



A newsletter from the

TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE

Volume I • Issue 2

Fall 1998

TOWN DIRECTORY

Town Board Members:

Supervisor Raymond Thorpe	-	756-6091(O) 756-5521(H)
Deputy Supervisor Theodore Testa	-	756-2222(O)
Councilman Ron Rocco	-	753-6979(H)
Councilman John Pilato	-	753-8962(H)
Councilman Edwin O'Donnell	-	836-6109(H)

Other Town Officials:

Assessor. David Briggs	-	756-7306(O)
Code Enforcement. . . Bruce Weber	-	756-7490(O)
Clerk. Pauline Parker	-	756-5725(O)
Justice. Mar dis Kelsen	-	756-2352(O)
Engineer. Hayne Smith, PE	-	753-4569(O)
Highway Supt. Carl Bush	-	756-8241(O)
Water & Sewer Supt. . . Peter Alteri	-	756-9637(O)
Historian Alice Blatchley	-	756-8707(H)
Attorney John Folmer	-	753-9641(O)

Legislators:

District 12, Cortlandville 1 & 2		
David Plew	-	836-6868(H)
District 13, Cortlandville 3 & 4		
Marian Meiczinger	-	753-0145(H)
District 14, Cortlandville 5 & 6		
Gary Thomas	-	753-6132(H)

O=Office H=Home

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

As the seasons change from fall to winter, your fire department continues its busy schedule. Activity at the new fire station site on Tompkins Street will increase in the near future, as the demolition and construction contracts have been awarded by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Any questions regarding the project should be directed to the Fire Commissioners by calling 753-9014 (Main Station).

Brisk activities for the department continue: members hosted an Open House at the main fire station during Fire Safety Awareness Week, conducted several public fire safety demonstrations, and completed their annual calendar drive; these calendars offer important fire safety tips. Anyone in our coverage area who did not receive a calendar is invited to stop by the Main Station.

Two quick fire safety reminders as we enter the winter heating season: first—check and/or change the batteries in your smoke detectors, making sure they are operational. *It might save your life.* Second—inspect heating equipment exhausts for defects

or blockages; contact a qualified service technician if assistance is needed.

As always, the all-volunteer Cortlandville Fire Department needs your support to survive. We are constantly looking for members from the community who have a desire to serve the residents/businesses in the Town. Stop by the Main Station on Route 281, or Station 2 in Polkville, for membership information.

"ISN'T IT A SHAME. . ."

by Pastor Terry Major

"Isn't it a shame how trashy Kellogg Road is?" "Why doesn't somebody do something about the mess on Kellogg Road?"

These questions and comments were the springboard for somebody doing something about the mess on Kellogg Road. The Church of Blodgett Mills, led by their pastor, Terry Major, took up the challenge of making a difference in their community by forming a group who would pick up the trash.

Pastor Major made contact with the County about "Adopt-a-Road" for that stretch of Kellogg Road and were told that there was no such program in the County, and the did not envision having one. The pastor asked if it were possible for the County to pick up the filled trash bags if the people of the church collected it; they said they would.

The first year, some people from the church (Pastor Major and family, the Roundys, the Ray Parker family, and Don Chamberlain gave two hours on Saturday mornings to pick up stuff from the roadside. The second year, the County established the "Adopt-a-Highway" program which provides liability protection for the participants. And the Church of Blodgett Mills became the official caretaker for Kellogg Road from the park to the railroad tracks.

"Many people have stopped to thank us for our work," said Pastor Major, "and many people have told us how much they appreciate the work that we have done as well."

Since the beginning of this project, a few others have helped at various times in the cleanup as well. Anyone is welcome to join the effort, but they need to contact the church and take the County-required safety training class.

Now—if we could only find a way to stop those individuals from putting the trash there in the first place!

FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

The pavilion and park in Blodgett Mills have received increased use this year, and the volleyball and large basketball courts have been completed.

The Town parks are built and maintained for the public's use by public funds. Users, young and old, are asked to make sure that these facilities are not ruined or damaged by inconsiderate, non-caring individuals. There has been some minimal damage done during 1998, and the Town should not have to bear the added expense of hiring someone to constantly patrol them. Anyone who has witnessed vandalism of Town parks, or who has knowledge of same, is asked to report it to the County Sheriff's Department or the NYS Police.

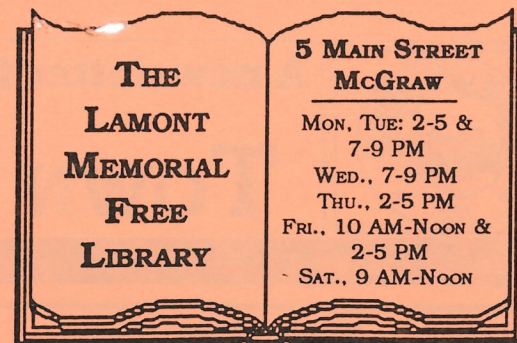
Park pavilions are available for picnics, parties, games, etc., by reservation. Reservations can be made for 1999 after January 1st on a first come/first served basis by calling 756-9637 or 756-8241.

Holiday On Ice - 1998/99 For Cortlandville Residents

Wednesday, 12/23:	11:30 AM to 12:45 PM 1 PM to 2:15 PM 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM
Thursday, 12/24:	11:30 AM to 12:45 PM 1 PM to 2:15 PM 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM
Saturday, 12/26:	12:45 PM to 2 PM 7:45 PM to 9 PM
Sunday, 12/27:	1:45 AM to 3 PM 3:15 PM to 4:30 PM 4:45 PM to 6 PM
Monday, 12/28:	Noon to 1:15 PM 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM 3 PM to 4:15 PM 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM
Tuesday, 12/29:	Noon to 1:15 PM 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM 3 PM to 4:15 PM 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM
Wednesday, 12/30:	Noon to 1:15 PM 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM 3 PM to 4:15 PM 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM
Thursday, 12/31:	Noon to 1:15 PM 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM 3 PM to 4:15 PM 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM
Friday, 1/1/99:	12:30 to 1:45 PM 2 PM to 3:15 PM 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM

Location: SUNY PER Bldg. (off Tompkins St.)
Admission: \$1 per 1.25 Hr. Session
Skate Rental: \$2.00

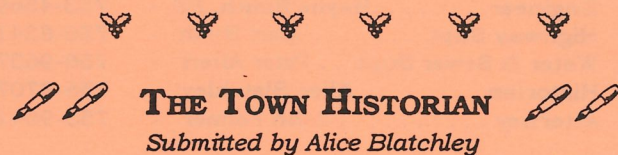
Ice is resurfaced following each session.



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS OFFERED

Santa & Mrs. Claus will make another visit to the library this year on Saturday, December 12th from 10 to 11 a.m. Music and refreshments for all.

Pre-School Story & Craft Time with Ramona Petrella meets every Friday at 10 a.m. throughout the school year.



The Town Historian has the monumental, time-consuming task of preserving, recording, and storing important materials and data relating to the history of the Town of Cortlandville and its residents.

Cortlandville, the largest Town in Cortland County, completely surrounds the City of Cortland and the Village of McGraw, reaching to the Tompkins County line on the west, the Homer line on the north, Solon on the east, and Virgil on the south, thereby generating an average of five or more items of information (news articles, historical data discovered, etc.) daily. The Village of McGraw has its own government, but Blodgett Mills, Polkville, and South Cortland are included in the Town. The Historian reads, clips, and files newspaper articles, a not-too-easy job considering the size of the Town of Cortlandville. In the Historian's files, there are 17 folders containing items from Agriculture to Zoning. Birth and death files are kept up to date as much as possible.

It is also interesting to note that there are four abandoned cemeteries in the Town which come under the supervision of the Historian, with each one being mowed by the Town at least once each year. The Conable Cemetery and Loring's Crossing Cemetery have both had stones removed in the past. Fortunately, Blodgett Mills has interested residents who straighten the stones, and help in preserving the cemetery.

The Historian is a member of the County and NYS Historian organizations.



WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

The Town's water supply system has increased over the years to accommodate the tremendous growth in users, both business and residential. At present, we have four production wells, three of which are located on Terrace Road, and the fourth on Lime Hollow Road. The Terrace Road wells are 65± feet deep and are capable of producing 1.080 million gallons per day (mgpd); the Lime Hollow well is 92± feet deep with a production capacity of 2.016 mgpd. Approximately 650 to 750 thousand gallons are pumped per day, to which chlorine is added at a rate of 3.5 lbs. There are no other chemicals added to the Town's drinking water.

The Town has three water storage tanks with a total capacity of 2.5 million gallons. Water pressure at the point of delivery is based on the elevation difference between the delivery point and the height of the water tanks. Pressures in the Town range from 35 to 115 pounds per square inch (psi), with the average pressure being 78. There are over 40 miles of water mains, from 6-18 inches in diameter, and 380 fire hydrants which are color coded according to flow. There are two water booster stations, each with a natural gas standby generator. These stations boost pressures in those areas where pressure is below 30 psi. In addition, the Town has over 1400 non-lead service connections.

New water lines have been installed on Fisher Avenue, Saunders Road, Oakcrest Drive, Fairgrounds Drive, and portions of Pendleton Street and Starr Road. There are other planned extension projects which will bring water to the Polkville/McGraw area.

If your water usage seems high, check to see if your toilet has been running or faucets are dripping; perhaps there's an outside spigot that is not shutting off completely. These are the most common causes of higher water usage—and it doesn't take long for a steady drip to fill a gallon jug!

This past summer, collector sewers were installed on Fisher Avenue, Fairgrounds Drive, and Carroll Street.

If you have any questions/problems with your water or sewer systems, please call 756-9637.

A gray drop box has been placed outside the front entrance to Town Hall for payment of your water and sewer bill. Pay by the date due and enclose your return stub with the payment in a sealed envelope. Overdue payments will be assessed a late fee, so pay early.

**HOMEOWNERS LEAVING THEIR HOMES FOR
A LONG PERIOD OF TIME THIS WINTER
ARE REMINDED TO SHUT OFF THE INSIDE
WATER VALVE AT THE METER.**

☆ ATTENTION ☆

ALL TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE RESIDENTS SCHOOL TAXES TOO HIGH?

The Town Assessor's Office reminds every residential property owner to file a STAR exemption application to REDUCE your school tax bill in 1999.

EVERY PROPERTY OWNER WHO LIVES IN THE TOWN QUALIFIES IN 1999!

The exemption applies to a property owner's primary residence. Applications are available at the Assessor's Office in Town Hall, 3577 Terrace Road, Cortland, NY 13045, or call 756-7306.

**REMEMBER - YOU HAVE UNTIL MARCH 1,
1999 TO FILE FOR YOUR ☆ EXEMPTION!!**

⚖ COURT NEWS ⚖

Over the years, New York State has made minor changes in the rules governing jury duty, but last year the Legislature made significant changes in the law in an effort to improve the jury system, increase the number of potential jurors available Statewide, ease the selection of potential jurors for the courts, and make the system fair to all persons residing within the county where they might be selected.

Qualifications to serve as a juror are few: you must (1) be a citizen of the US and a resident of the county, (2) be not less than 18 years old, (3) not have been convicted of a felony, and (4) be able to understand and communicate in the English language. Under the old law, those persons who were employed in such fields as medicine, law, law enforcement, public utilities, or education were entitled to be excused as potential jurors. Currently, *there are no automatic exemptions allowed based upon employment!* This means, if you are summoned, you must appear regardless of where you work.

After having served on a trial jury or grand jury anywhere in the unified court system, a person is now disqualified to serve as a juror for a period of four years. (The District Chief Administrative Judge can reduce this to two years, but that probably won't happen in Cortland County.) However, any person who wishes may make a written request to the County Commissioner of Jurors to be put back on the list of eligible jurors after a two-year period of disqualification. Additionally, your employer *must* grant you leave from your work to appear for and serve whenever you are summoned to do so.

Hopefully, you will find this information valuable the next time you receive that often-dreaded notice of jury duty. True, jury duty isn't fun, but our great system of justice could not function without people willing to give of their time when asked to judge another.



A HEATING SEASON

REMINDER . . .

According to the NYS Building & Fire Prevention Code, the installation of a solid fuel-burning heating appliance requires an inspection. No fee is charged. For information, call Bruce Weber, Code Enforcement Officer, at 756-7490.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



Road maintenance in the Town is a continuous, on-going, never-ending job. This year, the Department paved Sleepy Hollow, Bowling Green, Winkle Way, Spruce Run, Rural and Conable Avenues, a portion of Hoy Road, and Loope Road (including a new railroad crossing).

Road base stabilization (application of oil and stone) was completed on sections of South Hill Road, Ridge Road, Streeter Road, and Fuller Road.

The Highland Street bridge in McGraw has been replaced, and the guide rail installation is in the process. By the time this newsletter is published, the bridge should be open, weather permitting. Work continues on the new roadway for the Bennett Street bridge replacement; this should be completed before school starts in 1999.

Along with our normal roadway repairs (patching, cutting dead trees, ditching, oil and stone applications, sign replacements, installing/replacing some pipes, mowing roadsides and all Town properties, maintaining parks), the Highway Department has replaced all drainage pipes on Clute and Tower Roads, increasing their size to help prevent any future flooding. The intersection of Gallagher Road and NYS Route 215 has been rebuilt, and the roadside drainage improved.

To alleviate some flooding problems in the area, the Department constructed a larger retention basin on NYS Route 281 near Bell Drive.

Winter snow is fast approaching, so please remember (and remind your friends) that there is **NO ON-STREET PARKING** between the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. from November 1st to May 1st. All vehicles must be off the paved roadway a minimum of eight feet for the safety of other vehicles, and your own. The plows need room for snow removal for everyone's traveling safety. Violators will be issued "No Parking" tickets by area police agencies, which will result in a fine being assessed.

OTTER CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

*Article from the
Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation's
Fall 1998 Newsletter*

Flooding along Otter Creek has continued to concern residents of the City of Cortland and the Town of Cortlandville, as well as Gutchess Lumber Company. To address the situation, they have contracted with SWCD to conduct a stormwater management study of the watershed and research flood mitigation options.

The drainage area of the Otter Creek watershed is approximately 15 square miles. The majority of the land in the watershed is agricultural while smaller portions are forested or urban/residential. Most soils found within the watershed have a low to moderate water transmission rate. This indicates that the water infiltrates into the soil slowly, resulting in increased runoff during storm or snowbelt events. This, in combination with the drainage bottlenecks within the City, seems to be the reason for the majority of the flooding problems located within the City, Town, and at Gutchess Lumber.

The project was approved and began in July. Preliminary ideas on reducing flood problems were identified. Because of the close proximity of the residences to the creek banks, there does not appear to be many mitigation options within the City. One feasible option would be to create some retention areas outside the City where the water could be retained and rate of flow could be controlled during high flow periods. There are a few areas of interest to the project that have been identified as possible solution sites.

All of these ideas and solutions are in the very early stages. Much more research will be conducted and discussed before a conclusion is drawn and a comprehensive plan is written. The focus is to take care of the problem in the most efficient and environmentally sound manner for the entire watershed community.

DID YOU KNOW ?

THE TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE:

- WAS INCORPORATED IN 1829
- COMPRISES 50± SQUARE MILES
- CONTAINS 3925 PARCELS OF LAND
- HAS A POPULATION OF 8100+
(1990 CENSUS)
- AND A 1998 ASSESSED VALUE OF
\$388,529,668.

THE TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE WELCOMES NEW BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS



*All Town offices will be closed
December 24, 25, and 31, 1998
and Jan. 1, 1999*

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!