

VILLAGE VOICES

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Editor, Jenna Utter, Village Clerk

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News from the Mayor's Office

The Village's 2016 Comprehensive Plan, created after a great deal of community input, cited the need for housing within our Village, particularly apartment style housing. Currently there are two proposed housing projects in our Village. The first is Willow Brook Residential Housing which Gov. Hochul announced will receive \$1.3 million of our New York Forward funding. This approximately \$4.7 million project will create 13 new residential units in a mix of apartment and townhomes on the corner of Glen and Grove in the Railroad District of our Village. Nearby, on the corner of Grove and Main, Vecino Group (<https://www.vecinogroup.com>) a national company dedicated to the development of affordable and supportive housing, is proposing a 50 unit (35 1-bedroom and 15 2-bedroom), 3 story apartment building. Vecino is partnering with Springbrook, with eight of the first floor, one-bedroom units dedicated to Springbrook residents. Springbrook would provide on-site support services and in support of this housing, received a \$1.78 million award notification from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities for Integrated Supportive Housing.

According to the Village's zoning law, the use of this 1.17-acre lot for multi-family housing is permitted. The building can be 42 feet, or 3-stories tall without a variance. The estimated project cost is \$24 million. The new building will include a community space (with kitchen), fitness center, onsite property management, onsite maintenance, onsite Springbrook Support Agency office for the I/DD population, free building wide Wi-Fi and accessible amenities within walking distance.

As currently designed, the Vecino development at 217 Main Street will provide affordable housing at rents set at 30% of Otsego County median income for 5 units (\$18,480 single; \$21,120 couple), 50% of Otsego County median income for 11 units (\$30,800 single; \$35,200 couple), 60% of Otsego County median income for 16 units (\$36,840 single; \$42,060 couple), 80% of Otsego County median income for 10 units (\$49,120 single; \$56,000 couple) plus the 8 units held for those with intellectual or development disabilities to have services provided by Springbrook. This will set rents

at a range of \$433-\$1090 for a 1-bedroom and \$511 to \$1300 for a 2-bedroom, varying by median income level.

A more in-depth article on housing in the Village can be found on the Village's website website - www.cooperstownny.org/ under "News".

The Village is pleased that policy changes and our efforts over the past 8 years since the creation of our Comprehensive Plan, have created these opportunities for housing growth.

-Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh

Welcome Home Cooperstown!

Welcome Home Cooperstown, our series of monthly Meet & Greets launched just over a year ago, has been a wonderful success!

The goal is to welcome area newcomers and assist them in building connections to established residents and institutions and encourage them to make our community their permanent home. Each month features music, and presentations by community organizations, with refreshments being served.

Our July event was hosted by The Village Board with Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh and Trustees George Fasanelli, Joe Membrino and Cindy Falk serving salads and grilling food! The Otsego Lake Association reviewed their impressive list of activities to protect our Lake. OLA is a group open to everyone who cares about our Lake.

The WHC gatherings have partnered with Mohican Farms which graciously provides attractive composting containers for all the compostable plates, utensils and cups used for the refreshments.

All members of the community are welcome at *WHC*, including newcomers to the area and longtime residents who would like to meet and welcome others. Gatherings take place on the first Tuesday of each month with the next one on **Tuesday, August 6** at Village Hall, outside on the porch, if weather allows. During July & August WHC is held from 5:30-6:30 so there is time for attendees to set up their chairs for our Tuesday evening Lakefront Concerts.

Please drop in at your convenience!



Breakfast with the Board and Monthly Board Meeting

Come and have Breakfast with the Board! 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 continue on **Mondays from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. on these days:**

- August 26**
- September 23**
- October 21**
- November 25**

We look forward to seeing you there!

The public is also invited to attend the monthly Board of Trustees meeting and other public meetings. The Board of Trustees meet at **6 pm** on the 4th Monday of every month. Meetings can also be viewed by clicking the VOC Live button on the Village website: www.cooperstownny.org



Noise Law

The following noise levels, as measured on a public sidewalk or adjacent property, are permitted in the Village of Cooperstown:

Residential Zoning Districts:

- Up to 70dB between 7am and 10pm (day)
- Up to 60dB between 10pm and 7am (night)

Business and Commercial Zoning Districts:

- Up to 80dB between 7am and 10pm (day)
- Up to 60dB between 10pm and 7am (night)

Sound permits are available for up to four hours per occurrence, no more than three times per week, for up to 88dB. Permits allow for this sound level

starting no earlier than 9am and continuing no later than 9pm on weekdays and 11pm on weekends.

Variations may also be considered by the Board of Trustees for unusual circumstances requiring louder, longer, earlier, or later sound levels.

The noise law includes some exceptions under certain circumstances for things such as emergency sirens, construction activities, lawn mowing, and snow removal.

Paving Planned

This fall the Village will be continuing its program of ongoing maintenance on Village streets. Expect paving activities on Main Street and on Nelson Avenue. We apologize for the inconvenience while work is in process. The end result will be worth it! We look forward to future street projects on Pioneer Alley, Hoffman Lane, and Fowler Way funded by New York Forward.

Keep in mind that the Village has adopted a Complete Streets policy, which supports everyone from pedestrians to private vehicle drivers to public transportation users. If you notice street or sidewalk issues, please contact DPW Superintendent Mitch Hotaling at 607-547-2411 or mhotaling@cooperstownny.org

Main Street Parking Changes

The Village is making changes to parking on Main Street to both promote safety and support local businesses. The 15-minute parking spaces in front of the Key Bank Building east of the entrance to Doubleday Field will be replaced by a new trolley stop. This will make it easier for the trolley to safely enter and exit the stop and help keep pedestrians using the crosswalk safer. The trolley stop currently located to the west of the entrance to Doubleday Field will be replaced by three, 15-minute parking spots and a fire zone at the fire hydrant. Two additional 15-minute parking spaces will be created near the driveway between Norbu and Rudy's (143 and 149 Main Street) at the request of local business operators. 15-minute spaces are free to use for up to 15-minutes, even during the paid parking season.

Safe Drinking Water Alert

To ensure safe drinking water, the Village Water Department is working with the Environmental Protection Agency to create an inventory of water lines that serve each property in the Village. The service line is the pipe that brings water from the water main through the foundation wall into your home or business. If,

for example, the pipe contains lead, that is a health risk.

Once the inventory is complete, we will be taking steps to replace service lines, as necessary. We are making progress with the help of property owners, but more lines need to be examined before the October 2024 federal reporting deadline. This will require a member of the village staff to enter your home and perform tests on the house's water system to ascertain the material type of the service line pipe. These inspections will take place between 9:00 and 4:30 Monday through Friday. To schedule an appointment with the Village Water Dept. please call 607-547-5591 or email vocwd@stny.rr.com.

We appreciate your timely cooperation.

Tom Kukenberger
Chief Water Plant Operator

Filming in Cooperstown

The Village has adopted a supplemental application for those interested in filming movies, TV episodes, commercials, streaming video, or other projects in Cooperstown. A film permit is required to film on public property within the Village of Cooperstown or owned by the Village of Cooperstown, including but not limited to sidewalks, streets, parks, parking lots, Village buildings, and Doubleday Field.

A film permit is not required to film on private property unless:

- You require street parking spaces for working production vehicles
- You will be staging a generator or other equipment on public property, and/or will be running cables across sidewalks
- You need to work before 7 a.m. or after 10 p.m.
- You are performing stunts or using prop weapons within view of the public or adjacent properties
- You are depicting a crime within view of the public or adjacent properties
- Your work on private property will have an impact to the surrounding neighborhood



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 flowerpots, 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.

If you have any questions, please call Chris Satriano, Streets Superintendent at 607-547-5521.



Trolley Passes

Season trolley passes are a bargain and a great way for local residents and employees to find transportation around Cooperstown. The trolleys run daily from 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM through September 2. 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 day. Children under 5 are free.

Lakefront Concert Series

The Lakefront Concert Series is in its 19th season. Concerts are every Tuesday at 6:30pm at the

bandstand in Lakefront Park. Admission is free. Bring a chair or blanket and relax on the shore of Otsego Lake. Don't forget to check out the great food vendors!

August 6 - Grateful Upstate Todeloo
August 13 – 2 Of Us
August 20 – Cooperstown Community Band
August 27 – Jason Schnitt



Property Tax Reminder

Village residents are reminded that the second installment of the Village Property Taxes is due on or before August 31, 2024. You can bring them to the Village Office or have them postmarked, no later than August 31, 2024, if mailing, to avoid penalties. If you have any questions please contact the Village Treasurer, Debra Guerin at 547-8558 Ext 108 or e-mail dguerin@cooperstownny.org.

Parking Permits

Still need a parking pass? Paid parking continues until Columbus Day, Monday, October 14th. Passes are still available for \$25; after Labor Day, the price drops to \$10. Your pass will allow you to park:

- 1) In a legal space on the street in the paid parking area for up to two hours a day
- 2) In the Fowler Way lot anytime from 5am to 2am
- 3) In the Doubleday Field lot after 4pm

You can get the required paperwork online at www.cooperstownny.org under the "permits" tab or in person at the Village offices at 22 Main Street.

Storm Drains

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 rainstorms. The Village will continue monitoring storm drains, but the assistance of volunteers will reduce the possibility of flooding due to inoperable or clogged drains.

When the forecast calls for heavy rain, remove the leaves and 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. Never remove the grate or put debris into the drain.

***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 many residents have 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 lines at no cost to the property owners, but was not authorized to reimburse the property owners for the cost of the plumber's services.

Illegal Connections to Sewer Lines

Did you know that it is illegal to direct groundwater collected via a sump pump or other means, into a Village sanitary sewer line?

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. (Section 220-7(A) of Village Law) The next section of the law specifies the Penalties incurred by a building owner if that law is violated.

The Village Water Department knows the volume of water used by households and businesses. Interestingly, there is a much greater quantity of water being treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, than is being introduced into the system via the Water Plant. The Village has invested in its storm drains and storm water infrastructure, to ensure that storm runoff does not contribute to an increase in flow in our sanitary lines.

Earlier this year, the Village was awarded an Inflow and Infrastructure Grant from the Environmental Facilities Corp to fund an engineering study of the causes of, and to reduce, inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system. Reducing I&I could mitigate hydraulic fluctuations and could improve the quality of the WWTP effluent. In 2022 the WWTP was cited for exceeding 95% of the flow capacity and is required to file annual flow certifications to the DEC. The I&I study is being undertaken to reduce the risk of permit violations. Funded by this EFC Grant, Delaware Engineering has been contracted to evaluate the sanitary system and determine locations which are contributing to excessive flow.

Home and business owners can assist by ensuring that their system does not violate Village law.

RV Parking

Have friends in town with an RV who don't know where to park while they spend time downtown?

Vehicles over 20 feet in length are prohibited from parking on all Village streets. However, larger vehicles can be accommodated at the three trolley lots. Signage in the Blue Lot (off Route 28 South) designates a limited number of easy pull-in RV parking spaces. Campgrounds for overnight stays are listed on the www.ThisIsCooperstown.com website.



Boat Trailer Parking

In order to ensure access to as many users as possible, the Village has limited the number of spaces on Fish Road, adjacent to Lakefront Park, where boat trailers may be parked. No boat trailers are to be parked on the west side of Fish Rd. Spaces are designated where trailers may be parked on the east side of Fish Road roughly across from the boat wash station. Please heed signage.

If those spaces are full, boat trailers may be parked at the upper lots at Fairy Spring Park and in the Blue and Yellow trolley lots. Those who have a boat inspection slip may ride the trolley for free back to Lakefront Park from any of the trolley lots.

EV Charging

The Village currently has two level 2 electric vehicle charges in the Doubleday Field parking lot. These are available for anyone to use. Parking fees as well as use fees apply.

The Village is planning to add four new public fast charging stations in the Fowler Way lot this fall.

The Village is committed to curbing the use of fossil fuels and sees electric vehicles as one way to promote clean energy.



Village Parks

Looking for an inexpensive family outing? Fairy Spring and Three Mile Point parks are free for Village residents. Both parks are open for the season, seven days a week through Labor Day, September 2nd. 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 work 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 identification that includes their village address. Town of Middlefield residents may get a free pass for Fairy Spring, and Town of Otsego residents may get a free pass for Three Mile. 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;
- **Per New York State Department of Health regulations for public swimming areas – No dogs are allowed in Fairy Spring Park or Three Mile Point Park.**
- 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 carpool if possible

Rain Gardens

Since they were first installed in 2014, the rain gardens on Main Street have been maintained by volunteers. 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. The Village is grateful to everyone who has adopted a rain garden and to those who pick up trash from them weekly. If you would be willing to help with cleanup or want more information, please reach out to the Village office at 607-547-2411 or jutter@cooperstownny.org.

Blocking the Sidewalk

The Village Code requires that no plants, shrubs, or trees impede passage on the sidewalk. If you own property abutting a public sidewalk, please remember to trim back any bushes or other vegetation on your property hanging over the sidewalk. If Village trees on the tree lawn need to be addressed because they are preventing sidewalk use, please notify DPW Superintendent Mitch Hotaling at mhotaling@cooperstownny.org.

Village Telephone Numbers

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Main Office | 547-2411 |
| Clerk - Jenna Utter | ext. 102 |
| Deputy Clerk- Marcia Nye | ext. 101 |
| Zoning Officer- Chris DeVille | ext. 112 |
| Public Works Supt. – Mitch Hotaling | ext. 104 |
| Assessor/Watershed Inspector- Al Keck | ext. 107 |
| Treasurer's Office | 547-8558 |
| Treasurer – Debra Guerin | ext. 108 |
| Deputy Treasurer - Kathy Caffery | ext. 109 |
| Village Police | 547-2500 |
| Village Library | 547-8344 |
| Village Street Dept. | 547-5521 |
| Village Water Dept. | 547-5591 |
| Village Sewer Dept. | 547-8501 |
| Doubleday Field | 547-2270 |



Village Seal Contest

The Board of Trustees voted on June 24 to enter into a Sister City relationship with Nettuno, Italy. Known as the "City of Baseball," the connection between Nettuno and baseball began during World War II when American soldiers landed on the beaches of Nettuno, fighting to liberate the town from Nazi occupation. The fierce battles resulted in significant casualties, but ultimately, the American invasion led to the liberation of Rome and the entire Italian peninsula. In gratitude, the people of Nettuno developed a profound kinship with the American soldiers. This bond was further strengthened by the soldiers' daily baseball games, which sparked a lasting passion for the sport in Nettuno.

Nettuno shared with Cooperstown its city seal, and asked for Cooperstown to do the same to be used in publicity. The problem is that Cooperstown doesn't have an official seal. Rather than propose something ourselves, we would like to hear from you.

Submit your design for a Village Seal by emailing your PDF file to village@cooperstownny.org by September 15. Files should be a minimum of 300dpi at 5 x 7 inches. Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of distinguished judges, finalists presented to the public for input, and the winner selected at the Village Board of Trustees meeting on September 23. While baseball might be part of the design, we invite submitters to also consider the historic character and natural beauty of our Village.

CONTEST TIME!