
CAYUGA HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.ithaca.ny.us/Govt/CayugaHeights/>

Report of the Mayor

The Cayuga Heights Fire Station is now structurally in its ultimate shape, but almost all of the interior work remains to be finished. The contractor still is hopeful of completion on or before December 1. Some portions of the brick walls have been put up so that we could have a better idea of the final appearance of the renovated station. The temporary quarters on the Collins property have worked out very well; but the fire department looks forward eagerly to the new permanent home.

The County Transportation Council is moving ahead on a detailed study of the transit system in the Ithaca City and Northeast area of the county, and will be looking ahead to comprehensive data collection on freight movement in Tompkins County.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network has sent a brochure to property owners in the 700-sq. mi. watershed, outlining the Intermunicipal Watershed Management plan to develop consensus on an action plan to protect the vital resources of the area. Some issues being considered include surface and groundwater contamination, water quantity, recreation, tourism and economic vitality.

Census 2000 has finished their local checking of non-responders, and we should get a preliminary count soon.

The Deer Committee and Cornell Wildlife continue their study of population, movement, and territorial and family patterns. There will be public meetings in late fall and early next year to consider possible methods of population reduction.

The proposed Integrated Water System and the Intermunicipal Wastewater Treatment Project both are subjects of frequent meetings, but as yet no formal agreements have been reached.

Ronald E. Anderson, Mayor

Report of the Clerk

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the residents of Cayuga Heights. I assumed the position of Village Clerk on July 24. I have enjoyed meeting many of you already and I am keeping busy learning the many facets involved with being your Clerk. If I can be of help to you or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or stop by to see me at the Village Office.

Just a reminder that if you haven't paid your Village Taxes yet, they can still be paid in the Village Office until November 1st. After this date, the taxes get turned over to the county.

Norma Manning, Clerk

Report of the Police Chief

Well, it's hard to believe that summer has ended and the leaves will soon be falling – where does the time go? As we start another fall season, I would like to bring a few matters of importance to your attention. We have been receiving numerous complaints about dogs defecating on other people's property and the owners of the animals are not cleaning up after them. The Village of Cayuga Heights has a local law prohibiting this type of conduct. Dog Control Law #1 of 1980, Section 2C, states the following: Any person owning or harboring any dog (that's anyone walking a dog) in the Village of Cayuga Heights shall be in violation if the dog 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. If everyone walking their dog would take a few extra minutes to clean up after their dog, I believe our dog nuisance problem will be solved. If anyone would like to take official action against a persistent violator, the police department will need two things from the complainant. First, the complainant will need to supply a written voluntary statement of what they observed the dog doing and if possible who the owner is. Second, the complainant will need to sign an accusatory instrument against the owner or harboring individual of the animal. This two step procedure is necessary because of the requirements set forth in the Criminal Procedure Law for police officers. The police officer that you meet with will assist you with both procedures.

Another area of importance that needs to be addressed is the issue of speeders on the streets of the Village of Cayuga Heights. The college students are back and many of them are new to the area. The Cayuga Heights Police Department will be stepping up our efforts to enforce the Village Speed limits. We are also using our new RADAR TRAILER, which was donated by one of our village residences to enhance our speed enforcement capabilities in the areas that need more attention. Because of the extra volume of traffic on the village streets, I would request that everyone exercise a little more caution.

Indulge yourselves in the sights and wonders of our beautiful fall season.

Kenneth Lansing, Chief

Report of the Fire Chief

Greetings from the Cayuga Heights Fire Department.

We at the fire department hope you all had a great and relaxing summer. The summer here in the village has brought many changes for us in the department, we have moved from the old fire station on Pleasant Grove Road to 1305 Hanshaw Road. For any of you

who have not noticed, we are in the process of renovating the old station and replacing it with a new “stately” station, which will bring the village many years of great service.

The fire department over the summer months provided over 2000 hours of emergency services to the village and the town of Ithaca and trained in various aspects of emergency services for over 600 hours. Just to give you examples of the types of services we provided, it ranged from residents wanting to borrow fire hoses to assist in their pool filling to the “cat in the tree call”. Also many hours were spent during the past months responding to calls from the wind and rainstorm damages that came through the area. This had members all over the village staying up (in some cases) until 4:40 am protecting areas where trees were blocking the roadways and power loss due to wires down. Many hours were also responding to medical emergencies and routine fire alarm call from burnt foods to system malfunctions.

The new Station is scheduled to be completed on December 1, 2000 and at this point is on schedule. The unfortunate thing with the station going under the major renovations during this time is that for the first time in many years the Cayuga Heights Fire department will not be having its annual open house. We still plan on continuing to provide fire prevention education in the area schools during fire prevention week in October.

In closing I would like to remind residents that with the colder months approaching that they should have their chimney’s inspected and all smoke detectors and fire extinguishers inspected. Also, we at the Fire department invite all interested people who wish to volunteer their services to the Department to contact us at 257-2377.

William Evans, Chief

Report of the Engineer

YARD WASTE (small diameter twigs and branches, and other misc. clippings)

In the 6 ½ years that I have been working for the Village, the pick up of yard waste, brush (and trees), leaves has been the biggest challenge for the DPW staff. It is difficult to predict how much yard waste is going to be put out on the designated Friday for pick up. Sometimes, it only takes one day for a two-man crew. But more often there is considerably more to be picked up. We then have to evaluate what other projects are going on at the same time, to determine how much manpower to put on the job. For instance, if we happen to be doing a paving project, it is not possible to put additional staff on yard waste. Unfortunately, that means that all of the yard waste may not get picked up until the following week. Other times, we may have the staff available, so we put as much manpower as we can to get the entire route done on the designated Friday.

The above explanation is not intended as an excuse for poor DPW service, but to demonstrate the “not so simple” nature of something that seems like it should be very simple. The DPW staff recognizes the importance of this service to the Villagers, and therefore wants to do a good job for you. There are some things that you need to do to assist us in doing the job as good as you would like. Such as:

- Please do not put yard waste at the curb until the day of the designated pickup.
- Please cut all pieces into 4-foot lengths.
- Please places all pieces in a tight stack at the curb.
- Please nothing larger than 3” in diameter.

These are not just suggestions, but are the rules for the service. Unfortunately, we do not always see such cooperation. In these cases, the DPW crew has been given the discretion when the rules have not been met, and will leave preprinted form on the pile with the appropriate violation checked. PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU. Thank you for you attention to this issue.

BRUSH (larger diameter branches):

Since we pick up the larger tree debris only once in the Spring and once in the Fall, this service is not as difficult to manage. Unfortunately, it is difficult for you, the Villagers, to hold the larger pieces for these two events. Especially in the case when a bad storm causes severe damage on a Village-wide basis. These events have caused us considerable problems, because of the additional unscheduled workload. Also, the Villagers do not always get their own clean up done at the same time, which causes the process to linger.

The Public Works Committee recently discussed this issue, and concluded that we need to designate a special pick-up date(s), and notify all Villagers that they must get all storm related debris to the curb by that date. Otherwise, they will need to hold it until the next Spring/Fall pick up.

LEAVES:

It is the time of year when the DPW will be picking up your leaves. Please rake them to the curb (not in the road or in the drainage ditch) between October 15 and December 15. The DPW will be making several trips through the streets to keep up with the new piles. After December 15, we will make one last trip around the Village to pick up the last leaf piles. If you wish to have leaves picked up after December 15, please put them in garbage cans and leave them for regular yard waste pick up.

Brent Cross, Engineer

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