

TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2003

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) |
| | John Pilato | 753-8962(H) |
| | Edwin O'Donnell | 836-6109(H) |

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Assessor | David Briggs | 756-7306(O) |
| Code Enforcement | Bruce Weber | 756-7490(O) |
| Town Clerk/Tax Collector | Karen Q. Snyder | 756-5725(O) |
| Justice | Francis J. Casullo | 756-2352(O) |
| Engineer | Hayne Smith, PE | 756-4569(O) |
| Highway Supt. | Carl Bush | 756-8241(O) |
| Water/Sewer Supt. | Peter Alteri | 756-9637(O) |
| Historian | Valerie Schmidt | 756-7306(O) |
| Attorney | John Folmer | 753-9641(O) |

LEGISLATORS

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| District 12, Cortlandville 1 & 2 | Danny Ross | 836-6433(H) |
| District 13, Cortlandville 3 & 4 | Kay Breed | 756-6947(H) |
| District 14, Cortlandville 5 & 6 | Paul Allen | 758-3053(H) |



See insert for Notice of Public Hearing on the Highland Road Sewer construction project.

WHAT IS A TOWN CLERK?

The office of the Town Clerk is historical in its traditions, having served as a direct link between the residents and their local government. While Town Clerks are generally credited with issuing licenses, that is only a small part of this complex job. Law mandates many duties, but many more go well beyond those mandates as Town Clerks serve as a major source of information to all.

-A PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: They must be dedicated to the community, informative, patient, cheerful and compassionate, possess the ability to listen and advise, be receptive to new ideas, and able to maintain a sense of humor while performing duties in a professional manner. A Town Clerk is generally considered the center of local government; this office conveys a lasting impression of the community to all who enter.

-A RECORDING SECRETARY: They are authors to minute books, the only official record of the activities of Town government. The resulting volumes are retained permanently for legal and historic purposes. Few individuals are entrusted with a responsibility of this magnitude.

-A RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER: This individual is the custodian of all Town records, responsible for active files, storage and disposition of inactive records and the careful maintenance of archival material.

As administrator of the Freedom of Information Law this guarantees your right to know the workings of government.

-A FILING OFFICER: This individual maintains records of adopted Town Ordinances and Local Laws, Town Oath of Office, resignations, petitions, proof of publications, annual budgets, assessment rolls, fiscal reports, notices of lien, bonds/notes registers, zoning ordinances and maps. A public signboard is maintained by the Town Clerk along with advertisements and receives bids for the purchasing of Town materials. Burial permits from cemeteries located within the Town are also filed by the Town Clerk.

-A LICENSING OFFICER: A Town Clerk issues State licenses/permits, including marriage, dog, conservation (hunting and fishing), going out of business, bingo and handicapped parking, along with Town licenses/permits mandated by local Law.

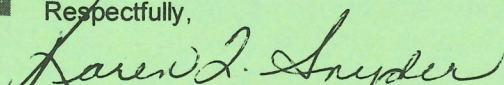
-AN ELECTION COORDINATOR: In accordance with Federal and State regulations, the Town Clerk becomes the coordinator for Primary and General Elections, advising the State of vacancies for elections, overseeing polling places and equipment and elections inspectors. In addition, the Town Clerk oversees special Town elections, permissive and mandatory referendums and Town acquisition of property. The Office of the Town Clerk serves as the source for voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications.

-A CASH CONTROL OFFICER: They are responsible for numerous duties relating to billing, and the collection and disbursement of funds. All incoming cash is recorded and disbursed to the State, County and local fiscal officers. The Town Clerk also contributes to Town and departmental budget preparation, management of petty cash, general purchasing, and assisting with State and internal audits.

-THE REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS: Often the Town Board appoints their Town Clerk as Town Registrar. A Town Registrar becomes the keeper of all birth and death records within that Town. They issue birth and death - certificates, burial permits, as well as conducting genealogical searches.

As your Town Clerk for the Town of Cortlandville I personally invite you to visit my office and meet my staff, to answer any of your questions and to introduce you to the functions we maintain on a daily basis. We are your Doorway to Local Government.

Respectfully,


Karen Q. Snyder, Town Clerk

★CHANGES IN STAR FOR 2004★

By David Briggs, Assessor

New for 2004 is the STAR Income Verification Program. This program is for seniors that have previously filed renewals for Enhanced Star. Once approved, seniors would not have to file annual renewals. Requirements for the program include:

★ Seniors must file a STAR Income Verification Application form. This included providing Social Security numbers and signatures of the owners.

★ Seniors must have filed a New York State Income Tax return.

★ Seniors qualifying for other exemptions such as the Aged Exemption must continue to file Annual renewals.

★ New York State Department of


Taxation and Finance will determine eligibility. They willingly not be disclosing actual incomes.

★ As a reminder each year, the Assessor's Office will send a postcard to Seniors participating in the Income Verification to notify them of the annual income limits for the Enhanced STAR exemption.

★ **Seniors may continue to renew Enhanced Star in the same manner as they have in the past.**

The Assessor's Office will continue to mail renewal applications to any senior that chooses not to participate in the Income Verification Program or does not file New York State Income Tax.


OUR TOWN PARKS



In the town of Cortlandville we are fortunate to have several parks; Lamont Circle, Blodgett Mills, Citizens and in the future hope to have a Starr Road facility. Citizens and Blodgett Mills have ball fields, which in season are used Monday-Friday every evening from 5-9 pm for softball. There are pavilions and grills at these two facilities that can be reserved for family functions every weekend and Holidays. You need to call to reserve them at 756-9637 or 756-8241.

The Starr Road Park is in the planning stage at this time. The Town owns the property and we are trying to get state grant money to help develop it. We are working in partnership with the City of Cortland to develop more fields for more sports. So far funding is not being given out so easily because of the State budget problems. We are continuing to pursue other avenues to make this project happen.

OUR HIGHWAYS



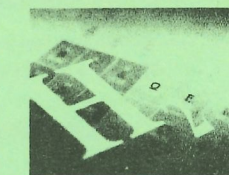
The winter of 2002-2003 was a busy one. We didn't receive a record amount of snow but we kept getting small amounts daily all winter. Any money we had saved from the mild winter of 2001-2002 we had spent by the end of 2002. As for material costs, it was more to go out to plow and sand multiple times, than if we had one or two heavy snowfalls. Our sanders spread material as if it's a half-inch of snowfall each time because the plows clear the pavement of any a volume over that half-inch left by the plows.

There were more freeze and thaw cycles this past winter so we had more pot hole matching to do than in the past few years. We repaired them as fast as we could with the cool rainy spring we had to deal with. Your patience was appreciated.

If you are doing any mailbox repairs please call the Highway Office at 756-8241 so we can look at your location to help you avoid damage to the mailbox from the heavy wet snow coming off the plows.

Carl Bush, Highway Superintendent

SECURITY ALERT

WATER
&
SEWER DEPARTMENT


The security of water systems around the county continues to be a concern. The FBI does not consider contamination of water supplies with deadly biological agents a probable or effective threat given dilution and treatment barriers, but caution that the greater threat involves disruption of treatment processes or delivery of service.

The Town of Cortlandville has implemented a number of security measures since the tragedy of 9/11. Security lighting, alarm systems, and more frequent inspections of our facilities are just a few of the measures that have been taken. Letters have also been sent to local law enforcement requesting that patrols be increased around facilities whenever possible. If you live by a water tank or pump station and notice suspicious activity occurring around these facilities, please report it to the authorities immediately.

The Cortlandville Water Department would like to reassure everyone that through the efforts of the Cortland County Health Department, local Law Enforcement, the FBI and the watchful eye of the public, everything possible is being done to protect our water supply.

Peter Alteri

Water & Sewer Supt.

**Defensive Driving
In Cortlandville**

**Bring with you for
\$3.00 off**

Cortlandville Fire District

One again I have the great honor and privilege to be able to provide an article for the Town's newsletter. I feel the newsletter serves as a great tool for communicating with our residents. Since this is my last year as Chief of the Department, I thought I would take a moment to reflect on what the department and town has accomplished in the past 5 years. If you are curious as to why I am stepping down as Chief, the bylaws of the fire department state that an individual may only hold the same position for 5 consecutive years.

Since my term started in 1999, the department and town have seen some incredible improvements to the service we provide. We were and are able to do this because of the incredible dedication and commitment the members put forth and the overwhelming support of our town residents.



1999 - Addition of a 1999 Chevrolet Suburban that is used to respond to households where people are experiencing medical problems. The truck is smaller and is four wheel drive resulting in increased fuel savings and quicker response times. On October 29th, we relocated to our brand new station on Route 13. The station has allowed us to operate more efficiently and meet the increasing demands placed on our emergency responders.

2000 - In January the Town of Cortlandville created an ordinance requiring Knox boxes to be installed on all commercial occupancies with fire alarm systems. This box allows us quicker access with less damage to these sites. In May, we placed a brand new heavy rescue into service, allowing us to replace an aging, overloaded and very unsafe 17-year old vehicle. This truck is a huge "toolbox" on wheels. This truck responds to every incident in the town other than household medical emergencies.

2001 - In January the fire department placed thermal imaging cameras in service. These cameras allow us to "see" through smoke and fire to locate trapped occupants. It also really enhances our ability to locate the fire quicker, resulting in less damage to the resident's property.

2002 - In the spring, after two years of lobbying, the Cortlandville Fire Department received a traffic light in front of their headquarters station allowing them to exit the station safer and quicker. In the summer, the department replaced its aging fleet of air packs with new lighter, smaller, and safer units. The acquisition of these units substantially increased the level of protection for firefighters.

2003 - This past January, the department increased its number of Automatic External Defibrillators to 17. This was an incredible accomplishment for our district. These units allow us to administer a "shock" to the heart in hopes to start the heart beating and increasing the chance of survival from anyone suffering from a cardiac arrest.

HISTORIAN - Valerie Schmidt

Did you know that on April 11, 1829, the Town of Homer divided creating the Town of Cortlandville? There is not any clear reason why this was done other than to attend town meetings people would have to travel many hours and great distances. The town is 50.1 square miles around. This spans around



areas of South Cortland, Hoxie Gorge, Lornings Crossing, over to Route 81 in Homer, and completely surrounds the Village of McGraw and the City of Cortland. Cortlandville has four independent School Districts within its boundaries; Cortland, Homer, McGraw and Dryden.

At one time the Town of Cortlandville had an active Historical Society. I would like to know if any town residents would be interested in joining me to start it up again. Please contact me at 756-7306 anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

I receive a lot of requests from residents looking for old pictures or any kind of history pertaining to their homes and property. At the present time the Historian's Office doesn't have much in the category of history. I would like your help. If you know of anyone who has old pictures either of families that settled here or other local pictures (or history) they would like to share, we would be willing to make copies and return the originals. It is my plan in the future to display pictures and artifacts for town residents to be able to come into the Town Hall and learn more about our history.

REMEMBER: "Today is tomorrow's history"

It is imperative that I note that all of the accomplishments listed above are the result of the tireless efforts put forward by the members of the Cortlandville Fire Department and Cortlandville Fire District. It has been a great honor to serve as your Chief for that last 5 years. I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of these accomplishments as well as the numerous relationships that I have developed throughout the community.

Thank you,

Kevin Whitney
Chief of Department

CORTLANDVILLE PLANNING BOARD ACTIVITY

The Cortlandville Planning Board consists of Kathy Wickwire as chairperson, members are Chris Newell, Nick Renzi, Gene Waldbauer and our newest member Jim Bugh; the Board meets at 7:30 on the last Tuesday of every month at the Town Hall. Also attending the meetings is Cortlandville Code enforcement Officer Bruce Weber who receives the applications (subdivisions, conditional permits etc.) that are presented to the Planning Board. The Board secretary is Joan Fitch. The meetings are always open to the public. The meetings are a great opportunity to see what requests are being submitted to the Planning Board for subdivisions, new businesses, changes to existing businesses and other code related issues.

Over the last year a study of the area of Route 281 from exit 12 to the Town line on Route 13 was completed.

This study was titled Land Use and Aquifer Protection Plan. As a result of this study we have developed and released Design and Development Guidelines. These Guidelines have been adopted via Local Law No. 2. These guidelines are being added to the existing Cortlandville Town code. The Guidelines will be considered in all new non-residential and non-agricultural development and redevelopment projects. The Guidelines will also be considered in all new residential development and redevelopment projects that consist of three or more dwellings. Areas that are covered in the new Guidelines include building design and architectural features, building materials, utilities and storage, street patterns, parking areas, sidewalks, lighting, signage and landscape design. The object of these guidelines is not to restrict creativity but to provide a degree of uniformity that will result in projects with

an attractive visual appearance.

Work on an important change to the Cortlandville Town Code in the form of a Wellhead Protection Ordinance is being completed and will be officialized soon. The purpose of this new ordinance is to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of the Town's ground water resources that supply public drinking water, while, at the same time allowing industrial and commercial uses within the Town to grow, expand, and locate in a manner consistent with the protection of the water supply.

Minutes of the Planning Board meeting are available for review in the Town Clerks office. Attendance by the public at the meetings is always welcomed, as are comments at the various public hearings that are held.

Nick Renzi

September 18, 2003

Old Fire Station Goes Back to Work

Cortland County SPCA is holding spay/neuter clinics at the old fire station located on Route 281 in October and November. The town of Cortlandville graciously offered the SPCA space for these clinics when the area at the shelter became too restrictive. The SPCA has housed recently anywhere from 90 to 110 animals at any given day at the McLean Road location, offsite and at foster care givers homes.

Approximately 20 animals per week are spayed/neutered. This number is a combination of shelter animals and community members' animals. Cats (and a limited number of dogs) from families who otherwise could not afford the surgery are surgically altered nearly every Thursday. It is stressed that this reduced cost program is targeted toward low income families' pets. Barn cats, stray cats or feral cats are accepted regardless of income. Feral cats are generally born in the wild. They have had little or no close human contact in their lives. If anyone is feeding outdoors a cat such as this, please call the SPCA to rent a humane trap (Have a Heart) for safe transportation to a clinic. The cat

can then be released to its same environment without concern of further breeding. This is called TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return).

Surgery is performed by Leslie Appel, DVM, owner of Shelter Outreach Services in Ithaca. In addition she travels to another site in Cortland County, Tompkins, Schuyler and Chemung counties. She has performed surgery on over 1200 animals since July.



In addition to shelter animals, priority is given to those in the town of Cortlandville due to the financial support for spay/neuter the town has shown over several years. Cortlandville recognizes the overpopulation problem that plagues the township and the entire county. Other township residents are also welcome to call the hotline # 344-0014 and the SPCA will

accommodate as soon as possible. Surgery dates are usually booked a few weeks in advance. Other townships wishing to assist with the spay/neuter surgeries are encouraged to call the hotline # and ask for volunteer coordinator, Betsy Brewer.

In addition to the support from Cortlandville, the surgeries are also supported by money left for spay/neuter by the late Helen Long. This money along with donations from community members also helps support the ABC Program monthly (Animal Birth Control). This spay/neuter program is targeted to assist with surgical cost of companion animals. Residents from the county may also call the hotline # to request an application. These monthly surgeries are performed by local veterinarians scheduled by SPCA volunteers at Cortland Veterinary Hospital, Crossroads Veterinary Clinic, Homer Animal Clinic, Groton City Animal Hospital and Midstate Veterinary Services.

Again, thanks to all who made this surgery location possible!

Sue Norte, Chairperson

Cortland County SPCA's ABC Program

Community Sports Facility Planning Underway

In response to a need for more recreational and sports facilities in our community the Cortlandville Town Board is planning the creation of a new facility to be located on Starr Road. The new facility will be developed in stages and will include a multi-purpose athletic field for soccer and lacrosse, regulation little league fields, picnic areas with one or more pavilions, and a small field house with rest rooms and a concession stand.

The Town purchased the property in 2000 and set out to determine the best use of the land for a community park. A planning committee was formed to develop a plan and strategy for building the facility in the most economical manner. Led by Town Board member Ted Testa, the committee was made up of Town of Cortlandville and City of Cortland representatives; Carl Bush, Lee Mack, John Pilato, John McNerney, Jeff Johnson, Rick Canale, John Tobin, Carol Ann Davies, Chris Williamson, and Mike DiMattei all served on the committee which planned the facility.

Their deliberations were guided by a community survey which indicated the number one need of the Town of Cortlandville in the minds of the respondents was more athletic facilities and activities for our youth. The conclusion of the survey is that there are simply not enough athletic fields for the many young people that want to participate. Discussions with Cortland School District officials found that local scholastic sports also have limited facilities; hence several school district personnel were invited to serve on the planning committee.

A shortage of pavilions and picnic areas in the Town of Cortlandville has long been an issue for businesses and the general public. That same community survey, indicated another major need identified by local respondents was the lack of areas designated for public use for picnics, family outings, company picnics and recreation.

Corporate leaders of local companies, and company representatives that are considering locating in Cortland, have told us that opportunities for the

LAMONT MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY
Capital Fund Drive Update

The capital fund raising portion of the library project is nearly completed and it has been a great success thanks to many individuals, foundations, businesses and government agencies.

Last fall the Library Board used some of these funds to redecorate the front portion of the library. During the winter, repairs were made to the foundations in the cellar and under the front porch. This spring the side porch was completely rebuilt and strengthened. This summer work was done with the architect, planning and preparing for interior renovation of the back part of the library. The work includes a new handicapped bathroom and a small addition to house a new children's area. Our Board plans on opening bids on October 6 and hopes to start work early in October. There will be a lot of disruption during this process which will probably go on for 3 months. Please be patient with us. Next year, 2004, we plan on creating a new room at the rear of the library to be used as a local history room and to house historical memorabilia which has been on display in the attic of the library.

Part of the capital project also includes some new landscaping. In the side yard to the rear are 7 large pine trees which were originally planted in memory of the 7 McGraw soldiers who gave their lives in battle during WW2. These trees have grown too large and are diseased. They will be removed and some type of a memorial remembrance will be included in the plan. If you have any suggestions, leave them at the library.

The board thanks everyone who has helped in any way in the fundraising and capital project. We continue to need your support, assistance, understanding and patience.

Carl Kimberly, President Library Board

children of employees is one of the primary recruiting tools used in hiring and retaining quality employees. In order for youth programs and even adult recreation programs to grow, Cortlandville must develop the facilities to provide options for area residents.

Originally plans called for the Starr Road site to be developed in conjunction with a City if Cortland-owned site on nearly Saunders Road. The two sites will complement each other and be maintained jointly, but owned separately. It is uncertain at this time if the City site on Saunders Road will proceed at this time, but the Town Board is committed to the project and has set aside approximately \$180,000 for development of the project.

The Town of Cortlandville is actively planning for the Starr Road site to become a community facility, offering athletic fields and picnic areas. Planning for the park will go forward and Funding Feasibility Study has been completed by Ron Barrows of The Barrows Group. This study evaluated the best means by which to fund the balance of the costs associated with development of the site.

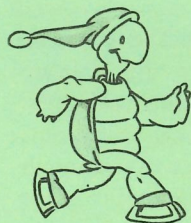
It was recommended by The Barrows Group Study that half of the balance needed could come from corporate gifts, foundation grants and private donations. The other half may be raised through regional, state and federal grant opportunities. Development Consultants to the Town, Thoma Development, has already made application for one grant to help fund the project.

Another committee has been formed to begin investigating the best way to organize fundraising efforts for securing private contributions. Once again spearheaded by Ted Testa, this committee is hoping to raise approximately 50% of the balance needed to complete the project.

It is hoped that some basic site work will be completed this year and development of the site will begin in earnest during 2004. Completion of the project is expected in 2005, as funds become available. The planning committee and the fundraising committee will work together to build the best facility possible with the lowest cost possible to local taxpayers.

Ronald L. Barrows

**Cortlandville Town Hall
3577 Terrace Road
Cortland, NY 13045**



Holiday on Ice

Skate into the holiday spirit with the Cortland Youth Bureau at our annual Holiday Skating Party. All participants must register at rink prior to skating. Children under 8 years of age must be accompanied by someone over 15 yrs. of age. Skate rentals are available during all sessions. The price for admission is \$1.00 and \$2.00 for skate rental. The program is co-sponsored by the Cortland Youth Bureau, Homer Recreation, *Town of Cortlandville*, Village of McGraw and the SUNY Ice Arena. Dates and times will be available in December. Watch for the schedule in the Cortland Standard, and the Park-a-roo newsletter, or call the Cortland Youth Bureau at 7533021 or the SUNY Cortland Ice Arena at 753-4961

Family Trips

New York City - December 6th
Buffalo Sabres - call 753-3580 for details

Check with the Youth Bureau Office for complete schedules regarding these and other activities and registration information. Call 753-3021 or stop by at 35 Port Watson Street.

Letter from the Director



Dear Citizens:

It seems that we have no sooner started into summer when the temperatures begin to drop, and now our thoughts will be turning to the inviting colors of fall.

With the arrival of fall, the Cortland Youth Bureau staff has planned a variety of programs and services for all ages and abilities heightening the enjoyment of the benefits that, parks, recreation and youth services offer.

From improved health and quality of life, providing family connections and community pride, to enhancing the economic development of our community, the Cortland City Youth Bureau is more than fun and games—everyone benefits!

A great big thank you goes out to the Cortland community (parents, coaches, volunteers, staff) for making our 2003 summer programs a success. Enjoy your parks and recreate today!

Sincerely,
John McNerney,
Youth Bureau Director