

VILLAGE VOICES

Number 103

Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

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News from the Mayor's Office

Things are busy, as always at Village Hall. We are about to enter budget season. Since I have been Mayor, the village has not had to increase taxes. Holding the line on taxes has not been a political goal, it's been the result of added revenue through paid parking and grants, and cost cutting both in personnel and how we do our day to day business. Our budgets have never been healthier and it's indisputable that more work is being done on our streets, sidewalks and public buildings. I fully expect the 2017-18 budget to include more of our annual street paving, more saving for reserves and more building improvements, while, again, keeping taxes in check. Budget meetings are always open to the public. Check with the office for dates and times if you'd like to attend.

On January 18th, the Hall of Fame announced the results of this year's ballot and Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines and Ivan Rodriguez will join Bud Selig and John Schuerholz in the Class of 2017. When Craig Biggio, Bagwell's long time teammate on the Houston Astros, was Inducted in 2015, the village saw a huge influx of Texans. I expect the same for Bagwell. Raines, who made his reputation with the Montreal Expos, is sure to draw a big crowd from the north. I can tell you that I never knew I knew so many Canadians! I've been flooded with emails, Facebook posts and Tweets from Raines fans looking for advice on how to visit Cooperstown.

Summer is sure to be exciting. In the meantime, I hope everyone is having a wonderful winter.

- Jeff Katz, Mayor

Snow Emergencies

The Village has made updates to its snow emergency law. A snow emergency, or other emergency, will now be declared by the mayor, village administrator, or DWP superintendent. An emergency will be announced via media outlets including TV, radio, and the Village website. Parking is prohibited on all Village streets during a declared emergency. Parking will be made available in the Doubleday Field parking lot whenever an emergency prevents parking on the streets. Cars that remain on the street during an emergency may be towed.

Village Elections - 2017

Election Day for the village will be Tuesday, March 21, 2017. The election will be held at the Cooperstown Fire Hall, 24 Chestnut Street. The following offices are up for re-election:

- ❖ Trustee (2) – Three year term

At the time of release of this newsletter, the Democratic Caucus is scheduled to be held on January 31, 2017 for the nomination of candidates for the two Trustee seats. Please watch the local papers for the names of the nominees.

The deadline for the Village Clerk to receive Independent Nominating Petitions is not until February 14, 2017; therefore, additional candidates and/or parties may be added to the ballot at that time.

Absentee ballot applications are available at the Village Office during regular office hours, Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by calling 547-2411.



Grievance Night

The tentative assessment roll has been completed for 2017. Notices have been sent to the owners of properties that have changed values.

The Assessor, Al Keck, is available weekdays, 8 AM – 2 PM in his office at 22 Main Street. He will also hold special office hours for those unable to meet during regular office hours on Thursday, February 9, from 6 PM – 8 PM and Saturday, February 11, from 9 AM – 1 PM or by appointment by calling 607-547-6057.

The Board of Assessment Review will meet on Tuesday, February 21st, 2017 in the Village Meeting Room, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY between the hours of 6 PM and 10 PM, for the purpose of hearing and determining complaints in relation to assessments on the application of any person believing himself to be aggrieved.

Complaints with respect to assessments must be filed with the Village Administrator on or before the day of the meeting on a form prescribed by the State. These forms are available at the Village Office, 22 Main Street or by calling (607) 547-2411.

Badger Park Ice Skating Rink

Once again we had cold weather and beautiful ice for a week in early January.... And then the warm weather and rain came.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the rink will be perfect for skating and many kids young and old will have enjoyed using it. We thank the Friends of the Parks and their sub-group, the Rink Advocates for assisting Village employees and rink attendants Quentin Hasak and Bob Busse with the care and maintenance of the rink.

You can find updates on the rink status under the "Play" drop down menu on the Village's website (www.cooperstownny.org) or on the Facebook page of Friends of the Parks (Cooperstown Friends of the Parks).

We have tweaked the official Rink Schedule, so check it out below and keep in mind that Rink Advocates may be opening the warming hut and making the rink available to all skaters at other times as well.

When ice conditions prevail please remember:

- The rink will not always be staffed by a skating rink attendant. In general, a Village attendant will be in place at times listed in the schedule below.
- Use of the facility is at your own risk.
- Helmets are required for anyone playing hockey and encouraged for all skaters; other protective gear is also recommended.
- Hockey pucks are not to elevate off the ice.
- Except for times specifically listed for Hockey, sticks and pucks are not permitted when there are any public skaters on the ice.

Here's hoping for cooperative weather and a great skating season.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Time</u>
Monday	Mixed Use	3 – 7 PM
Tuesday	Mixed Use Hockey	3 – 6 PM 6:30 – 9 PM
Wednesday	Mixed Use	3 – 7 PM
Thursday	Mixed Use Hockey	3 – 6 PM 6:30 – 9 PM
Friday	Mixed Use	3 – 7 PM
Weekends & Holidays	Family Skate Mixed Use	10 AM – 12 PM 12:30 - 6:30 PM

Mixed Use = 1/3 hockey & 2/3 family/open
Family = Family/Open Skate

Removing Snow and Ice from the Public Sidewalk

This winter season, please remember that according to local law:

- Owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks adjoining their properties.
- 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 and deiced 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.

If the public sidewalk adjacent to your property is not cleared, the Village will clear it and charge you a fee of \$100 per instance. You will be notified of the need to clear the sidewalk via a paper notice placed at your entrance door before the sidewalk is cleared by Village employees. The Village does not make phone calls or send emails to property owners who have neglected this duty.

We ask that you remain diligent in clearing snow and ice from the sidewalk and make alternative arrangements if you are out of town. We would prefer not to have to issue notices, shovel sidewalks, or fine property owners—we do this to promote pedestrian safety.

Adopt-A-Hydrant Thank You

All too often we do not take the time to adequately thank those that voluntarily contribute to our Village in significant ways....and this is one of those instances. So....*THANK YOU* for your on-going support to keep your adopted hydrant (s) clear of snow and a safer Village. It's a tremendous help and we recognize your efforts. If you have not, and would like to adopt a hydrant or water drain, go to www.cooperstownny.org and click on *live* and then *volunteers*. Here you will see a map with numbered hydrants and water drains. If you have any questions or would like to check as to the availability of a hydrant, contact Rich McCaffery at ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com or call 547-5256.

2017 Boat Dock and Rack Rental

We will begin to accept names for the boat dock & canoe/kayak rack waiting list on March 1st. To be put on the waiting list, you must come to the Village office on or after Wednesday, March 1st, during regular business hours. Spaces are assigned on a first come first assigned basis.

Last year's renters will automatically be assigned a slip/rack space and will have until March 31st to renew for the season. Slips that are not renewed will become available for those on the waiting list.

The floating dock installed in the spring of 2016 in place of the wooden dock, has worked out well. Replacement of the western dock will be proposed for the 2017-18 budget, and, if approved, this second floating dock will be installed in the spring of 2018.

The rates for the boat docks will remain the same as they were in the 2016 season. Our only change in rates will be a slight increase in the resident and non-resident rates for spaces on the canoe/kayak racks.

Fish Road Parking

The trustees are considering a change in the parking regulations for Fish Road. As proposed, during the summer months, from the Saturday of Memorial Weekend through Monday of Columbus Day, there would be 2 hour parking on Fish Road, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Parking in excess of two hours on Fish Road would be available for vehicles and trailers displaying either a Boat Launch Inspection Receipt, dated for that day or a Season Rental receipt for those renting a boat slip or a canoe/kayak rack space.

The intent of the law would be to allow greater use of parking on Fish Road by all boaters and to ensure that all aquatic vessels are being inspected and cleaned at the boat wash station. There will be a public hearing on the proposed law at the February 27th board meeting at which time the public is welcome to comment.

Village Hall Improvements

Much maintenance on the Village Hall has been deferred for decades. A few years ago, the Village began a program to address the most serious items and to make the building more useable to residents and visitors. Some of these projects have been quite visible, such as the work on the front porch, which included replacing rotten wood in several of the column bases and in the main beam as well as to removing many layers of old paint, repainting and restoring the door hardware, and replacing the

stone steps. Also quite visible was the work done in conjunction with the Library to replace the flooring in the main hall as well as the Library funded project to renovate the children's room. A major repair to the ceiling in the reading room of the library was completed, followed recently by refastening and repairing other loose portions of ceiling throughout the building. The former Village Court office was converted to a multi purpose meeting/tutoring room.

Equally important, but less visible work, included projects to save energy costs, including additional attic insulation and multiple projects on the old steam heating system to make it more efficient and reliable, and the beginning of replacing lighting with LEDs. The last portion of badly deteriorated roof shingles were replaced and gutters were added on the Main Street side. The badly deteriorating main skylight now has a temporary protective cover to prevent leaks until we come up with a long term solution. Masonry was repointed to stop leaks that had lead to the ceiling problems. The electrical system was upgraded to include ground fault protection at all outlets. The main sewer line in the basement failed and was replaced.

The recent grant award of \$120,000 will be used over the next few years toward replacing the trouble prone elevator with a more user friendly model, completing remaining exterior masonry work, additional gutters, repairing inoperable windows and finally addressing the main skylight.

Are you a musician or artisan?

In a joint effort of the Village of Cooperstown and the Cooperstown Area 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 to reserve dates and times. CD sales and a donation container are permitted.

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.

Spring Clean-Up

To facilitate spring clean-up, the Village of Cooperstown will be picking up green yard waste

Monday – Friday beginning at 7 a.m. during the month of April, weather permitting. After April, pickup will be 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. These may occur over a period of several days depending on demand.
- 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.
 - 5) For the initial clean up in the spring and the final clean up in the fall, leaves and green waste do not have to be bagged. Leave them in a pile between the curb and sidewalk. We will pick them up with our leaf vacuum.
 - Make sure there are no stones or bricks in the leaf pile.
 - Keep brush in its own pile that will be picked up separately.
 - Check the Village web site for fall and spring cleanup dates.
 - These pickups will continue over several days until all eligible items have been picked up.

- 6) 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.

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

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 (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.

Reminders from the Water Department

- Meters will be read again April.
- 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.

Incentives for Commercial Projects

The Village of Cooperstown is pleased to announce 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 may 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 Restoring 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.

Want to be a First Responder?

The Otsego County Office of Emergency Services will be holding an Emergency Medical Responder Class beginning Thursday February 16th, running on Tuesday and Thursday nights ending on April 20th. The class will be held at The Meadows Complex, 140 County Hwy 33W, Cooperstown. Pre-registration by February 10th is required to ensure that we have sufficient books and materials available.

If you have questions or want to preregister contact:
Arthur R. Klingler Jr.
Assistant Emergency Services Coordinator-Otsego County
Phone (607) 547-4226
Fax (607) 547-4377

Village adopts Local Law regulating use of portable storage containers

The Board of Trustees adopted a local law at their regular December meeting regulating the use of portable storage containers.

The purpose of the local law adopted is to ensure that the placement of portable storage containers complies with the long-term zoning, safety, aesthetic, and historic preservation objectives of the Village of Cooperstown.

Copies of the law providing the regulations for the use of portable storage containers may be obtained from the Village Office, during regular business hours.

At least three business days before a portable storage container is placed on a lot, a lot's owner shall apply to the Zoning Enforcement Officer for a portable storage container permit.

If the Zoning Enforcement Officer determines that the application is complete, he or she shall grant a

portable storage container permit for a 31-consecutive day period.

If the lot's owner, in a written request, demonstrates a bona-fide reason for an extension, the Zoning Enforcement Officer may grant two extensions of the portable storage container permit for a period that does not exceed 31-consecutive days and that does not exceed a total of 93 days in any consecutive 365-day period.

If you anticipate needing the use of a portable storage container, please contact Jane Gentile, Zoning Officer at 547-2411.

2017 Village of Cooperstown approved list of Tourist Accommodations

Below is the 2017 Village of Cooperstown approved list of Tourist Accommodations. Also shown following this information is the list of hotels and motels within the village.

The tourist accommodations as shown on the list are the only approved accommodations meeting all requirements of the Village of Cooperstown Zoning Law regulating short-term rentals within the village.

2017 List of Village Approved Tourist Accommodations

- 77 Beaver Street, Dunlop House & Carriage House
- 46 Chestnut Street, White House Inn
- 47 Chestnut Street, Chestnut Street Apartments
- 54 Chestnut Street, Baseball B&B
- 76 Chestnut Street, Sansevere Apartment
- 132 Chestnut Street, Rose & Thistle
- 134 Chestnut Street, American Story Book Apartments
- 43 Delaware Street
- 8 Eagle Street, Lyoncher B&B
- 73 Elm Street, Agaseto House
- 19 Fair Street, Florence Cottage
- 75 Fair Street, Pumpkin House
- 8 Glen Avenue, Glen Avenue Suites
- 20 Glen Avenue, 20 Glengrove
- 21 Glen Avenue, All Aboard
- 10 Hoffman Lane, Visions Inn
- 30 Lake Street, 1797 House Apartments
- 81 Lake Street, Green Apple Inn
- 14 Leatherstocking Street, Leatherstocking House
- 15 Leatherstocking Street
- 20 Leatherstocking Street, Leatherstocking Rental
- 13 Main Street, Main Street Guest House
- 110 Main Street, Bella Casa Apartments
- 127 Main Street, Apartment @ Doubleday
- 194 Main Street, A Grand Porch View
- 202 Main Street, Main Street B&B
- 20 Nelson Avenue, Nelson Avenue Pines B&B
- 2 Pine Boulevard
- 8 Pine Boulevard, Overlook Bed & Breakfast
- 5 Susquehanna Avenue, Abbey's Cottage
- 11 Susquehanna Avenue, Doubleday House

- 12 Susquehanna Avenue, The Unpainted Post
- 16 Susquehanna Avenue, Susquehanna House
- 48 Susquehanna Avenue, Barnwell Inn
- 17 Walnut Street, A Wooden Tulip
- 6 Westridge Road, Bryn Brook & Manor B&B

Hotels and Motels in the Village

- 64 Chestnut Street, Landmark Inn
- 15 Chestnut Street, Cooper Inn
- 16 Chestnut Street, Inn at Cooperstown
- 88 Chestnut Street, Cooperstown Bed and Breakfast
- 90 Chestnut Street, Mohican Motel
- 10 Fair Street, Lake Front Hotel
- 60 Lake Street, Otesaga Resort Hotel
- 61 Main Street, Baseball Town Motel
- 34 Pioneer Street, Tunnlicliff Inn
- 50 Pioneer Street, Hotel Pratt
- 5 West Beaver Street, Creamery Apartments

If you should have any questions regarding the 2017 list of Village approved tourist accommodations or hotels and motels, please contact Jane Gentile, Zoning Enforcement Officer at 547-2411.

Time/Date Changes for HPARB and Planning Board

Planning Board will not meet on its regularly scheduled date and time in February due to the Board of Assessment Review's Grievance Night being held on that date. The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

The Historic Preservation and Architectural Review Board will meet beginning at 4:30 p.m., rather than its regular 5:00 p.m. time for the months of February, March, April and May.

All Night Parking

An all-night parking ban is in effect from November 1 – April 1. Vehicles are not permitted to be parked overnight on any village street. All night parking is permitted only as indicated in Doubleday Parking lot and the Fowler Way Parking lot.

Village Holiday Schedule

The Village Offices will be closed:
❖ February 20 (in observance of President's Day)