




# TALK OF THE TOWN

a newsletter from the Town of Cortlandville

Volume IV: Issue 4

 townofcortlandville

 www.cortlandville.org

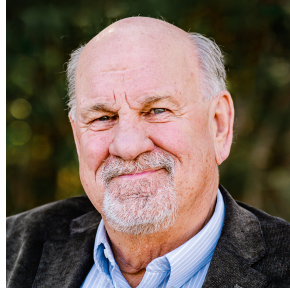
 607-756-6091

Winter 2023

## Town Board Updates

- 2024 Town Budget was adopted without overriding the 2% tax levy limit
- Town Board went out to bid for the construction of a Concession Building at the Gutches Lumber Sports Complex under Phase 2 of the park construction. Bids are due by December 18, 2023. The Town received a grant from the NYS Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation of up to \$500,000; a portion of which is for the construction of the building.
- Town accepted a \$5,000 NYSEDA Clean Energy Grant award and will proceed with an application to conduct an Energy Study for the Town Hall
- Pending Aquifer Protection Permit Applications:
  - Hospitality Restaurant Group for a Taco Bell drive-thru restaurant - 860 NYS Route 13
  - Pall Corporation - 22,000 sq. ft. building expansion - 3643 Route 281
  - NextEra Energy for a Large Scale Solar Energy System - Riley Road
- *The Town Board meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. at the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building.*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWN SUPERVISOR



I hope that this Winter Edition of the Newsletter finds you well. We have been hard at work getting the Gutches Lumber Park Development Phase 2, Construction of the Concessions Building out to bid effective November 22nd. Thank you to all involved, from internal employees, contracted assistance, and the Gutches Lumber Sports Complex Committee. Bids are due to be returned to the

Town by December 18th at 12:00 p.m. and we anticipate a bid award at the December 20th Town Board Meeting. We are excited to get this project underway!

The Town acknowledged Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Jay Cobb at the November 15th Town Board Meeting held in his hometown of McGraw for his hard work, devotion, and commitment to the Town of Cortlandville from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023. Glenn Reisweber, Cortlandville resident, and former Director of Lime Hollow Nature Center will be filling the Town Councilman seat effective January 1st. We look forward to the fresh approach he will bring to the Board.

Thank you to all of our constituents. We wish you health and happiness throughout the holiday season and look forward to what 2024 may bring.

*-Tom Williams*

## Season's Greetings from the Town Clerk's Office!

### New Water/Sewer Billing Program for 2024

**We bid farewell to the Blue Billing Postcards... soon!**

The Town Clerk's Office and Water & Sewer Department are excited to announce that we are in the final stages of implementing a new water/sewer billing program. The data conversion, testing, and training is almost complete, and we plan to be in full swing by the April 2024 billing quarter. We are working hard to ensure that the change will be seamless to you, our customers, and that you will enjoy the benefits of the new water/sewer billing system which will provide our customers with several new upgrades:

- Online Customer Portal - access for customers to billing portal to view and update your account information online; make online payments; view and track your consumption; request service.
- Option to receive paperless bills by email, USPS mail or both!
- Option to make electronic payments directly from your bank account.
- Do you have several accounts? Receive one billing statement with individual accounts itemized.

Are you interested in receiving your water/sewer bill by email? Please visit our website at [cortlandville.org](http://cortlandville.org) and complete the online form regarding how you would like to receive future bills - USPS mail, email, or both.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season!

Kristin Rocco-Petrella  
Town Clerk/Collector



## 2024 Budget

Season's Greetings!

At the Town Board Meeting on November 15, 2023, the Town Board adopted the 2024 budget. Supervisor Williams, Financial Advisor Richard Tupper, Aide to the Supervisor Amanda Rainbow, and myself, worked countless hours to take each department's requests into consideration and ensure that we did everything possible to honor those requests all while protecting the taxpayers' dollars. We are proud of the budget we have put forward and that we are, yet again, under the allowable tax cap percentage.

Megan Johnson

*Town Bookkeeper/Financial Administrator*

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## Code Enforcement

Hello again from the Codes Department here at Cortlandville. As the outdoor temperature drops and the heat goes on inside our homes and businesses, it's that time to make sure your heating system has been properly serviced and inspected. We're early into the real heating season and already we've had calls for wood stove/chimney fires and carbon monoxide alarms from malfunctioning furnace systems. If you haven't had your chimney and flue pipes, along with your fuel fired appliances looked at by a professional, please do so before any more time passes. There's nothing more devastating than to read or hear about a family losing their home due to a fire caused by improper maintenance.

Along those same lines please- please- please, have your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors checked and updated if necessary as they're truly life savers. All new installations of solid fuel burning appliances are required by NYS Law to be permitted and inspected whether they're new or used.

Fire and life safety inspections are handled through this office for multifamily and commercial businesses and assemblies on a regular basis, but single- and two-family homes are exempt from recurring inspections beyond those needed for open permits covering remodeling and new construction. It's up to you to keep track of the items of safety at your own home.

With cars getting quieter, it's not uncommon for people to go into their house from the attached garage and leave the car running sometimes with deadly results because of the lack of properly working detectors. I had a dear friend lose one of his parents and have the other partially incapacitated for life due to this exact situation so believe me when I tell you it's a real thing!

Next, be very cognizant of your holiday decorations as we move into the season. Extension cords are far and away one of the main culprits of house fires by overloading circuits and overheating due to wire sizes that cannot carry the currents needed. Electrical fires are the number one cause of all fires in structures across the country so please ask a professional if you have any questions regarding anything electrical. Also, please don't put all your faith in a cheap power strip and don't forget to read the manufacturers specifications!

Please don't hesitate to reach out for help with questions or concerns as you can use this office as a resource. When we're not in the office in person, we're always available by cell phone and/or email.

In other news, there's a lot going on in the Codes Office with new businesses moving in, adding on, and renovations of existing businesses taking place all over the Town! There's also an amazing amount of new residential construction taking place as well, plus remodeling which translates to current permit numbers well exceeding last year's totals to date.

Kevin McMahon

*Code Enforcement Officer*

Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and thanks for your help and cooperation!

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## Cortlandville Fire Department



Greetings all and Happy Holidays. This has been an extremely busy year for the Cortlandville Fire Department. We have had 10 structure fires so far this year, three of them being very large-scale incidents requiring the use of multiple hydrants at the same time. That is extremely uncommon to tap multiple fire hydrants simultaneously for a working structure fire. Usually one fire hydrant is sufficient.

These fires resulted in significant fire hose being laid and the Town's water system taxed to the max. Based on the amount of water needed to fight these fires, the Cortlandville Water Department was called upon to augment the water usage by getting the pumps turned on. At the same time assistance from the Cortlandville Highway Department has been used extensively by providing an excavator to assist with dismantling the structures and allowing us to fully extinguish the fires. Almost all these fires happen after hours in the middle of the night, weekends and holidays. We want to acknowledge and commend the employees of the highway and water departments for being so readily available to assist us. Their knowledge, experience and work ethic is unparalleled. The Cortlandville Fire Department and Town of Cortlandville is so fortunate to have these individuals providing service to us. They are absolutely amazing.

Kevin Whitney

*Fire District Chairman*

## Highway Department

### Reminders for the Winter Season

- **Road Parking:** To facilitate snow removal and eliminate potential hazards the Town of Cortlandville has a NO ALL NIGHT PARKING ordinance prohibiting parking on all roads/highways within the Town between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. from November 1st to May 1st. Vehicles in violation may be subject to a parking ticket or may be towed. The vehicle's owner is responsible for all fees.
- **Plow Routes:** The Town has five plow routes, with each taking approximately 3.5 hours to make a cycle under normal conditions. Peak traffic hours, equipment breakdowns, heavy snowfall, and/or ice storm can add another 30-60 minutes to a route. This means that if it's snowing at the rate of one inch per hour, there can be four inches of snow on the roads before the plow returns for the next pass.
- **Help us help you:**
  - Approach snowplow equipment with extreme caution, slow down and keep to the right as much as possible. Do not tailgate plow trucks or sanders, stay back at least 200 feet.
  - Do not leave snow on roadway or shoulders of roadway after clearing snow from driveway. Depositing snow into the roadway is a form of littering which may result in a ticket and/or fine.
  - If you park on or near the shoulder, park far enough off the centerline of the road so snowplows and vehicles can get by. You should park more than 16 feet from the centerline or behind the mailbox line.
  - Keep in mind, the snow from the plows will be thrown in the 10 to 12 foot area off the edge of a roadway. Nothing should be left in this area.
  - The mailbox post and box must be strong enough to withstand the heavy snow that comes off the plows.
  - Please keep in mind that hills where school buses travel receive priority.
  - The Highway Department asks for patience during a heavy snowfall... we will be there!!!
- **Salting:** Salting the road before a storm forms a layer of brine on the pavement, greatly decreasing the formation of ice on the roadway. Pre-treating allows us to use less salt and also makes it easier to plow the snow off of the road safely since the snow is not frozen to the pavement. This treating is also done with liquid products such as magnesium chloride. This liquid has a green color to it and an added rust inhibitor.
- For more information please visit the Town Website under Highway.

Larry Drach  
Highway Superintendent

## New Businesses in the Town

### The Town Planning Board approved permits for the following:

- **Game Knows** - Site Plan approved for a Sports Training Facility - 880 Route 13 (formerly R. Homer Carpets)
- **McNeil Development** - Conditional Permit granted for the build-out of the interior and exterior of buildings #5 and #6 for medical office buildings - 4037-4059 Route 281 (formerly J.M. Murray)
- **Priority Fire Apparatus & Service Center, LLC** - Conditional Permit granted for use of building (owned by Gutches Lumber Co. Inc.) to service fire trucks, cars, trucks, as well as fabrication work for fire trucks and police cars - 3537 Route 281
- **Swarthout Coaches Inc.** - Conditional Permit granted for an Outpost Terminal that will house 3-5 Commercial Coaches - 3747 Route 11
- **Hospitality Restaurant Group** - Site Plan approved for a new drive-thru style restaurant (Taco Bell) - 860 Route 13
- **Cortland Christian Radio** - Conditional Permit approved for the construction of a building for a Radio Station - 4310 Fairgrounds Drive

## Water & Sewer Department

### Fire Hydrants



As we move into the winter months I wanted to remind you how important it is to try to keep hydrants clear from snow. In a fire emergency the faster the fire department can hook to a hydrant the quicker they can do their job. It might only slow them down a couple of minutes to uncover the hydrant, but a lot can happen in a couple of minutes. We have over 500 Hydrants in the water system, and we keep them cleaned out the best we can. However, after a big storm it might take a week or more to clean them all, even longer, if other water or sewer emergencies arise. We also know many homeowners keep the hydrant in the front yard cleaned out on their own and it is a big help so we would like to say THANK YOU!!! If you see one we missed, give us a call and we will make sure it's taken care of as soon as possible.

Brian R. Congdon  
Water/Sewer Superintendent



### Sylvia Hall

Sylvia has been assisting in our Human Resources area, redesigning processes and assuring compliance. Early in 2024, she and Megan Johnson (Financial Administrator) will be creating some professional development programs for staff!



- Kathy Smith -  
Resident Artist for the  
Town of Cortlandville

Her artwork is to be displayed  
at the Town Hall  
and rotated quarterly.

This piece is an Original Watercolor

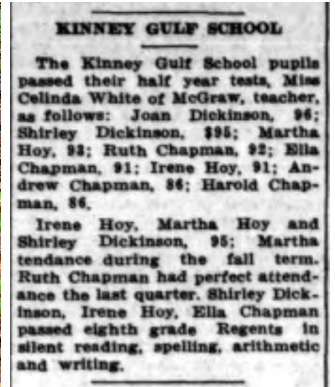
Come check out the  
full winter display!



## Historian Corner

Before we had the Cortland Enlarged City School District Schools we had several smaller schools throughout the Town. One of those schools was the Kinney Gulf School - District No. 7. We currently know very little about this school. We believe it was located somewhere in the red box below. It could have been either of these 2 house or maybe even the barn. We also believe that the school was closed around 1941. Up until this summer there was a 'School Ahead Slow' sign just across the street from Sweeney Road (yellow box). I have also attached a clipping from the Cortland Standard dated January 29, 1940. If anyone has any more information on this school, please reach out to the Historian's Office. We would love to have a more complete record of this school.

Nick Alteri  
Town Historian



- Congratulations to Councilman David Donlick and Hon. MaryBeth Mathey who were re-elected to their respective positions! We also welcome Councilman Glenn Reisweber!
- The Town Board adopted a Resolution on August 7, 2023 to eliminate the position of second Cortlandville Town Justice, subject to mandatory referendum. The proposition was on the 2023 General Election ballot as Proposal Number Four, Town Proposition Number One. The proposition FAILED by a vote of YES 545 to NO 818. As a result, Two Town Justices shall remain in the Town of Cortlandville.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The Town would like to thank Councilman Jay Cobb for his service to the Town of Cortlandville over the past 4 years!

## Parks and Recreation

The Town of Cortlandville Parks Department would like to give a special thank you to the Cortland Red Dragon Baseball team for their community service at Testa Park. During the fall semester break Coach Joe Brown and team members volunteered their time and skills to help renovate the Crown City Little League fields at Testa Park. Players used equipment to edge base paths, re-build the pitching mounds and winterized the batting cages. To follow the nationally ranked baseball team's 2024 season follow them on instagram @cortlandbaseball. Best of Luck in the New Year!!!

John McNerney  
Parks & Recreation Director



### Dog License Renewals

- Dog License Renewals are due by the 15th of the month following the expiration of the license without penalty. Thereafter, a \$5.00 late fee/month will be added. Please note, the rabies vaccination must be valid and not expiring within 30 days of the license renewal date or we will be unable to license the dog.

### Water Billing

Water Bills will be mailed by December 30, 2023 and are due by January 31, 2023 without penalty.

### Town & County Taxes

Taxes will be mailed by December 30, 2023 and are payable without penalty by January 31, 2024. Taxes will be collected until May 31, 2024.

Thereafter, unpaid taxes 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

2024 is about to begin, library programs are in full swing and the shelves are filled with good reads. If you are not familiar with the library we are located at 5 Main Street in the Village of McGraw. The library offers a wide selection of fiction and nonfiction, movies, magazines, eBooks, free WIFI, public computers with internet access, copier and fax. A variety of programs for all ages are offered each month at the library. Visit the library's website, [www.lamontlibrary.org](http://www.lamontlibrary.org), or follow us on Facebook for details on all upcoming programs and events. For more information please call 607-836-6767 or visit the library today. Library staff look forward to seeing you!

**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.



## 35 Years of Service Recognition

Congratulations to Margaret Capps who celebrated 35 years of dedicated service and commitment as Court Clerk for the Town of Cortlandville. Thank you for making a difference in your community and for being an integral part of our team!

## Assessor's Office

(607) 756-7306

Monday-Friday

9am-12pm/1pm-4pm

David Briggs, Assessor

Keisha Chase, Assessor's Assistant



**REMINDER:** All exemptions need to be filed with our office before March 1st, 2024.

Letters have been mailed to all homeowners regarding exemption renewals, please open, review and return immediately.

**Check the Exemption Facts and Questions chart to see if you qualify for more discounts.**

The following links help to verify that your exemption is on your property.

<http://taxlookup.net/>

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/credit-lookup.htm>

Please note that the state has sole determination on income verification for Enhanced STAR.

**Any questions please reach out to our office.**



# Exemption Facts and Qualifications

Program	STAR	Enhanced STAR	Disability	Senior Citizen	Agriculture	Veteran
<b>How to Apply</b>	State	Cortlandville or State (see inst.)	Cortlandville	Cortlandville	Cortlandville	Cortlandville or Village offices
<b>Often to Apply</b>	Once	Once	Annually	Annually	Annually	Once
<b>Age</b>	N/A	65y in applying year	64y and younger	65y before March 1st	N/A	N/A
<b>Adjusted Income</b>	N/A	< \$93,200	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Income</b>	<\$500,000	N/A	<\$22,200	<\$30,699	\$20,000 Produced Product	N/A
<b>Verification</b>	N/A	N/A	-State Letter declaring disabled	N/A	-Soil/Water Worksheet -Atleast 7 acres	-DD214 Form -Disability Rating Form -Medals -Honorable Discharge
<b>Applies to</b>	School	School	County	Town/County & School if applicable	Town/County	Town/County

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:*

Christmas (observed)	December 22, 2023 (close at 12:00p)
Christmas Day	December 25, 2023
New Years Eve (observed)	December 29, 2023 (close at 12:00p)
New Years Day	January 1, 2024
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 15, 2024
President's Day	February 19, 2024

## Assessment Calendar

Exemptions Mailed	January 1
Valuation Date	January 1
Tax Bills Due (Without Penalties)	January 31
Exemption Filing Deadline	March 1
Tentative Roll Files	May 1
Grievance Day	May 24
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.

## TOWN OFFICIALS

### Assessor

- David Briggs dbriggs@cortlandville.org

### Attorney

- John DeVecchio 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