



TALK OF THE TOWN

a newsletter from the Town of Cortlandville

Volume IV: Issue 1

townofcortlandville

www.cortlandville.org

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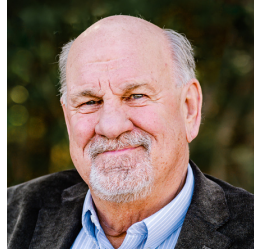
Spring 2023

Town Board Updates

- Town Board adopted Local Law No. 1 & No. 2 of 2023
 - Amending Chapter 86 Fire Prevention and Building Code Administration, to be in compliance with 19 NYCRR Part 1203
 - Amended Chapter 1 General Provisions §1-7 Amendments to Code, to formalize the procedure to change fees in General Legislation
- Proposed Local Law of 2023 is pending, to amend Chapter 178-76 Zoning Conditional Permit Additional Specific Requirements" (text is available via the Town's public document portal or in the Town Clerk's Office).
- Approved Aquifer Protection Permit application submitted by Suit-Kote Corporation for property located off Route 11 for the installation of 2 base asphalt tanks
- Approved the Updated Water and Sewer Administrative Fee Schedule for the Town - updating the meter package pricing and part fees.

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 this fifth issue of the Town Newsletter finds you well and looking forward to warmer weather, longer days and flowers blooming with Spring approaching. We at the Town have been very busy and one of our projects that we are excited to introduce to the community is our very own Little Free Libraries built by Town Highway employees Fred and Damian Walker. Each department submitted creative ideas for the design of the children's and adult book sharing boxes and the selected winners will be painting them to be placed at two different locations within the Town of Cortlandville. The Little Free Libraries will be freely accessible to all and we encourage you to take a book home to enjoy or share a book for others. "A book is a gift you can open again and again."(Garrison Keillor)

-Tom Williams

Town Clerk's Office



2023 is off to a busy start! While the winter months may seem long, time flies by for us in the Town Clerk's office. As usual, the collection of taxes and water/sewer bills kept us on our toes, as we've collected over 85% of the total tax warrant to date. Taxes are due by May 31st, at which time they will be returned to the County Treasurer's Office for collection. Have you moved? Do you need to update your billing address? This year we received numerous paid receipts back in the mail with the billing address as "not deliverable as addressed". If you did not receive a paid receipt, please contact our office.

Over President's Weekend (Feb. 19-22) I attended the NYS Association of Towns annual meeting and training school in NYC. After three days of seminars and meetings, and an opportunity to speak with NYS Comptroller DiNapoli, I left the big apple with a lot of new information and ideas to bring back to the Town.

Education and training are important to our success and our ability to serve the public. As such, the Town Clerk's Office will be closed to the public April 24-25, 2023 while we attend the NYS Town Clerk's Association training in Syracuse, NY. Please utilize the dropbox for payments during this time.

With Spring in sight, we are excited to start training on our new billing program, which we will feature in the next issue of our newsletter. Stay tuned!

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 22-23: Youth Wild Turkey Hunt (juniors ages 12-15)
- May 1-31: Spring Turkey Season
- June 24-25: Free Fishing Weekend

Kristin Rocco-Petrella
Town Clerk/Collector

Did You Know?

Cortlandville Fire Department

How did the Cortland County Regional Training Center become a reality? Where is the Cortland County Regional Training Center located and what does it offer? Many people probably don't realize the current Cortlandville Fire District Headquarters Fire Station used to be a Volkswagen Car Dealership. With the property came a body shop that is the building that sits behind the fire station. This building was significantly neglected and required a lot of work to bring it to its present state.

On June 28 th , 1999, members of the Cortland County Fire Service met to discuss the feasibility of creating a Regional Training Center utilizing this old body shop. In attendance was Cincinnatus Fire Chief Derek Raimo, Homer Fire Chief Gary McEuen, Preble Fire Chief Jeff Griswold, Virgil Fire Chief Neil Helms, Cortlandville Fire Chiefs Kevin Whitney – Wayne Friedman – Glenn Sloan – Garrick Henry, Cortlandville Captain Carl Hart and President Doug VanEtten, Cortland County Fire Coordinator Dave Tanner and NYS Fire Instructors Mahlon Irish Jr. and Dave Denniston.

An ambitious agenda of ideas was generated that day consisting of creating a classroom, an indoor SCBA confidence maze, a mock up house for search techniques, bailout props, office and gear room for instructors. For the exterior grounds it was desired to have an extrication pad, ventilation simulator, an underground water tank for drafting, extending hydrant lines into the property, confined space simulator, sprinkler simulator, and a burn building.

After nine years on October 18 th , 2008 phase one of the RTC concept was realized and the building was officially dedicated. This was the culmination of a lot of work by firefighters from all the area Cortland County Fire Departments. In particular, the Marathon Fire Department provided a significant level of construction knowledge, labor and poured all the concrete pads onsite for us. In 2020, we realized our biggest goal which was the addition of a Class A Material Live Fire Building to conduct real life interior fire operations at cost of \$815,000.00.

This entire campus since 2008 has been made possible due to significant partnerships with former NYS Senator James Seward, former Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, Walmart, Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club, Royal Chevrolet, Contentos, Nick Renzi, Dan McNeil, ESIP, JM McDonald Foundation, Federal Engineering, Cortland County, Cortlandville Town Board, Cortlandville Highway & Water Departments, Cortlandville Fire Department, and Cortlandville Fire District. It is extremely impressive to say from that meeting in 1999 we have created this immense campus that offers a wide array of training opportunities to all emergency service disciplines throughout Central New York and is used extensively. The facility definitely has made good on the faith and investments placed with us.

Kevin Whitney
Fire District Chairman



Highway Department

Spring is around the corner, which means some residents may start seeing some damage done 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. They 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 have 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.

All public roads have a legal right of way. This right of way needs to be clear at all times to ensure the safety of those traveling. Many state/municipal plow drivers don't usually return in the spring to repair lawn damage. When the weather shows signs that winter is behind us for another season, the Town of Cortlandville Highway department does 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

A Note from your Legislators

The county is looking forward to utilizing significant grants and other funding sources to repair, restore, and upgrade our beautiful county courthouse. This work is in addition to the ongoing replacement of the main stairs at the front of the building. Portions of this historical building have been deteriorating for decades and the new projects are expected to include restoration of the entryways, stone and mortar repair, and upgrades to the heating ventilation and cooling systems. The repairs and upgrades will be performed with a long-term view that will help preserve this landmark for our lifetime. The County is currently working with our architects through the process of budgeting and prioritizing scope before starting design. The County is planning to go out to bid this Fall with construction start in the Spring of 2024.

Joesph Nauseef - Chris Newell - Eugene Waldbauer
Legislative District 13

Historian's Corner

It has been a great start to the new year over here in Historian World. I started the year out with a wonderful addition to the team. I am lucky to have a senior intern working with me from the History Department at SUNY Cortland until the beginning of May!

One of my goals for the year is to analyze, scan, verify, and file all of the Historian Records. This makes them accessible to not only me, but will in turn make them more accessible to you!

This project is a large undertaking, but it is moving right along. We have completely scanned and verified one full file box of records. We have also completely organized, scanned, and verified all of the photos we own.

I have taken two trips to the Cortland County Historical Society. These trips have been wonderful! Getting to talk with the people at the Historical Society is always a treat. They are full of information and love sharing it! This connection is great to have so we can compile the immense history we have here in Cortland County.

I am also collaborating with a student group at SUNY Cortland that is working on a World War II project related to a Cortland resident! This group is very excited about the project. More information to come on this project soon!

Lastly, if you have any items that you believe would add value to the Cortlandville Historian Collection, please reach out to me by email at townhistorian@cortlandville.org. Items I am currently looking for are photos of old businesses (examples below), homes, churches, and/or schools in the Town and any articles or primary source materials related to them.

Nick Alteri

Town Historian

Kudos Korner

In appreciation and thanks to the Highway Department for keeping our town roads salted, plowed, and safe for travel this winter. Well done!

Assessor's News

As of March 1st - we have reached Taxable Status Date. This means the assessed value for 2023 is determined as of this date. The 2023 assessments will first be applied to school taxes. This is usually August or September, depending on the school district. The 2023 assessments are also then applied to the Town and County taxes, which are sent out January 1st of the following year. In this case 2024. Also, all property tax exemptions and exemption renewals are as of this date. Assessments are determined by the physical condition of the property, as well as ownership.

The Assessor's Office is currently determining the 2023 assessments for the 2023 Assessment Roll. All property owners have the right to grieve any assessment each and every year, if necessary. Grievances are heard by the Town of Cortlandville's Board of Assessment Review. This year we will hold our Grievance meeting on May 24th from 4pm-6pm and 7pm-9pm.

If you have any questions or need to contact us, our office is open 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday through Friday. We are also available by calling 607-756-7306 or emailing jgross@cortlandville.org. If you are specifically looking to speak with David Briggs, his office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm.

David Briggs
Town Assessor

**First National Bank of Cortland
was located in the Groton Ave Plaza**



**Mister Donut
was located on Route 281**



Happy Retirement to Joan Fitch

- Town Planning Board and ZBA Secretary -



Joan has seen it all:

- 2,600+ Planning Board Actions
- 1,100+ ZBA Actions
- 533 Conditional Permits
- 280 Site Plans
- 477 Subdivisions
- 246 Aquifer Permit Recommendations
- 827 ZBA Variances

After 28 years of dedicated service working with the Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals as Recording Secretary, Joan Fitch has announced her retirement effective March 1, 2023. Joan joined the Town in June of 1995 and has been a vital member of our team ever since. She is known for her accurate and detailed recording of actions. Some may call her an expert in that regard; a master of detail.

Joan is also known for her kind and complimentary demeanor and has been a friend to all of her colleagues who she has worked with throughout the years.

Joan, thank you for 28 years of excellence! You and your expertise have been greatly appreciated and will be missed. We wish you good health and happiness as you enjoy your well-earned retirement!

Snow Removal Reminder

I would like to remind residents and property owners who have public sidewalks to adhere to the Town of Cortlandville's snow removal ordinance.

Please review the following:

- Chapter 135 Streets and Sidewalks, Article III Snow Removal Section, 135-6 Duty of the owner to remove; time frame for removal. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the owner of any lot fronting upon any public street, alley, park or place within the Town to maintain the entire width of the sidewalk in front of the premises and street crossing access on any corner lot free and clear from snow, ice and other obstructions. Such removal shall be completed by 6:00 p.m. the day following the accumulation of snow or other obstruction. In the event of a continuous long-term snowfall and drifting of snow, removal shall be completed at a minimum of twenty-four-hour intervals.
- Chapter 135-7. Removal by Town. After notice by certified mail with return receipt requested to the owner of a lot or parcel, the Town shall clear the area affected, and the cost of such removal will be levied on the next Town and County tax bill.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Desiree Campbell, Code Officer, for further information.

Desiree Campbell
Code Officer



The Town Board recognized the Cortlandville Fire Department for their heroic efforts in keeping our Town and residents safe.

Save the Date!

EMPIRE STATE SENIOR GAMES

June 10th - 17th 2023

Cortland, New York

Competitions in:

Archer y	Disc Golf	Road Races
Badminton	Golf	Shuffleboard
Basketball	Horseshoes	Swimming
Bowling	Pickleball	Tennis
Cards	Ping Pong	Track & Field
Croquet	Racewalk	Triathlon
Cycling	Raquetball	Volleyball

New in 2023: 3K Power Walk



A complete list of sports & registration information is available at

www.nyseniorgames.com



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, 2023 and are due by April 30, 2023 without penalty.



Town & County Taxes

Taxes are due by May 31, 2023. Unpaid taxes will be returned to the Cortland County Treasurer's Office for collection.

Access Laserfiche from Cortlandville 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

Water & Sewer Department

Frequently Asked Questions

Water Hardness Scale		
Classification	Grains/Gal	mg/L or PPM
Soft	Less than 1	Less than 17.1
Slightly hard	1 - 3.5	17.1 - 60
Moderately hard	3.5 - 7	60 - 120
Hard	7 - 10	120 - 180
Very hard	over 10	over 180
1 gpg = 17.1 mg/L = 17.1 ppm		

One of the most common questions that we are asked at the water department is what is the hardness of our water? The Town's average hardness is 211 mg/l or 12.33 grains/gal. Around 85% of homes in The United States have hard water so it is not all that uncommon. Having hard water contributes to White, chalky residue on dishes. Scale buildup on faucets along with stains. Low pressure from showers and faucets due to clogged pipes or excessive build up on the aerator screens. It can also contribute to dry skin.

Having hard water is safe to drink; it just has trace amounts of minerals such as calcium and magnesium. Most homeowners that want to combat hard water will have a water softener installed.

Brian R. Congdon
Water/Sewer Superintendent



Jason Tisa is the PBR Tournaments Director of Operations for the Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex (GLSC). Born and raised in Rochester, New York, Jason grew up with passion for the game of baseball.

He went on to play three years of varsity baseball at Irondequoit High School and at Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. After college, he went on to work for Bullpen Tournaments in Westfield, Indiana, as an intern; where he then became the full time director of tournament administration. His position would oversee tournament operations of Grand Park's 26 diamonds which would regularly see over 350 teams in each event. After 3 years at Bullpen, Jason accepted a new position with Bullpen's sister company PBR Tournaments and move back to his home state to take on the operations of the GLSC in its first full year. Jason is looking forward to working with local teams and the community.

For inquiries or questions, please contact tisa@prepbaseballreport.com

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, 2023 to the attention of the Town Clerk at townclerk@cortlandville.org

Code Enforcement

Hello from the Codes Department! I'm hoping to get the word out to our residents about some recent fires and ways to protect yourselves from such tragedies around the home and business. As a NYS Code Officer part of my job consists of responding to calls from the Call Center at 911 from relays given by the First responders when there is structural damage to homes and buildings from fires, vehicle collisions, structural collapses and the like.

It's my job to help determine if a building or portion of a structure can be occupied upon the completion of the amazing work done by the Fire Fighters and First Responders. Too many times the calls are related to fires which can be caused by multiple sources of ignition. These can include, but are not limited to electrical wiring, solid fuel burning appliances (ie: wood stoves), chemicals (spontaneous ignition: rag piles from staining, sealants, etc.), collisions, cooking related accidents, improper storage of gas/fuel cans, smoking, and charging stations.

I'm only covering two of the items above as they're in the "most recent" category of calls. Allow me to tackle the last one first. I've been on some calls lately where some very destructive fires were started from battery pack charging stations. In this day and age of rechargeable lithium batteries, there seems to be an increase in charging station fires due to overheating. In the past when we had mostly NiCad batteries and chargers, the batteries would just not hold a charge after so many cycles without getting too hot. Lithium batteries however, as they age can develop a lot of heat when unable to store power and can get hot enough to ignite!

This is a real issue, and I can't stress enough to everyone how important it is to unplug your charging stations when unattended! This is not just tools, but your laptops and portable devices these days all run on lithium batteries if I'm not mistaken. Don't rely on power strips, breakers, ARC fault or Ground fault circuits to do the job for you so Please pay attention and unplug such items when you're not around!

Secondly, electrical fires are far away among the most common suspects in fire related structural calls, for First Responders. Wiring in homes done by unqualified electricians without proper inspections is constantly showing up as the cause of way too many structural fires. Included in this foray is the use of incorrect extension cords, power strips and open receptacles. I've witnessed some very scary looking wiring jobs both residential and commercial that would never have passed inspection if given the chance.

Please have professional help with even the smallest change to wiring in your home or business as it's far too easy to set oneself up for an impending disaster. The interesting part of electrical wiring is the fact that a repair or addition to existing wiring done incorrectly may work fine for the time being, but can degrade over time from use and age and ultimately can lead to a fire. Don't be afraid to reach out for help!

Lastly don't forget to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as they are truly life savers. So thanks for listening to me and by the way, don't hesitate to go out of your way to thank your First Responders as they don't get enough credit for what they do on a daily basis! Feel free to drop me a call, text or email with Code and/or Safety related questions or concerns! Be safe and stay healthy as we enter a new year and thanks for your participation in passing the word.

Kevin J McMahan
NYS Code Enforcement Officer

Town Hall Holiday Schedule

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

Memorial Day	May 29, 2023
Juneteenth	June 19, 2023

NOTICE

•• Important Dates in the Assessment Calendar ••

Tentative Roll Filed	May 1, 2023
Grievance Day	May 24, 2023
Final Roll Filed	July 1, 2023

****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.



Skip the Trip

We are encouraging residents to "skip the trip" and do their Town business by telephone, email, regular mail, or by using the secure dropbox located curbside at the main entrance

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