

# VILLAGE VOICES

Number 133

Editor, Jenna Utter, Village Clerk

November 2024

## News from the Mayor's Office

I recently participated in a forum on Housing sponsored by the Community Foundation of Otsego County. In preparing remarks, I realized that there are things we have accomplished over the past six years that have successfully increased our housing stock – one of the few area communities where that has been the case.

The Village's 2016 Comprehensive Plan created by community residents stressed the need for housing, particularly a *mix of year-round housing types including rental housing options, to meet the needs of a wide range of Village residents, whether it be families, seniors, or the workforce.*

The small changes we have made to our local zoning laws have allowed for greater potential for housing. Adjustments to our Short-Term Rental law in particular, ensured that year-round housing would be a priority. We know those particular changes were effective because we have an annual registration for STR's and in the five years between 2019 and 2024 we saw a 50% reduction in homes being used for short-term rentals. That means that 20 homes which previously were used for short term rentals, now provide year-round housing.

Chestnut Crossing at 10 Chestnut Street, was the first apartment building built in our community in over fifty years and it is also our first certified passive apartment building. Its 13 apartments filled quickly when opened in early 2023, and there is currently a wait list for available apartments.

From our New York Forward submissions, NYS selected one housing project - Willow Brook housing at the corner of Grove and Glen. This project as proposed will include both 4 townhouses, each with two bedrooms and an apartment building with 9 one-bedroom apartments.

Just down the street on the corner of Grove and Main, the Village has the potential for a 51-unit apartment building, with 8 units designated for Springbrook residents. 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.

All these projects will not only provide more housing choices for current residents, but also attract prospective residents. All exciting developments for our Village.

*-Ellen Tillapaugh – Mayor*

## Welcome Home Cooperstown Events!

*Welcome Home Cooperstown* will host the next of its monthly Meet and Greets at the Village Hall at 22 Main Street on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, from 5:30 to 7pm. The event is intended to welcome newcomers to the community, to share information, and to make connections with established residents. All members of the community are welcome.

The event will include general information about the Cooperstown area and institutions, with a special presentation on Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, by Dr. Namita Sugandhi. Everyone is encouraged to attend and learn about how this holiday is celebrated by members of our local community. Musicians Polly Messenger and Angus Mackie will provide entertainment, and refreshments are being sponsored by the Patel family.

For **Tuesday, December 3rd**, organizers are planning a **Meet & Greet & Stroll the Street!** We will welcome people to Village Hall (complete with a Library event for young children!) and then encourage attendees to stroll down our beautifully decorated Main Street to visit local businesses which will be staying open until 8 p.m. that evening. We have heard that even Santa and Mrs. Claus might make an appearance!



## Village Library News

In many ways, the library's schedule ebbs and flows with the school calendar - and we're looking ahead to amazing fall, winter, and spring programs. You likely already know about our weekly kids' programming. Here are some monthly adult programs that may be of interest to you:

- **Adult Craft Night:** Join us each month for an adult-only craft night. These programs are always registration-required for supply purposes, so keep an eye on each month's calendar so you can sign up.
- **Silent Book Club:** Each month we'll host an after-hours hour of silent reading (with some coffeehouse music for background noise). Join fellow readers, grab a cozy chair, and READ. We wrap up with a short chat about our books (but only if you want; you can always leave after).
- **War and Peace Year-Round Read:** Have you wanted to tackle *War and Peace*, but feel it's too overwhelming? Join us each month for a year-round read of this Russian classic. We'll host a monthly lunch discussion (bring your own lunch, we'll provide beverages) and discuss set readings to keep us on track. Want to join us? Email me at [co.heather@4cls.org](mailto:co.heather@4cls.org) by December 15 to get your copy.

- Heather Urtz Amendolare- Library Director

## Village Elections – 2025

Election Day for the Village will be Tuesday, March 18, 2025. 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 18, 2024.



## Be Water Smart and Dollar Wise

All residents and business owners served by the Village's water and sewer system are responsible for the safe and secure operation and maintenance of water and sewer lines and internal plumbing "downstream" of the Village's meter at each property.

In the past, several owners have had undetected leaks in the water supply lines on their property that resulted in water bills well in excess of a thousand dollars. Deteriorated toilet tank seals are a frequent source of leaks, though leaks may occur anywhere in the system. Please be vigilant in monitoring your water supply and waste lines, including faucets and toilets.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure that plumbing is working as designed. What seems like a small leak can add up to a large cost very quickly. One local church received a bill for over \$6,000 due to a leaky toilet. Please check your plumbing regularly and if something seems wrong, contact a professional.

Long-established Village policy provides that the property owner is fully responsible at the established water and sewer rates for: (1) all water that passes through the Village meter to the property; and (2) all water discharged into the Village sewer. So, if a leak on the property discharges into the sewer, the full water and sewer rate applies for that volume. But if the leak does not discharge into the sewer system, the property owner may petition the Board of Trustees through the Water and Sewer Board, for relief from the sewer charge associated with the volume of leaked water.

## Veteran's Day Parade

The Village of Cooperstown invites the community to come out for the Veteran's Day parade on Monday, November 11 at 11am. The parade route includes Main Street and Pine Boulevard. A ceremony will take place at the Doughboy statue near the intersection of Pine and Lake Street. Come honor all those who have served in our military, past and present.

## Brush and Leaf Pickup

The Village continues to offer leaf pickup for residents and property owners this fall, beginning in mid-October and continuing until the snow starts. 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 away from trees, poles, and fire hydrants.
- 3) Do not use plastic or paper bags or hard containers as we will pick up leaves using the leaf vacuum.
- 4) Place brush in a separate pile between the curb and sidewalk. Do not put brush in containers. Root balls, stumps, and large tree limbs will not be picked up, as we can only take material that will go through our shredder.
- 5) Do not include non-compostable materials like plastic flower pots, construction debris, processed lumber, bricks, or stones with leaves or brush.
- 6) 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.

The last brush pick up of the year will be the Tuesday and Wednesday of Thanksgiving week, November 26 and 27.

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



### ***Sidewalk Shoveling***

As we prepare for the winter season, please remember that property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks adjoining their property. If this duty is neglected, the Village will remove ice and snow, and the owner will be charged a fee of \$100 per occurrence. 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 nor on someone else's property without express permission. The use of sodium chloride (rock salt) is not permitted on public sidewalks. Look for deicers labeled as safe for concrete.

### ***Holiday Shopping***

Small Business Saturday is November 30, but you shouldn't limit your local shopping to just one day this holiday season. Before you buy gifts on-line or drive to Utica or Albany, consider buying gifts right here in Cooperstown. Shopping in Cooperstown supports local business owners and keeps local money in our local community, something desperately needed this year. 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 April 1.



### ***Willow Brook Study***

If you see folks working in or around Willow Brook in the coming weeks, they are likely from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Village is pleased to have partnered with the Army Corps to study the potential for flooding along this tributary of Otsego Lake, which travels along Glen Avenue, under Grove Street and Chestnut Street, under the Doubleday Field Grandstand, under Main Street, behind the Cooper Inn, across Lake Street, and on to Otsego Lake. We look forward to learning more about how we can better prepare for extreme weather events through our care of this waterway.

### ***Empire State Service Corps Intern***

The Empire State Service Corps aims to increase civic and public service opportunities for students by creating paid service positions for more than 500 students across the SUNY system. Pavlina Kilgallon, a senior at SUNY Oneonta majoring in Sociology with a passion for sustainability, will be the Empire Service Corps member placed with the Village of Cooperstown. Pavlina will be assisting with Clean Energy Communities (CEC) and Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action items including EV chargers, LED light conversion, green infrastructure, recycling, and benchmarking.

### **Heat Pumps**

Gearing up for a cold winter and looking to save up to 40% on energy costs? Go green with a new HVAC heat pump this winter! These new systems will efficiently support your family in your home despite the harsh New York climate.

The Village of Cooperstown is beginning a Heat Pump Campaign. If you plan to install or have installed a heat pump since October 2024, we want to know. Reach out to: [village@coopertstownny.org](mailto:village@coopertstownny.org) Incentives, such as rebates, Inflation Reduction Act tax credits, and financing, are available to help cover the cost of energy upgrades including heat pumps. For more information go to: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Inflation-Reduction-Act>. Many Village homeowners may also qualify for Historic Homeowners Tax Credits, and Otsego 2000 can help with the paperwork. Save today and build a better tomorrow!

### **Recycling**

Did you know that on average each person produces 4.5 lbs. of trash per day? That's around 9,000 lbs. per day in just the Village of Cooperstown alone! Save our planet one step at a time by Reducing, Reusing, Recycling, and Composting.

On November 15, we celebrate National Recycling Day! Each person can make an impact. One way is by taking plastic bags to the Village Library for recycling. The recycling boxes for collecting the plastic are in place in the upstairs hallway outside the library doors. Accepted plastic are displayed on the recycling bins, and all plastic bags must be clean.

Let's make a change towards a brighter future and preserve our beautiful Upstate New York. Check out Otsego County's Solid Waste Program for more ways YOU can make a difference today! [https://www.otsegocountyny.gov/departments/solid\\_waste/recycling\\_information.php](https://www.otsegocountyny.gov/departments/solid_waste/recycling_information.php)

### **Leaf "Recycling"**

The Village continues to offer leaf pickup for residents and property owners this fall, beginning in mid-October and continuing until the snow starts. Leaves should be placed loose between the curb and sidewalk away from trees, poles, and fire hydrants. Do not use plastic or paper bags or hard containers as we will pick up leaves using the leaf vacuum. And please do not blow or rake leaves into the street where they can clog storm drains.

### **Green Waste "Recycling"**

In addition to leaf pickup, the Village provides the opportunity to dispose of other green waste such as brush and Christmas trees in an environmentally friendly manner. Place brush in a separate pile from your leaves between the curb and sidewalk. Do not put brush in containers. Root balls, stumps, and large tree limbs will not be picked up, as we can only take material that will go through our shredder. Do not include non-compostable materials like plastic flower pots, construction debris, processed lumber, bricks, or stones with leaves or brush.

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.



### **Stuff the Ambulance Food Drive to support the Cooperstown Food Bank!**

On Saturday December 7, from 9-5 at Price Chopper, the CFD Emergency Squad will once again be Stuffing the Ambulance to support the Cooperstown Food Pantry. They will be collecting food, hygiene products, and monetary donations. Stop by, check out the ambulances, visit with the EMS providers, and help support the food pantry!

### **Children's Holiday Party**

The Cooperstown Fire Department is pleased to continue the tradition of welcoming area children to a holiday celebration on Sunday, December 8 from 2-4pm. The party will take place outdoors in Pioneer Park at the corner of Main and Pioneer Streets and will include games, crafts, refreshments, and visits with Santa Claus. There is no cost to participate in this festive celebration.

### **Support our Firefighters: Clear a Hydrant**

The Village of Cooperstown encourages 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 that need to be kept clear of snow.



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 607-547-2411.

If everyone pitches in, we can ensure that access to fire hydrants is continuous, especially following a large snowstorm. The ultimate goal is to help ensure a safer Village for all who live, work, and visit here.

### ***Rain Garden Volunteers***

The Village is grateful for the committed crew of volunteers who have cared for the rain gardens on Main Street this summer and fall. 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. Our volunteers pick up trash and leaves and plant, water, weed, and trim the flowers and plantings. If you are interested in adopting a rain garden next year, we are always looking for help!

### ***Reminders from the Water Department***

Each residence has a black touch pad which is approximately 2" X 3" in size. This pad allows the Village to read the meter without gaining access to your home. Recently, we have encountered more and more residents removing this pad from the exterior of their home. These pads cost approximately \$50 each. Effective immediately, replacement touch pads will be charged to the home owner. If you are planning to do work to the exterior of the home please contact the Water Department prior to removal so that appropriate arrangements can be made and you are not accessed the \$50 charge. Meters will be read again in January.

Even slight drafts during winter 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.

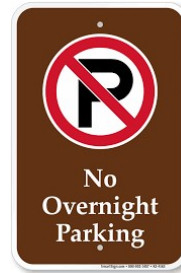
All Water and Sewer consumers are reminded that there is a monthly 2.00% Penalty for all amounts unpaid for any billing period. Your new bill should make the penalties easier to recognize. Also, please note that the penalties reflected for late payment are only accurate for one-month, new penalties are added each month.

The fee for final reads and reactivations for water and sewer accounts will be \$50.00.

If you have any questions regarding your touch pad please contact the Water Department at 607-547-5591. Questions regarding billing and fees, should be directed to the Village Treasurer, Deb Guerin, at 607-547-8558 extension, 108.

### ***Overnight 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.



### ***Clear your car!***

The Cooperstown Police remind 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 requires 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.



### Winter Carnival

Stay tuned for more information about Winter Carnival, which will take place from January 30-February 2 this year. The Village of Cooperstown is happy to make our public parks available for this mid-winter event.



### Smoking Prohibited

Smoking is prohibited on sidewalks and adjacent public property on Main Street from Fair Street to Pine Boulevard, as well as in Village parks and at Doubleday Field and 22 Main Street. This prohibition applies to the smoking of tobacco and the smoking of cannabis.

### No Wipes in Pipes! Flushable Wipes Aren't Flushable!

The Village has made a significant investment in the upgrade of our Waste Water Treatment Plant. We can be proud that we have a Plant which meets the needs of our community for decades to come and also ensures environmental safeguards for the Susquehanna River, the headwaters of the Chesapeake Basin.

All Village residents can help ensure that our WWTP continues to function at its best by not flushing disinfecting wipes, baby wipes and other sanitary wipes down toilets. These materials - despite packaging which says they are "flushable" - should be placed in the trash not in the toilet.

While toilet paper is designed to break down quickly, so called flushable wipes do not break down. They clog and damage equipment. *Consumer Reports* tested several varieties of wipes and reported they do not fragment even after testers processed them for ten minutes in a bladed mixer. Save yourself expensive household plumbing problems by not flushing this material into the sewer system and your actions will also benefit the new and expensive equipment at our WWTP.



### Breakfast with the Board

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: **November 25, December 16, and January 27**. We look forward to seeing you there!

### 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 recently a resident 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 line at no cost to the property owner, but was not authorized to reimburse the property owner for the cost of the plumber's services.

### Employment

The Village currently has openings for year-round personnel in its Streets Department. If you are interested in more information and an application, reach out to the Village office at 607-547-2411 or stop by 22 Main Street during normal business hours.



### Village Telephone Numbers

<b>Main Office</b>	<b>547-2411</b>
Village Clerk- Jenna Utter	ext. 102
Deputy Village Clerk- Marcia Nye	ext. 101
Zoning Officer- Chris de Ville	ext. 112
Public Works Sup. – Mitch Hotaling	ext. 104
Assessor - Al Keck	ext. 107
<b>Treasurer's Office</b>	<b>547-8558</b>
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 Holiday Schedule

The Village Offices will be closed:

- ❖ **November 11**  
(in observance of Veteran's Day)
- ❖ **November 28 & 29**  
(in observance of Thanksgiving)
- ❖ **December 24 & 25**  
(in observance of Christmas)
- ❖ **December 31 & January 1**  
(in observance of New Year's)

### 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.

