Series**

The Lakefront Concert Series is in its 17th season. Concerts are every Tuesday at 6:30pm at the bandstand in Lakefront Park. Admission is free. Bring a chair or blanket and relax on the shore of Otsego Lake.

August 2 - Cooperstown Community Band

August 9 – Stoddard Hollow String Band

August 16 – Jerry Dee & The Dovetones

August 23 – Bourbon and Branch

August 30 - Barnyard Saints



### **Property Tax Reminder**

Village residents are reminded that the second installment of the Village Property Taxes is due on or before August 31, 2022. Bring them to the Village Office or postmarked no later than August 31, 2022, if mailing, 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 10. 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 5am 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 rainstorms. The Village will continue monitoring storm drains, but the assistance of volunteers will reduce the possibility of flooding due to inoperable or clogged drains.

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.

When the forecast calls for a heavy rainfall, remove the leaves and debris from each catch basin prior to a storm. After the storm, maintain the openings to catch basins. 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 DPW at 547-2411 and report the particular location. Never remove the grate or put debris into the drain.

### **Blocked Sewer Line? Avoid unnecessary costs, call the Village First!**

Property owners are responsible for maintaining waste lines to their junctions with the Village's sewer mains. The Village is responsible for operation and maintenance of the sewer mains. In the event a blockage occurs and an owner is uncertain about the location of the blockage, please notify the Village at 607-547-2411 for both daytime and after-hours emergencies. Village staff will investigate promptly. If the blockage is in the main, the Village will bear the cost of clearing it. If the blockage is in the owner's sewer lateral leading to the village main, the owner will be responsible for the cost. We bring this to your attention because recently a resident experienced a blockage, hired a plumber, and discovered that the blockage was in the Village main, not the owner's waste line. The Village cleared the line at no cost to the property owner, but was not authorized to reimburse the property owner for the cost of the plumber's services.

### 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. Signage in the Blue Lot (off Route 28 South) designates a limited number of easy pull-in RV parking spaces. Campgrounds for overnight stays are listed on the [www.ThisIsCooperstown.com](http://www.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 5th. 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

### Village Hall Updates

If you have not been to the ballroom on the uppermost floor of 22 Main, stop by this summer to see one of the Cooperstown Art Association's exhibits and make sure you look up while you are there. With funding from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation as well as Empire State Development, the skylights on the roof and in the ceiling have been fully restored to once again allow natural light to illuminate the ballroom.

We look forward to the next 22 Main project, which will finally make improvements to the building's elevator.

### Rain Gardens

Since they were first installed in 2014, the rain gardens on Main Street have been maintained by volunteers. 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. Cleaning and weeding takes place Wednesday mornings throughout the summer and fall, from 7am -8am. If you would be willing to help with cleanup or want more information, please reach out to the Village office at 607-547-2411 or [jutter@cooperstownny.org](mailto:jutter@cooperstownny.org).

### Vending Law Updates

The Village periodically makes tweaks to its Vending Law, which covers the sale of merchandise on public property during events such as the Hall of Fame Induction, food trucks in parks for activities such as the Lakefront Concert series, the display of products like T-shirts outside on private property, the parking of cars at houses over Induction weekend, yard sales, lemonade stands, door-to-door sales, and a number of other activities related to commerce. Rather than continue to make modifications, it seemed time to revisit the law as a whole and ensure that it was well organized and still made sense.

The Board of Trustees has set a public hearing for August 22 at 7pm to hear comments on the proposed new law, which incorporates, yet streamlines, many components of previous iterations. Copies of the proposed language are

available on the Village website  
[www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org) and in the Village offices.

### **Body-Worn Camera Policy**

The Village is proud to announce that it has received funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to implement a Body-Worn Camera program for the Cooperstown Police Department. In addition to funding the purchase of Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) for all full-time and part-time officers (as well as associated equipment and storage capacity), this award through the BWC Policy and Implementation Program (PIP) is helping the Village to develop policy that reflects best practices in BWC usage.

Cooperstown's BWC policy should serve the needs of the local community, not just mimic the policies of larger cities. For that to happen, we need your input. A copy of the draft policy, based in part on New York's model policy, is available on the Village's website [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org). The Board of Trustees wants your input on August 22 at 7pm at the board meeting. If you can't make it in person, please feel free to send your comments in advance of the meeting to [jutter@cooperstownny.org](mailto:jutter@cooperstownny.org). BWCs can positively affect the safety, accountability, and community focus of law enforcement. This is your opportunity to help direct how they are used in our local community.

### **Blocking the Sidewalk**

The Village Code requires that no plants, shrubs, or trees impede passage on the sidewalk. If you own property abutting a public sidewalk, please remember to trim back any bushes or other vegetation on your property hanging over the sidewalk. If Village trees on the tree lawn need to be addressed because they are preventing sidewalk use, please notify DPW Superintendent Mitch Hotaling at [mhotaling@cooperstownny.org](mailto:mhotaling@cooperstownny.org).

### **Skateboard and Bicycle Etiquette**

The Village encourages the use of bicycles as well as skateboards but reminds users that for the sake of pedestrian safety, certain restrictions apply.

Skateboards, as well as similar types of non-motorized recreational and sports equipment with wheels or runners, are prohibited on sidewalks in the following areas:

**Main Street from River Street to Pine Boulevard  
Fair Street from Otsego Lake to Main Street  
Hoffman Lane in its entirety**

### **Pioneer Street from Otsego Lake to Elm Street Chestnut Street from Lake Street to Susquehanna Avenue**

Skateboards should never be used within 20 feet of any pedestrian. Skateboarders should always wear protective head gear.

Village law prohibits the use of a bicycle on Main Street sidewalks between River Street and Chestnut Street, except for persons who are unable to walk and use a bicycle or similar conveyance as a mobility device. If you have your bike downtown and are not comfortable riding in the street, please walk your bike on the sidewalk. Elsewhere in the Village no bicyclist over the age of 12 years is allowed on a sidewalk or pathway set aside for pedestrians. In all cases when a bike rider is on a sidewalk, they need to move aside for the safety of pedestrians. Please be respectful.

### **Village Telephone Numbers**

<b>Main Office</b>	<b>547-2411</b>
Clerk - Jenna Utter	ext. 102
Deputy Clerk- Marcia Nye	ext. 101
Zoning Officer- Jackson DuBois	ext. 112
Public Works Supt. - Mitch Hotaling	ext. 104

<b>Treasurer's Office</b>	<b>547-8558</b>
Treasurer - Debra Guerin	ext. 108
Dep. Clerk-Treasurer - Kathy McCaffery	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

