



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWARK VALLEY JANUARY 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR:

Hello Everyone,

Holiday Magic is a wonderful way to honor this spiritual time of year. It may be secular in nature; however by looking at the young at heart eyes; tells us all the story and the meaning of giving and life. This is the rationale for all faiths and beliefs to join in harmony. In addition to those matters our Class "C" NYS Champion Cardinal Football Team, Coaches and Cheerleaders along with Santa were the hit of the Parade. Snow, Music, Gingerbread Houses, Depot Living Nativity, Food at the Depot and Noble Room, Santa and the Parade bring fun and some joy to the Valley. These events come at a dollar cost and many, many volunteer hours. The collective royal "we" require more volunteers to step up and continue these community events. We are not a populated area depending on part and full time paid staff. These events continue based on our Village and Town stipends and the hard work and efforts of many volunteers. Who do you contact to volunteer? The Newark Valley Historical Society at 642.9516 (or) info@nvhistory.org; the Newark Valley Village Office at 642.8686 (or) villageofnewarkvalley@stny.rr.com (or) Village of Newark Valley Facebook page.

Your Village Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Kasmarcik along with your Village Trustees and Attorney Frank Como are developing different legalities for property maintenance. Distressed properties not in foreclosure, unlicensed vehicles and other property maintenance issues are an important function for Municipalities. Your Village has been spending too much time enforcing codes in Local Court with residents out of compliance. The Village is not ignoring the properties many are complaining about; however, it does take time as some of the landowners choose to ignore the property maintenance standards we all hope for. Please tour your Village and tell us what you think about our call for enforcing "zombie properties", unlicensed and older/classic vehicles not covered or in garages, unofficial multiple cars for sale and any other methods of improving real value of property. Real value of property is being depressed by the community's varying levels of upkeep and a sense of Community Pride. We are aware of assistance programs for property maintenance, contact this office for information.

We have reported to you previously that I approached the Newark Valley Town Board in April 2016 concerning

salt/sand/plowing of Village streets. Our thought is: Village residents pay similar tax rate to the Town as Town landowners. Thusly, if the rate is similar then Village pays for town roads; so Town should plow Village Streets. The Towns of Barton, Candor and Nichols do plow/sand/salt the Village streets due to this tax rate philosophy. Trustee Cliff Alexander and your Mayor met with Councilman Joe Tomazin and Supervisor Stu Yetter, concerning this opportunity for services as many other municipalities perform. Attached to this newsletter are the responses from Supervisor Yetter and Town DPW Charles Meade. (Attachment A) The bottom line is: Villagers pay the similar tax rate to Town Government yet we do not get the services. Our comments in many e-mails with the Town were two opportunities: significantly lower Town tax rate to Village landowners (or) plow/sand and salt Village roads. No other Town municipality in Tioga County taxes their Village landowners; with such onerous costs as Newark Valley. It is unfortunate that Town collects the tax and does not perform the service. We will continue to bring forward shared thinking to our Town Council in the future.

We believe updating real value to the assessment rolls is a fairness essential. Newark Valley Town has the lowest equalization rate in all of Tioga County and that is not a good thing. That means assessment values are outdated and largely incorrect. I believe the last valuation was 1989 when real estate values were much different. I will give you some examples. A house sold last year for a bit over forty thousand

dollars. After the sale the new assessment by the Town is fourteen thousand. You may wish to speak to your Town Council on these matters. Oh well, on to the next opportunity.

Your Village Office and Public Works are working toward March 2017 to February 2018 Budget preparation. Trustees and Mayor will review and possibly adjust and resolute in middle January. We do see minor increases within the tax cap necessary and we will report as time goes by. This coming spring and summer will see Whig Street west side sidewalk construction; a result of two grants received by this office. Our multiyear capital plan is being created and we will present to the Public this coming summer. It will include, but not limited to: Municipal Building window upgrade, LED streetlight installation, additional playground equipment at the Trout Ponds and other projects in the planning stages.

We are working with Smart Watt, along with the Village of Owego and Town of Owego to “own and lamp” the one hundred sixty-four (164) fixtures in the Village. This Capital Lease arrangement payback is not yet complete; however, it will be less than ten years. At the end of the payback due to this arrangement and to the ten year warranty on LED, wattage cost will significantly decrease to those of us in the Village. Trustees and Staff agree this is a method of lighting improvement and dollar cost reduction.

We mentioned in previous letters to your community that NYS Comptrollers were performing an audit for your

Village of Newark Valley. Their findings were helpful to your Mayor and Trustees in formalizing our Capital Project format. The audit result was complimentary to our Village operation, financial compliance and our forward thinking. They, in fact, pointed to our tax saving methods. Please see the Comptroller attachment which is also on our website. (Attachment B)

*Be safe,
Jim Tornatore
Mayor*

CLERK'S REPORT:

We held our Public Hearing for the 2017-18 budget on January 10th. Following the public hearing the budget was adopted. A copy is in the village office for review.

The end of our fiscal year 2016-17 is fast approaching; any unpaid water, solid waste, lawn mowing and snow plowing, and any others bills remaining unpaid after February 15th will be levied to your next tax bill. We must receive payment, in the village office, on or before February 13th to avoid placement on your next village tax bill. Taxes will go out on or before March 1st, 2017. We will collect taxes, and penalties, in this office until October 31st, 2017, at which time they will be turned over to the county and added to your next town tax bill.

We will begin collecting taxes March 1st, 2017 and will be collecting them until October 31st from this office. Please pay the exact amount due as we cannot accept anything in a different amount. Feel free to call the office to get the

correct amount. 642-8686. Keep in mind that 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 with a voided check attached. Form is on the website villageofnewarkvalley.com or stop by the village office.

In December our Solid Waste truck broke down and we could not pick garbage until Thursday. We received many calls at the office asking about the pickup. Remember, you can check the Village website or Facebook page as we post these kind of things on these two sites. Also, if you subscribe to our website you will receive emails regarding village activity.

The **Planning Board** has been diligently working on updating the Village of Newark Valley Master Plan. The last survey went out in 2004 and much has been accomplished, so please be a part of the communities future needs by completing the **attached survey** (Attachment C) and return it to the Village of Newark Valley by January 31st by mail, email, drop box, or just bring it by and we will see it gets to the Planning Board for further review. If you have any questions please contact Sandy Kasmarcik at 642-8618. Thanking you in advance.

Think Positive - Next newsletter will be in April and spring will be upon us!

Happy New Year!

Mertie Pozzi

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Winter is here and looks a lot different than last year. Please remember to help clear snow from Fire hydrants and the DPW will help continue to remove snow from hydrants and corners and walks and roads.

§ 140-27_Responsibility of property owner; snow and ice removal. [1]

[Added 10-13-2015 by L.L. No. 3-2015]

Where sidewalks exist. All owners of Village real property which abuts upon or is contiguous to a public sidewalk shall be responsible for the maintenance of said sidewalk, and shall be required to keep such sidewalk reasonably clear of snow and ice, and shall not permit the same to accumulate.

At all times there must be a clear path of a minimum of three feet wide over the sidewalk.

§ 140-32_Time limit for removal of snow and ice.

[Amended 3-11-2014 by L.L. No. 1-2014; 10-13-2015 by L.L. No. 3-2015]

A.The Village Board deems it to be a matter of public safety and that from October 1 of each year until April 15 of the following year the following time limits for removal of snow and ice shall be in effect, and the property owner shall be responsible for the removal of ice and snow within the time limits prescribed below without any further notice by the Village:

(1) Snow and ice shall be removed within 24 hours after the end of a snowfall on noncommercial establishments.

(2) Sidewalks in front of commercial establishments and commercial parking lots shall be kept free of snow and ice at all times between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

B. The failure to remove ice and snow in the time period set forth above shall be deemed to be a public emergency, thus allowing the Village to have such ice and snow removed, pursuant to **§ 140-29I(3)(a)** above, without any further notice to the property owner.

As you know if the DPW has to remove snow from walks there is a charge for equipment and a minimum of 1 (one) hour labor to the property owner. Please take care of your walks so we (DPW) don't have to.

By now you know we had a mechanical issue with the sanitation truck, we have had it repaired and is now back in use, we did have to contract a truck the week the truck was down. I know this was an inconvenience to all residents and I apologize for that but thank you for your patience and we did pick up all extra garbage that Thursday and following Monday to help for the inconveniences.

*Thank You
Bill Foster
DPW Supervisor*

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:
GET YOUR MOTOR**

RUNNING.....or if that unlicensed vehicle isn't going anywhere and you need to openly store it outside an enclosed structure, there's a permit for that! Check out CHAPTER 95 regarding those unregistered vehicles waiting for those missing parts, or a sale that will bring it to a good home. So backyard mechanics and parents fostering their child's vehicle until their return, fill out an easy peasy form! So don't let the simplicity of NOT getting the form bring

you to Town Court, as this is where violations get resolved (and here comes the Judge!) Vehicle codes are being updated and fee schedule is currently being revised.

IS IT HOT IN HERE?....if you have had a newly installed fire place, pellet, wood or coal stove, boiler or gas unit here's hoping it is providing you warmth and comfort. Anyone considering a change in heat source needs to obtain a permit before the work is started. Reputable vendors will provide an illustrated description of the unit and their insurance for this office, and after installment the vendor should test. This office will follow up with the vendor for confirmation of safety test, and/or do a brief inspection of the unit as well. Ring in the New Year with peace of mind while staying cozy & safe (and your dog doesn't have to warm your feet anymore!

'TIS THE SEASONIt is the season where visions of snow & ice covered sidewalks dance in our heads, with the weary thoughts of trying to undo Mother Nature's mischief and wrath. Per Village Code (see Village website villageofnewarkvalley.com) Chapter 140, ARTICLE V, Snow/Ice Removal, REMOVAL IS TO BE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE END OF A SNOWFALL. If the snow/ice is not cleared within 24 hours of snowfall's end, OR within 4 hours of notice from the Office of Code Enforcement, the sidewalk can be deemed to pose an immediate public threat, allowing the Village to have the snow/ice removed by the Department of Public Works. Expenses incurred for labor, equipment and materials will be billed to the owner....and that can be a

heapful of salt to the wound! Sidewalks are to be clear of snow and ice more than a shovel's width!! It only makes sense to keep your sidewalk safe.....if you can't walk on it safely neither can anyone else, and that includes family, friends, mail carriers and those community members who need to walk to school, work and the store.....not to mention those individuals who walk regularly as part of their healthy routine! (I applaud you from my couch!) Those community members who are physically unable to clear their sidewalks, reach out to a neighbor, church group, boy or girl scout troop for a helping hand; those of you who have 'adopted' a neighbor and are helping out every winter... you are a bright light in this season of giving.

Regarding codes or work projects, when in doubt, check it out. At www.villagenv.com website, click under "codes"; go to NYS, Village of Newark Valley Tioga County and all you need is there.

Scott Kasmarcik

**ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS
AT THE TROUT PONDS:**

administered regionally by The ARTS
Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.

Great news! We have again been approved for a grant from The Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes for our summer concert series. We will have a variety of music genres by local artists.

Now we need to think spring!

We will be entertained by:

Watts on Tap	June 10 th
Next to Kin	July 22 nd
Terry Patrick and the Busy Birds	August 19 th

We are very grateful to The Arts Council for this opportunity. This project is made possible, in part, with public funds from NYSICA's Decentralization Program,

**FROM THE MAYOR, VILLAGE TRUSTEES, CLERK'S OFFICE AND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: Have a safe and happy winter!**

Village Holidays: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day (Thursday & Friday), Christmas Day.

Village Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 PM in the Noble Room, 9 Park Street.

Office hours: Monday – Thursday 9 AM – 5 PM. Friday 9 AM to 12 PM