



The Village Report

Volume 19 Issue 1

Autumn/Winter 2019

Contact Information

www.villageofvoorheesville.com

Village Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Notary Services available

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Fax: (518) 765-2967

Mailing address: 29 Voorheesville Ave.

Mayor

Bob Conway 765-0036
mayor@villageofvoorheesville.com

Deputy Mayor

Dick Berger 765-2674

Trustees

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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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Brett Hotaling 765-4512
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Stormwater Officer

Frank Fazio 765-2692 ex 14
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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, the Library and BSNB

From the Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

Thank you for taking the time to read your Village newsletter. We may be a comparatively small village, but it is a busy one!

There are 2 articles I would like to highlight. The first is Community Choice Aggregation, which is a way for residents to potentially save money on their energy costs. The second article talks about the importance of the 2020 Federal Census. An accurate census count is especially important for smaller municipalities because aid dollars from all levels of government are generally tied to a community's population. An accurate count ensures accurate aid.

By now I am sure most of you have heard or read about the lawsuit filed by Stewart's Shops against the Village over the former Smith's Tavern property. While it would take more space than this newsletter to fully articulate the position of both parties, I would encourage residents to attend the Village Board meetings and ask questions, or just to voice your opinion. While it can be certainly useful, social media is not always the most accurate source of information.

The preliminary work to establish the Quiet Zone continues to move along, albeit much slower than anyone would like. Funding has been secured thanks to Senator Amedore and Assemblywoman Fahy and our partners at Albany County have been working diligently to bring this project to conclusion.

The Village had a recent audit completed by the NYS Comptroller's Office. Members of the Comptroller's staff spent 10 weeks reviewing Village operations and found no deficiencies. The full report can be found on the Village website. I would like to thank Clerk Treasurer Linda Pasquali and Deputy Clerk Treasurer Karen Finnessey for all their efforts ensuring our adherence to state guidelines.

Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season and again, I welcome your comments and attendance at our public meetings, and I hope to see you around the Village!



Community Choice Aggregation Being Considered

Program will stabilize electricity rates and protect consumers from predatory marketers

This fall, the Village Board voted to explore Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a new program in NY State. CCA allows cities, towns, and villages to pool the electricity usage of residents and small businesses, creating a bulk-buying program that offers lower rates, better contract terms, and more choices. Those who do not wish to participate can opt-out.

Voorheesville, along with 9 other municipalities, has chosen the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) to fulfill the role of CCA Administrator. MEGA will oversee the creation, development, and implementation of the program, and perform education and outreach to residents. No taxpayer or government funds will be used in the creation or operation of the program.

Voorheesville residents can learn about CCA and the opt-out process during our public education session scheduled for Wednesday December 4, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Village Firehouse at 12 Altamont Road.

Education sessions will be offered (and can be attended) in the other participating communities as well. For more information, including an up-to-date listing of all upcoming public meetings in the Capital Region, visit: www.megacca.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MEGAEnergyNY Questions? Call or email the MEGA CCA team at 518.533.5399 or megaCCAteam@energynext.com

Establishing a Historic Commission

By Sarita Winchell

The New Scotland Historical Association (NSHA) has presented to both the Town of New Scotland and the Village of Voorheesville a proposal for the establishment of a joint Historic Preservation Commission. Currently, only NSHA has been keeping a list of significant historic sites in the Town and Village. As a volunteer organization, NSHA recognizes its limitations, and that including this type of documentation in the official records of both the Town and the Village would greatly improve the tracking of these sites and establish protocols for the documentation of these sites.

The Village of Voorheesville and the Town of New Scotland are currently working in a coordinated effort to formulate and approve local laws which would establish such a joint Historic Commission. The Commission would be tasked with establishing an officially recognized list of historically significant sites in both the Town and the Village, beginning with the sites that already have historic markers. The list will be expanded by the Commission as there are quite a few sites that are not now documented and are very worthy of **designation**. At this stage, the details are being worked out which will decide the final size of the Commission, and the length of look-back years for documentation of sites before any demolishing of those sites occurs. **In** the event a demolition permit is sought for a structure that is determined to be historically significant, the Commission would be given an opportunity to visit and document the structure before any demolition takes place.

It is important to note what this Commission would be charged with **does not** in any way supersede local zoning laws or further regulate what an owner can do with their property. Within already established regulation affecting the demolition of property, it would simply allow the Commission to document a historic structure (photographs, measurements, etc.) so that a structure of significance does not completely disappear from history.

The Village of Voorheesville hopes to have the final law authorizing the establishment of a Historic Preservation Commission within the next month or two.



Winter Vehicle Storage

By Trustee Stevens and Codes Enforcement Officer Mason

With winter just around the corner, please be aware of our Zoning Law pertaining to the storage of mobile homes, motor homes, recreational vehicles, boats, trailers and trucks. If you currently are storing a vehicle you might receive a letter informing you of the new laws. If you can comply with them for this winter, it would be appreciated. If not, please be aware that they will be enforced next year, so make accommodations accordingly. Below is the excerpt from the zoning laws pertaining to this.

”No mobile home, motor home, recreational vehicle, boat, trailer or truck shall be stored in the front yard in any district, except in a driveway. When stored in a driveway, the mobile home, motor home, recreational vehicle, boat, trailer and truck shall be set back ten (10) feet from the edge of the road to ensure adequate site distances. Such vehicles or trailers may be stored in a driveway only between April 1 and November 1. For all other times of the year, such structures shall be stored in a side or rear yard. In addition, when such vehicles or trailers are stored on the lot, they shall meet the requirements of an accessory structure. Stored, in this case, shall also mean the vehicle is owned by someone other than the owner of the property it is stored on and is left on site for warehousing, preservation, use at a later date or for disposal.”



New Water Meters

The Village has begun replacing water meters as needed. These new meters can read daily (even hourly) via a cellular transmitter. A phone APP is available to allow the homeowner to monitor their use and set up alerts should a leak begin.

Once you have this new meter, please call the Village for your account number, which allows you set up “EyeOnWater” from your mobile device. This is most helpful to those residents who travel often or for extended timeframes.

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!

Additionally – there is No Parking in any cul de sac at any time.



Holiday Office Hours

Village Hall will be closed for a variety of upcoming holidays

- Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for **Thanksgiving**
- Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for **Christmas**
- Wednesday, January 1, 2020 for **New Year’s Day**



Online Payment Now Available

(TAXES ONLY at this time)

The Village has begun taking Village tax payments online through our website

villageofvoorheesville.com. Use the link **PAY VILLAGE TAX** on the homepage.

A third-party charge will be added for use of this service: \$1.05 for an ACH/e-check or 2.95% of payment amount for debit or credit cards.

We hope to have payment options for water and sewer bills available with the next billing cycle in June of 2020.

Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

By Lois Gallager



The Helderview Garden Club will hold their Annual Community Tree Lighting and Carol Sing in Hotaling Park on

Sunday, Dec. 1st at 4:00PM.

All are invited to participate in this community event and to help countdown for **Mayor Robert Conway to turn on the holiday lights.**

The event will also include an ecumenical prayer given by Pastor Gary Kubitz of the First United Methodist Church and the Community Singers, with backup from our Scout troops, will lead us in song. A performance by the Bell Ringers is also planned.

Hot cider will be provided by the Methodist Church with cookies & candy canes will be available for the children, courtesy of the Garden Club.

We hope to see you all there!

Be In-The-Know Village-Wise

Stay informed about Village issues via NOTIFY ME, a service provided on the Village's website

www.villageofvoorheesville.com.

Opting in for Notify Me enables you to receive text and/or email notifications on Village news and emergencies.

Simply log on to the website, click on the *NOTIFY ME* tab, and follow the instructions. Areas of interest include (but are not limited to) water breaks, paving notices, public hearing notices, etc. Suggestions are always welcome.

Additionally, 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.

Residents are Asked to Take Note of a Few DPW Reminders

- ✓ **LEAVES:** Curbside leaf pick-up will continue as the weather allows. Please rake your leaves to the curb, *not into the roadway*. Leaves and debris on the roadway can restrict water flow along the roadway and block storm drains. If you notice leaves or other debris near or blocking a storm drain, please take a minute to clear it away. Also, keep rocks out of your leaf piles; they cause excessive wear & tear on the leaf vacuum causing additional repairs.
- ✓ **BRUSH/STICKS:** Larger limbs and brush should not be left at the curb at this time; pick-up ended the end of September. Sticks (no longer than 3 ft. in length) will be picked up provided they are bundled with twine.
- ✓ **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:** A reminder to NOT shovel 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 these hoops if 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.
- ✓ **VILLAGE SEWER USERS:** to help prevent blockages please do not dispose of grease or greasy liquids down your drain and do not flush anything other than toilet paper – no matter what the wipes package says, they are not truly flushable. Your efforts are appreciated.
- ✓ **TRASH & RECYCLING:** Less stopping by the garbage & recycling trucks helps to keep costs down. Please put out your bins for pickup only when they are full. Reminder: No plastic bags in the recycling bins. Thank you.

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.



Save The Date! V F B D June 7, 2020

Please join us for the 5th Annual **Voorheesville Family Bicycling Day (VFBD)** to be held on **Sunday, June 7th from 12:00 to 3:00pm VFBD** is a celebration of bicycling with something for the whole family including care-free riding, raffle with prizes totaling over \$1,000, bike clinics, ponies to ride, bouncy house, music, food, local exhibitors and much more.

Rail Trail Amenities Added

Thank you to Eagle Scout Michael Strauss for his hard work and dedication to getting a new train viewing platform built in the area near the head of the Albany County Rail Trail. Michael was responsible for deciding on the design, research a building plan, gaining approvals for use of the County's property and continued maintenance by the Village, as well as fundraising to cover the cost of construction materials. Actual construction and some materials were covered by local volunteers and businesses.

Thank you also to the Voorheesville Public Library for the gift of their bicycle tire pump and repair station that was recently moved from the rear lawn area of the Library to the head of the rail trail, across from the pavilion. After a new paint job from Trustee Stevens, the station was put in place by DPW.

Be sure to take a stroll over to that end of the trail to check out these new additions.

Fire Department Happenings

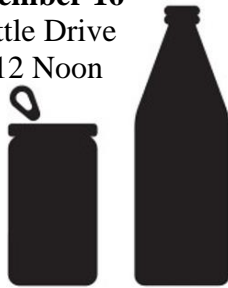
All listed events will take place at the Voorheesville Fire House
12 Altamont Road



Tuesday, November 12
Brook's Bar-B-Que
beginning at 3:30 PM
until sold out

Saturday, November 16
Auxiliary Bottle Drive
8:00 am – 12 Noon

*Proceeds to
benefit the
Albany County
Burn Fund*



Sunday, December 8, 2019
from 7 – 12 Noon
at the Fire House
12 Altamont Road

Menu:

Eggs, French toast
Pancakes, Toast, & Sausage
With Coffee, Tea & Juice

Stormwater Issues

By Frank Fazio

Run Off: As we move from the autumn season and into winter, rainfall and snow melt remain relevant for the Village program for stormwater management. In fact, it can be one of the hardest seasons for stormwater management. Street flooding can occur from fallen leaves blocking the catch basin grates, resulting in stormwater traveling to the next basin, which may also be blocked and eventually the water has no place to go and results in road flooding. The same can occur during winter when heavy snows block catch basins during a snow melt. We have all seen the slushy roads that occur when this happens. So, should you see catch basin with blocked inlets, kindly notify the Department of Public Works so they can be removed.

Groundwater: In case you are not aware, groundwater levels change with the seasons. Spring and fall experience high levels, while during the winter and summer, they go lower. So, during the heavy rainfalls in spring and fall, the ground becomes saturated, resulting in high groundwater levels that contribute to basement flooding. So, take precautions during these seasons if your home is prone to basement flooding. Be sure your sump pump is working properly. Keep items off the floor as much as possible. Wooden pallets work great for this.

Climate Change Impacts: With all the talk and discussion about climate change, stormwater management, is also impacted. Increasing ocean water levels could flood coastal cities, affecting water quality by flooding infrastructure, buildings, sanitary and storm sewers, resulting in water pollution. Increased rainfall amounts will overcome the capacity of storm sewers and reduce the effectiveness of stormwater treatment practices. Climate change will need to be considered when stormwater systems are designed in order to protect our infrastructure and surface waters.

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United States® Census 2020

The year 2020 begins another decade, which means the US Census will again be taken across our 50 states, the District of Columbia and the 5 US Territories. Beginning in March the US Census Bureau will invite households across the country to participate in the 2020 census.

But what is the Census?

The Census is a headcount of every person living in the United States. To be sure the government represents the people the US Constitution requires a population count every 10 years. Ever since 1790, the Census has determined the number of seats each state receives in the US House of Representatives. It is, and always has been, a cornerstone of our democracy. We still use it to determine representation, but leaders also use the data to make decisions. Your response helps guide planning for the future of our communities.

The 2020 Census will help inform decisions on how billions of dollars are allocated annually for critical public services like roads, schools, hospitals and healthcare clinics, fire and emergency response services, and hundreds of other programs.

In 2020, for the first time, you will be able to complete the Census online, by phone, or by mail. It asks a few simple questions, like how many people live in your home on April 1st, including their age and sex, and if there are any children living there. You should know, that by law, all census responses are completely confidential, and your personal information cannot be shared with any law enforcement agencies.

Every person counts no matter who you are or where you live. So, whether your family has participated for decades or the 2020 Census will be your first, we all have a role in shaping the future of our country. Please be sure to participate once you receive your invitation to complete the survey.