



**\*\*\*VILLAGE NEWSLETTER\*\*\***

***NEWSLETTER OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWARK VALLEY***  
***October 2016***

**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR:**

Hello to all,  
The Village Trout Ponds playground equipment appropriate to age's two to five is ready for the rigors and enthusiasm of the children. Parents of the young; please bring the kids to play; sit on the two new benches and watch the fun. This project success is due to the industrious work of Village resident Rachel Smith, Village Deputy Clerk Pam Benthin, Village Trustee Cliff Alexander and Supervisor of Village Public Works Bill Foster. Most importantly, this project funding exceeding forty thousand dollars is made possible by the 'Floyd Hooker Foundation'. Our deepest appreciation goes to the Foundation Board of Directors for allowing this to happen. We will host a ribbon cutting Sunday, October 16th for this equipment inviting the Foundation and our Public. The Ribbon Cutting will be during the "Monster Bash" at the Trout Ponds. This playground and the earlier tree planting projects are the first of multiple phases to update and improve our Trout Ponds area. In a following year we plan update of older children playground equipment along with a third pavilion for our residents. Please take your young children and enjoy this new area. Our Southern Tier economy has yet to catch up to other areas so we

believe these park grounds improve our surroundings.

Your Village has filed preliminary partial funding for next years "Music at the Park". We will see if budget constraints overrules our objective to continue this program. I should remind everyone that these programs set us apart from other Villages with our population and we wish it to continue as long as residents enjoy. Our average attendance is a bit over one hundred ten people at each of the three concerts. Your Village hosts the Youth Summer Program along with the Towns of Berkshire, Newark Valley and Richford. Our Director Heidi Cardone has reached out for new opportunities with the kids and creating additional participation. This year Tioga Opportunities provided a food supply called the 'Backpack Program' which will expand next summer. We will meet with Heidi soon for the years wrap up.

Saturday morning, October 22nd from 9:30AM to 11:00AM NYS Senator Fred Akshar will host a Legislative 'Meet and Greet' question and answer session in the Noble Room at your Village Hall. Fred Akshar represents our 52nd Senate District. Come in, talk to the Senator, ask the questions that are on your mind. Look for this meeting update on our web [www.villageofnewarkvalley.com](http://www.villageofnewarkvalley.com) or

Facebook: Village of Newark Valley as we draw closer to October 22nd.

Early last spring I announced a Federal grant award to your Village administered through NYS Department of Transportation. The 'safe to school' project for the west side of Whig Street assured federal highway funding and a portion due by the landowners along the way. In early Spring I did begin search for additional grants to cover the landowner cost. Two weeks ago we did receive funding award for the full landowner stipend. Your Village will begin the bid process for early next year installation. When this project is complete; we will begin federal highway grant searches once again. It is too early for the Trustees and Sidewalk Committee to determine the walkways most in need; however, we will report and proceed. I have mentioned before that our funding searches, grant writing and report filings do take many hours of your Mayor and Office. I share with all of you; our successes however; I do not share those times we do not succeed. Our success rate is substantial and that is what you pay us for.

I did mention our one half million dollar funding initiative for demolition of the Five Clinton Street Ladder Factory. This Restore NY 2016 project was due October 3rd and we did submit our request along with over two hundred other communities requesting those same awards. We will see how it goes and report when Empire State Development responds.

You may remember from our Village Summer Newsletter and the Autumn

Town of Newark Valley Supervisor's letter to the public that we are discussing snowplowing, salt/sand road review with the Town of Newark Valley. Those discussions continue. Village Trustee Cliff Alexander, Town Councilman Joe Tomazin, Town Supervisor Stu Yetter and your Mayor will report to our Boards with the eventual actions and report to the community. Services to community are somewhat predicated on the greater good to all.

In early summer NYS Comptrollers visited the Village and completed their Audit of Operations and Finance. We have not received their final review; however, early indication is very positive. I believe our taxpayers will be very pleased with the Audit compilation and review recommendations. In case you wonder; your Village does not hold on to bundles of your money and our Fund Balances are within Comptroller guidelines. When the Comptrollers allow, we will post those results on our website [www.villageofnewarkvalley.com](http://www.villageofnewarkvalley.com)

The Sunday morning, September 11th memorial on the Village Green was a wonderful spiritual event hosted by Pastor Ben and our First Baptist Church. Speakers from our Fire Department, Church and Village were a Joyful noise.

Our Village Office is open 9AM to 5PM Monday through Thursday and Friday 9AM to Noon. We now provide hunting, trapping and fishing licenses to all. Our clerks inform me we will accept credit and debit card payment along with the more normal cash or check.

We have on display 'New York State Hunting & Trapping' magazines along with 'NY Freshwater Fishing Guides' for your reading pleasure. Counter Clerk 'Kathy' states; the purchase takes about two minutes, which is much less time than sighting your first deer. Certainly, much more convenient than going over the hill to sporting outlets.

Numerous landowners or tenants in your Village have one or more unregistered or junk (distressed) vehicles on properties. We have worked with those involved and basically; it is not as successful as it should be. Property upkeep or lack of property upkeep impacts our neighborhoods. Please understand, Code Enforcement court action is necessary and we will proceed in that manner. One of our many priorities is 'property maintenance' so we have and will ticket when necessary. We believe residents should not negatively impact their neighbors through lack of property maintenance. We hope those not in compliance will learn from these words.

Newark Valley Historical Society Apple Festival at the Bement Billings Farmstead, Stoughton's Farm Corn Maze and Autumn Festivities, October 16th Monster Bash at the Trout Ponds and the December 10th Holiday Magic...those fun things to enjoy in the Valley. These events make us the unique area we believe it to be.

Our wish for safe journey to all,  
*Jim Tornatore*  
*Mayor*

### CLERK'S REPORT:

Fall is beautiful! Enjoy watching the leaves change colors.

We just went through a complete audit from the State Comptroller's Office (four weeks' worth) and awaiting results. When we receive the results they will be placed on our village website and available in the village office for your review.

We will soon begin preparing our **budget** for the 2017-18 fiscal year (March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018). We will have a public hearing before the adoption of the budget, which will be sometime in January. Watch the website, Facebook, or the Tioga County Courier for dates.

**Taxes** will be returned to the County on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Taxes must be in the correct amount, including penalties, and into the village office no later than the close of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Please call the village office for the correct amount due. If the amount is incorrect we cannot accept it. If your taxes go back to the county they will be added to your next town tax bill.

The village office has been busy filing for the RESTORE NY grant and DASNY application. These grants are very time consuming, but also rewarding as we know we are saving taxpayers' dollars while doing so!

As you know, we now offer Hunting/Fishing licenses. Our office hours are Monday – Thursday 9AM to 5PM, and Fridays 9AM to noon.

We will be planning the Joint Youth Recreation Program meeting sometime in October. The joint program consists of the Village of Newark Valley and the Towns of Newark Valley, Berkshire, and Richford.

Pam Benthin, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and I attended the NYCOM (New York Conference of Mayors) Fall Training School for City and Village Officials, and again brought back some good information. Things are constantly changing, and being added to our reporting requirements; therefore, requiring us to attend these trainings to keep updated of all the changes that take place. We can quickly fall behind if we do not attend!

Watch for our next newsletter in January 2017!!! Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

*Mertie Pozzi*

### **CLEANUP & BRUSH AND LEAVES**

#### Brush

October 18th  
November 1st

#### Leaves

October 19th  
November 2nd

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

The DPW has been busy this summer, with only two employees, we were still able to remove the buildup of gravel in Slosson creek to help avoid any flooding on Brook St. The DPW was able to finish the road work for the summer even with many scheduling delays. The Trout Pond Park play ground is under construction now so it

will probably be ready before you read this. Regular mowing and maintenance was completed and vehicle maintenance is being worked on for the coming winter months, sanders will be installed in October and plows will be tested. As a reminder winter parking will start on November 1<sup>st</sup> and last till April 1<sup>st</sup>. No parking on Highway, Private or public roads, Municipal parking lots and Park St. in the Village of Newark Valley between 12:00 midnight to 6:00 am. All will be towed at owner's expense and/or ticketed.

The water department has been on an as needed basis until the full staff is available, then we will be flushing hydrants and testing valves and water pressure; we have been able to monitor water loss to insure that no leaks have developed and checking well water depths to be sure our residents don't have problems. At this time our well water depth has not changed regardless of the lack of rain or water in the creek. It is still advisable to monitor your use of water and decrease whenever you can.

The recyclables are still showing up in the Monday garbage, so please sort out the recyclables and put them out on Friday morning for Taylor truck, contact Taylor at 687-6710 with questions. You can recycle everything from paper plates, magazines, newspapers to store bags, cans and bottles with no deposit on it.

Thank You,

*Bill Foster*  
*DPW Supervisor*

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

With sales of homes occurring, and with the Fall season, new and current owners are coming in and getting permits for renovations pre-winter. Many good questions have been received via Code email at [vonvcode@stny.rr.com](mailto:vonvcode@stny.rr.com), and by phone at 642-8686....so kudos to those do-it-yourselfers out there tackling projects large and small. Any contractor hired will be asked to have insurance information faxed to the office to attach to the permit application, that either the owner or contractor can complete. Recreational fires continue in fire pits. Reminder that no painted material or treated wood (hazardous chemicals released), no brush/leaves or household garbage can be burned. Fire pits are to be no more than three (3) foot by three (3) foot area and can be manufactured or self-built. As always, common sense prevails when using with regard to wind conditions; a nearby bucket of dirt or water or water hose is a good idea too....better safe than sorry. LESS letters are going out to property owners for property maintenance, i.e. lawn mowing, as owners are mowing timely! This office is sending letters and bills on vacant properties as well. Reminder that mowing/weed cutting by Dept. of Public Works can be sizeable, as bills include labor (one hour minimum) and equipment used. Letters are also being sent for unregistered vehicles. Per Village Code, only one unregistered vehicle allowed on a property at one time. There is a 30 day form FREE of CHARGE to have vehicle in order to repair, or to sell. After 30 days, there is a permit for 3

MONTHS that costs \$25 if repair and/or sale will take longer. The bottom line is that court action will happen for those who do not comply, with fines and/or removal.

So keep calling and emailing your questions. Believe me, office staff will locate me in the field via email or text! Every effort is made to get back to you within 24 hours.

*Scott Kasmarcik  
Code Enforcement Officer*

## **ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS AT THE TROUT PONDS:**

A great time was had by many on three separate weekends this summer. We were fortunate to have three wonderful bands entertain both Village and non-Village residents of all ages. Thank you to all who came and were entertained while enjoying our beautiful Trout Ponds.

We are hoping to be able to continue this tradition next year. We are actively working on obtaining funding.

These projects are made possible, in part, with public funds administered by The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and funded by the New York State Council on the Arts.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**  
**Newark Valley Historical Society 2016**

CALENDAR UPDATES AT [nvhistory.org](http://nvhistory.org)  
(607) 642-9516

*Join Us in Celebrating Our First 40 Years!*

Weekends **Bement-Billings House OPEN FOR TOURS** each Saturday and Sunday, 12-4 PM through Oct. 2.

Sept. 30 **40th Birthday BBQ & Concert** at the Farmstead: chicken dinners \$8, by pre-sale tickets only: available at Cardinal Cafe and NVHS, PO Box 222, Newark Vly, 13811. Free concert!

Oct. 1-2 **37th Annual Apple Festival:** 10 AM-5 PM @ Bement-Billings Farmstead Museum; \$6 adults, \$5 members, \$4 students & senior citizens, \$18 family rate. Music, dance, great food, history, tours, crafts, costumed demonstrators, spinning & weaving, kids' activities, gift shop, black powder public shoot. (607) 642-9516.

Oct. 15 **Flintknapping II:** 9 AM-1 PM @ Bement-Billings Pavilion. Percussion of large pieces with *Mike McGrath*. \$70/\$65 NVHS members, for all materials & tools. Register by 8/25/16: (607) 642-5412. *Folk Art Series* NYSCA-Dec. [See [mike@susquehanna-wd.com](mailto:mike@susquehanna-wd.com)]

Oct. 15 **Blacksmith Guild:** 10-3 @ Bement-Billings Farmstead's Blacksmith Shop. Doug: (607) 669-4489.

Oct. 20 **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:** 6 PM @ St. John's Church. Bring a dish to pass. (607) 642-9516.

Nov. 11 **Veterans' Dinner:** 4 PM @ St. John's Church; for veterans of Berkshire, Newark Valley, & Richford. RSVP (607) 642-9516.

Nov. 12 **Shuttles & Spindles Guild:** Christmas party, details TBA.

Dec. 9 **Christmas Open House:** 4-8 PM @ Depot.

Dec. 10 **Holiday Magic:** 4-8 PM @ NV Depot, Village Green, & Noble Room; (607) 642-9516.

**FROM THE MAYOR, VILLAGE TRUSTEES, CLERK'S OFFICE AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**  
**Have a safe and wonderful fall.**

**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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**