

Village of Cayuga Heights

Village Voices

2021 Newsletter



Contents:

Message from the Mayor	pg 1
Sewer Plant Upgrade	pg 3
Changes to Bulky and Brush Removal	pg 4
CHPD Update	pg 5
Meet your New Trustees	pg 6
A Boundary Oak on East Upland Road	pg 7
Kline Road Sidewalk Update	pg 8
From the Office of the Clerk	pg 8
Village Officials & Staff	pg 9
Refuse Schedule	pg 10

Message from the Mayor

We did not publish a newsletter last year. A little to save money, but mostly to avoid increasing the stress to our staff. It has been an extraordinary eighteen months for all. The staff have done a remarkable job providing the services you expect from us; tasks have taken longer; much has been done remotely, but it has worked. No one has been infected; a claim no other municipality in Tompkins County can make.

It was wonderful to unlock the doors, in June, and welcome all back maskless unless you were not fully vaccinated. Our doors are still unlocked, but we have gone back to requiring masks indoors. We hope that with the advent of booster shots

and approval of vaccines for children under twelve, we can soon go back to removing our masks.

THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Two years ago we decided to begin Phase I of our Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) renovations even though the bids for this work came in much higher than we had expected. This work is now complete and we are on to Phase 2. Happily the bids for this part of the project came in under our estimates. Brent's article has much more detail on these projects.

LEDS

I was wildly optimistic about the LED replacement of our street lights. We expected them to be installed by last winter. Instead it was this summer before most of them were in place. There are still a handful that remain, but we now have software that alerts us to lights that are not working.

We no longer have to ask you to report these to NYSEG and then wait many months for your street light to be replaced. This software also gives us the ability to dim lights where necessary. We have worked with a number of residents who have reported the new lights shine in their windows, trying to balance their complaints with being able to illuminate the road and sidewalks. We expect more issues when the leaves are off the trees. If you have a problem with a light close to your property, please contact Jeff Walker, the Village Clerk.

AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS

Last year with sales tax receipts dropping, Cornell going remote and a trip to the grocery store a weekly adventure if done at all, we curtailed our Village expenditures as much as we could without reducing services. Every purchase was scrutinized and all income sources were closely monitored. By the time we had our annual budget workshop in the Spring, it was evident that our revenue had not taken as bad a hit as we had feared. We were able to keep the property tax rate increase at zero for another year.

Now, thanks to the American Rescue Funds (ARF), we are able to do projects that we had postponed indefinitely. We have received a little over \$184,000 this year and will be awarded the same amount next year. Over the past few months the Board of Trustees (BOT) has been discussing the best ways to spend this money, which must be used for infrastructure on items that have not been previously budgeted.

Our definition of infrastructure is very liberal. We have hired a web designer to update the Village website to make it more attractive and easier to navigate. Our community welcomes a large number of new residents each Fall and it is important that they have access to the rules and regulations as well as the services the Village provides. For over

a year we were allowed to hold public meetings virtually through the Governor's executive order. That was easily accomplished with Zoom. Now all voting members must be in person, but this restriction does not apply to our department heads or the public. A successful hybrid meeting is more difficult; it requires good audio and visual equipment if all are to participate fully. We have hired a consultant who has designed such systems. We expect to have it in place



this Fall; it will allow staff and residents to attend virtually if they prefer.

The remaining projects are more closely aligned with the conventional definition of infrastructure. These include replacing the roof on one of the DPW buildings on Sheldon Road, financing a study of the impact of the proposed sidewalk on historic homes along Wycoff Road, which was not included as part of the original funding through the Transportation Alternatives Programs, hydrant flow testing to measure water pressure and indirectly the condition of the water mains in the Village and a study of building a second sewer line in the existing tunnel under Route 13 in case of failure of the current sewer pipes.

The most expensive project that will consume more than half of this year's funds is the lining of the sewer pipes near Pleasant Grove Road. We have already determined that these lines are allowing storm water to enter these pipes, contributing significantly to the excess water that our WWTP has to process when there are heavy rain storms. Eliminating excess inflow and infiltration (I&I) is critical for the continued viability of our sewer system.

If we have funds remaining, we will continue repairing and closing gaps in our sidewalks. This project will be our top priority for next year's funds. We also plan to add two new streetlights on Wycoff Road, one at the intersection with Sunset Park and the other near the entrance to Lakeview Cemetery. And finally we will continue looking for and eliminating I&I in our sewer system.

It has been a tough year, but we have gotten through it together. I hope we won't need to even mention covid 19 in our next newsletter. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone ((607) 257-1238 ext. 103) or email (lwoodard@cayuga-heights.ny.us). I welcome your comments, questions and concerns.

- Linda Woodard; Mayor



Sewer Plant UPGRADES

The Village of Cayuga Heights owns and operates the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that serves the entire Village and some of the surrounding communities. The original WWTP was built in the 1950's and upgraded in the 1970's. The Village has made various improvements over the years, including adding phosphorus filtration in 2007 (soon to be mandatory). Although there have been various small maintenance projects, it was obvious the condition of the physical plant needed more comprehensive maintenance and upgrading.

The Village was successful in obtaining a NYSDEC grant to offset 25% of the cost of a \$12 million project that was divided into two separate projects known as Phase 1 and Phase 2 Improvement Project(s).

The Phase 1 project focused on replacing the existing "headworks" building and equipment. The headworks is the first step of the treatment process that includes a screen that catches debris larger than 3/8", and a vortex that separates heavier debris such as sand and stones and other items that could damage downstream equipment. Phase 1 was completed this Spring.

The Phase 2 project replaces the covers and equipment connected to the sludge digestors. It also includes plant wide replacement of most electrical equipment that need to be brought up to current fire and building codes. All lighting will be replaced with LEDs and a new interactive computer monitoring system known as SCADA will be installed. This system will allow the plant operators to observe the operating status of all the facilities equipment on one computer screen.



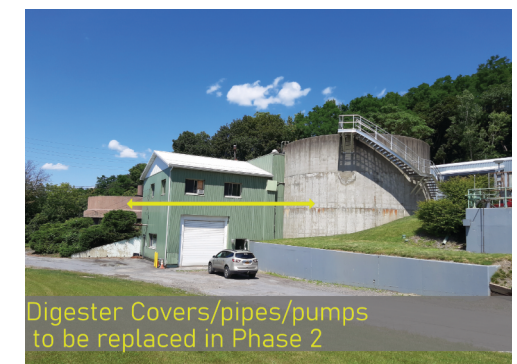
This includes alarms to alert the operators when any part of the facility is either working outside of its intended range, or not working at all. The contracts for Phase 2 have been awarded; physical work will begin next Spring with a completion date in 2023.

have to think about it again". We hope that you never have to think about your sewage again!

-Brent Cross Village Engineer

A Phase 3 is being considered by the Board of Trustees; it will depend on obtaining similar or better grant support from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) or a new Federal Infrastructure grant. This project would include replacement of the settling tank collection system, replacement of some of the large pumps, and possibly a solar PV electrical system.

This work is being done in close cooperation with the NYSDEC Regional Water Resources Division; it will allow the Village to continue to meet our ongoing obligations to discharge water to Cayuga Lake which the NYSDEC closely monitors to ensure the high quality of water treatment that the WWTP is producing, day in and day out. It is a widely held goal in the "treatment business" that the best WWTP is the one where "you can flush and never



CHANGES to Bulky and Brush removal

During the past year and a half, as more and more people have been spending time at home, the Village has seen an increase in the quantity of brush and bulky trash items being placed by the curbside for monthly pickup. This increase has made it imperative for the Village to find ways to make both processes more efficient. One change we are implementing is in the collection schedule.

Effective this November:

BRUSH Collection - 2nd Monday of the month

BULKY Collection - 3rd Monday of the month

This change will give residents the weekend prior to collection day, time to place their items by the curbside. If the DPW cannot finish collection on the designated day, they will be able to do so on the following Tuesday. Please note that items must NOT be placed curbside until the weekend before Monday pickup. The Village DPW is committed to providing these services to its residents. To maintain a clean, well-kept appearance throughout the village as well as providing a clear view along the roads for motorists we need your help. Please carefully read the guidelines listed in the green box and follow them. If you have questions about what constitutes brush or bulky items, please give the main office a call (257-1238) and we will be happy to assist.

-Mike Wiese; Director of Public Works

Bulky Guidelines

- Household objects too large for the garbage cans (e.g., appliances, furniture, mattresses, etc.)
- Metal and non-metal bulky trash are collected separately and should be separated when possible.
- Construction debris and tires will **NOT** be picked up.
- Paint cans will only be collected if the cans are empty or have dried paint in them.
- Items with refrigerants must have a tag indicating the refrigerant was removed by a certified recycler.

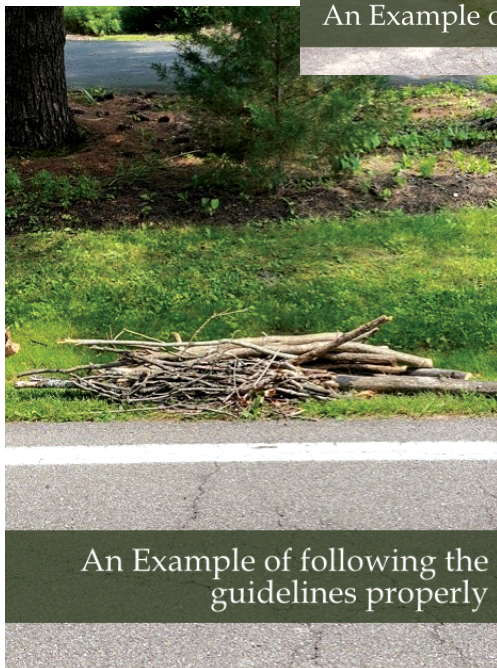
Brush Guidelines

- Small brush placed in containers (no plastic bags) curbside and branches up to 3 inches in diameter.
- Bundle branch piles neatly and make them less than four feet in height and length.
- Grass clippings, stones, and soil, bagged or otherwise, will **NOT** be picked up.
- No brush containers weighing over 50 lbs are allowed (OSHA regulations).
- Any brush not meeting the above guidelines will be left at the curb. It is the responsibility of the resident to remove their brush piles until the Friday before next month's pickup.

Starting in November, all items should be placed at the curbside no sooner than the Friday prior to collection day. If items are set out prior to this time frame, the resident will be asked to remove them from the curbside until four days before pick-up.



An Example of what not to do



An Example of following the guidelines properly



Another Example of following the guidelines properly



Village of Cayuga Heights Police Department

Update

The past year and half have presented many challenges, especially the covid pandemic and police reform, which have led to several changes both nationally and locally. The Village and specifically the Cayuga Heights Police Department have had to adjust to these changes.

The covid pandemic altered how we respond to calls for service. To limit physical contact, we handled as many calls as possible outside, even taking some complaints over the phone instead of in person. Our patrols became less proactive to limit contacts whenever situations permitted. We developed ways to continue to meet the 24 hours/365 days a year service that was not only expected but required by our residents. I am happy to say that we were very fortunate to have remained healthy while meeting the standard of policing without missing a minute of coverage.

Thus we were able to fulfill our obligations to the community that we have sworn to protect and serve.

We were also challenged by the desire and need for police reform. This reform included a closer look at our daily roles as police officers and how we perform these roles. Part of this review included an assessment of our policies and procedures, areas of training and our response to mental health related calls. I took part in many conversations over many months that led to our Village's Police Reform Plan that was adopted by the Board of Trustees and submitted to New York State.

The call for transparency and accountability has been a major part of police reform. We believe both requests have always been important factors in how we perform our duties.

The Village had discussed adding a body worn camera (BWC) program for several years without resolution; the police reform initiative caused us to begin that discussion again. Researching the many available BWC programs made us aware the cost would be substantial. We applied for a grant with the Triad Foundation, and they generously gave us \$25,000 toward our program. This grant was a tremendous help in allowing the Village to move forward with



Mrs. Joy Barr receiving a proclamation outside of Marcham Hall

implementing the BWC program. The Cayuga Heights Police Department began wearing these cameras on April 8 of this year.

Since Implementing this program, the Village received a donation of \$40,000 from Mrs. Joy Barr, a long-time Village resident. She and her family have been extremely supportive of the Police Department for many years. These two donations will cover the cost of the BWC program for almost the next five years.

The individuals involved with both gifts have been extremely helpful in assisting the Village with its police reform efforts. As the Chief of Police, I

think it is people like these within our community who are a large reason why the Village of Cayuga Heights is such a special place to both live and work.

- Jerry L. Wright Chief of Police

THE CAYUGA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT REMINDS RESIDENTS:

SECURE HOMES AND VEHICLES to lessen the threat of a possible intrusion to your home,

- Keep your homes locked and secured during the day (as well as in the evening); perpetrators are aware that most people are away from their homes during the day, making it a more likely time to break-in.

- Keep your vehicles locked in the evening; perpetrators are aware that most people are asleep during the night which makes it a more likely time for unauthorized access to vehicles.

- Keep all valuables, i.e. jewelry, heirlooms, cash or loose change in a secure location such as a safe, or at least out of plain view.

- Watch out for persons on or around your property/home that are not expected such as someone looking for a lost pet or asking if you have any work needing to be done. Get a description and notify the police department immediately.

PROPERTY CHECKS

A property check consists of an officer conducting a thorough overview of your property including making sure doors and windows are secured. Checks are conducted at least once a week while you are gone. A request form is available on the Village Web Site or can be obtained at the police department. This information may also be submitted via email or by phone. Residents should provide the following: the dates when they will be away, contact information, persons stopping by the home, any lights that may be left on or vehicles left in the driveway. The department should also be notified if the home is secured with an alarm and/or Knox lock box. Please note: All properties armed with an intrusion alarm should be equipped with a Knox Lock box, per Village ordinance.

PHARMACEUTICAL DROP BOX

The police department provides a place to dispose of expired or unwanted medications. It is available in the lobby of Marcham Hall during regular office hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

PLEASE NOTE: needles, mercury thermometers, and liquid chemicals are NOT accepted.

Meet Your New Trustees



Kent Hubbell

After living in the Village for 28 years, I was elected to the Board of Trustees this Spring, and now look forward to making my contribution to the welfare of this lovely community.

My wife and family returned to Ithaca in 1993 from the University of Michigan when I was recruited to chair Cornell's Department of Architecture. My wife, Susann Eshleman, and I both studied at Cornell in the 1960-70's, and as students, lived in Cayuga Heights. Thus, we knew we wanted to live in the Village, finally purchasing the Weigand home on Upland Rd. As an architect, I was thrilled to have one of the early homes in the neighborhood to care for and restore.

Following my undergraduate years at Cornell, I joined the Peace Corps and spent time as an architect in Micronesia. On my return, I attended the Yale Graduate School of Fine Arts, and after a brief academic appointment at Cornell (while my wife finished graduate school), I joined the architecture faculty at the University of Michigan. In 2020, after 27 years, I retired from Cornell, having been Professor of Architecture & Chair, as well as having been Cornell's Dean of

Students from 2001-2015. Presently, I am getting used to the luxury of my own schedule, spending lots of time in my wood shop, and with my cars. And not least, I am pleased and honored to have the time and opportunity to serve the Village as one of its Trustees.

-Kent Hubbell; *Trustee*



Kristi Rennekamp

It has been an interesting year, to say the least. I joined the Village Board of Trustees in the Spring of 2020, right around the time when the pandemic was just beginning. After a year of meetings over Zoom, I was excited to attend my very first in-person meeting as a Board member just this past July. My interest in serving as a Trustee stems primarily from understanding that Cayuga Heights is a special place, and wanting to see that it continues to be such a thriving and caring community.

My background is in Finance and Accounting. Before returning to school for graduate studies, I was a Financial Analyst for the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. As part of my job, I came up with financial reporting policies for agencies like the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies that helped manage natural resources.

I also worked on special projects with the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), helping to set accounting guidance for the federal government.

I first moved to Ithaca in 2006 to do my PhD at Cornell in the Johnson School. I lived just off Triphammer Road, and would walk home from school nearly every day through the Village. After finishing my degree, I moved to Urbana, Illinois with my husband, Michael, where I joined the faculty at the University of Illinois. I was there for just three short years before we were lucky enough to be given the chance to move back to Ithaca in 2014. We immediately knew that we wanted to move to Cayuga Heights, and we now live here with our two young daughters, Maggie and Kate. I currently teach Financial Accounting to MBA and Executive MBA students in the Johnson School. When I'm not teaching, I'm conducting research on how psychological biases affect the decisions of managers and investors. My hope is that my work helps individuals make better financial decisions.

On the Village Board I am a member of both the Admin and Finance Committees. I really enjoy my role on each, and believe that my background and work experiences have given me unique insight into the issues that relate to governmental accounting and financial decision making. I can't imagine a better place for us to raise a family, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the future and continuing to serve as one of your Trustees.

-Kristi Rennekamp; *Trustee, Deputy Treasurer*



A Boundary Oak on East Upland Road



According to Jared Newman and Charles Blood, developers of Cayuga Heights, a "line of stately old trees" separated farms at "the boundary between Military Lots 88 and 90" when they began buying land in 1900. Military lots were 600 acre plots of land in Central New York given to veterans in lieu of pensions after the American Revolution. The line between Lots 88 and 90 ran north-south down the middle of the map when the Village of Cayuga Heights was incorporated on 280 acres in 1915. At least one of these boundary trees survived the transition from farm to suburban land use in the

early twentieth century: the Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) that may be seen today at 109 East Upland Road. It was referred to as "the large oak on Lot 246" in an early title abstract of land in the village. "246" was the lot number assigned to 109 East Upland on an accompanying map of Newman and Blood subdivisions. Cornell botany professor Karl Wiegand (1872-1942) and his wife Maude Cipperly (1885-1969), an instructor at Cornell and a prominent figure in the women's suffrage movement in Ithaca, bought

the lot in 1914. According to Jared Newman it was "Mrs. Wiegand" who suggested the apt name of Upland Road, which he built uphill from Highland to Triphammer Road in 1910. (West Upland came later). The Wiegands hired Ithaca architect Arthur Gibb to design the handsome craftsman home at 109. Shortly before it was built, he painted this lovely picture of his design, facing the road, which was unpaved at the time, with the oak tree on the right. Carl and Maude stayed in the house for the rest of their lives, raising seven children. Their daughter Elizabeth ("Betsy"), a

consumer economist at Cornell, who died in 1995, sold it in 1990.

The current owner, Kent Lovering Hubbell (who is a village trustee) and his wife Suzann Eshleman, bought the house in the spring of 1993, upon their return to Ithaca from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Hubbell, a former architecture professor and retired dean of students at Cornell University, estimates that the boundary oak must be several hundred years old. Some of us remember when a large stem came

off and fell into the yard on a beautiful summer day. (The wood ultimately became a beamed ceiling on their sun porch.) Fortunately, the tree has been checked by an arborist since then and judged sure to survive for many more years. Walk by and you'll see its green growth this summer.

-Beatrice Szekely, *Village Historian*

Kline Sidewalk Update

As reported in our last Village Voices newsletter, in 2018 the Village received funding through the federal Transportation Alternatives Program to construct a new sidewalk along Kline and Wyckoff Roads, from Highland Road to the entrance to Lake View Cemetery. The main goal of the project was to create a safe route from the Village to Boynton Middle School and Ithaca High School. Construction was originally scheduled for the spring/summer of 2021, and we expected that the sidewalk would be ready for use by students returning to Boynton and Ithaca High School this fall.

Unfortunately, the project schedule has been pushed back, and construction is now scheduled to be completed in the summer/fall of 2022.

While there are a number of reasons for the delay, including a work slowdown during the COVID shutdown in the spring of 2020, the most significant impact came from unanticipated design studies that were not factored into the original schedule. During the course of the design review, some residents along the route expressed concerns about the impact of the project to their properties, and a number of additional design studies were required to address their concerns. This also triggered a review by the State Office of Historic Preservation to determine whether the sidewalk would have an impact on historic properties along any portion of the route.

While none of this additional work is expected to alter the design, location, or outcome of the project, it has consumed a significant amount of time and financial resources beyond the scope of the original project.

Nevertheless, we remain optimistic that the successful completion of the sidewalk will be to the greater benefit of our Village, and particularly the Village's children.

-Meloney McMurry, *Trustee, Deputy Mayor*

From the Office of the Clerk

It has been a busy year for the Village and the Clerk's office. The Board of Trustees decided to close Marcham Hall at their March 2020 meeting; only essential employees were allowed to report to work. Over the next few months, with the doors closed to the public we took the opportunity to do some internal Marcham Hall projects. New carpet was installed on the staircase, many walls were painted and the slate floors were acid washed and sealed. We began work on the exterior in 2021. New gutters have been installed, and we will soon replace and stain the exterior wood on Marcham Hall. The Village Board is now considering landscape proposals for the pocket gardens in the Village and a plan for the North Triphammer medians.

I am happy to report we are using some of our American Rescue Funds (ARF) to do a complete makeover of the Village of Cayuga Heights website. It will be launched later this fall. One key feature we will be promoting is E-Code360, a search-able online database of all Village laws and ordinances. We are also using ARF to purchase a video conferencing system that will give us the ability to hold

Village of Cayuga Heights eCode360



hybrid meetings. Meetings either all in person or all via Zoom are easy to do, but mixing the two is a challenge. This new system will allow members of the public and Village Boards to attend meetings in person or remotely without sacrificing the ability to participate.

I would like to introduce Kiersten Perkins our new Information Aide. Many of you have either met Kiersten in person when visiting Marcham Hall or have had the pleasure of speaking with her on the phone. She is a great addition to the office and the Village of Cayuga Heights family.



Kiersten Perkins

As a reminder, the Clerk's office oversees the management and compliance of Local Law 4 of 2019 (Sump Pump Inspection). Since January of 2019 the Village has inspected over 84 homes for their sump pump connection. This inspection is mandatory if you are selling your house or obtaining a building permit.

The Clerk's office also oversees compliance of Local Law 8 of 2018 (Short-Term Rental Law). We have 16 active Airbnb rentals in the Village. Thanks to new software provided by Tompkins County we will soon have the ability to better monitor short-term activity and seek compliance from others who have not registered with the Village.

In closing I want to personally thank all the Village staff and Board members who make this place such a wonderful place to work. We pride ourselves on providing all Village residents with the best knowledge and service possible. Please if you have not been in to see us, or are new to the Village, definitely take the time to stop in.

- Jeff Walker, *Village Clerk*

Questions about the Village Laws and ordinances?

Find it on our website
<http://www.cayuga-heights.ny.us>

Village of Cayuga Heights eCode360



The Village has codified all laws and ordinances through eCode360

Village Officials & Employees

Village Employees:

Main Phone number, (607)257-1238

Clerk	Jeff Walker	ext. #102
Deputy Clerk	Penny Rich	ext. #105
Information Aide	Kiersten Perkins	ext. #100
Treasurer	Joan Laskaris	ext. #101
Engineer & Supt. of Public Works	Brent Cross	ext. #300
Director of Public Works	Michael Wiese	ext. #301
Chief of Police	Jerry Wright	ext. #202
Police Clerk	Jackie Carr	ext. #200
Police Clerk (part-time)	Daniel Tier III	ext. #201
Fire Superintendent	George Tamborelle	ext. #261
Court Clerk	Pat Kannus	ext. #107
Justice	Glen Galbreath	

Village Officers

Mayor Linda Woodard lwoodard@cayuga-heights.ny.us	ext. 103
Deputy Mayor and Trustee Meloney McMurry mmcmurry@cayuga-heights.ny.us	
Deputy Treasurer and Trustee Kristi Rennekamp krennekamp@cayuga-heights.ny.us	
Trustee Kent Hubbell khubbell@cayuga-heights.ny.us	
Trustee James Marshall jmarshall@cayuga-heights.ny.us	
Trustee Richard Robinson rrobinson@cayuga-heights.ny.us	
Trustee Peter Salton psalton@cayuga-heights.ny.us	

Accepting Online Payments

To make it easier to pay your water & Sewer and tax payments, we have implemented an online payment service with Williamson Law Book Co. You may pay your water & sewer bill online by visiting www.cayuga-heights.ny.us/water&sewer. To view, print or pay taxes online, please visit www.cayuga-heights.ny.us/taxes.

All major credit/debit cards and e-checks are accepted and can be processed reliably and securely. There is a service fee which will be displayed before you authorize payment. Payments show up on your bank account within 72 hours. In addition, you are able to pay for trash tags and permits with a credit card at the Clerk's office.

We hope you enjoy these payment options.





Village of Cayuga Heights

836 Hanshaw Road
Marcham Hall
Ithaca, NY 14850
Phone: 607-257-1238
Fax: 607-257-4910

info@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Office Hours:

Weekdays 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

STAY INFORMED!

www.cayuga-heights.ny.us

Newsletter Editor:
Kiersten Perkins

Refuse Schedule

DATE	BRUSH	BULKY	RECYCLING
NOV 2021	8	15	5,19
DEC 2021	13	20	3,17,31
JAN 2022	10	17	14,28
FEB 2022	14	21	11,25
MAR 2022	14	21	11,25
APR 2022	11	18	8,22
MAY 2022	9	16	6,20
JUN 2022	13	20	4*,17
JUL 2022	11	18	1,15,29
AUG 2022	8	15	12,26
SEP 2022	12	19	10*,23
OCT 2022	11*	17	7,21

REFUSE GUIDELINES:

- *Late due to holiday

Starting in November:

- Brush is collected the 2nd Monday of every month.
- Bulky is collected the 3rd Monday of every month.
- Recycling collection is provided at the curb for Tompkins County residents every other week. For information on recycling guidelines visit www.recycletopkins.org.
- Tompkins County Food Scraps Recycling Drop Off Spot at the Cayuga Heights Village Office is open Sundays, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

This schedule is subject to change. For updated information, visit www.cayuga-heights.ny.us