

A newsletter from the Town of Cortlandville

Volume 4 * Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2001



HISTORIAN RETIRES

Written by Valerie Schmidt

Alice Margaret Pitcher Blatchley was born on Christmas Day 1914, to Archie P. and Ellana G. Norton Pitcher. Her only sibling Phillip was a Methodist Minister until his passing in 1999.

The family lived in Maine N.Y. Her father delivered fruit & vegetables around the Binghamton area. Later he became the owner of a mill that ground flour and had a water powered wheel. This mill is now a historical landmark in Maine N.Y.

During her childhood Alice attended a one-room schoolhouse on Polard Hill, Maine N.Y. It had two doors one for boys and one for girls, double seated benches and no running water. This schoolhouse still exists in Maine N.Y.

Alice went on to receive a Masters Degree in Education from Cornell University in 1939. While teaching Home Economics in Poland N.Y., she met and married fellow teacher Robert Blatchley in 1941. He also graduated from Cornell University, receiving a Masters degree in Agriculture.

The Blatchley's relocated to Cortland in 1942 after Robert accepted a position as Cortland County 4-H Director. During his 30 years as director, he founded the 4-H Camp Owahta in Solon. Robert also served as the Town of Cortlandville's Supervisor from 1974 - 1977, past president and 30 year member of the Kiwanis Club and one of the founders and first president of the Cortland Antique Auto Club.

The Blatchley's have four children. David, is retired from Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities at the Syracuse Developmental Services

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)
Town Clerk	Karen Snyder	- 756-5725(O)
Justice	Mardis Kelsen	- 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	- 756-5725(O)
Attorney	John Folmer	- 753-9641(O)

Legislators:

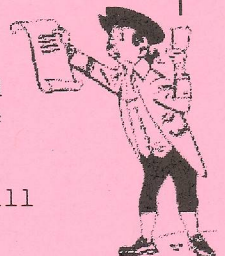
District 12, Cortlandville 1 & 2	
Dave Plew	- 836-6868(H)
District 13, Cortlandville 3 & 4	
Marian Meiczinger	- 753-0145(H)
District 14, Cortlandville 5 & 6	
Gary Thomas	- 753-6132(H)

O=Office H=Home

Office; he continues a photography business and resides in Cortland. Margaret an American Airline flight attendant, resides in New Hampshire. Diana who works with disadvantaged children in Colorado and Susan who works for the Library of Congress in Maryland.

Prior to Alice's 1978 appointment as Town Historian for Cortlandville, a position she held for 22 years, she taught within the Homer School District as a Home Economic Teacher for several years. As Town Historian Mrs. Blatchley made public appearances, speeches and kept all historical records of the town. In 1979, Alice served as Sesquicentennial Committee Chairman and contributed articles to the Sesquicentennial Commemorative Publication. In 1986 she helped write and publish "Cortlandville Churches".

After many accomplishments and years of dedication Alice will be greatly missed as Cortlandville's Town Historian.



CORTLAND YOUTH BUREAU



BEAUDRY PARK TEE BALL

June 25th - August 1st

TEE BALL: Must be 6 years old and no older than 7 years old by June 1, 2001. Registration runs

until May 25th. Held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:00 at Beaudry Park. Cost is \$15.00 (includes Major League hat and shirt).

GOLF AT Elm Tree Golf Course

June 25th - August 13th

JR. GOLF LEAGUE - Ages 10-14

years old. All participants must have own clubs. Clinics are scheduled each week for those who would like instruction. Instruction will be mandatory for those shooting over 63 and all newcomers until they are ready to proceed. Play will take place Monday mornings from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Cost for the league is \$50 per child. No refunds or rain dates are available. Registration is limited to the first 100 applicants. Checks are payable to Elm Tree Jr. Golf. Send checks to Elm Tree, 283 Route 13, Cortland, NY 13045.



KIDIE KLINICS - June 25th - July 30th
Ages 6-9 Years old. Participants are encouraged to have own clubs. Children must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21. The adult is part of the instructional process. Cost for this league is

\$25 per Child. The clinic runs Monday afternoons from 1:00-2:15 for 5 weeks. Checks are payable to Elm Tree Jr. Golf. Send checks to Elm Tree, 283 Route 13, Cortland, NY 13045. Registration forms for both programs will be available at the Youth Bureau by May 1.

CORTLAND SKATE PARK

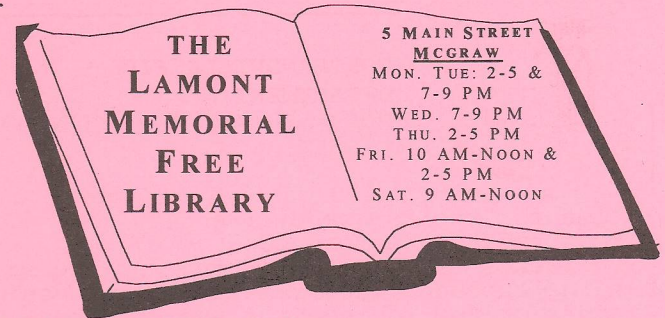
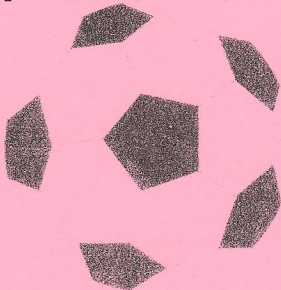
April 1st - October 28th

The skating facility located at Yaman Park is open to skateboards, rollerblades and 20 inch bikes. The park will be open, weather permitting, on school days 3:00 to dusk. Season passes are available for Cortland County residents for \$20.00 after March 26th at the Youth Bureau Office. Cost includes a Skate Park T-shirt. A one-day pass is available for \$2.00 at the Park (youth under 18 must have a parent waiver signed for the day pass as well as the season's pass).

SUMMER SOCCER PROGRAM

Join the Cortland Youth Bureau co-ed Summer Soccer Program in conjunction with the Greater Homer Youth Soccer Association. Separate boys and girls divisions are split in the

following age brackets: Midget (5-6), Peewee (7-8), Intermediate (9-10), Senior (11-14). Forms will be available at the Youth Bureau beginning May 14th.



LAMONT LIBRARY NEWS

Come check out our new computers! Four Internet Accessible computers and a laser printer were purchased by the Lamont Library, with a \$18,608 grant received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The computers were loaded with donated software programs such as Barney's Farm and the Magic School Bus Dino's for children, a wide variety of reference programs, Microsoft Word and Microsoft Publisher to name just a few.

Mona's Preschool Story/Craft Time:

Meets every Friday morning from 10-10:45 a.m. Parents, grandparents and caregivers are free to browse the shelves, and read or use computers as your children enjoy stories, crafts and snack with storytime leader, Ramona Petrella.



VILLAGE OF MCGRAW



Come join in the fun at the Round-the-Block Sales slated for June 2. There will be plenty of sales, a Chicken Barbecue with sides for a complete dinner, a pie sale by the Methodist Church, an ice cream sale by the Boy Scouts and much much more.

MCGRAW SENIOR CENTER

Submitted by Eva Southworth



McGraw Senior Center serves a hot meal, soup and salad on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All 60 and plus years old are invited to join us for meals, programs and fellowship. We have Pancake Brunch on

the 1st Wednesday of each month, and an evening meal the 4th Thursday of each month. Summer Fest will be at the Country Music Park on June 15, 2001. Plus, July 19th, we have a picnic at Eva's on DeRuyter Lake.

**Bring with You
\$3.00 off**

**Defensive Driving in
Cortlandville**

CORTLANDVILLE WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

Submitted By: Peter Alteri Jr.
Water / Sewer Supt.

FLUORIDE UPDATE

I would like to thank all those individuals who participated in our fluoride survey. The survey generated a lot of interesting comments and concerns. Out of the 86 surveys returned, 15 people felt fluoride should be added to the municipal water supply while 71 people said that they would rather see more education on dental hygiene than to add fluoride to the Municipal water.

A WORD OF THANKS

I would like to thank all those residents who helped to keep the fire hydrants cleared of snow this past winter. As you may be aware of snow removal from around fire hydrants is a joint effort between the residence, the Fire Department and the Water Department. It's nice to be a part of a community where the residence take an active role. I always knew Cortlandville residence were among the best. THANKS AGAIN.



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Towns Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2000 will be available by May 31, 2000. Interested individuals can pick up a copy at the Cortland Free Library or the Town of Cortlandville Water/Sewer Department or at the Cortland Water Fair June 2nd.

HERE COMES SUMMER !!!

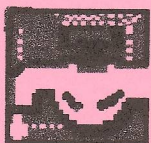
As summer approaches, I would like to remind everyone that water usage usually increases between the months of May and September. Many things contribute to increase in usage such as lawn watering, pool fills, extra laundry, washing cars and taking more showers to name a few. With increased usage comes additional cost to the customer because the more water you use the more you pay. The customer can control this by monitoring their usage and using the water wisely.



FACT:

As much as 30% of water can be lost to evaporation by watering the lawn during midday.

TIPS:



Water before 8 A.M. or after 6 P.M and avoid watering on windy days. Water in several short sessions rather than one long one. For example, three ten minute sessions spaced 30 minutes to an hour apart will allow your lawn to better absorb moisture than one straight 30 minute session. Only water when your lawn is thirsty. Overwatering promotes shallow root growth making your lawn less hardy. Make sure your sprinkler is placed so it waters the lawn, not the pavement.

FACT:

Toilets can account for almost 30% of all indoor water use, more than any other fixture or appliance. The most common source of leaks is the toilet.

TIP:

To check the toilet for leaks place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after 15 minutes the dye shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.

**If you think you have a leak and need some assistance please give our office a call.

UPCOMING EVENTS

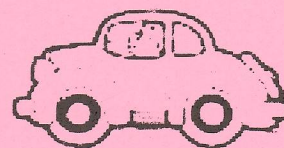
On June 2nd, starting at 10:00 a.m., the Cortland Water Board will be hosting the Annual Water Fair at the Water Works on Broadway Street. The Water Fair is an opportunity for individuals to learn more about where their water comes from and the importance of protecting ground water. Games, prizes, contests, demonstrations and tours will be going on throughout the day. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to attend this once a year event.



THE TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE URGES MOTORISTS TO "STAY ALERT"!

As the busy construction season gets underway, The Town of Cortlandville is calling on motorists to pay special attention and drive carefully through road construction sites. Each year hundreds of people are killed and thousands injured in accidents at these sites.

To help drivers navigate through these sites, The Town of Cortlandville would like to offer the following tips:
PAY CLOSE ATTENTION! Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS! Workers and other motorists must see you.
DON'T TAILGATE!
DON'T SPEED! Note the posted speed in and around the work zone.
KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW!
DON'T CHANGE LANES IN THE WORK ZONE!
MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS! Avoid changing radio stations and using the cell phone while driving in the work zone.
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED! Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
BE PATIENT! Remember the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.
STAY ALERT!



If you have any questions, please give us a call at the Town Water/Sewer office at 607-756-9637. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



MCGRAW RECREATION COMMITTEE

The McGraw Recreation Committee has another busy season ahead. We would like to thank everyone that continues to help with our many projects. Without all of your support we would not be able to accomplish our goals. We would also like to thank the Village of

McGraw and the Towns of Cortlandville, Solon and Freetown, and the Cortland County Youth Bureau for their continued support.

The following projects are in various stages of Completion and we will need lots of help to complete them:

- * New playground equipment to be installed at the park on Clinton Street in the early spring.
- * New bathroom at the Bennett Street Fields. We will begin working on the interior and finishing up the exterior as soon as the weather breaks.
- * A new soccer field on Elm Street, it is located to the west of the current field.
- * With help and funding from the Cortland County Healthy Heart Coalition, we will be constructing a walking trail around the perimeter of the new field area. We hope to complete the trail this year.
- * The Flagpole area on Bennett Street will get a brick walkway and flower garden.
- * We also plan to add to the parking area off Elm Street.

Upcoming events and projects:

- * The Summer Recreation Program and Swimming Pool will open again in June of this year. The staff has another exciting program planned for the kids.
- * GHYSA-McGraw Summer Soccer sign-up's, at the Community Building on Tues., May 22nd, Thurs., May 24th, Tues. May 29th and Thurs., May 31 at 7-9 p.m.
- * We have also started to look into the possibility of replacing our swimming pond with a new, in-ground pool. We are in the very early stages of researching the feasibility, location, costs and available funding.

Our Committee is currently looking for new active members. We need people interested in continuing the Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Basketball and many other programs, as well as our ongoing projects. Without new member support, we may not be able to continue to offer the number of quality programs that are currently available.

Anyone interested in becoming a Committee Member, helping on projects, or if you have any questions about our programs, please contact Dan Bilodeau at

(607)836-6368, or attend a Recreation Committee meeting at the McGraw Community Building. Our meetings are on the first Monday of each month, unless it falls on a holiday, then it would be moved to the second Monday. Meeting times are 8:00 p.m. for June, July and August, and 7:00 p.m. for the rest of the year.

NEWS N' NOTES FROM THE SPCA

By Susan W. Norte, Board Member



First and foremost we have a new Shelter Director; Sara Knobel was recently promoted. Sara had been Assistant Director to our long-time Shelter Director, Sheila Abbey.

Former Director, Sheila Abbey, accepted a new position as payroll coordinator at Alliance Bank in Cortland in January. Sheila helped educate the public about the need for community support, obtained grants, worked with builders, planners, architects, etc. during the new construction also spaying and neutering pets to name just a few of her accomplishments. She will truly be missed and the SPCA wishes her all the best with her new position.

New Director, Sara Knobel, comes to us with a strong animal background, managerial skills and is a graduate of Cornell University. Sara, her husband, Larry, and family live in Homer and share their home with several pets. Sara and Larry have updated our website and taken numerous pictures of adoptable pets that were scanned into the computer. This helps share information about the many wonderful animals the SPCA has for adoption.

Also, new to our staff are animal attendants and clerks, Jennifer McDonald and Connie Feissner. Gary Everts, continues to be our dog control officer and cruelty investigator. The SPCA counts on Gary for his expertise and dedication. Long-time employee, Karen Haight will celebrate 22 years on board this August! Karen was recognized at our Year 2000 Annual Meeting for her many years of loyalty to the animals of Cortland County. Our resident caretakers are Tricia and Chad Montgomery. They have been with us over a year and live in the house in front of the shelter. Judy Horn is our Humane Education Coordinator. Please stop by the shelter and visit Sara and the rest of our staff. Visit us at www.cortlandspca.baka.com to check us out!



CORTLANDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Kevin Whitney, Chief

2000 was an extremely busy time for the Cortlandville Fire Department. We responded to 675 incidents resulting in 6,600 man-hours being expended on alarms alone. These hours do not include all the mandated state and federal training which the members are required to take as the general operation of the Department. The men and women of the Cortlandville Fire Department are very dedicated and work extremely hard to provide the utmost service to our residents.

Thanks to the overwhelming support from our residents, the Fire Department was able to purchase two thermal imaging cameras. For those who are not familiar with this technology, when firefighters enter a building on fire, there is usually no visibility whatsoever. Usually a firefighter cannot even see their hand in front of their face. The thermal imaging camera allows us to "see through" dense smoke and fire to locate trapped or unconscious victims, as well as "see into" walls to find fire very quickly resulting in less damage to a residents' belongings and property.

The cost for the two cameras was \$32,000.00. Thanks to your support we raised \$20,000.00 to put towards this purchase. The remaining money came from our savings account. The cameras were put in service in January of this year and have already been used five times.

WE ARE ALSO ASKING FOR THE PUBLIC'S HELP. When Cortland County switched over to using 911 as the emergency number to call for assistance, they also adopted the fire number for everybody's residence as their address. It is vital that everybody put the fire number on their house and both sides of their mailbox so that emergency responders can easily identify it. What currently happens is a lot of residences in Cortland County have two digit numbers on their houses. When you call 911, your three or four digit fire number appears on the screen at the 911 center, and the fire department, ambulance, or police are sent to this number.

When you don't have this number clearly displayed from all directions there is a considerable delay of our arriving at your residence.

If you don't know your 911 fire number or proper street address, please contact me at the fire station 753-9014 or at

home 753-6714. In order to guarantee the quickest arrival of help, it is imperative that you have this number

clearly displayed. **TWO DIGIT NUMBERS ARE NO LONGER RECOGNIZED.** Also, please be sure you are using the correct road name. A lot of

residents believe they live on Tompkins Street Extension, West Road or McLean Road Extension for example; there are no such roads in Cortlandville. Tompkins Street is Route 13, West Road is Route 281 and McLean Road Ext. is McLean Road.

If there is any uncertainty whatsoever regarding your address, please contact me immediately. Before it's too late, when you need us at 11 p.m., and we are driving up and down the street trying to determine which house is yours; because the correct number is not displayed or it is not easily seen by emergency responders.

TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE FUTURE PARK Announcement by Councilman Ted Testa

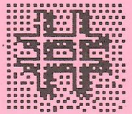
Please keep an eye out for future activities at our Starr Road Park. We are in the early stages of walkways, ball fields and picnic areas. We will be making this happen through grant monies and donations. Donations are being accepted.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

It has been a long winter season this year. We have gone over budget on our overtime and salt use by 33 to 35%. This will effect our 2001

year budgeted work. Our employee's have been working every day including weekends and holidays all season. Since December 18, 2000, up to March 31, 2001, they have worked daily except for the January 13th-14th weekend and February 19 holiday. They have been getting tired of snow everyday and are glad its coming to an end. I'm sure they would appreciate letting them know that they have done a good job of keeping the roads open for your travel this winter, when you see them.

As you know by now, the State Budget is late again this year. Our Government and some Legislators are trying to reduce the amount of tax money sent back to our Local Government (County, Town, Villages and City) to help with the maintenance and rebuilding of our local roads and bridges. This is tax money collected from fuels, licenses, registrations, truck-load permits and etc. Please write the Governor and your Local State Representatives to let them know that the current dollar amount sent back to our community from Albany in the form of Consolidated Local Street and High Improvement Program (CHIPS) money **should not be lowered or curbed.** If anything, it should be raised higher. We use this money to improve our roads and bridges so that we don't have to raise our local taxes higher.



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

CORTLANDVILLE PARKS

- * Because of the snow this year it will be a late start opening the parks this year. If you want to make a reservation to use one of our Park Facilities, please call 756-8241 or 756-9637. All reservations are done on the first call basis.
- * Citizens Park on Route 281 and Blodgett Mills Park on Kellogg Road, both have a pavilion, bathrooms, ball field, basketball court, volley ball court, horseshoe pits, slides, swings and electricity. They are good places to use for picnics, reunions, receptions, birthdays or any kind of group function. We have a small park on Lamont Circle with one small pavilion and a small field. We are working on swing sets and basketball being set up there for smaller kids.
- * The Cortland County Youth Bureau also does some arts and craft events for children during the summer at the Lamont Circle Park and Blodgett Mills Park (Kellogg Road). There will be a schedule posted in the Cortland Standard and on the bulletin board at each park. There is no cost to participate. There will also be some out-of-town trips scheduled if you're interested.
- * We will be doing some work at the new Starr Road Park site this year but it will not be open and ready to use for a couple of years. Until enough funds are available to finish the building and Park Facilities; it will take us some time to get it complete. We try to keep our budgets as consistent as possible so that we don't have a large tax increase. That means, we can only fund a little at a time. Donations are welcomed.