

VILLAGE VOICES

Number 102

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

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News from the Mayor's Office

Fall has been spectacular in Cooperstown! The weather has been perfect and the streets are still crowded with visitors. The Annual Harvest Supper was outstanding, as usual, thanks to the efforts of Growing Community and the huge turnout of friends and neighbors. Cooptoberfest was a success (tip of the cap to the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce).

Governmentally, we appointed Teri Barown as Village Administrator. It's so important for the village to have a day-to-day authorized administrator in place. Too often, Trustees (and, yes, Mayors), fill in and carry a lot of the workload and this leaves the village at the mercy of how much effort any of the elected officials can put in. With an administrator in place, this becomes less of a problem.

Paving went according to schedule, though some streets are now pushed to spring. Clearly, though, there's a lot of work going on. This fall we hope to hear word on grants and funding for various important infrastructure projects. Hopefully, by the next Village Voices, we'll have some good news to report.

Enjoy the rest of fall. There's no better place to enjoy it than right here in Cooperstown.

Jeff Katz – Mayor

Village Elections - 2017

Election Day for the Village will be Tuesday, March 21, 2017. The following offices are up for re-election:

- ❖ Trustee (2 positions) – Three year term each

Absentee ballot applications are available at the Village Office during regular office hours, Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 4 PM. Applications may be returned on or after November 21, 2016.



Paid Parking

During the 2016 Paid Parking Season the Village of Cooperstown collected \$417,847.25 from transactions at its twenty parking kiosks. This is an increase of more than \$33,000 over last year and above the \$400,000 budgeted for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

With a general fund budget of almost \$3.4 million, paid parking revenue provides a significant source of income, more than 12 percent of the total budget. A tax increase that would generate comparable funds would amount to more than 23 percent of the current tax levy of \$1,779,194. Parking fees help keep property taxes level without sacrificing services. In the four seasons since on-street paid parking was instituted in 2013, revenues from the Doubleday Field lot and on-street kiosks have totaled almost \$1.5 million dollars.

This year, on-street revenues, collected from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day, amounted to 57 percent of the total parking income. Paid parking in the Doubleday Field lot accounted for the remainder.

The Village appreciates the support of its residents, business owners, and visitors as paid parking has been implemented. Any comments can be directed to the Streets Committee at 22 Main St., P.O. Box 346, Cooperstown, NY 13326.

Small Business Saturday

Before you buy holiday gifts on-line or drive to Utica or Albany, join people around the country by participating in Small Business Saturday on November 26. Shopping in Cooperstown supports local business owners and keeps local money in our local community. While the discount prices at big box stores may be appealing, after factoring in time and gas, good deals are not always so good. Paying sales tax in Cooperstown—rather than somewhere else—also helps keep property taxes in check since a portion of local sales tax is returned to the Village. If you think that all Cooperstown has to offer is baseball, explore further this holiday season. Remember that the 2-hour limit for parking is suspended on Main Street between Pine Boulevard and Fair Street from Thanksgiving through Martin Luther King Day (third Monday in January).

Leaf Pickup

The Village 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) Do not blow or rake leaves into the street!
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Do not include non-compostable materials like plastic flower pots, construction debris, processed lumber, bricks, or stones with leaves or brush.
- 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 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.

Street Work

This year's street paving program included resurfacing of a portion of Chestnut Street and Glen Avenue. With this work, many people have questioned why state routes are the Village's responsibility when it comes to paving and snow removal. The Village of Cooperstown is one of a handful of villages in New York that controls its own roadways. This means that the Village, not NYS DOT, has ultimate control over what happens to them. It also means that we must take care of them.

The process used on Glen and Chestnut is known as mill and fill. It involves "milling" the road to reduce and groove the surface and repaving it with hot asphalt. The milling, if done correctly, can also help establish a crown to direct water toward the curbs.

The mill and fill process contrasts with that used last summer on streets such as Pine Boulevard. That process, known as pug mill, is a "cold" process. Sealing is accomplished with a layer of emulsion covered in fine stone. We discovered with this summer's unusual heat that the pug mill process did not wear well. This is especially true on roads where there is much parallel parking. Turning car tires dislodge the stone and cause the sticky, black emulsion to come to the surface.

With this in mind, we have temporarily postponed resurfacing of Pioneer Street south of Church Street. We had budgeted to pug mill that street, but experience now suggests mill and fill, a more expensive but longer lasting option, would be a better solution. We look forward to completing this project in 2017, using the paid parking surplus and cost savings in other areas to supplement the money already budgeted.

Santa Claus is coming to Town.....



Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in Cooperstown on November 25, 2016 by horse drawn wagon, at 5:30 p.m. Santa's cottage is located on Main Street in Pioneer Park. Stop in for a visit - he is looking forward to seeing everyone. Remember "He knows if you've been bad or good", so stop in and see him in person.

Children's Christmas Party

The children's Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 2- 4 p.m. at the Cooperstown Fire Department. This is one of the high points of our fall and winter activities. It is an event, which brings friends and families together. This year's event will include horse drawn wagon rides in addition to caroling, crafts, photos with Santa, games and refreshments.

Removing Snow and Ice from the Public Sidewalk

As we prepare for the winter season, please remember:

- Owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks adjoining their properties. If this duty is neglected, the Village will remove ice and snow and the owner will be charged a fee of \$100 per occurrence.
- The use of sodium chloride (rock salt) is not permitted on public sidewalks. Look for deicers labeled as safe for concrete.
- In the business district it is not necessary to remove snow and ice from the pavers, but the pavers can be carefully cleared if desired.
- Snow or ice you clear must not be deposited on streets or sidewalks.

Snow or ice must not be deposited on someone else's property without express permission.

Street Repairs

This year the Village was able to undertake an ambitious street repair program that allowed for the resurfacing and/or preventative maintenance of portions of nine streets: Pine Blvd., Main St., Church St., River St., Beaver St., Delaware St., Linden Ave., Cooper Ln., and Hoffman Ln.

In addition \$200,000 was placed in a reserve fund to be used for the next phase of the Main Street project, extending sidewalk improvements from River St. to Pine Blvd. and providing for a complete reconstruction of Pioneer St. from Lake St. to Church St. That project, largely funded with federal dollars, is slated to begin in 2017.

The Village would like to recognize the assistance it received from the City of Oneonta, Town of Otsego, and Town of Middlefield with street work this summer. Thanks to shared services agreements with these municipalities, we are able help one another to ensure road work is completed efficiently and economically. This year's resurfacing and road sealing projects benefitted from equipment and labor provided by our neighbors, and we are grateful they could provide these services.

Support our Firefighters Clear a Hydrant

The Village of Cooperstown offers an opportunity for its residents, businesses, organizations, and others to get involved in helping to keep the Village safer. There are 127 fire hydrants in and around the Village. A map with numbered hydrants is available on the Village website at <http://cooperstownny.org/volunteers/>.

Clearing a hydrant means shoveling the snow 3 feet around the hydrant on all sides. This will ensure that in the event of a fire, firefighters can quickly access water to extinguish it. For the safety of drivers and pedestrians, snow should be piled on the tree lawn and not deposited in the street or on the sidewalk. More serious hydrant issues should be reported to the Village at 547-2411.

If everyone pitches in, we can ensure that access to fire hydrants is more continuous, especially following a large snow storm. The ultimate goal is help ensure a safer Village for all who live, work, and visit here. How would you like to join the team? Contact Rich McCaffery at ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com or call 547-5256.

Cooperstown Comprehensive Plan Update

With the support of Otsego Now, the Village has been working with Elan Planning of Saratoga to draft a Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Revitalization Strategy to update the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1994. Over the past two years public input has been sought through surveys, open houses, a charrette, and a public information session. The Board of Trustees is preparing for its final review of the plan. A public hearing has been set for November 28 at 7pm, and all are invited to attend and offer additional input. Copies of the plan can be reviewed at the Village office or online on the Village website.

Reminders from the Water Department

- Meters will be read again in January.
- Remember to leave an opening for operators to access the water touch pad at your residence or business. For instance, if you have fencing around your shrubs, please leave an opening for them to access the touch pad.
- Even slight drafts during winter weather may cause your water meter to freeze and break. To avoid the expense and inconvenience, please ensure that your water meter is draft free.
- Leaving for the winter? Don't forget to drain your household water pipes and water meter to prevent the pipes from freezing while you're away.
- If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 547-5591.

All Night Parking

A reminder that overnight parking is prohibited on Village streets from November 1 to April 1. Overnight parking is available in designated spaces in the Doubleday Field parking lot and the Fowler Way parking lot.

Snow & NYS Vehicle & Traffic Laws

The Cooperstown Police are reminding drivers to clear all snow and ice from their vehicles before driving. Not only does this practice provide better visibility for the driver, it prevents snow or ice from flying off the vehicle onto other moving vehicles.

The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law require drivers to have an unobstructed view from the front, rear and sides of a vehicle. This law also prohibits depositing snow on the roadway by any means, whether from shoveling, plowing or driving a snow-covered car out of your driveway to let the wind clean it off. Questions on snow removal in the Village can be directed to the Police at 547-2500.

Bassett and Local Businesses

The Village 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.

Rain Garden Volunteers

The Village would like to thank the Lake & Valley Garden Club for providing identification tags for the 37 new trees on Main Street. These small signs have provided information to our residents and many visitors since their installation at the beginning of the growing season. As the leaves changed this fall, they once again served an educational role providing species information for the brilliant yellow and red autumn leaves that helped ornament Main Street.

The Village is further grateful for the committed crew of volunteers, led by Rich McCaffery, who have regularly cleaned the rain gardens on Main Street. Rainwater and snowmelt can carry sediment and pollutants from Village streets and sidewalks into Otsego Lake, the Susquehanna River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. To curb this process, the rain gardens on Main Street capture rainwater, allowing it to slowly soak into the ground. The soil naturally filters the water, ridding it of contaminants before it reaches the water table. As a result of their function and their convenient location, the rain gardens also collect trash and falling leaves. A big thank you is due to the volunteers who have helped keep them clean.

Tax Credits

Did you know that you might qualify for a state income tax credit for work you do on your historic house or business property? New York State offers 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. The house must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or as contributing in a National Register historic district. Fortunately, most homes built before 1949 in the Village of Cooperstown are contributing in the Glimmerglass Historic District. 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 credit is equal to 20% of approved qualifying expenses up to \$50,000.

Businesses can take advantage of both state and federal income tax credits. Owners of income producing real properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including those contributing in the Glimmerglass Historic District, may be eligible for a 20% federal income tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation of historic properties. 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.

Village Hall Restoration Update

The repair and repainting work on the front porch at the Village Hall has been completed. During the process, four rotten column bases were replaced, five cement pads for columns were repaired and a rotten section of the main beam above the columns was replaced. Also, the hardware on the outer front doors has been restored to its original condition. Repairs on the woodwork, glass and the brass hardware of the interior doors is underway and should be completed around the time you receive this news letter. This work was funded by a grant obtained from Senator Seward.

In addition, the Library has used grant money for refurbishment of the west room, where a wall has been removed, ceilings repaired and new LED lighting installed. Also, new cabinets similar to those in the reading room and new carpeting has been installed and the walls and ceiling have been painted.