
CAYUGA HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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Report of the Mayor

The Village fire station will be the site of building activity beginning this spring. Additional space and improved facilities will be included to meet current OSHA and New York Fire Safety Codes as well as added training facilities, up-dated radio system, department offices, and space for additional volunteer bunkers. Our Fire Department is fortunate to have many volunteers from Cornell and Ithaca College who provide fire fighting and EMS services in exchange for living quarters. This expansion is to be finished during the fall so that the trucks can be back inside before winter.

Kendal at Ithaca expects to open their enlarged health care facility this April, including space for 24 residents, 2 new dining rooms, and a kitchen facility.

Intermunicipal activities include work toward an agreement to expand the Bolton Point water service area to include Cornell and the City of Ithaca, The Bolton plant and the Cornell plant will provide the water as the Ithaca plant is phased out. Improved water pressures in some areas and somewhat lower water rates should result for us.

The Joint Proposal to Improve the City and Cayuga Heights Wastewater Treatment Plants also moves forward, but slowly. The first phase will be an interconnect between the Cayuga Heights and City lines in the Kline Road area, to allow sewage from that area of the Village to flow to the City plant in measured quantity, and in turn allow us to treat sewage from the Town of Lansing in a similar gallonage. A future phase will add facilities at both plants to improve tertiary treatment to reduce the phosphorus levels of the effluent.

The quality of water in the lake is a major concern of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Management Plan. Water from 50 municipalities drains into Cayuga Lake, and thus far 28 have joined in an Intermunicipal Organization with a mission which includes creating, modifying, and implementing a plan which when completed will prioritize water quality problems and solutions. Additional recommendations for watershed protection should make the watershed more competitive for various funding opportunities - particularly the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

The Northeast Subarea Transportation Study (NESTS) Working Group, studying overall transportation problems in the sub-area and aided by public comment at several public presentations, summarized their recommendations in 1999 and forwarded them to the County Metropolitan Planning Organization for implementation. They identified the main challenges to be the maintenance and improvement of livability in the sub-area, and overall land use planning. Their goals and objectives include:

1. Improved mass transit - more routes and more frequent service.
2. Coordinated bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
3. Right-of-way study for a new roadway corridor from north to south, if needed as alternative connector for heavy traffic.
4. A comprehensive freight study to better balance economic well being with the impact of trucks on neighborhood streets and roads.

These larger goals can only be achieved by cooperative effort; a majority of the very specific suggestions relate to problems in a particular neighborhood, and must be implemented by the local municipality in its effort to keep or improve livability.

Finally, the Census 2000 becomes a reality in April, and the elaborate preparations by the Census Bureau in the past two years become a duty. A full and accurate count is important to us, as it influences funding from many State and Federal Programs.

Ronald Anderson, Mayor

Report of the Clerk

There will be an election of Village Officials held on March 21, 2000 at the Village Hall, 836 Hanshaw Road. The polls will be open from Noon until 9 PM. This year residents will be voting to fill the positions of Mayor, Village Justice, and of three Trustees. At this time all of the candidates are running unopposed. Mayor Ronald Anderson, Judge Glenn Galbreath, Trustees D. Wayne Fleming and Bruce Kusse are running for reelection. Walter Lynn is running to fill the trustee position being vacated by James Bisogni. The Mayoral and Trustee positions are two-year terms and the Justice term is four years. Absentee ballot applications are available at the Village office until March 20, 2000. I encourage all Village residents to vote and to participate in our local government.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has notified the Village that they are doing a study of factors influencing breeding success of cavity-nesting birds and need birdhouse "Landlords". If you would like more information on this project or would like to participate in the Birdhouse Network, please call (800) 843-2473, visit the Lab's web site at <http://birds.cornell.edu>, or send e-mail to birdhouse@cornell.edu.

Please note that there is an error on the recycling dates for April in the Orange Village Informational Brochure. The correct dates should be the 7th and 24th. The brochure will be rewritten and sent out with the Village tax bills in June.

Elizabeth Kord, Clerk

Report of the Superintendent of Public Works

The Village's Department of Public Works is a crew of ten full-time employees who are responsible for performing all duties that are the services offered by the Village to the taxpayers. The crew is made up of several different labor classifications with varying skills and responsibilities. The following is a list of the current employees with a brief description of the background and duties:

Mike Zona, Working Supervisor, is responsible for the oversight and direction of the full DPW staff on a daily basis. He also coordinates with suppliers and subcontractors who may be working with the staff on a specific project. Mike has been with the Village for 5 years and had previous experience as Highway Superintendent for another municipality.

Ed Quick, Senior Motor Equipment Operator, is responsible for coordinating the staff and materials for individual projects that are primarily related to water and sewer services. He is also responsible for the daily task of marking out the Village's utilities for private Contractors who are doing work, which involves excavation in the Village ROW.

Ed has been with the Village for 29 years and has worked his way up through the ranks as a Laborer and Motor Equipment Operator.

Tim Dupuy, Senior Motor Equipment Operator, is also responsible for coordination of the staff and materials for individual projects when multiple projects are being worked on, primarily projects that involve roadway construction/repairs. Tim has been with the Village for 20 years and has worked his way up through the ranks as a Laborer and Motor Equipment Operator.

Vacant, Mechanic, is responsible for the daily maintenance of the fleet of trucks, construction and refuse collection equipment, as well as maintaining service records on all vehicles. He will also coordinate employee safety programs that are required to comply with labor laws such as OSHA regulations.

Jeff Ellis, Motor Equipment Operator, is responsible for operating construction type equipment on construction/maintenance projects as well as driving snowplows during the winter season. Jeff has been with the Village for 11 years and started out as a Laborer.

Ralph Newhart, Motor Equipment Operator, has similar responsibilities as J. Ellis. Ralph has been with the Village for 12 years and started out as a Laborer.

Albert "Matt" Cooper, Motor Equipment Operator, is primarily responsible for driving and operating the garbage packer truck on the daily garbage pick-up routes, as well as picking up yard refuse and bulky trash on alternating Fridays. Matt has been with the Village for 10 years and started out as a Laborer.

David Snyder, Motor Equipment Operator, has similar responsibilities as J. Ellis and R. Newhart. David has been with the Village for 3 years and started out as a Laborer.

Mike Newhart, Laborer, is responsible for the "hands-on" work involved in the construction and maintenance of the Village's projects including water, sewer, and road projects. He has been with the Village for 5 years.

Chung You, Laborer, has responsibilities similar to M. Newhart. Chung has been with the Village for 2 years.

(4) Seasonal Laborers are hired each construction season on a temporary basis to assist on construction projects and fall leaf/brush pickup.

(1) Summer Laborer (usually a student) is hired to mow lawns and assist with general clean up and maintenance projects.

Brent Cross, Engineer

Report from the Police Department

With the good weather soon approaching I would like to remind the Village residents of a couple of items: first that the Village Local Law regarding the dog control ordinance states in part the following:

Any person owning or harboring any dog in the Village of Cayuga Heights shall be in violation of this Local Law if such dog, whether or not tagged or licensed and whether or not muzzled:

- a. is not restrained by an adequate collar and leash when not on the owner's property;
- b. engages in habitual long howling or barking so as habitually to annoy any person;

- c. causes damage or destruction to property, or defecates, urinates, or otherwise commits a nuisance other than on the premises of the person owning or harboring such dog;
- d. when not on the owner's property, chases or otherwise harasses any person in such manner as reasonably to cause intimidation or to put such person in reasonable apprehension of bodily harm or injury;
- e. habitually chases or barks at motor vehicles or bicycles.

If you own or harbor a dog please take note of this ordinance. The ordinance is in place for the safety and well being of the neighboring residents, but also for the safety of the dog. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this ordinance please feel free to contact the Police Department at 257-1011 during normal business hours.

The second item of concern is the vehicular traffic throughout the Village. With the nicer weather also come clear roadways which always seem to mean greater vehicular speeds. This past year the Police Department was fortunate to have received a very generous monetary gift from a Village resident to purchase a SCAT Trailer, which is a radar trailer, similar to those that the Ithaca Police Department uses in the City of Ithaca, The radar trailers are used to show a driver's speed. Our hope in purchasing and using a radar trailer is that is that this will make drivers more conscientious of their speeds while driving through the Village.

For the past eighteen years the local law enforcement agencies have been collecting donations of money and new toys at Christmas time for the Cops, Kids and Toys program. The response this year from the residents of Cayuga Heights was overwhelming! We would like to extend a sincere thank you from the Police Department staff. Also during the month of December the Police Department took the necessary precautions to see that all of their equipment was Y2K compatible. Extra personnel were also added to the schedule New Years Eve to ensure the safety of the Village residents. Fortunately there were no problems reported and all of the equipment switched from the year 1999 to the year 2000 without incident.

A personal change that I will be making this year is that is that I will be stepping down as the DARE Officer for the Cayuga Heights Elementary and Northeast Elementary Schools. I have found that as Chief of Police I can no longer dedicate the time and energy that is needed to being a DARE Officer. I am proud to announce that Officer David Lanning will now be taking over as the new DARE Officer. I am confident that David will be able to dedicate the time and energy to the position that it deserves. And I'm sure that he will enjoy the position and the children as much as I did.

Hopefully the nice weather will be arriving soon and with it residents will be starting to ride their bicycles more frequently. Please watch for bicyclists, especially the children, as you are driving throughout the Village of Cayuga Heights. Think Spring!

Kenneth Lansing, Chief of Police

Report from the Fire Department

Looking back, 1999 was an extremely busy year for the Cayuga Heights Fire Department. We responded to over 451 calls for Emergency Assistance. 245 of those required Emergency Medical Treatment while the remainder involved fire-fighting operations. The Volunteers of the Cayuga Heights Fire Department provided over 2000

hours of service to the community during 1999. If you are interested in seeing a complete copy of our Annual Report please contact the Fire Chiefs office at 266-7454.

As we move into the new millennium, an event we are happy to say took place without incident, the Fire Department has made some changes to help ensure your safety. The Rescue Squad has recently been certified by the New York State Department of Health to provide advanced pre-hospital life-support. This certification is to ensure that the residents of Cayuga Heights are getting the highest quality of medical care. Additionally, all Rescue Squad members have been issued photo ID tags in order to adequately identify themselves on emergency scenes. Along with the New Year came a renewed commitment to training for our firefighters. A revised training program designed to meet mounting requirements for firefighter's was instituted. This new program will ensure that the Cayuga Heights community will be served by some of the best-trained firefighters in the area.

As I write this letter plans for the addition/renovation to the fire station are being finalized. We are planning to break ground in the early spring, so we hope that you'll excuse our appearance throughout the construction. The new station will provide housing for additional live-in firefighters as well as provide increased meeting space for the many community organizations that currently use our facility.

The Cayuga Heights Fire Department is looking for community members interested in volunteering. For more information about the Fire Department please call 266-7454.

Michael DiVenti, Fire Chief

Report of the Village Justice

Excerpts from the Annual Report:

The numbers in total and for each of the four basic sub-categories of cases; vehicle and traffic, parking, criminal, and civil, remained constant between 1998 and 1999.

<u>Case Types</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Vehicle + Traffic Law (V+TL)	1207	1209
Parking	85	99
Criminal (excluding V+TL)	31	27
Civil	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Cases	1326	1339
Total Monies Collected	\$72,451	\$56,065
Number of V+TL Trials	67	69

While the case numbers are virtually the same as last year, there are differences within the Vehicle and Traffic Law sub-category which probably caused an increase in the number of dismissed cases and a reduction in the fines/surcharges collected. Speeding cases are the largest single case type and account for much of the monies collected, but the number of speeding cases dropped from 551 in 1998 to 412. At the same time, there was a significant increase in several categories of Vehicle and Traffic Law cases that typically end in dismissals and no monies collected, e.g. recent and promptly remedied expired vehicle inspections and registrations, equipment problems.

A couple of other points of note on the statistics include:

- there was a significant increase in stop sign and seat belt cases during 1999;

- criminal cases continue to be half (27) of what we had five years ago (88), and alcohol and drug related charges make up almost half of those; and
- although the number of Vehicle and Traffic Law trials continues in the high 60's, one was a two day jury trial.

Some non-statistical notes were:

- that the new Court Clerk, Patricia Button, and I attended several court education sessions,
- in November, I did an inspection of the Tompkins County Jail, - in December, I was elected the President of the Tompkins County Magistrate's Association; and
- we made an application to the New York Justice Court Assistance Program for funds to improve the Court's file storage, communication and public access.

Again, the Court is in session on all Tuesdays and the first Thursday of each month starting at 6:00 PM. The public is invited to observe.

Glenn G. Galbreath, Village Justice

Report of the Village Deer Committee

In the fall of 1998, a Cornell Department of Natural Resources survey indicated that 80% of Cayuga Heights residents believe there is a deer over-population problem in the Village. In response, the Trustees in December, 1999, approved a study to help evaluate the feasibility of various deer management options that might be used to address the problem. The Trustees have authorized Dr. Paul Curtis of Cornell's Department of Natural Resources to initiate an assessment of deer movement within the 1.8 square mile area of the Village and to obtain a more accurate deer count, which heretofore was supplied only through estimates by police and Village maintenance personnel.

Dr. Curtis has been conducting a similar deer study at Seneca Army Depot near Romulus, New York, during the past three years. The important difference between the Village and Seneca Depot is that the depot is fenced and the deer herd confined, while the deer are free to wander in and out of Cayuga Heights. During January to April, about 20-30 deer will be captured using 17 net cages which do not injure the deer. These deer will be fitted with ear tags and some with radio collars in order to allow tracking and monitoring. A new infrared camera technique will be used to determine deer population in the community. A pamphlet describing this study in more detail is available at the Village office.

In the fall of 2000 the Cayuga Heights Deer Committee will hold an open public meeting at which it is hoped all points of view on deer problems will have adequate opportunity to be heard. By January, 2001 deer movement and numbers will be determined and the feasibility of different deer management methods can then be evaluated critically. Villagers who sight deer with ear tags are asked to phone 255-5508.

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