

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 135

Editor, Jenna Utter, Village Clerk

May 2025

## News from the Mayor's Office

By the time you receive this, the Village Board will have adopted its June 1, 2025-May 31, 2026 Budget. The Public Hearing on the Budget was held on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and after minor changes the Budget was formally adopted by the Board of Trustees at the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The tax levy of \$1.8 million remains the same as prior years (no increase in property taxes). That equates to a tax rate of \$5.22 per \$1000 of assessed property value. The Village Budget is a Balanced Budget – with Expenditures (Appropriations) equal to our Revenues. The General Fund budget of approximately \$8.5 million consists of \$3 million in grants for projects which will begin in our next fiscal year. One of those grants was awarded in 2023 from NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation(OPRHP). It was initially intended for Lakefront Park but we are working with the OPRHP to shift funding to Fairy Spring Park for infrastructure improvements in cooperation with the Friends of the Parks.

In Village meetings held in January and in March, PowerPoint presentations illustrated the planned upgrades to the 1937 facilities at Fairy Spring. Those upgrades include shifting the access road within the park in order to separate vehicle traffic from pedestrian pathways and create ADA compliant access to the Pavilion, as well as accessible bathroom facilities in the Pavilion. A second public ADA bathroom would be constructed where changing rooms are currently located, and a private bathroom created in the caretaker's space. The installation of a floating dock for fishing and improved kayak access are also being considered. The Village is fortunate to have the help of the Friends of the Parks to assist us in maintaining and improving our six public parks. Cooperstown benefits immeasurably from all our dedicated volunteers. The support we all give one another is what makes our Village such a special place to live.

-Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh

## Attend Welcome Home Cooperstown!

In May of 2023, the Village held its first **Welcome Home Cooperstown** gathering at Village Hall. These successful first Tuesday of the month 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.

Welcome Home is from 5:30-7pm except in the summer (July and August) when our Meet and Greet 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:

**May 6- Preservation Month**  
**June 3- Pride Month**  
**July 1- July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

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 19, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, and December TBD.** We look forward to seeing you there!

### ***Rain Gardens***

The rain garden stewardship program is a volunteer program that encourages individuals, organizations, and businesses to adopt one or more rain gardens, help with weekly trash pickup, and/or volunteer for Saturday workdays.

Rainwater and snowmelt carry sediment and pollutants from the Village of Cooperstown into Otsego Lake, the Susquehanna River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. To curb this process, the permeable pavers 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.

Volunteers will be working on Saturday, May 10 (rain date May 31) to prepare the gardens for spring planting. Meet on Main Street at the entrance to Doubleday Field at 9am. Bring gloves, a trash bag, rake, hoe, and/or small shovel if you can. Other tools will be available.

Those willing to make a commitment to adopt a rain garden are responsible for adding plantings—annuals or perennials—in the spring after May 10, weeding throughout the summer, watering if necessary, and cleaning up by removing annuals and trimming back other plants after the growing season. We will try to honor requests for specific locations as space allows.

Weekly trash details are Tuesday mornings at 7am. Meet at the entrance to Doubleday Field with a trash bag and gloves starting May 27. Many hands make the work go faster!

If you are interested in signing up or want more information, please contact Marcia Nye at [mnye@cooperstownny.org](mailto:mnye@cooperstownny.org)

### ***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***

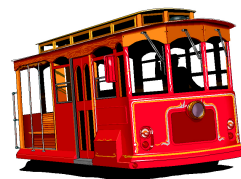
The trolley season will soon be underway. Season trolley passes are a bargain and great way for local residents and employees, as well as tourists, to find transportation around Cooperstown.

The trolley schedule is available at [www.cooperstownny.org/trolley-system](http://www.cooperstownny.org/trolley-system). Trolleys will be running daily from Saturday, June 14 to Sunday, August 31, 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 \$2.50 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. Please contact [jutter@cooperstownny.org](mailto:jutter@cooperstownny.org) for more information or call 607-547-2411.

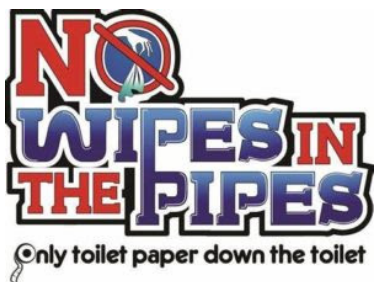


### ***No Wipes in Pipes! Flushable Wipes Aren't Flushable!***

The Village has made a significant investment in the upgrade of our Waste Water Treatment Plant(WWTP). 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.

**Required Inflow & Infiltration Engineering Study**

The Village is addressing an Inflow and Infiltration issue which is placing an undue burden on our Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). In essence, the gallons processed by our WWTP far exceed the gallons introduced to the system by our Water Department. We know that this is a result of water infiltration into sanitary lines, or additional ground water added to the system by sump pumps and storm drains illegally connected to the sewer system.

The Environmental Facilities Corporation awarded a \$60,000 engineering grant to the Village to locate areas of infiltration, by using camera televising, flow and smoke testing, and flow isolation/dye tracers. This evaluation is in support of a NYSDEC **required** inflow and infiltration program. By analyzing the data, the engineering firm hired under the grant will recommend and prioritize improvements to sanitary lines. The improvements will provide further water quality protection measures for the Susquehanna River.

At the beginning of April, a camera televising firm, subcontracted by the engineers, utilized a hydro jetter to clear lines for effective camera imaging. In a few locations this resulted in sewer back up issues. Residents who were affected were told to submit any invoices for cleaning services to the Village Water & Sewer Board. The W&S Board will make reimbursement recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

In total, over 10,000 feet (nearly 2 miles) of sewer lines were inspected and areas of significant Inflow identified. The largest area of I&I appeared to be on sections of Irish Hill and relining the existing sewer pipes is being considered.

In the proposed 2025-26 Budget, which will be adopted at the Village's April 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Trustees have included nearly \$2 million for replacement of waste, sewer and storm water lines on Delaware Street in the coming year. All these efforts will not only extend the life of our WWTP but equally important, ensure we meet our environmental responsibilities to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**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](http://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](http://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.

### **2024 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](http://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 24th), and then 7 days a week once school is out for the summer (June 27th). 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 **Monday, May 19 at 9:30am** with a planting on Delaware Street in memory of Rich McCaffery.

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



### **Cooperstown Lakefront Concert Series**

The Village of Cooperstown proudly presents the 2025 Lake Front Concert Series! Check out our schedule and lineup, featuring local and regional New York State bands (plus one from the Carolinas!) representing an eclectic variety of musical performers and genres.

Concerts are performed on our historic bandstand in beautiful Lake Front Park on Tuesday evenings in July and August, with music starting at 6:30pm and food trucks open from 5:30pm. There will be kids' activities, bubble tea and much more this year, so come join the festivities. Bring blankets and chairs, bring a picnic, bring the whole family for an evening of live music, food and fun times. Be sure not to miss our Season Kickoff Party on July 1st with ice cream and face painting too!

Follow **Cooperstown Lakefront Concert Series** on Facebook for all the information, news and updates, including weather-related changes or cancellations on the day of the event.

**7/1/25: Woodshed Prophets- Power Twang**

**7/8/25: Poverty Hill Band- Old Time Bluegrass**

**7/15/25: The Red Wagon- Rock & Americana Hits**

**7/22/25: Trigger Finger- Honky Tonk Country**

**7/29/25: The Insolent Willies- Americana Roots Music**



**8/5/25: Drifting from Shore- Jerry Garcia Tribute**

**8/12/25: Cooperstown Community Band- Concert Band Classics**

**8/19/25: The Currys- Indie Folk Rock**

**8/26/25: Northern Ramble- Roots Rock**

### ***Music on Main***

In a joint effort between 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](mailto: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.

Place any soft green waste in compostable bags or in reusable hard plastic containers. 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.

Place containers with soft green waste 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 607-547-2411 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 7, 2025. This community event is open to any Village resident, business or organization to participate.

Registration and submission of a \$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 by May 17 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](mailto: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 607-547-2411 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, 2025. If for any reason you or your escrow company does not receive a tax bill, please call the Treasurer's Office at 607- 547-8558, for a duplicate.

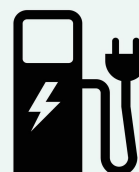
The first installment is due without penalty no later than Monday, June 30, 2025 and the second installment is due without penalty no later than Sunday, August 31, 2025. If you have any further questions, please call the Village Treasurer's Office at 607-547-8558.

#### ***Fowler Lot EV Chargers***

The Village has worked to provide public Electric Vehicle charging stations in our downtown area. The two level 2 chargers in Doubleday Parking Lot, were installed with support from a DEC grant we secured in 2017. Even with grant funding, the chargers cost Village taxpayers \$3500 for the initial installation and \$800-\$1000 annually in Chargepoint fees.

The equipment which is now nearly eight years old, has become obsolete, often out of service or causing frustration to users by long charging times when operating.

In January 2024, the Village signed an agreement with Zero 6 through a NYSERDA program to install 4 fast chargers (Level 3) in Fowler Parking Lot. We had hoped to have that project completed by the fall of 2024, however, delays in contracts to get the necessary power to that location have delayed the project. We now believe installation by Chargepoint may occur later this spring. At that point, the old chargers will be removed. Importantly, all these improvements are occurring at no cost to Village taxpayers.



#### ***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!

#### ***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.

### NY Forward Small Projects Fund

Cooperstown has received \$270,000 through their NY Forward award to establish a Small Projects Fund. These funds are designed to assist local property and business owners in enhancing their buildings through projects such as façade improvements, interior renovations, and the activation of upper-story residential spaces. Projects awarded through this fund will typically range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, covering up to 75% of the total project costs. This initiative aims to stimulate economic growth, preserve historic character, and enhance the vibrancy of Cooperstown.

This fund is being administered by Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD). Applications can be found online at <https://mvedd.org/cooperstown-spf>, by emailing MVEDD at: [hdevitt@mvedd.org](mailto:hdevitt@mvedd.org), or by calling their office at (315) 866-4671. Reach out to the MVEDD offices for any questions, or assistance with your application.

Applications are due by June 13, 2025.

### Heat Pumps

Looking to save up to 40% on energy costs? Go green with a new HVAC heat pump this winter! These new systems will efficiently support your family in your home despite the harsh New York climate.

The Village of Cooperstown is beginning a Heat Pump Campaign. If you plan to install or have installed a heat pump since October 2, 2024, we want to know. Reach out to: [village@coopertownny.org](mailto:village@coopertownny.org)

Incentives, such as rebates, Inflation Reduction Act tax credits, and financing, are available to help cover the cost of energy upgrades including heat pumps. For more information go to: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Inflation-Reduction-Act>. Many Village homeowners may also qualify for Historic Homeowners Tax Credits, and Otsego 2000 can help with the paperwork. Save today and build a better tomorrow!



### Willow Brook

If you see folks working in or around the Willow Brook culvert under Main Street, they are from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Village is pleased to have partnered with the Army Corps to study the potential for flooding along this tributary of Otsego Lake, which travels along Glen Avenue, under Grove Street and Chestnut Street, under the Doubleday Field Grandstand, under Main Street, behind the Cooper Inn, across Lake Street, and on to Otsego Lake. We look forward to learning more about how we can better prepare for extreme weather events through our care of this waterway.

### The Rural Hours Project

On April 22nd (Earth Day), Village Historian Will Walker announced **the Rural Hours Project**. Over the next year (and, perhaps, beyond), he will share daily (or semi-daily) entries from Susan Fenimore Cooper's 1850 work *Rural Hours* along with his own nature observations from walks and runs around Cooperstown. He invites others to record their observations—either of the landscape of Cooperstown and its surrounding areas or farther afield—and share them in the comments on Substack (or simply keep them in your own journal).

<https://ruralhoursproject.substack.com/p/announcing-the-rural-hours-project>

The project is conceived as part of the 250th commemoration of the American Revolution. Although Cooper's work recorded no battles or political contests, it was revolutionary nonetheless in the way it encouraged an awareness of—and appreciation for—nature. It reminds us that human history and the natural world are intertwined. The Rural Hours Project is also intended as a celebration of the 175th anniversary of the first edition of the book.

In the spring of 1848, the writer Susan Fenimore Cooper, daughter of the famous novelist James Fenimore Cooper, began a nature journal that, two years later, would be published as the book *Rural Hours*. One of the earliest examples of American environmental writing, her work pre-dated the publication of Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* by four years. Each day, SFC set out for walks and rides from her home a short distance from the headwaters of the Susquehanna River in Cooperstown, New York, a compact market village 75 miles west of Albany, recording her observations of the landscape as she went. For a year, she carefully documented birds and wildflowers and tracked the changing seasons, describing meadows, forests, farmers' fields, snow, ice, mud, creeks, and springs, as well as the ebbs and flows of the Susquehanna and its source, Otsego Lake.