
CAYUGA HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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Report of the Mayor

The Cayuga Heights Fire Station has been the site of much activity in the early days of May. The lease of the Collins property on the corner of Hanshaw and Warren will provide spaces for the bunkers and storage of the equipment not on the trucks for the rest of 2000. The station has been emptied, and asbestos removal is underway. The fire trucks and other vehicles are dispersed at the Village Barn and near the Village Hall until Town of Ithaca zoning procedures are met, at which time they will move to the Collins area. Contracts for the building have been let to the low bidders in five categories of work as proscribed by the New York Wicks Law (General Construction, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, and Sprinkler System), and the signing will occur as soon as the architect has checked their qualifications.

Census 2000 is in its final stages, with Enumerators checking for those who have not returned the form as yet. A full count of Village residents is vital to us, as it is the base for funding of many State and Federal programs.

Another census is on going in Cayuga Heights this year - The Deer Population Study by the Cornell Dept. of Natural Resources. Ear tags, neck collars and infrared cameras will allow an accurate count of the deer population and an assessment of their movement patterns. The Deer Committee will hold public meetings in late fall to allow discussion of deer problems.

The proposed Integrated Water System to include the Bolton Point partners and Ithaca and Cornell seems to be reaching a draft agreement in the near future. The governing bodies of all municipalities will then evaluate the draft.

The joint proposal to improve the City and Cayuga Heights sewage lines and the Wastewater Treatment plants has moved forward somewhat, but a formal project proposal to New York State is not yet ready. The necessary meetings of all parties are now more frequent, and we hope!

The Northeast Subarea Transportation Study (NESTS) final report includes a right-of-way study for a new road corridor from north to south as an alternative route for commuters and heavy traffic has received both positive and negative review. The MPO has not yet acted on this traffic proposal.

The quality of water in Cayuga Lake is the joint concern of several committees, and the Cayuga Lake Watershed management Plan - an intermunicipal organization involving the 50 municipalities whose waters enter Cayuga Lake - is entertaining responses to many suggested study topics under major categories of :

1. Land use issues
2. Human use - Recreational issues
3. Management issues
4. Economic development issues
5. Ecology issues

Ronald E. Anderson, Mayor

Report of the Clerk

June is the start of the fiscal year for the Village of Cayuga Heights and therefore is also tax month. The Village property tax bills have been sent out to Village property owners. If you have an escrow account with a mortgage lender the bills have been sent directly to the lender. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Village Office at 836 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca, NY, 14850, Telephone 607/257-1238. The taxes are due and payable at the Village Office by June 30th. After July 1st a 5% penalty is added and another 1% added for each month thereafter until November when the delinquent bills are submitted to the County for relevy. At this point the payment will no longer be accepted at the Village Office. Please be prompt with your payments to avoid paying penalties.

Included with the tax bill is a new yellow Cayuga Heights Brochure, which gives valuable information about the Village policies and personnel and appropriate phone numbers. Please keep this handy for reference throughout the year. On the back are the dates for the various pick-ups and the holiday schedule. These dates have been checked and rechecked and should be correct. I apologize for any confusion caused by the inaccurate dates for recycling this past April in the orange brochure. If your tax bill was sent directly to your mortgage lender I have sent the brochure to your home address. If you have not received a brochure, please stop in or call the Village Office.

Betty Kord, Clerk

Report of the Police Chief

I believe that the nice weather has finally arrived and I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents of a couple of items. First, along with the nice weather comes the possibility of greater vehicular speeds, so I would encourage our pedestrian population to be careful. The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law requires pedestrians to adhere to the following laws: "Where sidewalks are provided and they may be used with safety it shall be unlawful for a pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway." Joggers should also use sidewalks where provided, however if there is no sidewalk, they should run against traffic on the left side of the roadway in single file. I would also encourage our bicyclists to obey the rules of the road and to use the designated bike lanes where they have been provided. While driving through the Village, please be mindful of the fact that children will be out playing more as well.

The second item that I would like to remind residents of is summer-time security. Please keep screen doors and windows locked. With the warmer weather I know people will want to open windows to let the fresh air in their homes. I would ask that you open second floor windows to accomplish this, rather than first floor windows, which are tempting, targets. Also be aware of any suspicious activities around neighborhood homes, since many of your neighbors may be on vacation.

The most important thing to remember during the warm weather is to get out and have fun.

Kenneth Lansing, Chief

Report of the Fire Chief

The Fire Department has been undergoing many changes during the past month. Currently the biggest piece of news is the approval for the new fire station. The new station will bring the Cayuga Heights Fire Department up to NFPA (National Fire

Protection Agency) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Association) standards. The new station will also provide for more bunker positions. Contractors will begin work 05/08 with an expected completion date of 12/01. With the help of the volunteers of the station and the employees at the Department of Public Works, the move to our temporary location, 1305 Hanshaw Road was completed smoothly. The bunkers are housed at the Hanshaw location while the trucks are housed at the Department of Public Works pending a variance from the Town of Ithaca which will allow us to place the trucks at the Hanshaw location.

March has also brought a change in the line- up of the department and company officers. Following the annual election the officers are as follows:

Fire Chief	William Evans
1 st Assistant Chief	Phillip McNeil
2 nd Assistant Chief	Jeff Randall
1 st Lieutenant	Jon Pique
2 nd Lieutenant	Peter Jacobson
3 rd Lieutenant	Ethan Erlich
4 th Lieutenant	Patrick McKeever
Company President	Mark Jo
Vice President	Roy Knauer
Treasurer	David Donner
Secretary	Stephan Phillips

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the incoming Fire Chief. I have been a member of the department for 8 years and have served as an assistant chief for 4 years. My wife and my three children lived in the village for over 10 years. I welcome the new challenges that this position brings as well as the challenges presented by this time of change and transition. I look forward to working with the Village Board and the residents providing the best service and safety possible.

Also I would like to express thanks from the Fire Department and all its members as well as the residents of the Village to our departing Fire Chief Michael DiVenti. Michael has dedicated 6 years to the department moving up the ranks and attaining the position of Fire Chief last year. Michael has obtained a new job opportunity in New Jersey. We wish him the best with his new job in his new location.

William Evans, Chief

Report of the Engineer

STREET MAINTENANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION

As the Superintendent of Public Works, I am aware of the recent deterioration of our street pavements. I believe that the Village is about a year behind on this problem, due to the amount of effort that was put into the N. Triphammer Road Project. Therefore, we will concentrate on getting caught up with the overall street program. As described in a previous newsletter, the Village has a Road Surface Maintenance Survey (RSMS) Program, which is used to help identify the appropriate maintenance strategy for the entire street system on a 5-year basis. This is not the only information that is used as the basis for finally deciding each year's roadwork schedule. For instance, this last winter was particularly damaging to roads (everywhere, not just in the Village) because of repeated freeze/thaw cycles. Therefore, we have to make an adjustment to the priority list

based on the current condition of the streets. The list is ever changing, and sometimes changes right up to the time the work is scheduled to be done.

It is important to recognize that the Village has two different street budgets. One is for the reconstruction of streets and is called Capital Improvements. The current list of Capital Improvement streets for the 2000 summer construction season looks something like this:

- Wyckoff Road (Highland to Renwick)
- Cayuga Heights Road (Stewart to Hanshaw)
- Texas Lane (N. Triphammer to Lisa)
- Burleigh Drive (Winthrop to Ithaca)
- Highgate Place (Highgate to Lansing)
- Berkshire Road (Highland to Highgate)

The order of this list is tentative and could change as the summer progresses. Another street that is high on the list is Highland Road (Wyckoff to Hanshaw), but the degree of work on this street is more comprehensive than just pavement work, such as curbing and storm drains. Therefore, this project will need to be planned and budgeted for a specific project that will be reviewed for a future Capital Improvement project, or possibly a larger project that could require a Capital (Bonded) Project.

The second budget item that the Village has for road repairs is Street Maintenance. This budget is used to do maintenance that could include simple pothole patching to repair of a major element of a road such as a culvert, guide rails, sidewalks, etc. This part of the budget is not intended to address comprehensive repairs.

The 2000 construction season will be busy, since we still have FY99-00 money to spend and also the FY00-01 budget begins 6/1/00. At the end of the season, I will re-evaluate the overall status based on the progress made this summer.

Brent Cross, Engineer

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