

VILLAGE VOICES

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Editor, Jenna Utter, Village Clerk

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News from the Mayor's Office

On July 17th, our Village welcomed Gov. Kathy Hochul to officiate at the Ribbon Cutting for our renovated Doubleday Field.

Unfortunately, due to air quality concerns with smoke from Canadian forest fires, we were unable to celebrate on the Field at Doubleday, in sight of all the wonderful improvements including the Fowler Pavilion and new bleachers. Fortunately, the Hall of Fame on short notice, graciously hosted the event in their Grandstand Theater.

Gov. Hochul knows our community well, having visited numerous times while Lt. Governor. The Village benefited from a \$3 million grant from Empire State Development in support of all the Doubleday renovations. We also received \$2 million in State and Municipal funding from former Sen. Jim Seward and the late, former Assemblyman Bill Magee. This support enabled all the improvements – the parking lot and 1939 Grandstand renovations, and the construction of the Fowler Pavilion and bleachers – to occur without an undue burden on local taxpayers.

As noted in my remarks at the Ribbon Cutting, the Village has owned Doubleday Field for over 100 years. It is used by local teams as well as being showcased by the Hall of Fame on a national level. For it to continue to shine on that national stage, additional improvements will be undertaken.

The Village will apply in the Open Call for Projects for the NYF Award. Yes, we may have written the grant and included Village projects in the application, but we must apply the same as all others. Funding will be sought for improvements to Fowler Way, including a pedestrian safe pathway along Fowler to the ADA accessible seating on the 1st Base Bleacher.

And just when we thought we were nearing the end of Doubleday improvements, the 32-year-old irrigation system on the Field broke, and is no longer operable. So again, NYF funding will be sought for Field improvements.

As you can tell when looking around the Village, our focus has not been on Doubleday alone. Major improvements to streets, sidewalks, culverts, and Village Hall have also occurred. Funded largely in

part by grants, which we will continue to seek. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have submitted five Consolidated Funding Applications for Hoffman Lane, Lakefront Park, a Watershed Management Plan for Otsego Lake, Village water meters upgrade and a stormwater Inflow and Infiltration study.

At the same time, we are enjoying our beautiful Cooperstown summer and hope you are as well!

--Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor

Welcome Home Cooperstown!

Welcome Home Cooperstown, our series of monthly Meet & Greets launched in May and has been a wonderful success!

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 is available, and refreshments are served. Our July event was hosted by The Friends of Bassett.

All members of the community are welcome, including newcomers to the area and longtime residents who would like to meet and welcome others. The gatherings take place on the first Tuesday of each month with the next one on **Tuesday, August 1** at Village Hall, outside on the porch, if weather allows. Future dates are September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th. 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.



Cooperstown Free WIFI

Have you tried it?! Cooperstown Free WIFI is at long last in place on our Village's Main Street, from Fair to Chestnut streets.

After years of delays while agreements and grant funding requirements were met, not to mention pandemic-associated delays with equipment orders, Cooperstown Free WIFI became operational a few days before Induction Weekend. Although the signage announcing the WIFI network had not yet arrived, many visitors found and used the free network over the weekend.

For this \$310,000 grant-funded, broadband project the Village worked with the Otsego County IDA and Middleburgh telephone – Mid-Tel.

Work over the past few years included pulling fiber cables through existing conduits under Main Street and installing small (4" x 7") Wi-Fi units unobtrusively on our lampposts. In addition to the downtown WIFI hotspots, an app to enhance visitor experience and provide event and retail awareness will complete the project.

New York Forward

July has been an active month for NYF activities. On July 11th, the NYF team of consultants held an Open House from noon to eight at Cooperstown High School. The Open House provided an opportunity for residents to learn more about NYF and the funding opportunities available in the designated Boundary.

Many building owners brought proposed plans for new or improved apartments on second and third stories. Increased housing was a major goal in our 2016 Comprehensive Plan and continues to be a goal of the Village and the New York Forward program. Everyone (including the Village!) who is seeking NYF funds needs to complete the Open Call for Projects application form. The consultants provided guidance and signups for one-on-one sessions to assist. The deadline for the Open Call applications is Wednesday August 2nd.

In addition, a downtown survey launched at the beginning of the month. There will be a Main Street information table near Pioneer Alley and the Farmers' Market on Saturday, July 29th, with information about NYF and the survey. We encourage everyone to complete the quick survey, which will close on August 4th. The survey results will be used by the Local Planning Committee when they meet on August 23rd.

A quick survey link can be found on the Village website, on both the Main page and on the New York Forward page. Here is the survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Cooperstown>

If you missed the first Open House, a second and final one will be held on Wednesday September 13th from noon to 4 at the Village Fire Hall.

The \$4.5 million NYF Award is an exciting opportunity for the Village and building owners to undertake significant transformative projects in our downtown area and we appreciate all the positive responses we have received.

Breakfast with the Board and Monthly Board Meeting

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 Trustees Meeting, Breakfast with the Board will continue on **Mondays from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. on these days: August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27.** We look forward to seeing you there!

The public is also invited to attend the monthly Board of Trustees meeting and other public meetings. The Board of Trustees meets on the 4th Monday of every month, and meetings start at 6:30pm with public comment.



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.

Filming in Cooperstown

The Village has recently adopted a supplemental application for those interested in filming movies, TV episodes, commercials, streaming video, or other projects in Cooperstown. A film permit is required to film on public property within the Village of Cooperstown or owned by the Village of Cooperstown, including but not limited to sidewalks, streets, parks, parking lots, Village buildings, and Doubleday Field.

A film permit is not required to film on private property unless:

- You require street parking spaces for working production vehicles
- You will be staging a generator or other equipment on public property, and/or will be running cables across sidewalks
- You need to work before 7 a.m. or after 10 p.m.
- You are performing stunts or using prop weapons within view of the public or adjacent properties
- You are depicting a crime within view of the public or adjacent properties
- Your work on private property will have an impact to the surrounding neighborhood

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 flowerpots, 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 Hotaling, 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 \$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 \$2.50 per day. Children under 5 are free.

Lakefront Concert Series

The Lakefront Concert Series is in its 18th 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. Mella's will be offering wood-fired pizza for sale and Vesucré will be offering plant-based ice cream for sale.

- August 1 - Grateful Upstate Todeloo**
- August 8 – Atomic Rewind**
- August 15 – Cooperstown Community Band**
- August 22 – Hop City Hellcats**
- August 29 - Fabulous Mojoes**



Property Tax Reminder

Village residents are reminded that the second installment of the Village Property Taxes is due on or before August 31, 2023. You can bring them to the Village Office or have them postmarked, no later than August 31, 2023, 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.

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 5am to 2am
- 3) In the Doubleday Field lot after 4pm

You can get the required paperwork online at 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.

When the forecast calls for heavy rain, 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.

Updates from the Watershed Supervisory Committee

The Watershed Supervisory Committee has been meeting for many years focusing on septic systems per the requirement of law. When the first harmful algae bloom occurred in 2022, the committee's efforts were enhanced to include the health of the lake. Since then, the committee and its members have been working tirelessly to understand and

take actions to improve the health of the lake with other lake focused organizations. We are applying for two grants and have also requested a local grant to enhance the efforts that we employ. We are learning from other lake experiences as well, so that we don't reinvent the wheel. All committee meeting notices are posted by the Village on their website.

The members of the committee are Bertine Colombo McKenna - Chair Person, Patricia Kennedy, Douglas Willies, William Richtsmeier, and James Howarth, representing the towns of Otsego, Middlefield, and Springfield and the Village of Cooperstown. Kiyoko Yokota is working with the committee as our scientific consultant.

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 website.



Boat Trailer Parking

In order to ensure access to as many users as possible, the Village has limited the number of spaces on Fish Road, adjacent to Lakefront Park, where boat trailers may be parked. No boat trailers are to be parked on the west side of Fish Rd. Spaces are designated where trailers may be parked on the east side of Fish Road roughly across from the boat wash station. Please heed signage.

If those spaces are full, boat trailers may be parked at the upper lots at Fairy Spring Park and in the Blue and Yellow trolley lots. Those who have a boat inspection slip may ride the trolley for free back to Lakefront Park from any of the trolley lots.

EV Charging

The Village currently has two level 2 electric vehicle charges in the Doubleday Field parking lot. These are available for anyone to use. Parking fees as well as use fees apply.

The Village is considering the addition of four new public fast charging stations in the Fowler Way lot. There will be a public hearing on August 28 at 7pm to consider this new installation.

The Village is committed to curbing the use of fossil fuels and sees electric vehicles as one way to promote clean energy.

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, seven 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 work 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 identification that 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 carpool if possible



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. The Village is grateful to everyone who has adopted a rain garden and to those who pick up trash from them weekly. 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.

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.

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

Main Office	547-2411
Clerk - Jenna Utter	ext. 102
Deputy Clerk- Marcia Nye	ext. 101
Zoning Officer- Jackson DuBois	ext. 112
Public Works Supt. – Mitch Hotaling	ext. 104
Assessor/Watershed Inspector- Al Keck	ext. 107
Treasurer's Office	547-8558
Treasurer – Debra Guerin	ext. 108
Deputy Treasurer - Kathy Caffery	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

