




TALK OF THE TOWN

a newsletter from the Town of Cortlandville

Volume V: Issue 1

 townofcortlandville

 www.cortlandville.org

 607-756-6091

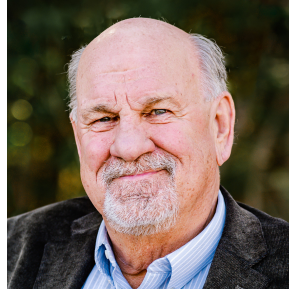
Spring 2024

Town Board Updates

- Brandon Galutz was appointed as the new member of the Town Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Construction of the Concession Building at GLSC is underway. The bid was awarded to Complete Construction Concepts (CCC) based in Homer, NY.
- The Town Board awarded the bid to Sports Facilities Companies, LLC for the Planning & Feasibility Study for the future phases of GLSC. 50% of the cost of the study will be reimbursed to the Town through the NYS ESD grant awarded to the Town in 2023.
- The Town was awarded a \$5,000 grant from NYSEDA which will be used to conduct a study/evaluation of the building envelope of Town Hall.
- A proposal was suggested for a new position of "Town Manager". The Board took formal action that they will not pursue the position at this time.

The Town Board meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. at the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building, with the exception of the following:
May 1, 2024 - Village of McGraw Community Building
June 5, 2024 - Church of Blodgett Mills
July 10, 2024 - CNY Living History Center

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWN SUPERVISOR



I have been the "last minute Christmas shopper" for my family for a whole bunch of years, including the one just past. Traveling down Route 281 (our Main Street) on Christmas Eve there was one of those "When what to my wondering eyes should appear" moments when I spied three brave souls sharing the spirit of the season with all passing motorists.

I introduced myself and thanked them, for the Town, for their joyful activity. It turns out that they are all employees of the nearby Squeaky Clean Car Wash and they have done this for the past few years not only at this site but also at other locations later in the day.

What a great display of public spirit! It was noted that there were only a few passing cars that didn't wave and/or beep their horns in recognition.

BRAVO, Squeaky Clean and their employees.

-Tom Williams



Town Clerk's Office!

I would first like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to our hardworking staff. Their dedication and tireless efforts ensure that our community receives the best possible service. Their commitment to excellence is truly commendable, and I am grateful for their continued contributions to our Town. Below are reminders and updates for the coming months!

****Tax Collection Reminder****

We are in the midst of tax collection season, which will continue through May 31st. Second notice letters will be mailed the first week of May to property owners who have not paid their bill in full, indicating the amount due along with any applicable penalties. If you've opted to pay your bill in partial payments, you have some flexibility when paying your 2nd and 3rd payment, however interest will always be applied after January 31st. If you choose to make a payment before or after the due date listed on the bill, the interest amount changes. For example, if you opt to pay both the 2nd and 3rd payments together during the 3rd penalty period (March 16-April 30) you will pay a 3% penalty on each payment. Simply double the amount due listed on your 3rd payment stub. If you are concerned about an over or underpayment, please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

****Water/Sewer Bill Updates****

April 2024 water/sewer bills will be mailed on March 31st and will now arrive in envelopes for your convenience. With our new billing program, you will have access to your account information online. Instructions for accessing the portal will be provided on the bottom of your upcoming water/sewer bill. The new billing program will also accommodate those who prefer electronic means of receiving and managing bills. Approximately one-third of our customers have already embraced electronic billing or opted to receive bills through both electronic and traditional mail.

****Conservation News****

Fishing season and spring turkey season is approaching. Do you need a new fishing license or spring turkey tags? Please stop in to see us during business hours to renew your license.

April 1: Opening day of Trout Season

April 20-21: Youth Wild Turkey Hunt (Juniors age 12-15)

May 1-31: Spring Turkey Season

June 29-30: Free Fishing Weekend

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office.

Kristin Rocco-Petrella
Town Clerk/Collector

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Code Enforcement

Hello from the Codes Department! Winter is better than halfway through, and we've had it relatively easy thus far regarding the weather. Even though I don't put too much faith in our woodchuck neighbor to the south with his predictions, the fact is that we're on the downhill side of this season with Spring just around the corner!

Having said that, the projects around Town for construction really haven't slowed up a whole lot with new buildings and remodels taking place. The crews started setting steel for the new Cortland Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealership this past week having finally completed the main foundation work, so things are going to change quickly over there on 281.

Speaking of car dealerships, Cortland Used Cars is starting to build their new building on 281 which will include a new showroom, offices and shop being put up, so keep an eye on their progress too!

In case you're wondering about the work being done over at the former JM Murray Center across from Madison St, it's yet another major project on the Route 281 corridor. Guthrie Medical is going to be moving into some new medical offices and physician's exam rooms as they will be taking over two of the buildings that McNeil Development is currently working on.

Another happening place that needs to be mentioned is the work being done next door at the former Cortland Estates. The new owners are replacing older units with new ones at a rate that's almost hard to keep up with! Cook Properties, the owner of Cortland Estates has taken on extensive renovations within the park, and once the dust settles, you'll find a lot of new units both as single wide and double wide homes replacing a bunch of run down ones that they inherited upon purchasing the park just over a couple of years ago.

Cook Brothers, a truck and equipment parts supplier, is well underway with their construction of a new large warehouse and additions over on Route 11 in Polkville. Once completed, they'll be moving from their current facility at the south end of the Homer Village/Cortlandville location on Route 11.

In the meantime, Mike and Jim Reeners are working diligently on the second of their six-unit buildings over behind the Cortland Eye Center, right on Route 13 -Tompkins St. at the City's edge. I understand that they have a waiting list of prospective tenants, and, rightfully so as those homes are gorgeous and are set up with designs and accommodations for the aging in place population. Once completed, there will be five of those six-unit buildings at their development complete with an already constructed community/maintenance building. We still have several new homes under construction here in Cortlandville and a variety of additions, renovations, residential solar, and heat pump installations are keeping the Code office quite busy.

Lastly, but by no means the least, construction starts today on the new Gutches Park pavilion featuring a concession area, more restrooms, and office space with additional storage areas.

So please enjoy the remainder of the Winter season and be sure to check out all the new projects that the Town has cooking and by all means feel free to contact me with any questions regarding permits, Codes and the like.

Kevin McMahon
Code Enforcement Officer



Cook Brothers Truck Parts Co.



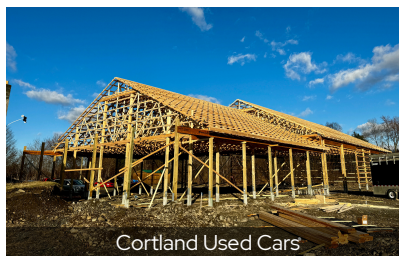
Cortland Estates



Cortland Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep



Guthrie Medical



Cortland Used Cars

GEAR UP
Join the Excitement!

Become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Cortlandville Fire Department today!

- No experience necessary
- Must be 16 years or older

Call: (607) 753-9014
Email: cmetcalf@cortlandvillefire.org
Message us on Facebook or Instagram



Cortlandville Fire Department

Cortlandville Fire Department elects new Fire Chief. Cortlandville native Michael Biviano has been elected as Chief of the Department. Michael started as a Junior Firefighter with the Department in 1996. He then joined the Department in 2000. Michael has been with the Department for 28 years working his way up through the ranks including serving in the Chief ranks for 15 years before attaining the rank of Chief this year. He has received multiple awards and citations for his lifesaving work with the Department.

Chief Biviano has been extremely effective and diligent in the review of necessary fire protection means for new development in the Town. He has extensive fireground experience and has served as our Public Information Officer. Chief Biviano resides in the Town of Cortlandville with his wife Becky and daughters Abigail and Maya. Michael also has a daughter Nicolette who is in Florida attending nursing school.

Kevin Whitney
Fire District Chairman

Little Free Libraries Sprout in the Town of Cortlandville



In an endeavor to foster community engagement and celebrate the joy of reading, the Town of Cortlandville proudly announces the installation of two charming Little Free Libraries.

Tom Williams, Town Supervisor, championed

the idea of bringing the Little Free Libraries to Cortlandville. Together with Kristin Rocco-Petrella, Town Clerk, and Nick Alteri, Town Historian, the project went from concept to reality.

Molly Reagan lent her talent to adorn the Little Free Libraries with captivating designs. Working alongside Reagan were the students of St. Mary's School, whose creative contributions added layers of charm and personality. Their collaborative efforts have brought Reagan's artwork into the heart of Cortlandville, enriching the Town with color and imagination.

Fred and Damian Walker at the Highway Department demonstrated their craftsmanship, ensuring the Little Free Libraries would stand as symbols of community pride and literary exploration.

Strategically placed at two locations, these Little Free Libraries promise accessibility for all. One stands proudly on Terrace Road, just outside the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building. The other in Polkville, adorning the front of the Highway Garage.

These Little Free Libraries are more than just repositories for books; they are hubs for community engagement and sharing. Everyone is invited to take a book and share their own favorites with the library.

As the pages turn within these quaint structures, so too does the narrative of community spirit and togetherness in the Town of Cortlandville. Let us celebrate the addition of these Little Free Libraries to the Town of Cortlandville, as symbols of our collective dedication to learning, sharing, and coming together as neighbors and friends.

Water & Sewer Department Drinking Water

Some residents may have been aware of the risks associated with PFOA, PFOS 1-4 Dioxane chemicals in your drinking water. A few residents have gotten letters, emails or have seen posts on social media stating that the Town has these chemicals in our water.

Sense 2020 the Town has been testing for PFOA, PFOS and 1-4 Dioxane at the entry point of all our well locations. So far we have had NON DETECTS on all samples taken. In fact, the state reduced the Town's required testing to every other year, instead of quarterly or annually, just to keep an eye on it. Hopefully this will eliminate any concerns you might have had about it being in your drinking water.

PFOA and PFOS are found in many household products that you may not be aware of. Industry food packaging, non-stick cooking surfaces, furniture, water repellent clothing, and adhesives.

Brian R. Congdon
Water/Sewer Superintendent

New Businesses in the Town

Shopping Plaza - The Town Planning Board gave Site Plan approval for a Shopping Plaza with the requirements that the shopping plaza have a maximum of ten interior retail spaces, that the applicant provide a lighting plan, and that twenty-eight parking spaces be available, with the understanding that the applicant can return to request more parking spaces if needed. Located at 3505 Route 281 (formerly the Salvation Army)



Highway Department Reminders for the Spring Season

Street Lights: Please report any problems with the street lights in the Town, to the Highway Department by phone 607-756-8241 or by email ldrach@cortlandville.org.

Deceased Animal Removal: The Town, along with most municipalities, will only remove large deceased animals (mainly deer) from the roadway or within the right of way.

Spring Cleaning: Spring is around the corner, which means some residents notice some damage to their property from the snowplows. The Town of Cortlandville snowplow drivers do a great job and keep damage to personal property to a minimum, but there are still times when accidents happen. Our drivers are handling large machinery in extreme winter weather conditions. They try to avoid the edge of properties, but always need to consider on-coming traffic and may need to move over for safety. When the snow is falling and the wind is blowing, it can be hard to determine where the edge of the road is.

When the weather shows signs that winter is behind us for another season, the Town of Cortlandville Highway department will travel their routes and fix any major lawn damage they have caused.

It may take some time before we can get to your property. Please be patient. If you would like to assist in speeding up your repair, an option is to take any of the sod that was moved and replace it back in the same location that it came from as best as you can. It may not fit perfectly, but a large area could be filled back in, and the roots can start attaching.

Larry Drach
Highway Superintendent



Dee Marie Photography

The Town Board welcomed Councilman, Glenn Reisweber to the board table in January. Glenn will Chair the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Lime Hollow Nature Center from 2006 to 2021. Feel free to reach out to Glenn via email: greisweber@cortlandville.org. Welcome to the team!

Congratulations to Susan Soule on her retirement from the Town as a Court Clerk. We thank her for nearly 18 years of dedicated service and commitment to the public. Thank you for making a difference and happy retirement!

We would also like to welcome to our team Paige Hunt as our new Court Clerk!



Dee Marie Photography

Historian Corner

As I continue my journey through the businesses within the Town, I stumbled across this photo of R.C. Baldwin's Cash Grocery. Interestingly, I found it mixed in amongst my Blodgett Mills files. After doing some research, I found that it was, in fact, the building located in South Cortland. This building and the South Cortland Grange are two of the few remaining original buildings of South Cortland. For more information or additional research please reach out to me at townhistorian@cortlandville.org!

Nick Alteri
Town Historian



Showcase Local Talent

During the month of February we were honored to have students from both Homer and McGraw Theatre Departments join us during our Town Board meetings to share what they have been working on. McGraw High School joined us on February 7 and presented a piece from the show they are working on, *Back to the 80s*. Then on February 21, we had Homer High School join us to share selections from the show they were working on, *Beauty and the Beast*. We thank them for joining us and congratulate them on a job well done. Break a leg!



Homer High School Theatre Department
Beauty and the Beast



McGraw High School Theatre Department
Back to the 80s

Parks and Recreation

Building Dreams Through Construction

Making our dream a reality at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex with the addition of a new building that will house a concession stand, additional bathrooms, office space, and storage. The progress is being made thanks to the hard work of two local businesses Complete Construction Concepts and the engineering firm Resource Associates. Construction started in February and will be completed in late spring. The building will be located in the center of the four field complex making it convenient for spectators and players. The building project is being funded by a New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation grant. In an effort to keep construction cost low, Town employees from the Parks Department, Water Department, and Highway Department are providing in house skills and labor for some aspects of the build.

John McNerney
Parks & Recreation Director



Spring Cleanup

Cortlandville residents may bring yard debris to the City DPW located at 19 S. Franklin Street, Cortland to be ground in the tub grinder. Items allowed:

- Brush & Branches (anything over 6 inches in diameter is not considered brush)
- Grass Clippings, Leaves, Twigs & Waste Plants from Gardens (no stones and no plastic bags)
- Please, NO TRASH!

Water Billing

Water Bills will be mailed by March 31, 2024 and are due by April 30, 2024 without penalty.

Town & County Taxes

Taxes will be collected until May 31, 2024 (postmark accepted). Thereafter, unpaid tax bills will be returned to the Cortland County Treasurer's Office for collection.

Access to Public Documents from Website

- Click C'Ville Public Portal on the Homepage
- It will redirect you to the Laserfiche Portal
- If the page prompts you, click Sign Out
- It will then redirect you to a new page
- Be sure that the drop down menu for Repository says CortlandvillePublic
- Once you change the Repository it will autofill the other information
- Click Sign In

Lamont Memorial Free Library



This year is off to a great start! The Library staff have been busy providing exciting programs and excellent library services to the public. Our Senior Social has expanded to two times a month; giving seniors the opportunity to come together for great conversations and fun activities. The Book Club has started its second year. Attendance continues to grow, with great discussions and connections being made. If you would like to participate, the group meets at 6:30p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the McGraw Box Brewing Co., 1 Spring Street, McGraw. The book of the month is available

for checkout through the library. Our youngest patrons have enjoyed stories and crafts about haircuts and Dr. Seuss during Preschool Storytime. The homeschoolers learned about Saturn and Jupiter, the science of time and distance, and the Klondike Gold Rush. The Library offers many enriching programs that are completely free and open to the public.

Beginning in May, the library will be hosting family movie nights. Special thanks go to the Town of Cortlandville Board for providing funding for all the necessary components to make these evenings happen. Planning for summer reading is also underway. The Summer Reading Kickoff event will be in June. Come enjoy fun activities and see what programs will be available this summer. As always, our shelves are brimming with new titles and your old favorites. Stop in! Discover your next literary adventure!

Programs: Preschool Storytime, Homeschool Learning Studio, Chess-Scapes, Lego Challenge, Family Fun, Crafts n' Creations, Knit & Crochet, Book Club, and Senior Social

Library Hours:

- Monday 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Friday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **CLOSED Wednesdays, Sundays and all Federal Holidays

Location: 5 Main Street, McGraw

Website: www.lamontlibrary.org

Phone: 607-836-6767



Town of Cortlandville Hall of Fame NOMINATIONS

The Town Hall of Fame was established in 2018. Its purpose is to recognize and honor individuals who have significantly contributed to the Town of Cortlandville and to our community as a whole. Do you have someone you would like to nominate? Written nominations must be submitted by April 30, 2024 to the attention of the Town Clerk at townclerk@cortlandville.org

A Note from your Legislator

We are coming up on three months in the new term! I want to thank all of the constituents in LD-12 Cortlandville for your continued support. I have tried to work very hard for you all. The past term of four years was a great learning experience. I think I continue to learn more as I go along. I attended the fall NYSAC convention with a few other legislators and was amazed at the amount of knowledge I was able to walk away with. Some of the greatest highlights of my first term included awarding Higgins Supply Co. in the Village of McGraw with a certificate of recognition from the County for 100 year anniversary! They continue to be a great employer to our residents and we are certainly thankful for them being here. I also started a trend of recognitions for 50 years in Fire service in Cortland County McGraw firefighter Ed Greenman was the first to get his recognition, followed by Homer FD Gary Mcuen and Mahlon Irish Sr. We have continued this with more Fire Departments in the County. I have also awarded our McGraw School Music Department with recognition for their great accomplishments and the McGraw School Gun Club for National ranking in the top 10 for trap and skeet competitions! The list goes on and on and continues because our great school district has so many talents in sports, music, and education! They truly make me look good! Most of you should know that this election I ran unopposed for my legislative position and also for the McGraw Village Mayor. I became much busier this year for sure as I am now Chair of Government Operations committee, and also serve on Budget and Finance and Buildings and Grounds Committees, but I will make sure to continue to work just as hard for you and also for my Village. I would like to thank Supervisor Tom Williams and the Cortlandville Town Board for their assistance and support during my time as Legislator and look forward to 4 more years of great cooperation and support!

Joseph Nauseef
Legislative District 12

Town of Cortlandville
Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Bldg
3577 Terrace Road
Cortland, NY 13045
607-756-6091

Town Hall Holiday Schedule

*The offices of the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building
will be closed for the following holidays:*

Spring Celebration Day	March 29, 2024
Memorial Day	May 24, 2024 (close at 12:00p)
	May 27, 2024

Assessment Calendar

Tentative Roll Files	May 1
Grievance Day	May 22
Final Roll Filed	July 1

****FYI:** After the filing of the Final Assessment Roll on July 1st of each year, NO assessment changes or property tax exemptions can be made or granted until March 1st of the following year.

Town Dropbox

If you missed us during our regular office hours or find it more convenient, you can use our secure dropbox located curbside at the main entrance.

Talk of the Town

The *Talk of the Town* is a quarterly newsletter distributed to Town Residents via mail/email/website. If your business or organization has something community related they would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email Nick Alteri at nalteri@cortlandville.org for more information.

If you know someone who would like to receive *Talk of the Town* via mail or email have them visit cortlandville.org and fill out the Newsletter Form under the Newsletter tab!

TOWN OFFICIALS

Assessor

- David Briggs dbriggs@cortlandville.org

Attorney

- John DelVecchio jdelvecchio@cortlandville.org

Code Enforcement

- Kevin McMahon kmcmahon@cortlandville.org
- Desiree Campbell dcampbell@cortlandville.org

Highway Supt.

- Larry Drach ldrach@cortlandville.org

Historian

- Nick Alteri townhistorian@cortlandville.org

Planning & Zoning

- Bruce Weber bweber@cortlandville.org

Town Clerk/Collector

- Kristin Rocco-Petrella townclerk@cortlandville.org

Town Justice

- Hon. Robert DeMarco
- Hon. MaryBeth Mathey

Water/Sewer Supt.

- Brian Congdon bcongdon@cortlandville.org

Town Hall Hours



Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm