

---

---

# CAYUGA HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

---

---

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 1999

## Report of the Mayor

Spring and approaching summer of 1999 will bring the new leaves on trees and shrubs, lawns to be tended, and flower and vegetable gardens to revitalize and enjoy. Our Public Works people will be trimming shrubbery at or near street intersections to give better visibility to both vehicles and pedestrians. Please call if you see a problem spot that has been missed.

Our Village Forester, David Pimentel, suggests the following: "All of us are concerned about chemical pollution. We can all help reduce the chemical pollution problem by applying pesticides only when essential. With trees, only about once in ten years do we have a serious insect or plant pathogen problem that requires treatment. Some of the spray operators like to treat our trees and shrubs every year whether there is a problem or not.

Lawns are often treated for insect and disease problems again when there is not a problem. Some of the pesticides applied to lawns and trees run off and end up in streams and lakes. The larger the quantities of chemicals used, the greater the environmental pollution problems."

We will continue to pick up yard waste on the first and third Fridays each month. Grass clippings will not be picked up, as it might put pesticides in the compost pile. Yard waste should be put at the roadside only shortly before the scheduled pick-up.

The Intermunicipal projects mentioned in the March newsletter continue in their planning stage, and hopefully will be activated soon. The intermunicipal aspects do entail concurrence of all the municipal governing boards, with differing concepts and details to be worked out. The projects, i.e., water, sewer, transportation and traffic, and cable service, will when completed be advantageous to all of us.

The proposal of Tom-Tran for more frequent buses and added routes this fall will add convenience, and should result in fewer cars on our busy streets.

**Ronald Anderson, Mayor**

## Report of the Clerk

June is Village tax time and this newsletter is sent to you along with your Tax Bill, unless there have been previous arrangements for your tax bill to be sent directly to your Bank or Mortgage Institution. Your tax payments should be made by June 30, by mailing or bringing that payment to the Village office at 836 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Late payments made July 1 – July 30, please add a 5% penalty. Payments made between August 1 and August 31, please add a 6% penalty, and add another 1% for each month beyond that that the payment is late. If the payment is not made by November 1, 1999, by law the unpaid taxes are turned back to the county for relevy and will no longer be accepted at the Village Office. Payment may be made by check or cash, but we do not accept credit cards or monthly payments. Please pay on a timely basis and avoid the penalties.

I have also includes the updated Village Informational Brochure. It is designed to answer your questions about personnel, services, and important Village phone numbers. Please keep this document for referral through out the year. You will note that on Page 6 there is a listing of the dates for pickup of Yard Waste, Bulky Trash and Recycling. If you have questions about trash or yard refuse collection, please call the Village Barn at 257-6166 and call Tompkins County Waste at 273-6632 for questions about Recycling collection. Remember – Independence Day is observed on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> in the Village so the pickups will be delayed one day all week.

Our new Board of Trustees Member, Judith Dunning has been the caretaker of the lovely garden surrounding Marcham Hall for many years. She reports that the garden was planted in 1989 and that over the years the hollies have been replaced by ornamental grasses, and that sedum, peonies, spring bulbs and hostas have been added. The daylilies were divided and some were sold, the calendulas were reseeded, and weed killer, fertilizer and mulch have been added. Some of the original plants are still doing well, but others need to be replaced. She notes that the Village would welcome any monetary contributions for the garden's maintenance. She is also looking for a volunteer to clean and oil the wooden bench.

This is the second issue of the new quarterly Village Newsletter. If you did not receive the first issue, I still have some at the Village Office, unfortunately some addresses were omitted in the first distribution, and the post office did not forward them if you were away. If you know anyone who has not received this letter, please call so that I can add his or her name to the mailing list.

**Betty Kord, Village Clerk**

### **Report of the Village Justice**

The Village Court's docket includes four categories of cases: vehicle and traffic, parking, criminal, and civil. The total number of cases increased almost 40 percent in 1998 as compared to 1997.

<u>Case Types</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Vehicle + Traffic Law (V+TL)	778	1207
Parking	132	85
Criminal (excluding V+TL)	27	31
Civil	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
Total Cases	941	1326
Total Monies Collected	\$43,025	\$72,451
Number of V+TL Trials	54	67

Vehicle and traffic law matters account for the majority of the court's cases and increased significantly from 778 in 1997 to 1207 in 1998. While the increases were generally uniform among the subcategories speeding cases, jumped from 350 in 1997 to 551 in 1998. More encouraging, though, alcohol/drug related driving offenses dropped to 6 in 1998 as compared with the early 1990's when we annually averaged 27 cases per year.

One of the most important categories of cases are the criminal matters, i.e., non-traffic violations, misdemeanors, and felonies. The numbers shown above as "criminal" do not include the misdemeanors and felonies which are also vehicle and traffic matters (e.g. aggravated unlicensed operation, leaving the scene of an injury accident, driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, etc.). Therefore, again the actual criminal case numbers are under reported. In any instance, the totals have dropped to less than half of what they were five years ago: 88 in 1994, 88 in 1995, 67 in 1996, 27 in 1997, 31 in 1998.

Civil cases are the smallest category of cases (4 in 1997, 3 in 1998), but they tend to be very time consuming and often require longer trials and written opinions. All are initially referred to the Community Dispute Resolution Center.

There was substantial increase in the fines and surcharges collected (\$43,025 for 941 cases in 1997 vs. \$72,451 for 1326 cases in 1998) and the number of trials (54 in 1997, 67 in 1998).

In addition to the case activity, I performed an inspection of the Tompkins County Jail and attended or taught at two all day training sessions in 1998. The Court Clerk also attended a full day of training.

In sum, the year has seen a large, but not overwhelming increase in our caseload. Our new phone and computer systems are greatly improving the Court's efficiency, and the transition between police chiefs has gone quite smoothly.

**Glenn G. Galbreath, Village Justice**

## **Report of the Superintendent of Public Works**

Although the Village does not have any bridges within our jurisdiction, the north abutment of the bridge on Renwick Drive that cross' Pleasant Grove Brook into the Town of Ithaca is on the Village side of the stream. This bridge is in need of replacement. Since, the Tompkins County Public Works Department has assumed the maintenance responsibilities on all Town bridges, they will be in charge of the reconstruction process. They will be responsible for the cost of the bridge structure only. The Village will be responsible for the improvements to the approach of the bridge on the north side. This includes new pavement, drainage, guide rails, signs, etc. The Town of Ithaca will be responsible for the approach improvements on their side of the bridge. The estimated cost of the entire project is approximately \$602,000.

The good news is that this bridge project has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration for funding under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA). This means that 80% of the project will be reimbursed by the Federal Government. Additionally, the New York State Department of Transportation has agreed to pay 15% of the project cost through a program known as Marchicelli Funding. Tompkins County will cover 80% of the remaining expenses, with the Town and the village dividing the remaining 1%. Therefore, the Village's local share of this project is \$3,010 is a reasonable level of participation when compared to the cost of the approach improvements on the Village's side of the bridge.

The project is expected to be let out for bids in the spring, and the construction is expected to happen during the summer with completion by the end of the year. The construction requires demolition of the existing structure; therefore Renwick Drive will be closed to traffic during the entire construction process.

**Brent Cross, Engineer**

## **Report from the Police Department**

This past year has been extremely busy at the Cayuga Heights Police Department. Since August 1998 we have seen several personnel changes within the department. Chief David Wall retired in August of 1998. David is now spending his days serving the fine people of Newfield by working at the Newfield DPW and of course spending time with his family. The position of Chief has been taken over by the very capable hands of Kenneth W. Lansing. Ken previously held the Sergeant's position at the Police Department and has been serving the residents of Cayuga Heights since November of 1974. Ken not only brings his broad knowledge of law enforcement to the Chief's position, but he also brings compassion for the residents he serves as well, specifically the children. To the children Ken is a very familiar face within the area schools where he is known as Officer Ken the DARE Officer. Ken has been teaching DARE in the area schools for several years, no one is quite sure who enjoys it more, Ken or the children!!! The entire staff looks forward to working with Ken in his new position as Chief of Police. He has already implemented some exciting changes within the Police Department.

Another personnel change within the department has been the hiring of a new part-time Police Clerk. Laurenda Denmark, who also works full-time for the Ithaca College Campus Safety Division, filled the position. Laurenda did her internship here at the Cayuga Heights Police Department when she was a student at Cortland State University, she won't let us say though how many years ago that was...

The last personnel change was the hiring of Officer David Lanning. David came to us from the Ithaca Police Department where he worked full-time as a Police Officer and he also

worked part-time here at the Cayuga Heights Police Department. David is a native of the area and received his degree from Cornell University. He is also a volunteer fireman for the Spencer Fire Department as well as an instructor at area fire departments. Other than these changes, the personnel at the Cayuga Heights Police Department are the same. The Police Clerk is Jean Eaton and the full-time Police Officers are Thomas Boyce, Robert Day, Jerry Cain and James Steinmetz. The Police Department has six part-time police officers and a vacancy for another. The entire staff at the Cayuga Heights Police Department is looking forward to the upcoming summer and the year to come. With several new changes already in place and more pending the coming year should be an exciting one.

### **Report of the Fire Chief**

During the last couple of months, your fire department has been busy responding to emergency calls and working on station and equipment improvements. The fire department is in the process of writing specifications to refurbish our 1975 Seagrave Engine. By refurbishing this vehicle, the Village will be saving a considerable amount of money by avoiding the purchase of a new engine. By today's standards, a new engine would cost at least \$275,000 whereas refurbishing the vehicle will cost less than \$100,000. The fire department is also putting plans together for an addition to the present station located on Pleasant Grove Road. The present station was built in the 1950's. Since then, the department has changed considerably as far as membership size (increase) and federal and state requirements. Some of the requirements and needs placed upon the fire department include decontamination & biohazard areas, larger training room, larger apparatus bays, and exhaust vents for the diesel fumes from the vehicles. There will also be additional bunkrooms for the volunteers to sleep at the station. The additional bunkrooms will provide more volunteer fire fighters to the scene on the first responding vehicles. The fire department has been working with Ross & Mitchell Associates, an architectural firm from Albany that specializes in the building of fire stations. The fire department will keep the residents informed of the progress.

As always, the fire department is looking for volunteers. Training is provided on a local and state level for individuals who want to be fire fighters or emergency medical providers. By having a well-trained volunteer department, a vital service is provided at a very low cost. For information, please call the fire department at 266-7454. We will be more than happy to provide the information with no obligation on your part.

**Bob Day, Fire Chief**

**Village of Cayuga Heights  
836 Hanshaw Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850**

**Telephone: 607/257-1238**