

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 104

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

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

Spring has come and, as always, it's a season of change. The Village regrettably said goodbye to two valued employees in the last month. Derek Bloomfield had served as Village Treasurer for two years, making many positive contributions to how we analyze of finances and plan for the future. We wish Derek well in all his future endeavors.

Born and raised in Cooperstown, Brian Clancy worked for the village for 31 years, first at the Water Plant, then as Director of Public Works. Brian has always been a steady presence in all village operations, an invaluable source of institutional knowledge. Nearly everyone in this village knows and has interacted with Brian in positive ways. He will be sorely missed, but we all hope that Brian has continued success in the next phase of his life.

Enjoy the coming warm weather (it will come!).

– Jeff Katz, Mayor

## **Village Did Not Adopt "Sanctuary City Law"**

The Village of Cooperstown did not adopt a "Sanctuary City Law" at its April 24 Board of Trustees meeting. Any reports to the contrary are completely false.

In response to national and international incidents, the Village of Cooperstown steadfastly confirms its dedication to the rights and dignity of all people. In December 2016, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution condemning the use of violence, bigotry, and hateful rhetoric, and reaffirming the inalienable right of everyone in Cooperstown to live without fear and intimidation.

On April 24, 2017, the Board of Trustees passed a second resolution reaffirming its commitment to civil rights and equal access to all Village services, including police and fire protection. The resolution states that the Village of Cooperstown will not avail itself of the opportunity to participate in the Delegation of Immigration Authority provided through Section 287 (g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (1996). The Village has neither the resources nor the desire to designate local police to perform immigration law enforcement functions.

In general practice the Village of Cooperstown will not inquire about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses or others who call or approach Village staff seeking assistance. There is, however, nothing in the resolution that prohibits Village staff from cooperating with federal immigration authorities when required under federal law. The text of the resolution can be found at [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org), by clicking on the link under "News" on the homepage.

## **Incentives for Commercial Projects**

The Village of Cooperstown is pleased to continue two property tax abatement programs for commercial and mixed-use buildings. These programs do not affect current tax assessments, but they do allow for the gradual phase-in of increased value when improvements are made. As a result, increases in property taxes are incurred more slowly, allowing building owners to better prepare and recoup some of their costs without a dramatic spike in assessed value.

The first program provides an incentive to make improvements to existing commercial buildings or for new commercial construction. Approved renovations or new construction by businesses may be eligible for a 50 percent exemption of real property taxes on all improvements for the first year. After the first year, assessed value would be increased by 5 percent per year until the eleventh year, when the property becomes fully taxed.

The second program is for the conversion of nonresidential real property to mixed-use property, when the cost exceeds \$10,000. Often this means the conversion of underutilized commercial upper floors to apartments. For the first eight years, increased assessed tax value as a result of an approved conversion would be 100 percent abated. In years 9 to 12, the new assessed value would be phased in, increasing 20 percent per year.

To take advantage of either of these programs, contact Village Assessor Al Keck at 547-6057.

Additionally, businesses can qualify for both state and federal historic preservation income tax credits. Owners of income-producing real properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including those contributing in our Glimmerglass Historic District, may be eligible for a 20% federal income tax credit. The work performed (both interior

and exterior) must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and be approved by the National Park Service. Owners who qualify for the federal credit can also take advantage of a 20% state income tax credit. For more information, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at (518) 237-8643 or Otsego 2000 at 547-8881.

#### ***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.

#### ***Outdoor Dining and Vending***

In 2013 the Village of Cooperstown first began permitting outdoor eating areas. We are happy to see that so many local eateries have been able to take advantage of outdoor dining. It provides the perfect opportunity for locals and tourists to enjoy great food and a beautiful streetscape in an increasingly accessible environment.

This summer we are adding to the mix by promoting sidewalk vending in the business district on Wednesday evenings. Businesses that wish to participate should contact the Village Administrator Teri Barown at 547-2411 or [vcooperstown@stny.rr.com](mailto:vcooperstown@stny.rr.com) for a permit application. Fees will be waived this inaugural year.

#### ***Are you a musician or artisan?***

In a joint effort of the Village of Cooperstown and the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, this summer Music on Main will continue. 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 547-9983 or [hanna@cooperstownchamber.org](mailto:hanna@cooperstownchamber.org) to reserve dates and times. CD sales and a donation container are permitted.

#### ***Upcoming Street Work***

During early June the Village intends to get a jump on this year's street work. Pioneer Street from Beaver to Elm, Elm Street, Grove Street from Glen

to Maple, and the firehouse apron will all be repaved. Property owners on the effected streets who anticipate conducting work on their water or sewer laterals in the near future are encouraged to contact Village Administrator Teri Barown at 547-2411 as soon as possible to coordinate scheduling. With proper planning we can avoid the need to dig up a freshly paved street to address utility concerns.

The Village is also planning a major reconstruction project on Pioneer Street north of Elm to begin fall 2017 and continue in spring 2018. Stay tuned for additional information as it becomes available.

#### ***Downtown Parking Permits & Paid Parking***

The implementation of paid parking will remain the same in 2017. The season will run from the Friday before Memorial Day through Columbus Day. The paid parking area includes the same portions of Main, Chestnut, Pioneer, and Fair Streets. And, the rate remains \$2 per hour, payable in 15-minute increments, with a \$14 all-day option at the Doubleday Field parking lot. 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 Pay and Display Machine. Doubleday Field provides an all-day option.

Downtown parking permits provide an alternative to using Pay and Display machines for parking in the paid parking area. Anyone—local or tourist—can buy a permit. Permit holders can park for up to 2 hours daily in 2-hour areas without purchasing a ticket from a Pay and Display machine. 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.

Parking permits can be purchased in person from the Village Clerk's office at 22 Main Street or by mail or email. Applications can be accessed on the village website [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org) (under permits) or at the Clerk's office. A completed application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, payable by cash or check. Credit cards can be accepted at the Village office. Permits remain a great deal at a cost of \$25 for the first permit, and \$15 for additional permits at the same address.

#### ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report***

The Village of Cooperstown has prepared its annual Drinking Water Quality Report to comply with State regulations. The purpose of the report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and

awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources.

Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. You may access a complete report at the Village website [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org), 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. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

### Village Parks Projects

The new boat wash station on Fish Road will be dedicated in memory of long time "Lake Steward," Carl Good on Friday, May 12, 2017 at 5 p.m. Please attend this brief ceremony honoring Carl and recognizing the importance of the boat wash station in preventing aquatic invasive species from entering Lake Otsego. The Village appreciates all the efforts and funding provided by OCCA and the Otsego Lake Association in constructing the station.

In order to address the wait list we had last year for our canoe/kayak racks, the Village crew constructed three new vertical kayak racks and will install one each in Lakefront, Fairy Spring and 3 Mile parks. Contact the Village Office at 547 2411 if you would like to rent one of these spaces. The rates are just \$75 in Lakefront Park, and \$50 in Fairy Spring or 3 Mile (for non-Village residents, rates are \$150 in Lakefront Park and \$70 in Fairy Spring & 3 Mile parks). The Friends of the Parks helped pay for two of the new racks and in addition, the Friends have donated a kayak cart for Lakefront Park, to assist boaters in transporting their canoe or kayak to the Lake. The cart will be kept locked with the combination available to individuals renting a rack space.

Parks Board member Rich McCaffery has once again lined up a great schedule for our Tuesday night Lakefront Concert Series. Check out this year's schedule of concerts contained in this newsletter and bring your lawn chair to enjoy this wonderful, free entertainment on the shores of Lake Otsego!

AND FINALLY... this spring the Village will at long last repair the deteriorating retaining wall and roadway by the Pavilion at Fairy Spring Park. It is hoped that we will also be able to replace the steps to the waterfront during this construction and separately we have budgeted for the repair of the chimney on the Pavilion. We will finish up with new paving on the roads in Badger Park, Fairy Spring and Fish Road. So plan on using and enjoying your Village Parks this summer!

### Village Parks

Looking for an inexpensive family outing? Fairy Spring and Three Mile Point parks are free for Village residents. Both parks will open for weekends beginning Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> the weekend prior to high school graduation, the parks will be open seven days a week. Three Mile Point Park opens at 10 AM and Fairy Spring Park opens at 11 AM both remain open until dusk with swimming as staffing permits. ***(The staff works diligently to ensure lifeguards are on duty at both parks whenever possible however there are times when one or both parks shut down the swimming areas due to lack of staff.)***

Village residents may get their free park pass at either park or at the Village Office with just their identification which includes their village address. This pass will allow you and your immediate family (i.e. 2 adults and their children, living within the same household), access to either Fairy Spring or Three Mile Point Park ***(If your family chooses to bring guests they will either need to purchase their own pass or pay \$5.00 per person admission price at the park.)***

To ensure a family friendly environment and the safety of all patrons we remind you:

- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted;
- Pets must be leashed at all times and owners must clean up after pets.
- Charcoal grills and picnic tables are available for your enjoyment;
- Pavilions are available on a first come first serve basis unless rented to a group or organization;
- To carry out whatever you bring in (i.e. food, garbage, bottles, cans, etc.);
- Parking is limited, please car pool if possible

### Tree City

The Village of Cooperstown is pleased to announce that for the 27<sup>th</sup> year it has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Village of Cooperstown held its annual Arbor Day celebration on Monday, April 24. This year's Arbor Day tree, planted in front of 28 Elm Street across from St. Mary's Catholic Church, memorializes the life of Father John R. Roos. Father Roos, who passed away January 3, 2017, had served Catholic churches in Cherry Valley, Springfield Center, and Sharon Springs, as well as St. Mary's in Cooperstown.

Cooperstown's Arbor Day celebration included a proclamation by Mayor Jeff Katz and a presentation by DEC forester Scott Moxham. Arbor Day began in 1872 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The event, held in late April or early May across the country, is

meant to recognize and support the planting of trees, which provide many benefits to local communities like Cooperstown.

We look forward to planting eight more Village trees in the coming weeks.

### **Grate Keepers**

The Village of Cooperstown expresses its sincere thanks to the various residents/businesses/organizations who have so willingly adopted a drain to help keep storm water flowing as it should especially during and after heavy rain storms. Do you know there are 313 drains throughout the Village? This is an enthusiastic charge to keep them clear, so we can keep our roadways safer, especially during rain storms.

The Village will continue monitoring storm drains, but the assistance of volunteers will reduce 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, snow, or ice, remove the debris from each catch basin prior to a storm. Stand on the curb and use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the catch basin. Do not attempt to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

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 particular location. Never remove the grate or put debris into the drain.

Contact Village Volunteer Rich McCaffery at [ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com](mailto:ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com) or call 547-5256 to adopt a drain.

### **Trolley Passes**

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

The trolleys run daily, from 8:30 AM – 9 PM beginning Saturday, May 27th. 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, or on the trolleys.

This season trolley riders will be able to track the progress and location of the Cooperstown trolleys on a smartphone friendly website at [www.cooperstowntrolley.com](http://www.cooperstowntrolley.com). Refreshed every 2.5

seconds, GPS will provide the location of the nearest trolley, as well as the others in operation.

### **Driveway Blocked**

Parking in front of public and private driveways is prohibited under New York State law. If you have an ongoing problem with people obstructing your street visibility or blocking your driveway and you feel that yellow curbing on either side of your driveway would be helpful, you can apply for yellow curbing to remind motorists of their responsibility not to block your driveway. Contact the Village office at 547-2411 for more information.

### **Spring Clean Up**

For the past month the Village crew has been regularly picking up green waste to coordinate with spring yard work. Beginning the second week in May the Village will limit green waste pickup to the last Thursday of each month.

Compostable Waste and Brush Curbside Pickup Procedures:

- 1) The Village will pickup compostable yard waste and brush separately. There will be two pickups per street, one for soft green waste and a second for brush.
- 2) Place any soft green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and other soft garden 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.
- 3) 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.

- 4) 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.

#### **2017 Lakefront Concert Series Schedule**

### **COOPERSTOWN LAKEFRONT CONCERT SERIES 2017**

**Join the 13th Season of fun summer family  
entertainment**

**Every Tuesday, 7 pm at the historic  
bandstand, Lakefront Park**

**Bring a chair or blanket and relax on the shore  
of Otsego Lake**

#### **JULY**

**4: Easy Money Big Band** - Performing to capacity crowds for 8 years, with music from Bruno Mars, O'Jays, Stevie Wonder to Sinatra, Buble, Miami Sound, Etta James and more.

**11: Cooperstown Community Band** - Celebrating 156 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, dixieland, jazz, themes & favorites! July

**18: Stoddard Hollow String Band** - A mix of Appalachian, traditional & original music, and tunes you might not expect. These guys will get you tapping your feet and having a great time.

**25: Wintergreen** - This folk trio performs a mixture of traditional and contemporary music from the British Isles and America, along with their own compositions.

#### **AUGUST**

**1: Realltime Dixieland Band** - A 7 piece ensemble performing some of Dixieland's most popular standards.

**8: Cooperstown Community Band** - Celebrating 155 years performing patriotic

marches, Broadway show tunes, dixieland, jazz, themes & favorites!

**15: Scott Freeman Band** - A quartet playing a diverse repertoire of classical, jazz, oldies, Irish and pop music. A Half Century Of Music & A Whole Evening Of Entertainment!

**22: Fritz Henry** - Solo singer and guitar offers fun and interactive variety of music for all ages - always a treat! Come on down and enjoy!

**29: Lipbone Redding** - One-man orchestra. Unplugged. Unexpected. This no-tech performance weaves stories, rhythms, melodies, humor, singing, & inventive guitar playing.

For more information and sign up for e-mail alerts, contact Concert Coordinator Rich McCaffery at [richcooperstown@gmail.com](mailto:richcooperstown@gmail.com) or 607-547-5256. For updates go to [www.richcooperstown.org](http://www.richcooperstown.org)

Sponsored by the Village of Cooperstown Parks Commission, [www.CooperstownNY.org](http://www.CooperstownNY.org), with support from Central NY Mobile Marketing, [cnymobilemarketing.com](http://cnymobilemarketing.com).

#### **2017 Cooperstown Community Band Concert Schedule**

#### **JULY**

02 – Sun., 8pm Lakefront Park, Cooperstown Fireworks (rain date July 3)

04 – Tues., noon, Town of Springfield Celebration

05 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

11 – Tues., 7 pm, Lakefront Park

12 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

19 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

26 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

28 – Fri., 7 pm, Village Hall

#### **AUGUST**

02 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

08 – Tues., 7 pm, Lakefront Park

09 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

16 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

23 – Wed., 8 pm, Otesaga Hotel

## SEPTEMBER

03 – Sun., 2 pm, Otesaga Hotel

Celebrating 156 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, Dixieland, jazz, themes & favorites.

### ***Easter Event returns to Cooperstown Business District***

The last Cooperstown Easter event for kids was in 2015 and several area residents and businesses have asked if it could be revived. The good news is we listened and it happened thanks to the combined efforts of the Cooperstown Lions Club, the Tunncliff Inn, financial support from individuals, businesses and organizations and a strong volunteer corps.

The popular Pioneer Park on Cooperstown's Main Street was abuzz with kids and adults looking for Easter eggs, getting their face painted and inside the Tunncliff were all kinds of edible treats and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Special thanks is extended to our financial supporters including The Tunncliff Inn, Cooperstown Event Rentals, Yastrzemski Sports, Inc., Teri Barown, Fly Creek, Church & Scott, Inc., Josh Crouse, Krystle Crouse, Deirdre Donley, Diamond Painting and Art Services, Fly Creek, Mary Beth Dow & Charlie Allison, Hartwick, Ellsworth & Sill, Falk Family, First Baptist Church, Cooperstown, Macaluso Construction, The Rose and Thistle Bed & Breakfast, John Saphier, Cooperstown and Village of Cooperstown.

Volunteers: Mayor Jeff Katz, Mary Margaret Kuhn, Mary Beth Dow & Charlie Allison, Scott Curtis, Deirdre Donley, Josh Crouse, Krystle Crouse, Claire Kepner, Marianne Zura, Josh McMahon, Tom Canis & staff at the Tunncliff Inn.

Submitted by Rich McCaffery

### ***2017 Cooperstown Spring Fling moves to Doubleday Field Parking Lot***

The Cooperstown Rotary Club along with many of our local organizations invite you to **Cooperstown**

**Spring Fling, Saturday and Sunday, May 20th and 21st!!** This fourth annual event will be bigger and better than ever, with our new location in the center of the village at the Doubleday Field Parking lot and Farmers Market Building. The weekend is also designated a special event weekend, which means our village businesses will have the opportunity to vend outdoors adding to the festive weekend!

### ***Here is what Cooperstown Spring Fling is all about for 2017!***

**Saturday, May 20th** will include an exciting vendor fair featuring great food, crafts, beverages, businesses and not for profit organizations, and a silent auction, all taking place in the Doubleday Field Parking Lot. Music will fill the air throughout the day featuring Small Town Big Band, Saxilicious, favorite local performers and Irish dancers. And, for the first time we are combining Spring Fling with The Cooperstown Yard Sale Day! Over 40 homes throughout the village will be participating in Saturday's yard sale event. And in the spirit of spring, we are helping to promote the reopening of Brookwood Point by the Otsego Land Trust, which will feature an afternoon filled with special activities at Brookwood from 12 - 5 pm. More information to come!

**Sunday May 21st** will feature a Live Auction beginning at 1:00 pm in the Farmer's Market building. You may find just the item you are looking for as household items and furniture will be auctioned off. Doors open at noon for viewing items. A very special community dinner will take place in the Doubleday Field Parking lot beginning at 4:00 pm and will include a burger and potato bar with all the fixings, as well as a brownie bar and beverages. Proceeds from the dinner will support the Cooperstown Food Pantry and Backpack program. The evening will conclude with an ecumenical prayer service in Lake Front Park.

We hope you and your family can join us for this very special Spring Weekend! Spread the word! For questions and further information on Cooperstown Spring Fling, please contact Jim Howarth at [jhowarth@nysw.com](mailto:jhowarth@nysw.com) or Karen Katz at [kkatz@stny.rr.com](mailto:kkatz@stny.rr.com).

### ***Property Taxes***

Village property tax bills will be mailed on or about May 31, 2017. 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, 2017 and the second installment is due without penalty no later than Thursday, August 31, 2017. If you have any further questions, please call the Village Treasurer's Office at 547-8558.