



The Village Report

Volume 20 Issue 2

Autumn/Winter 2020

Contact Information

www.villageofvoorheesville.com

Village Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Notary Services available

Phone: (518) 765-2692

Fax: (518) 765-2967

Mailing address: 29 Voorheesville Ave.

Mayor

Bob Conway 765-0036

mayor@villageofvoorheesville.com

Deputy Mayor

Dick Berger 765-2674

Trustees

Jack Stevens 765-4350

Rich Straut 765-2068

Sarita Winchell 765-2133

Village Clerk/Treasurer

Linda Pasquali

clerk@villageofvoorheesville.com

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Karen Finnessey

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Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Suzanne Hartmann

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Building Inspector

Steve Mason 765-2698

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Superintendent, Public Works

Brett Hotaling 765-4512

DPW@villageofvoorheesville.com

Stormwater Officer

Frank Fazio 765-2692 ex 14

stormwater@villageofvoorheesville.com

Board Meetings

Village Board:

4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM
at Village Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals:

1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM
at Village Hall

Planning Commission:

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM
at Village Hall

ZBA and Planning meet only when applications have been submitted. Call the Village Office or check the Public Notices and the website calendar to confirm meetings. Public Notices for the Village of Voorheesville can be found in The Enterprise's advertisement section and are posted at: Village Hall; US Post Office, and Ballston Spa National Bank

From the Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

I never thought that when I last wrote to you that we would still be dealing with the challenges of the pandemic, but here we are.

Although we have been fortunate not to see a high number of cases in the village, we still have experienced the loss of loved ones both near and far. Please stay vigilant and continue to follow the guidelines spelled out by the health care professionals.

Let us also remember to be thankful for our blessings and for our caring community. Better days are coming, let's continue to support and watch out for each other.

I hope you have a joyful holiday season!



Village Hall Coronavirus Protocol

Village offices have remained, and continue to be, open for business during the current pandemic. On-site staffing may be reduced at times, however, to allow us to maintain proper social distancing within Village offices.

To allow us to ensure the safety of the public and Village staff, **please call or email** with any questions or for services that can be provided remotely.

In-person services shall be by appointment only.



New Staff Member Appointed

The Village would like to welcome Suzanne Hartmann as our new part time Deputy Clerk Treasurer. As a graduate from the College of St. Rose with a BS in Computer Information Systems with a Business Minor, Suzanne brings a wealth of information in the computer and accounting areas.

A native of Watervliet, Suzanne has lived in Voorheesville over 20 years and is very involved in the community. She and her husband Steve are small business owners who have 4 children. Suzanne is on the board of the Salem Hills Park Association and is active in local school and scouting activities. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and baking, and always has some type of project going - usually remodeling her home or adding to her yard.

Village Hall looks forward to having Suzanne on board as a great asset to serve our residents.



A Community Choice Aggregation Electricity Purchase Program

Last year the Village Board took the initial steps to make available to Village residents the ability to purchase your electricity through the Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA). The CCA is a bulk electricity buying program intended to buy down the cost of electricity by *combining* the purchase of electricity of residents and businesses across several municipalities in the region. Residents would have the option of purchasing electricity through the CCA or purchasing through another provider of your choice – purchase through the CCA would be voluntary. The intent of the CCA is to offer competitive fixed electricity rates, provide access to renewable electricity, and provide consumer protection against predatory marketers.

Last winter the CCA administrator – the not-for-profit Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) - conducted a public outreach and education initiative, and then were preparing to solicit bids for purchase of electricity. When COVID-19 struck the bidding was postponed, and in late April MEGA decided to pause the CCA process until the COVID-19 pandemic is alleviated. MEGA continued to provide information to the Village throughout the summer and it was clear that market conditions continued to be unfavorable to progress with the CCA so it remains on pause.

We are hopeful that conditions will be favorable to restart the CCA process sometime in 2021 and when that time comes, MEGA will provide more information to Village residents.



Sidewalks

Question: What was great about 2020? **Answer:** Sidewalks in Voorheesville!

Two sidewalk projects came to completion in 2020; our Village DPW finished building the sidewalk along School Road from its intersection with Altamont Road to the Library. This was a “self-help” project for which our own Village DPW crews did most of the construction, thereby keeping cost to a minimum. Voorheesville DPW rocks!

The second project was one that extended sidewalks along Voorheesville Avenue and Altamont Road, and replaced the deteriorated sidewalks with curbed sidewalks along Maple Avenue. You will be pleased to know that 80% of the cost of this project was paid for with a federal grant.

Making Voorheesville more walkable was one of the highest priorities identified by residents in development of our Comprehensive Plan a couple of years ago. With these two projects complete, we are now setting our sights on identifying the next priorities for sidewalk improvements and seeking grant funding to make them a reality.



Sales Tax Revenue Uncertainty

The Village’s share of County Sales Tax represents the largest revenue source for the Village of Voorheesville Operating Fund. For the fiscal year 2019-2020, total sales tax received was \$1,009,819 or 62.1% of total Operating Fund revenue. The COVID-19 pandemic has made forecasting future sales tax revenue very difficult which translates to the biggest fiscal uncertainty facing Village government.

For year to year comparison, April 2020-June 2020 quarterly sales tax receipts were down almost \$68,000 from the previous year; and July-September quarterly sales tax receipts were down about \$12,600 from the previous year. With COVID-19 numbers climbing again, we know that there will be economic hardship, and a drop again in sales tax revenue. For the current fiscal year, the Trustees budgeted \$750,000 for sales tax revenue, and offset this decrease in revenue with cutting expenditures, using reserves and freezing salaries. We will be monitoring the situation carefully, but there is no way, at this time, to know how accurate our estimate is for sales tax revenue. Only time will tell.

Village Communication: Help Us Help You!

Your office staff is collecting phone numbers and emails to help us to serve you more efficiently. By having your current contact information available we can more readily alert you to issues regarding billing or payments, or other specific water & sewer related notifications. Please call or email us with any contact information you are comfortable sharing.

Just a reminder: opting in for NOTIFY ME enables you to receive text and/or email notifications on Village news and emergencies. NOTIFY ME can be found on the Village website,

www.villageofvoorheesville.com
Click on the NOTIFY ME tab and follow the instructions.



The Village uses Facebook (homepage **The Village of Voorheesville**) to post information of interest to our residents. For those not connected to the internet, an old-fashioned phone call to Village Hall will help you get the information you need.



Online Payment Now Available

The Village currently accepts sewer and water bill payments online through our website

villageofvoorheesville.com

Click **PAY TAX/WATER/ SEWER** located on the banner in the center of the homepage.



A third-party charge is added for use of this service: it is now \$1.95 for an ACH/e-check or 2.95% of payment amount for debit or credit cards.

Winter Parking Restrictions

**There is
NO PARKING
on any Village Street
12 Midnight to 6:00AM
NOVEMBER 15 - APRIL 15.**

This is for snow plowing purposes. This law is enforced regardless of a snow prediction. Please plan accordingly for the winter months and be sure to tell your guests!



Holiday Home Fire Safety

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires each year. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be. Burning candles should never be left unattended.

Facts About Holiday Home Fire Safety

One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.

A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every four of Christmas tree fires.

December is the peak time of year for home candle fires.

One-third of all candle fires start in the bedroom.

Top Tips for Fire Safety

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.

Test smoke alarms every month.

Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.

If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP.

DPW Reminders

LAWN BAGS: If you choose to bag your lawn debris and smaller sticks, we will continue to collect these bags until snow removal begins.

SNOW REMOVAL: When the time finally arrives, please DO NOT shovel, plow or snow blow snow back into the street. This practice is dangerous for drivers who must drive through the snow.

PORTABLE BASKETBALL HOOPS: DPW will not be held liable for any damage done to basketball hoops left on the street or within the right-of-way.

VILLAGE RIGHT-OF-WAY: Mailboxes, trees, shrubs, or other items located within the Village's ROW that are damaged by snow and ice removal are not the responsibility of the Village. In most cases damage is caused by the force of the snow being pushed off the roadway and is beyond the control of the driver.

SPRINGTIME YARD WASTE: Once we see warmer weather again, we are anxious to get out to clean our yards. **Please remember** that spring clean-up yard waste **must be bagged**. Mark your calendar! It gives us something to look forward to!

As always, if you have any questions about what we do at the DPW please do not hesitate to call us at 518-765-4512. Our normal business hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 am until 3:30 PM. If you have an emergency, we may be reached by pager at 518-342-2772 or by calling 911.



Green Infrastructure

You may have heard the term green infrastructure, but do you know what it is and what are the benefits?

Green infrastructure is a method of stormwater management that replicates natural rainfall into the ground in a way that occurred prior to development. Rainfall in developed areas results in stormwater runoff from rooftops, parking lots and roads and can be a source of erosion and pollution. By employing green infrastructure practices, the rainfall is discharged back into the ground providing treatment and groundwater recharge.

The most common methods of green infrastructure are rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavements, and downspout disconnections, such as rain barrels. You may not have noticed these examples of green infrastructure in the community, but designed correctly, they can blend into the landscape and you may not be aware of it.

Porous pavement has openings in it to allow the rainfall to seep into it and into the ground. During the winter, it can reduce or eliminate black ice and the need to apply salt is reduced. You will not see rainfall splash or puddles with porous surfaces. Raingardens are often used for small areas and blend into the landscaping, absorbing the rainfall in the soil and used by the plants. You may not see green roofs, but they consist of vegetated trays placed on a roof designed for them, collecting the rainfall for use by the plants. Underdrain systems are often used to convey excessive water should the green roof not be able to contain it.



Thank You Thank You

We would once again like to acknowledge and thank **Quick Response** who performed a complimentary sanitization of the Fire Department following Election Day in November.

Thank you as well to **Elemental Landscapes, Inc.** who maintains the area in front of Village Hall each fall and spring.



Joe Corrigan (L) and Andrew Luyckx (R) help keep Village Hall looking terrific.