VILLAGE VOICES

Number 131

Editor, Jenna Utter, Village Clerk

May 2024

News from the Mayor's Office

We appreciate our Volunteers!

A year ago at this time, we had just learned that we were awarded our Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's first \$4.5 million New York Forward Award. That began a busy process by a Local Planning Committee to develop a priority list of public and private sector projects. We are awaiting the announcement this spring of those projects selected by New York State from that list. Hopefully, we may even have heard an announcement by the time you are reading this. If not, be sure to check out local news and our website for updates!!

At our annual Organizational meeting on April 1st, we held a Public Hearing on our 2024-2025 Tentative Budget, and also posted the Budget on the Village's website (cooperstownny.org) under "Government" and the "Board of Trustee Meetings" drop down menu. By NYS Law our Village Budget must be adopted by May 1st, one month prior to the start of our June 1st-May 31st fiscal year. We will plan to do one final review of the Budget before adopting it at our April 29th meeting. I am very appreciative of how seriously all Board members take their stewardship of Village finances.

Over the past several years the Village tax rate has fluctuated a few cents - from \$5.188 per \$1000 assessed value in 2018-19, my first year as Mayor, to \$5.209 per \$1000 assessed value proposed 2024-25 budget. Over those six years, the Village has seen many cost increases and also undertaken much needed infrastructure improvements - so our General Fund Budget has increased from \$3.6 million (in 2018-19) to this year's \$5.0 million. Successful grant writing, NYS funding support and effective investment of reserves have allowed us to address Village needs without burdening our taxpayers.

I look forward to seeing you at Breakfast with the Board, Welcome Home Cooperstown, Lakefront Park Concerts, or at the many other happenings planned for our Village's busy summer season!!

-Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh

We have nine Village committees and boards on which volunteers provide an important civic service to our community. In our last Village Voices, we noted that there were two vacancies on boards and asked for volunteers. We immediately heard from several individuals willing to volunteer - it was so impressive and so heartening! We followed up with everyone in the order their email or phone call was received by the Village. Thank you to Gilbert Vincent appointed to the Historic Preservation and Architectural Review Board and Carrascoso appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Your service is very much appreciated!

Hall of Fame Classic Weekend

The greatest legends of Black Baseball demonstrated their talent and desire for four decades at the annual Negro Leagues East-West All-Star Game. Memorial Day Weekend, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will honor that legacy by hosting the Hall of Fame East-West Classic: A Tribute to the Negro Leagues All-Star Game, presented by Boeing, at Cooperstown's historic Doubleday Field.

Scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, the Hall of Fame East-West Classic, fueled by assistance from Major League Baseball, will feature more than two dozen former big leaguers, with Harold Baines, Rollie Fingers, Ken Griffey Jr., Fergie Jenkins, Jim Kaat, Fred McGriff, Eddie Murray, Jim Rice, Lee Smith, Ozzie Smith, Joe Torre and Dave Winfield among the Hall of Famers who will serve as the East and West teams' managers and coaches. The game will be part of a weekend celebration as the Museum opens its new exhibit The Souls of the Game: Voices of Black Baseball.

Players committed to participate in the May 25 Hall of Fame East-West Classic include team captains CC Sabathia and Chris Young; Josh Barfield, Tim Beckham, José Contreras, Ian Desmond, Prince Fielder, Dexter Fowler, Curtis Granderson, Tony Gwynn Jr., Jerry Hairston, Scott Hairston, LaTroy Hawkins, Ryan Howard, Edwin Jackson, Jeremy Jeffress, Adam Jones, Howie Kendrick, Russell Martin, Darrell Miller, Melvin Mora, David Price, Tony Sipp, Dee Strange-Gordon, B.J. Upton and Justin Upton.

For more information or to reserve tickets, please visit <u>baseballhall.org/east-west</u>.

Tickets are also available via phone at (888) 325-0470 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.



Attend Welcome Home Cooperstown!

In May of last year, the Village held its first *Welcome Home Cooperstown* gathering at Village Hall. These successful first Tuesday of the month, from 5:30-7 gatherings are designed to welcome newcomers to our Village and assist them in building connections to established residents and institutions. We hope they will choose to make our community their permanent home. Everyone is welcome, including longtime residents who would like to meet and welcome others.

Each month has a theme, speaker, music, Library craft for children, community tables (by businesses and organizations) and refreshments! Please check out our Facebook, *Welcome Home Cooperstown* page, designed and managed by Erin Rawitch, for up to date details.

In the summer (July and August) our Meet and Greets will be only an hour long, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., giving plenty of time to attend our wonderful Lakefront Concert Series programs. We hope to see you at all our summer gatherings!

Programs for the next few months include:

May 7th — Cinco de Mayo with local resident Arisai Cruz Hernandez speaking. Music will feature Zach Hirst, violinist with guitar player Rosanne Westgate and refreshments by Lauren Glynn.

June 4th – Pride Month with speaker Angela Eldred from the CCS Identity Alliance. Music and refreshments by Otsego 2000/Cooperstown Farmers' Market in addition to rainbow cookies prepared by CCS students from Stephanie Nelan's class.

July 2nd– Otsego Lake! Featuring a speaker from Otsego Lake Association (OLA) and refreshments by Dr. Antoinette and Adrian Kuzminski.

We hope to see you there!



Breakfast with the Board

The Village began hosting its monthly Breakfast with the Board two years 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 20, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 25, and December TBD. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rain Gardens

The rain garden stewardship program is a volunteer program coordinated by the Village of Cooperstown. Individuals, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to adopt one or more rain gardens or tree boxes for the summer.

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.

If you are interested in signing up or want more information, please contact Cindy Falk at cfalk@cooperstownny.org We will try to honor requests for specific locations as space allows, giving first preference to businesses and residences adjacent to each garden.

Nelson Avenue Sewer Work

The recent roadwork on Main Street and Nelson Avenue is the result of a sewer project. The sewer line from Main Street is being re-routed from Pine Boulevard, where the sewer line is only 6 inches, to Nelson Avenue, where the sewer line is 8 inches. We apologize for the short-term inconvenience.

Boat Trailer Parking

The Village is pleased to offer once again, 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 is available at www.cooperstownny.org/trolley-system. Trolleys will be running daily Friday, May 24 to Sunday, September 1, 8:30am – 6:30pm. 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 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 <u>called flushable wipes do not break down</u>. 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 be 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 25th), 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 152 years ago in 1872 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The event 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 Friday, July 5th, 2024 with plantings on Pine Boulevard in memory of Bill and Liz Clark. Bill served as a Village Trustee and Mayor from 164-1966, and Liz was employed in the Bassett Hospital research department.

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

Cooperstown Lakefront Concert Series

The Village of Cooperstown proudly presents the 2024 Lake Front Concert Series, our 20th season! Check out our 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. There will be food trucks, bubble tea, and more this year, so come join the fun!

<u>7/2/24</u>: Small Town Big Band- Big Band Song Book

<u>7/9/24</u>: Mountain Gators Band- Roots, Rock, & Blues

7/16/24: Double Barreled- Country Rock

7/23/24: Scattered Flurries- Classic Rock

7/30/24: Blues Maneuver- Rockin' Blues Band

8/6/24: Without a Net- Grateful Dead Tribute

8/13/24: 2 Of Us- Beatles Acoustic Duo

<u>8/20/24</u>: Cooperstown Community Band- Concert Band Classics

8/27/24: Jason Schnitt- One Man Band



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 pick up 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.
 - o 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 607-547-8881.

Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale Day

The Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be presenting Cooperstown Yard Sale Day on Saturday, June 1, 2024! This community event is open to any Village resident, business or organization to participate.

Registration and submission of the usual \$20 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, 2024. 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 Sunday, June 30, 2024 and the second installment is due without penalty no later than Saturday, August 31, 2024. If you have any further questions, please call the Village Treasurer's Office at 547-8558.

EV Chargers

The Village currently has two chargers for electric vehicles in the Doubleday Field parking lot. These chargers were installed under a grant from the NYS DEC dating back to 2017. Since that time, EV chargers have improved. The Village is currently working to install faster, more versatile chargers in the Fowler Way parking lot. Until that happens, please be aware that the Doubleday Field chargers are slow. If charging speed is a concern, please consider using other area chargers for a better experience.



Town of Otsego Comprehensive Plan

Attention Village residents who live in the Town of Otsego (west of the Susquehanna River)- the Town of Otsego is working on a new Comprehensive Plan. If you are interested in serving on the committee that is being put together to engage in planning, please contact Town Board Member, Pat Kennedy at m.pat.kennedy@townofotsego.com.

Potential for Housing at 217 Main Street

A year ago when Cooperstown received a New York Forward award, a team of State officials visited and walked our "NYF boundary" which included the building at 217 Main Street, the former Where it All Began Bat Company. The Village has long been interested in that site's potential for housing.

From that NYF process, a developer of housing, Vecino Group (https://www.vecinogroup.com) became aware of the property. Vecino is a national company dedicated to the development of affordable and supportive housing. In January, they partnered with Springbrook (https://springbrookny.org) in an application to the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities – Integrated Supportive Housing (OPWDD-ISH) for 8 dedicated, one-bedroom units in the potential 50-unit, 3 story apartment building. Springbrook would provide on-site support services for individuals in those 8 units. In February they received a \$1.78

When Round 8 of Restore NY opened in February, the Village Board approved submitting a Letter of Intent and were subsequently encouraged to submit an application for funding. At our April 29th meeting, there will be a presentation at 7 pm by Vecino Group and a Public Hearing on that application. According to the Village's zoning law, the use of this lot for multi-family housing is permitted. The building can be 42 feet, or 3-stories, tall without a variance.

million award notification from OPWDD.

Representatives from Vecino also presented at the April 9th meeting of HPARB relative to an application to demolish the existing structure. The Public Hearing for that review is scheduled for May 14th at 5 pm.

All Village meetings, are live streamed and recorded on the Village's YouTube channel. Meetings can be watched live by clicking on the **VOC Live** button on the Village website - www.cooperstownny.org/. **VOC Live** also links to the YouTube channel where all meeting recordings are located.

TextMyGov

The Village Board recently approved a contract with TextMyGov which is smart texting technology that allows citizens and visitors to receive updates and messages from the Village via text messages. If you would like to receive Village-wide notifications, just text "COOPERSTOWNALERTS" to 91896. Please check the website, www.cooperstownny.org for updates for when the app will be live!

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!



Southern Boundary Annexation.....Complete!

In 2018, Village officials first sat down with representatives from Otsego County, Town of Otsego, and Leatherstocking Railway to discuss extending the Village jurisdiction along the western side of Linden Avenue. Many locals were unaware that the Village boundary line ended near the northern boundary of the County Highway property - and much of Linden Avenue was actually in the Town of Otsego.

Extending the Village's southern boundary had merit, as in 2011 the Village had undertaken a \$5 million, federally supported improvement to the street and created the Blue Lot and the Linden Avenue extension to Route 28. Known as the Gateway or CIT Project (Cooperstown Intermodal Transportation) the improvements were completed in 2014, with Village taxpayers committing to a tenyear, \$500,000 Bond. The entire area has long been maintained by the Village.

The discussions and planning for an Annexation, shut down during the pandemic and resumed in 2022. In March 2023, a Public Meeting hosted by the Town and Village was held at the Cooperstown School and all the "Public Interest" reasons in

support of the jurisdiction change were reviewed. It was noted that all the properties involved were uninhabited and tax exempt.

Over the next year, there was a presentation to Otsego County representatives and Resolutions and a Petition signed by all property owners executed. Finally, on April 10, 2024, all the elected officials for the Village and the Town of Otsego met at the Town Hall and approved and signed the Annexation Resolution.

With the filing of the documents and survey with NYS and Otsego County, a process that spanned 6 years, was finally complete. This jurisdictional change has added 13.1765 acres within the Village boundary.

your trademark counsel or discuss your concerns with the Village.

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If you have questions about whether your use is

permitted without licensing fees, please consult

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Surveyed Areas			
HATCH	DESCRIPTION	AREA	
	COUNTY OF OTSEGO TAX MAP PARCEL #131.00-1-25	3.9332 Acres	
	VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN (NO TAX MAP PARCEL ID)	0.4560 Acre	
	VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN TAX MAP PARCEL #131.00-1-20 dnd TAX MAP PARCEL #131.00-1-18	6.0647 Acres	
	LEATHERSTOCKING RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. PORTION OF TAX MAP PARCEL #131.00-1-18	2.7226 Acres	

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.