



*****VILLAGE NEWSLETTER*****

***NEWSLETTER OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWARK VALLEY
JANUARY 2014***

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR:

Hello everyone,

The Trustees have our first draft of the Village Budget for review and adoption late in January 14th. The Village Fiscal Year is March thru February and NYS has assigned a 1.66% tax cap for the general fund excluding solid waste and water. Our preliminary submittal to the Trustees is a tax levy of 1.5% over the current year ending February 2014. Your Trustees will review, possibly revise, advice and consent the final budget. I am not recommending fee adjustments for trash pick up or water use for next year. We are including line item expense for the Clinton Street property formerly known as the Ladder Factory. Owner Leroy Eiklor (Northern Tioga Enterprises, LLC) will visit some of us in January to determine how safety and code violations will lead to compliance. Your Mayor, Village Board, Code Enforcement and Fire Fighters have safety concern for the surrounding neighbors and neighborhoods due to further roof and structure cave in, fire and interior vandalism. Court and Litigation with the owner may result but we will move forward with possible other remedies with the owner. Our local school district and town officialdom will benefit from our Village thrust as the current assessment set by County Real Property is zero so any property improvement will affect tax base. We believe this property

can be useful with thoughtful moves going forward. We will identify those steps as time passes.

In the October Newsletter we discussed ‘Pride in Community’. Your Village Sidewalk Committee meets at 7:00PM the third Wednesday of each month which will lead to eventual recommendations to the Trustees. I believe the committee will distribute community questioners for input determining local safety enforcement for those owners with unsafe or no pedestrian walkways. Watch for more information or attend these meetings at the Noble Room. We do understand sidewalk maintenance is a cost but the committee is searching ways to reduce outlay. Many residents have updated their cement walkways adding to the ambiance of their property and we thank those willing or able to enhance value. Homeowners currently without sidewalks may wonder if they are violating code. Please contact us with any questions you have. We continue our search for two volunteers wishing to join the Village Planning Board. Our chairperson Sandy Kasmarcik and I will meet with anyone with interest in serving your community. Please contact Sandy or me by calling 642.8686 and we will return your call. It really is fun to be part of land law stability and improvement.

Our Code Enforcement is active as seen by inspections of vacant buildings,

updating review of multi dwelling apartments and businesses. At first blush; some may see this as municipal intrusion when it is in fact 'safety' first for many. Your Village Public Works corrected a few Violations in the Municipal Building and Tappan Spaulding Library as we expect all of us to follow safety and fire standards. We expect vacant buildings, multi dwelling units, businesses and municipal facilities to be complete by early next year. Code Enforcement did place large placards on one vacant building in the Village which identifies 'no occupancy' for firefighters. This NYS fire safety regulation allows first responders to know if building entry is necessary. We will continue to identify and work with the owners of these vacant buildings for the safety of all. We thank and appreciate all who have completed or will make those safety updates for the benefit of all.

Your Public Works Department identified three Town properties on Howard Hill Road that must seek potable water sources other than the Village system. The County Health Department, the property owners and Town Officials are aware and agree with this option. Other Town property owners not in the Village utilizing the water system are not impacted by this change. If you have questions concerning this then please contact me at the office 642.8686 or our residence 642.3543.

Winter season is upon us and we have secured the most competitive heating oil, propane and electric costs possible via annual competitive bid process. The Municipal Building, Tappan Spaulding Library and Village Public Works

facility continually strive for heating efficiency and best possible pricing. At this writing we have snow fall eighteen inches ahead of the same date last year but your streets and municipal walkways are safe and clear. Those early morning 'get to work' residents should have no problems with our Village thoroughfares. If you do; you know our number!

Five years of behind the scenes work toward Municipal Building exterior renovation is ready to begin. We previously reported our funding request to the Southern Tier Economic Council and the Heritage Foundation for granting of one hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$195000.) matching the Village savings. Your Village is successful and the Grant is ours. We strive for completion of this three hundred ninety thousand dollar (\$390000) project by February 2015 to process in one complete fiscal year. Our Village Office, Tioga County Planning Director and the Mayor wish to thank the STEC, NYS and Heritage Group for this investment in our community. Over the most recent six years your Village Grant proceeds exceed \$2.1 million dollars for a combination of projects. That is pretty good for a one thousand population Village. Local governments grant processes and success is essential to maintain value in the community. Taxpayers should demand proactive fiscal approach by leaders that you elect. We will utilize Crawford & Stearns Architectural, local subcommittees (Village PPG and Planning Board), Village Office, Mayor, Attorney Frank Como and regional vendors with historic building experience to steer this project to

completion. We will communicate as we proceed with this project.

Last month this office received an unsigned unidentified letter from a ‘concerned citizen’ about a specific policy for those employed by NYS. Your Board and Village Attorney during our December meeting did read and discuss the letter; and with NYCOM consultation determined lack of any relevance to our Village or Town Governments. If this unidentified person wishes to discuss; please call me at your convenience.

The success and number of those enjoying Holiday Magic at the Depot, Tappan Spaulding Library, Village Green and Noble Room during times of significant snowfall is testament to our community and volunteers. Thanks once again to all responsible. These moments for the young are life long memories.

‘Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen’ quote by Sir Winston Churchill

The Best Winter Possible to all,

*Best Regards,
Jim Tornatore
Mayor*

CLERK’S REPORT:

Another year gone by!

The budget for the New Year may, or may not, be adopted at the January 14th monthly board meeting. All of the computers, and the server, in the village departments run on Windows XP. We

recently received notification that Microsoft will not guarantee updates of their anti-malware signature and engine after April 8, 2014. This will be part of the equipment updating for the New Year. The last time we have updated the computers was in 2005. The Roof at the Village Barn needs some roof repair, and some of the roads need repairing and repaving after the water project completion.

We have been awarded a grant to reface the brick on the Municipal Building before it gets to be beyond repair. We have slowly been retaining dollars to apply for this matching grant and we were successful this year in obtaining the grant. Another grant that we have applied for, and awarded, is the Arts Grant for “Artistic Expressions in the Trout Ponds Park”, formally known as “Music in the Parks”. We will bring back the entertainment this year with a few changes to the entertainment. Watch for the schedule on the website, and in the next newsletters.

The end of our fiscal year is fast approaching; February 28th. Any unpaid water, solid waste, lawn mowing and snow plowing bills remaining unpaid after February 17th will be levied to your next tax bill. We must receive payment, in the village office, on or before February 17th to avoid placement on your next village tax bill. Taxes will go out on or before March 1st, 2014. We will collect taxes, and penalties, in this office until October 31st, 2014, at which time they will be turned over to the county and added to your town tax bill.

Elections will be held on March 18, 2014. Caucuses will be held in January for nominations, and the Election will be

held in the Noble Room. Positions are; Mayor – 4 year term, 2 Trustees – 4 year term, and 2 Trustees – 2 year term. Terms begin the first Monday in April.

Just a reminder that you can pay your bills by Debit/Credit Card or directly from your bank account? We provide these convenient ways for you to pay your Water, Solid Waste, Taxes, Trout Ponds, Noble Room, building permit, or any fee due to the Village of Newark Valley. You can pay by credit or debit cards at the counter, over the phone, and online, or you can choose to pay your water/solid waste bills by electronic debit directly from your bank account free of charge. Just fill out, sign, and return the form. You may visit our website for forms and more information at villageofnewarkvalley.com or you can call the office at 642-8686.

Have a great 2014!

Mertie Pozzi

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Winter has arrived and looks like it wants to stay. Garbage cans need to be put by the road in an area that is assessable without climbing through snow banks and ice, for the safety of employees. If you do not have a cover on your trash can please keep it where the snow and ice cannot build up in it as it adds weight and freezes so the trash will not come out. On the good side we continue to cut down on recycles in the trash and the overall tonnage weekly, but if we find recycles in the trash we will leave the can for the resident to sort out. Remember we pay for recycles to be picked up in our town and county taxes and there is no sense to pay twice. The water department has added new start up drives to cut down on the water

hammer when a pump turns on or off, to cut down on the electric bill and the hopes of less main breaks. You will not notice any difference in your house pressure or water quality, as a note some people notice that the chlorine smell may increase at times this is for the residents' safety when the water table rises because of melting snow and rain. The run off from farms in the area may add contamination to the water supply; the adding of chlorine is to combat that threat and we have not had any contamination in our system. We try to maintain a chlorine level of 0.6(ppm) parts per million residual when water rises we go up to 0.9 ppm the state regulation at this time is 4.0 ppm.

Snow removal will be the topic for a while, please remember to clear your sidewalks within 24 hours after it snows so the DPW doesn't have to do it, and if you live by a hydrant try to keep it clear for you and your neighbors' safety. Remember that there is no parking on any village street during the hours 12:00 midnight to 6:00 am during winter this includes Main St.

As a final note the DPW will be picking up Christmas trees on Tuesday January 21st have them out to the curb by 6:00am

*Thank You
William Foster*

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Happy New Year Everyone:

As Code Enforcement and Safety Officer for the Village of Newark Valley there are a couple items I would like to put out there for everyone.

I may be contacted at the Village of Newark Valley Office during regular business hours which are Monday's 10 A.M. to 7 P.M., Tuesday's – Thursday's 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at 607.642.8686.

As we all know winter is here, and it's looking to be around for a while. Please make note that according to Village Code all residential sidewalks are to be cleared of "any" ice or snow accumulations within 24 hours of a snow fall. Meaning that once that either the ice or snow precipitation stops you will have a 24 hour window to clear the ice or snow off your sidewalks. Please do your best to keep your sidewalks clear as we have many residents that like to walk or run throughout the Village daily. Also I wanted to let everyone know to be sure to have your chimneys cleaned, furnaces or other heat sources serviced as we are going to be approaching much colder months ahead. Make note that if you install or have a company install any new heating source such as a wood stove, pellet stove, coal stove, boiler furnace, gas furnace, or any type of fire place insert you need to get a permit at the Village Office for the installation of such heating sources and as well as the new unit needs to be inspected by Code Enforcement in the Village prior to its use.

If anyone should have any questions at any time. Again my phone contact number is 607.642.8686.

*Scott M. Kasmarcik
Code Enforcement/Safety Officer*

HOLIDAY MAGIC:

The weather outside was frightful, but that didn't stop residents from enjoying the 2013 Holiday Magic festival.

Santa arrived at the Village Green early on and was kept busy by the many children who were gathered there to tell him their wishes. The clip clop of horse's hooves was a cheerful backdrop to the trumpet players who braved the cold to play on the gazebo.

Guests were entertained at the Village Hall with music from Sister Moon, an acoustic women's trio, to holiday favorites on the saxophone, to an impromptu girls' choir. There were yummy soups from the Methodist Church as well as other treats provided by the Newark Valley Music Boosters, NV 5th grade, the PTS, and the Eastern Star ladies.

Guests were treated to the sight of many Gingerbread creations displayed at the Village Hall. They were all so creative; it's hard to believe they were all made of edible treats!

The raffle table was also a popular place with many creative prizes available for the lucky winners.

The Train Depot was also hopping with music and delicious warm chili, sloppy joes and other treats. Santa made his way to the Depot and was greeted by a wave of eager children.

The weather worsened throughout the evening, but residents braved the cold and snow to enjoy meeting the Grinch at the Tappan Spaulding Library and spend time in our Main Street shops.

A HUGE thank you to the wonderfully supportive community and volunteers who are too many to name, without you, Holiday Magic wouldn't happen.

Happy Holidays!

TILLERS & TOILERS GARDEN CLUB:

We would like to thank all who attended the clock dedication. It was gratifying to see the support for the project. A special thanks goes out to all who helped make it happen: McElwain Engineering, [Steve McElwain and Bob Woodard] D&J Concrete Specialties, [Jason Duke] Matco Electric Corporation, [Joe Tomazin and Will Simmons], the Village DPW [Bill Foster, Steve Pado and Scot Combs] and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Village Board of Trustees and the Mayor were a big help and supported us in the project. Most importantly, we want to thank the Cooley's for this wonderful donation to the Village. Come Spring, we will begin a landscaping project around the clock. In the meantime it looks nice in the snow. We hope you are enjoying the decorations on the band stand.

If anyone is interested in joining our group, please call 642-3414. You don't need any special gardening skills--just a desire to keep our Village looking great!

Judy Eldridge, President, Tillers and Toilers Garden Club

NV HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR:

Jan. 11 Shuttles & Spindles Guild @ Lansing, NY, 10-4. Call Denise 642-5568.

Jan. 18 Cooking/Guides Guild: meeting 10-2 @ Rollie Noble Room (3rd Sat. of each month).

Feb. 1 Black Powder Guild's annual Groundhog Shoot, 10-12 (with paper targets @ Bement-Billings Farmstead's Black Powder Range) Call Joe for info: 723-8405.

Feb. 8 Shuttles & Spindles Guild: Spinning 10-2 @ Rollie Noble Room. Call Denise 642-5568.

Feb. 15 Cooking/Guides Guild, stone soup 10-2 @ Lil's house.

March 8 Shuttles & Spindles Guild: Spinning 10-2 @ Rollie Noble Room. Call Denise 642-5568.

March 15 Guides Guild: costuming 10-2 @ Rollie Noble Room.

April 10 NV Historical Society's Annual Meeting & Dish-to-Pass Dinner, 6 PM @ Fire Station.

April 12 Shuttles & Spindles Guild: Spinning 10-2 @ Rollie Noble Room. Call Denise 642-5568.

April 19 Cooking/Guides Guild meeting, TBA.

April 19 Blacksmith Guild, 10-3 @ Bement-Billings Farmstead's Blacksmith Shop (3rd Sat. of each month through Oct.) Doug 669-4489.

April 26 NV Historical Society's Benefit Auction, 6-9 PM @ NV Fire Station. 642-9516.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Studio 34 – 9 North Main Street
(Opening soon)

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