

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 101

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Clerk

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## News from the Mayor's Office

Though we're in the middle of summer, that doesn't mean the Village government and staff are relaxing on the lake. Many improvements are wrapping up or soon to begin.

Our village buildings are getting a makeover. The incredible refurbishing of the front of our Village Hall at 22 Main St. is a sight to behold. The building has not looked this good in decades. By year's end we will get results of our grant application for further improvement. (Keep your fingers crossed.) At the Fire Hall, we are replacing all six overhead doors by summer's end.

Also at the end of summer, or beginning of fall, this year's paving work will begin on Chestnut (from Susquehanna to West Beaver), Glen (from Grove to Chestnut), Grove (from Glen to Spring) and Pioneer (from Beaver to Church). The rest of Pioneer will be done, complete with new water and sewer lines, when the next phase of Main St. improvements occur. We are working with our consultant to get ready to go to bid after the New Year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. We will too, when we're not working hard to rebuild and upgrade the Village.

- Mayor Katz

## 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 flower pots, 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.

Leaf pickup will be scheduled on four routes. Both the website [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org) and the sign at the fire hall will be updated to indicate what route is upcoming. Remember that pickup starts early, so please have everything out before 7 a.m.

Route 1: Linden Ave., Chestnut St., Main St, Averill Rd., Hill St., Beech St., Rock St., Spring St., Westridge Rd., Doubleday Parking Lot

Route 2: West Beaver St., Maple St., Glen Ave., Grove St., Railroad Ave., Leatherstocking St., Fair St. (Main-Otsego Lake), Lake St., Prospect Pl., Pine Blvd., Nelson Ave.

Route 3: River St., Estli Ave., Mill St., Elk St., Fernleigh Dr., Brooklyn Ave., Lakeland Shores, any remaining portions of Chestnut St. and Main St.

Route 4: Walnut St., Beaver St., Fair St. (Beaver-Church), Elm St., Church St., Delaware Ave., South Ave., Susquehanna Ave., Pioneer St., Eagle St., Cooper Ln.

If you have any questions please call Brian Clancy, DPW Superintendent at 607-547-2411.

## Streets and Storm Water

The Village Streets Committee is concerned about yard waste, especially grass clippings, that are finding their way into our storm water system and clogging important infrastructure. When you mow your lawn, please keep clippings from being propelled into street. And do not use a leaf blower to blow any debris from your yard, sidewalk, or driveway into the roadway. If you hire a service for

yardwork, remind them that the streets are not the place for debris. And when you pile your leaves for pick up, keep them on the tree lawn rather than on the asphalt surface. The Village Board of Trustees will be reviewing a potential law change in August to ensure that we all do everything possible to keep yard waste out of the street and therefore out of our storm water system.

### **Pesticides**

Over the past five years, the Village has made great strides to eliminate the use of pesticides on Village-owned property. Now we need your help. We are concerned that pesticides applied to the tree lawn—the area between the sidewalk and the curb on most Village streets—have the potential to be carried by rain water into the street and from there to our storm water system, which empties into Willow Brook, Otsego Lake, and the Susquehanna River. We ask that property owners who choose to use pesticides on their lawns refrain from their application on the tree lawn.

According to Bill Harman at the Biological Field Station, “The closer applications of any materials (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides or anything that has the potential to impinge negatively on the lake) are to impermeable surfaces the worse the runoff problems become. Other than direct application to the lake, applying pesticides next to paved streets and sidewalks provides the greatest threat to efforts attempting to successfully implement effective storm water management strategies.”

Eliminating pesticides from the tree lawn will not only help protect our water, but it will provide a safer environment for pets that may wander off the sidewalk, families that need to get to parked cars, and Village workers who must work within the right-of-way.

### **Blocked Driveways**

During this busy summer season, the Village has received numerous requests for help from residents who find their driveways partially blocked by parked cars. According to New York Vehicle and Traffic Law blocking a public or private driveway is prohibited. In the past, the village has painted white “driveway boxes” on the road surface, but with mixed results. This year the Village is initiating a procedure to allow residents to apply for a free permit to paint the curb immediately adjacent to their driveways yellow. Painting can be done by the resident or by the Village for a fee. However, painting must not commence until a permit has been issued and detailed specifications must be followed. For more information and to apply, please contact the Village clerk, Teri Barown at 607-547-2411 or [vcooperstown@stny.rr.com](mailto:vcooperstown@stny.rr.com).

### **Lakefront Concert Series**

Celebrating 12 years of summer family entertainment every Tuesday, 7 PM, during July & August, at the historic bandstand in Lakefront Park. The remainder of the lineup includes:

**August 2: Cooperstown Community Band - Celebrating 154 years performing patriotic marches, Broadway show tunes, dixieland, jazz, themes & favorites!**

**August 9: Bets & Frets - High energy harmonies and cool covers of timeless tunes from the 50's through today. This duo provides the full sound of a whole band.**

**August 16: The Paul Greenberg Trio - A variety of standard vocal and instrumental music, including marches, jazz, swing, and vocal ballads with piano, trombone, trumpet and percussion.**

**August 23: The Council Rock Band - Rock & Roll music from classic to current. Come on down and enjoy!**

**August 30: Code 51 - A high energy classic and modern rock cover band who play a wide variety of your favorite 80s, 90's and present day hits. Join us for a fabulous evening of high energy rock.**

The summer concert series is sponsored by the Village of Cooperstown Parks Commission, [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org), with support from Central NY Mobile Marketing, [www.cnymobilemarketing.com](http://www.cnymobilemarketing.com)

### **Village Holiday Schedule**

The Village Offices will be closed:

- ❖ September 5 (in observance of Labor Day)
- ❖ October 10 (in observance of Columbus Day)

### **Property Tax Reminder**

Village residents are reminded that the second installment of the Village Property Taxes is due on or before August 31, 2016 to avoid penalties. If you have any questions please contact the Village Treasurer, Derek Bloomfield at 547-8558 Ext 108 or e-mail [cooperstowntreasurer@stny.rr.com](mailto:cooperstowntreasurer@stny.rr.com).

## **Village Park Update**

We hope you have been enjoying all the Village parks this summer! We worked to ensure that our parks were spruced up and ready early in the season. In particular, our swim areas at Fairy Spring Park and 3 Mile Point Park received special attention. New ropes have allowed for expanded swimming areas and swim lanes at both parks, and we thank the Friends of the Parks for covering the cost of the ropes in Fairy Spring Park. In addition, new paint and professional cleaning had the parks looking “the best they have ever looked” according to our Friends group.

Our new floating dock for motor boats was installed in Lakefront Park in early June and the wider slips have allowed us to more easily accommodate larger boats. The Village has worked with Otsego Lake Association which has funded the construction of a boat wash station on Fish Road to help prevent aquatic invasive species from entering Lake Otsego. In order to address the wait list we have for our canoe/kayak racks, the Village crew is building three new vertical kayak racks and will install one each in Lakefront, Fairy Spring and 3 Mile parks. And do plan on attending one of our Tuesday evening concerts at the bandstand in Lakefront Park. In its 12<sup>th</sup> season, these concerts are wonderful, free entertainment on the shores of Lake Otsego.

In Pioneer Park we now offer free wifi, courtesy of The Tunnick Inn. New café tables and chairs provide additional seating there. So do stop by and enjoy “Music on Main” - musical performances on weekdays in the Park, organized by the Chamber of Commerce.

At Council Rock Park the steps and landing were re-pointed and repaired this spring and a new crosswalk provides safer pedestrian access to this park.

Work will continue in the parks even after our summer season closes! New paving will be completed on the roads in Badger Park, Fairy Spring and Fish Road. The chimney on the Pavilion building will be re-pointed. And in the spring the Village will at long last repair the deteriorating retaining wall and roadway by the Pavilion at Fairy Spring Park. But before that, the friends will have purchased a new liner for the Badger Park skating rink and we will hopefully enjoy a great season of skating. So before the snow flies, enjoy the Village’s six parks!

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

Paid parking is in effect on portions of Main, Pioneer, Chestnut, and Fair Streets through Columbus Day, October 10. Paid parking also

continues in the Doubleday Field lot through Columbus Day, October 10.

You can still purchase a downtown parking permit so you can:

- park for up to two hours daily in an on-street paid parking space without purchasing a ticket from a Pay and Display machine (after the first two hours, additional time can be purchased at a machine).
- park in the permit-only Fowler Way parking lot (located behind the batting cages, formerly the Chestnut Street lot) if an all-day option is needed.
- park in the Doubleday Field lot after 4 p.m. without having to purchase a ticket from the Pay and Display machine.

Parking permits can be purchased in person from the Village Clerk’s office at 22 Main Street or by mail. Applications can be accessed on the village website [www.cooperstownny.org](http://www.cooperstownny.org) or at the Clerk’s office. A completed application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, payable by cash or check. The cost is \$25 for the first permit, \$15 for additional permits at the same address. The cost of a parking permit will be reduced to just \$10 the day after Labor Day (for the remainder of the 2016 season).

## **Grate Keepers**

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 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.

A digital map of storm drains is available online at <http://cooperstownny.org/volunteers/>. Find the drain(s) nearest to your home, business, or organization and email the drain number(s) along with your contact information to Village Volunteer Rich McCaffrey at [ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com](mailto:ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com) or call 547-5256 to adopt a drain.

To clean your drain 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. Please place leaves and debris in your yard debris container for easy removal and recycling.

When the forecast calls for a heavy rainfall, snow, or ice, remove the 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, preferably by its assigned number. Never remove the grate or put debris into the drain.

### ***Sidewalk Use***

Residents and property owners are reminded that motor vehicles should not use the sidewalks other than to enter or exit driveways. This is particularly important for the new sidewalks with pavers on Main Street, as the pavers are rated for foot traffic only. In the future watering plants in baskets hanging from lampposts will be accomplished from the street side and snow removal will be accomplished using lighter equipment. Please help us to promote pedestrian safety and maintain our infrastructure for years to come by keeping vehicles off sidewalks.

### ***Working from Home***

Do you work from your home? The Economic Development and Sustainability Committee (EDSC) would love to hear from you.

The Village of Cooperstown zoning law allows for many home occupations—professions carried on in a house or other residential building by a member of the family residing there. Home occupations can include art studios, barbershops, dressmaker shops, and professional offices of physicians, dentists, lawyers, engineers, architects, accountants, and real estate agents. In many circumstances a special use permit must be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals for a home occupation following a public hearing.

We know that working from home is one way for entrepreneurs to get their start. Home businesses can foster creativity and offer a sustainable alternative to finding rental office space. They reduce dependence on automobiles to get to and from work and allow for flexibility caring for children or aging family members. In this era of increasing telecommuting and less certain job prospects, we would like to know what is working in the Village and what is not. If you have a story to share about your experience working from home, contact EDSC chair Cindy Falk at [cynthia.g.falk@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.g.falk@gmail.com).

Please be aware that in accordance with the Village Zoning Law, residents may post temporary signs of up to six square feet to advertise their sales on their own property or on other private property with the permission of that property's owner. Signs are not permitted in the median between the sidewalk and curb, and they cannot be attached to trees, bushes,

support wire, street signs, nor utility poles. All signs must be removed at the conclusion of the sale.

### ***Culvert Project***

The New York State Department of Transportation will soon be starting project to repair two culverts within the Village of Cooperstown on Route 28 (Glen Ave.) near its intersection with Main Street. Soon DOT will be installing temporary traffic signals on Route 28, and beginning immediately after Labor Day work will commence on the project. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane coming in and out of the Village, and the intersection of Main Street and Route 28 will be blocked to traffic.

There is never a good time to do this type of disruptive work. Restrictions related to Willow Brook prevented work from being undertaken during the spring, and the Village requested that two-way traffic be maintained on Route 28 during the summer months. We ask for patience as DOT undertakes this project to ensure that Willow Brook's culverts continue to allow for the unrestricted flow of water.

### ***CVS Project***

The Village of Cooperstown has received an application for a new CVS store to be built at the site of the Cooperstown Motel on the southeast corner of Chestnut Street and Beaver Street. The Board of Trustees, acting as lead agency, has completed the first phase of the review, which was required compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The next step concerns the application for a special use permit. A public hearing has been set for **Friday, August 12 at 6pm** in the Village Board Room at 22 Main Street to consider the construction of a retail establishment of slightly over 9,000 square feet. If the special use permit is granted by the Board of Trustees, the project will be further reviewed by both the Planning Board and the Historic Preservation and Architectural Review Board.

### ***Village Business and Bassett***

The Village of Cooperstown is working with Bassett Healthcare to better promote Village businesses to staff, patients, and guests. Bassett will soon be providing an area map and a rack for business cards in the inpatient building. The intended audience is visiting family members and friends who may want to get away from the hospital campus for a bite to eat, to purchase a gift or forgotten necessity, or simply to take their minds off medical issues temporarily. If you are interested in having your Village business included, please contact Cindy Falk, chair of the Economic Development and Sustainability Committee at [cynthia.g.falk@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.g.falk@gmail.com).