

VILLAGE VOICES

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Editor, Jenna Utter, Village Clerk

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News from the Mayor's Office

As you can imagine, the Village is receiving many questions about the \$4.5 New York Forward award we received in March!! There is an article in this issue of Village Voices which will provide some background on the grant and includes the link to the Village website where we have created a New York Forward drop-down menu. On the website you can review the original application and see the latest update. The planning and implementation process are just beginning and there will be opportunities for community involvement!

At the beginning of April, we held our annual Organizational Meeting, and welcomed a new Trustee, George Fasanelli. We are fortunate that George and his wife Cathy chose to retire and move to our community! Over the past year they have attended every monthly Board meeting and so George was well prepared to run for a Trustee seat. He chairs Public Safety (Police Committee & Fire/Ems Committee) and serves on the Streets Committee. We are pleased to have his expertise!

At our Organizational meeting we also held a Public Hearing on our Tentative 2023-2024 Budget, ultimately adopting it at our monthly Board Meeting on April 24th. I am pleased to report that for the tenth budget year, since our 2013-14 budget, there has been no increase in the tax levy. It has remained at \$1,779,194 and represents a tax rate of \$5.18 per \$1000 of assessed value. You can view the budget on the Village's website (cooperstownny.org) under "Government" and the "Board of Trustee Meetings" drop down menu.

Finally, last month I formed a committee of residents to spearhead a new program we have named *Welcome Home Cooperstown*. We will be hosting monthly Meet & Greet opportunities for newcomers and any residents who want to help us welcome new arrivals to our community. Our goal is to build a stronger, more diverse and welcoming community. We know what a wonderful Village we have, and we look forward to sharing all we have to offer and encouraging newcomers to make Cooperstown their home too. A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who have worked so wonderfully on this initiative!! Our Village is indeed special.

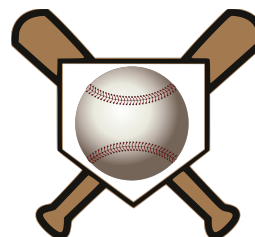
-Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor

Doubleday Project

We are nearing completion on the 3rd and final phase of the renovation of our Doubleday complex. Last July we held an Open House for the 3rd base, Fowler Pavilion which provides accessible bathrooms, locker rooms, storage, and office spaces.

Work on the 3rd base Bleachers, wing walls and ramps began this spring and we are anticipating an end of June completion date. The Bleachers will provide seating for 786 including 8 wheelchair and 8 companion spaces.

We appreciate everyone's patience during all the construction phases at Historic Doubleday Field. Our renovated complex will take center stage for Hall of Fame Induction activities and when it hosts the Savannah Bananas on September



Did you know that Doubleday Field® is Trademarked?

In 2010, the Village of Cooperstown trademarked DOUBLEDAY FIELD®. It is a very comprehensive trademark on the use of the name and imagery for any advertising and commercial purposes. In addition, the Doubleday complex (stadium, field, Sandlot Kid, etc.) requires payment of a location fee for any commercial or advertising use.

The Village offers very simple licenses to use the DOUBLEDAY FIELD™ word mark, and a number of Cooperstown businesses have completed the agreements. The word mark and the logo can be used for a small per piece royalty, or other arrangements can be made such as a flat licensing fee.

In order to allow local tourism organizations to use Doubleday imagery to promote the Village, the license agreement was recently updated to include a clause to allow such use at no cost, with Village Board approval.

If you have questions about whether your use is permitted without licensing fees, please consult your trademark counsel or discuss your concerns with the Village.

New York Forward

On March 2, 2023, it was announced that the Village would receive the New York Forward \$4.5 million award!

This new development program coordinated through our economic council, the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, and administered by the NYS Department of State (DOS), was designed specifically for a small Village like ours. It was essentially the Village version of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) to which we had applied unsuccessfully since 2016.

Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh submitted an Intent to Apply for this new program, in August 2022 and the completed application (20-page limit!) by the September 23rd deadline. We were then asked to make a presentation and answer questions about our application in late October. It was a welcome surprise to be recognized on March 2nd as our Economic Region's first New York Forward \$4.5 recipient.

We are just at the beginning of the award implementation process, which starts with developing a Strategic Investment Plan to revitalize our downtown. The State will select a Local Planning Committee made up of community leaders and other stakeholders to lead these efforts, supported by a team of private sector experts and state planners. The Strategic Investment Plan will examine local assets and opportunities to identify projects that align with each community's vision and that are poised for implementation. Funding will be awarded for selected projects from the Strategic Investment Plan that have the greatest potential to jumpstart revitalization and generate new opportunities for long-term growth.

Future updates and opportunities for involvement will be posted on the Village's website www.cooperstownny.org under the New York Forward drop-down menu. The original application is also posted on the website. We look forward to this exciting process guided by the Department of State.

Welcome Home Cooperstown!

Welcome Home Cooperstown, a new initiative of the Mayor of Cooperstown, will launch a series of monthly Meet & Greets on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Cooperstown

Library, Village Hall at 22 Main Street. The goal is to welcome area newcomers and assist them in building connections to established residents and institutions and encourage them to make our community their permanent home. Information about community events will be available, and refreshments will be served.

All members of the community are welcome, including newcomers to the area and longtime residents who would like to meet and welcome others. In general, events will take place on the first Tuesday of each month (May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, and December 5, 2023.). Please drop in at your convenience.

Members of the *Welcome Home Cooperstown* committee include interested citizens and representatives from Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown Central School, and the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Friends of the Village Library. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the work of building a stronger, more diverse and welcoming community.



Breakfast with the Board

The Village began hosting its monthly Breakfast with the Board exactly one year ago this month. We appreciate the many residents who take this opportunity to come and discuss issues with their elected officials, while enjoying some locally made donuts and coffee.

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 be held on Mondays at 8 a.m. on these days: **May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27 and December 18.** We look forward to seeing you there!



Rain Gardens

The rain garden stewardship program is a volunteer program coordinated by the Village of Cooperstown. This year, we look forward to working with the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) to expand volunteer opportunities to keep our rain gardens looking great. Individuals, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to adopt one or more rain gardens or tree boxes for the summer. For years, dedicated volunteers, until recently led by Rich McCaffery, have maintained the rain gardens throughout the summer season.

Rainwater and snowmelt carry sediment and pollutants from the Village of Cooperstown into Otsego Lake, the Susquehanna River, and eventually Chesapeake Bay. To curb this process, the permeable pavers, permeable asphalt, and 37 rain gardens on Main Street capture rainwater from the sidewalks and streets and help it slowly soak into the ground. The soil naturally filters the water, ridding it of contaminants before it reaches the water table.

Those willing to make this commitment would be responsible for adding plantings—annuals or perennials—in the spring if desired, weeding throughout the summer, watering if necessary, picking up trash as needed, and cleaning up by removing annuals and trimming back other plants after the growing season. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for individuals and businesses excited about this project but unable to commit time. Sponsors would pay for the materials while volunteer groups maintained the beds. OCCA will provide optional training to those interested in learning more about planting and caring for these small, specialized gardens.

If you are interested in signing up or want more information, contact Shelby MacLeish at OCCA at education@occainfo.org or 607-601-8259. We will try to honor requests for specific locations as space allows, giving first preference to businesses and residences adjacent to each garden.

Street Paving

The Village is pleased to announce a robust street paving plan in 2023. This spring, paving will begin with Grove Street between Main and Glen, Main Street between Railroad and Grove, and Chestnut Street from Main to Lake.

After the busy summer season, paving plans include: Railroad Avenue, Leatherstocking Street, Maple Street, Lake Street from River Street to the Village line, Grove Street from Maple St to Chestnut Street and Main Street from Nelson to Railroad. We

additionally will be continuing with the installation of new sidewalks on Grove Street from Main to Glen.

Boat Trailer Parking

This year the Village is pleased to offer a FREE daily trolley pass for those parking boat trailers in the Yellow Lot on Lake Street by the Fenimore Art Museum or the Blue Lot off Rt. 28. A free pass will be available with proof of boat inspection on the same day at the launch on Fair Street or Fish Road. Boats can be docked in the day use spaces at the Village docks, while trucks and trailers are moved to a satellite lot, and passengers travel back to Lakefront Park.

The Village hopes this will reduce some of the congestion related to the parking of trailers on Fish Road. Vehicles over 20 feet are not permitted to park on any Village street.

Trolley Passes

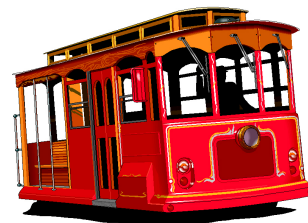
The trolley season will soon be underway. Season trolley passes are a bargain and great way for local residents and employees, as well as tourists, to find transportation around Cooperstown.

The trolley schedule will soon be available at www.cooperstownny.org/trolley-system. Trolleys will be running daily Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. 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 person.

Trolley Advertising

Want people to know about your business or organization? The Village of Cooperstown is happy to announce the availability of advertising panels on the Village trolleys for businesses and non-profits.

The cost for the ad is \$585 per year for a 24x40 exterior trolley advertisement that will be placed on one of three trolleys. Three signs, one on each trolley, are available at the discounted rate of \$1200. Advertising space is limited and will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. The design, production, and installation of ads are at the cost of the advertiser. Contact



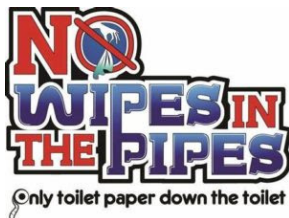
jutter@cooperstownny.org for more information or call 607-547-2411.

**No Wipes in Pipes!
Flushable Wipes Aren't Flushable!**

The Village has made a significant investment in the upgrade of our Waste Water Treatment Plant. We can be proud that we have a Plant which meets the needs of our community for decades to come and also ensures environmental safeguards for the Susquehanna River, the headwaters of the Chesapeake Basin.

All Village residents can help ensure that our WWTP continues to function at its best by not flushing disinfecting wipes, baby wipes and other sanitary wipes down toilets. These materials - despite packaging which says they are "flushable" - should be placed in the trash not in the toilet.

While toilet paper is designed to break down quickly, so called flushable wipes do not break down. They clog and damage equipment. *Consumer Reports* tested several varieties of wipes and reported they do not fragment even after testers processed them for ten minutes in a bladed mixer. Save yourself expensive household plumbing problems by not flushing this material into the sewer system and your actions will also benefit the new and expensive equipment at our WWTP.



**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.

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. The rate is \$2.50 per hour, payable in 30-minute increments, with a \$15 all-day option at the Doubleday Field parking lot.

This year the Village will again be teaming up with Passport to provide a pay-by-phone option. You can download the passport app or pay online at: www.passportparking.com. Convenience fees will be added for the use of credit cards at the kiosks or on the app.

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 kiosk or on your phone. Doubleday Field provides an all-day option.

Parking Permits

Downtown parking permits provide an alternative to using kiosks or the Passport app for parking in the paid parking area. Anyone can buy a permit, and we encourage everyone to shop our local businesses, which often means parking downtown. Permits remain a great deal at a cost of \$25 for the first permit, and \$15 for additional permits at the same address.

Permit holders can park for up to 2 hours daily in 2-hour areas without purchasing time at a kiosk or on the app. 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.

Applications can be accessed on the village website www.cooperstownny.org (under permits) or at the Village Office. A completed application, accompanied by the appropriate fee payable by check, can be mailed to the Village office at P.O. Box 346, Cooperstown, NY 13326. Credit cards are also accepted for payment at the Village office.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Village of Cooperstown has prepared its annual Drinking Water Quality Report to comply with State regulations.

Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. You may access a

complete report, once available from the Department of Health, at the Village website www.cooperstownny.org, you can also 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.

Summer Parks Update

We are busy planning for the opening of both Fairy Spring and Three Mile Parks for swimming. The tentative plan is to open both beaches on weekends only, starting the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend (May 27th), and then 7 days a week once school is out for the summer (June 26th). As a reminder, our goal is to keep both beaches open for swimming daily, but there may be times, due to weather and/or staffing, that we may need to close one or both temporarily.



Arbor Day

Arbor Day began 150 years ago 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.

This year the Village will hold its Arbor Day Celebration on Tuesday May 23rd at 11:30 a.m. with plantings on Church Street near the Pioneer Street corner in memory of Doug Walrath. Beginning in February of 1965, Doug was employed by the Village of Cooperstown in a variety of capacities including clerk, treasurer, and administrator. After retirement in June 1990, he continued serving the Village when he was appointed to complete Jim Woolson's unexpired term as village trustee. He also served a short term on the village water board.

We hope you will be able to attend our Arbor Day ceremony as we honor Doug's commitment to our community.

Cooperstown Lakefront Concert Series

The Village of Cooperstown proudly presents the 2023 Lake Front Concert Series schedule and lineup, featuring local and regional New York State bands representing an eclectic variety of musical genres. Concerts are performed on our historic bandstand in beautiful Lake Front Park

on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm in July and August.

7/11/23: Hanzolo-Indies Funk Rock

7/18/23: Donna Tritico Band- Funky Blues, Rock & Soul

7/25/23: TBA

8/1/23: Grateful Upstate Todeloo- Grateful Dead Tribute

8/8/23: Atomic Rewind- Classic Rock Favorites

8/15/23: Cooperstown Community Band- Concert Band Classics

8/22/23: Hop City Hellcats- Americana Outlaw

8/29/23: Fabulous Mojoes – Hot Swingin' Blues



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 to enliven our downtown. 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 office@cooperstownchamber.org to reserve dates and times. CD sales and a donation container are permitted.

Green Waste Pick Up

Beginning in May, the Village will limit green waste pickup to the last Thursday of each month.

Compostable Waste and Brush Curbside Pickup Procedures:

- The Village will pickup compostable yard waste and brush/sticks separately. There will be two pickups per street, one for soft green waste and a second for brush.
- In April only, soft green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and other soft (vacuumable) garden waste does not need to be bagged but can be left loose between the sidewalk and curb out of the street.

- In May and following months, place any soft green 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.
- 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.
- We do not pick up any kind of construction debris or processed lumber.
- 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, getting out with furry friends provides a great way to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. 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 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.

Grate Keepers

The Village continues to monitor its 313 storm drains, but the assistance of volunteers reduces 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, remove the debris from each catch basin prior to a storm. 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 location. Never remove the grate or put debris into the drain.

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.

Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale Day

The Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be presenting Cooperstown Yard Sale Day on Saturday, June 3, 2023! This community event is open to any Village resident, business or organization to participate.

Registration and submission of the usual \$15 fee will ensure that you are promoted on the Yard Sale Day map; that you receive a yard sign to utilize the day of the event to draw people to your location; and that you are automatically registered with the Village of Cooperstown Clerk's Office.

You can register and pay online at: <https://www.wearecooperstown.com/coopyardsales/> or print the registration form found online and drop it off with your payment at the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, 31 Chestnut Street.

If you have any questions, please reach out to (607) 547-9983 or email office@cooperstownchamber.org. You can also stay up-to-date on the event on the Cooperstown Yard Sale Day Facebook page and event.



Yard Sales

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.

Property Taxes

Village property tax bills will be mailed on or about May 31, 2023. 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 30, 2023 and the second installment is due without penalty no later than Thursday, August 31, 2023. If you have any further questions, please call the Village Treasurer's Office at 547-8558.

Attention Boaters and Kayakers!

Boating season is kicking off very soon! Boat, Kayak, and Canoe Slip Permits have been mailed to all applicants who have completed their submission in full with registration and payment. There are still Kayak and Canoe Slips available at Lakefront and Fairy Spring. If you are interested in a slip at one of these locations, please contact the Village Clerk. We wish all boaters a safe and sunny season!

