

Contents:

Message from the Mayor	pg I
Village Budget Explained	pg 3
Lead Pipes Project Update	pg 4
CHPD Update	pg 5
Two School Openings	pg 6
Award Winning Code Officer	pg 7
From the Office of the Clerk	pg 8
Village Officials & Staff	pg 9
Refuse Schedule	pg 1(

Message from the Mayor

"Pride of Place"

The title of my article is a phrase the members of the Public Works Committee have been tossing around for months. It's sort of like pornography – you know it when you see it, but it is maddeningly hard to define in

words. And yet, if we are going to enforce laws to ensure "pride of place", we must be able to describe it in legal terms.

Originally our discussion centered on lawns; there are a number of them in the Village that greatly exceed the 10 inches allowed by our Property Maintenance Law. Our Zoning Officer notified the owners that they were not in compliance and needed to mow their lawns. Some did so promptly, others ignored the letter, and a few responded that they were growing a meadow and shouldn't have to follow the 10 inch rule.

To make the situation more complicated, the Property Maintenance Law is currently part of our zoning regulations. See https:// ecode360.com/33622291#33622291 for the details including enforcement. The homeowner has at least 75 days before they will be forced to mow their lawn (if our Court agrees), but even that can be extended by an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals. By that time the growing season is over, and the problem is moot until the following Spring. Add "no mow May", "pollinator gardens",





and "meadows " and the issues become a conundrum.

of the Zoning Law and make it a stand-alone law. The amount of time a homeowner will have to respond to a notice of violation will be shortened considerably. Instead of appearing before the Village Justice, a homeowner will need to present their case to the Code Enforcement Officer. If they are still not satisfied with the decision, where should they be able to appeal? The Board of Trustees? The Planning Board? Fines will be increased and accumulate during the growing season if the grass isn't mowed.

As one of the Trustees stated, "We don't want to be the lawn police". Nor do we want to return to the early days of the Village when Blood and Newman had to approve the architectural plans before any new house could be built. They didn't approve the landscaping design, but they assumed lawns would be cared for in keeping with the prevailing style à la Frederick Law Olmsted with sweeping carpets of green surrounded by tasteful flower beds. What do we want this revised law to do beyond tightening the timeline and revamping the fine structure?

We have an incredible array of gardening styles in the Village. Some residents have the equivalent of Chem Lawn every week while others welcome dandelions as the harbinger of Spring, delighted to watch the rabbits and wood chucks devour the blossoms. There are formal gardens with very precise plantings and others that are wilder looking but are still recognizable as flower beds. Do we insist that a house have some lawn? It takes effort and research to establish a pollinator garden. Who gets to decide if it qualifies? Do we allow meadows, realizing that one person's meadow is another person's hay field? And do people appreciate how much time, effort and money is needed to establish and perpetuate a meadow? It is way more than just not mowing your lawn. What about semiwild spaces? Should we insist that homeowners with hillsides on their land

maintain them in the same way as the rest of their property?

We intend to move Property Maintenance out There is an array of other issues we need to It is a privilege to be your Mayor. It is the best address. The Village (with a few exceptions) job I have ever had. Thank you. owns the land 25 feet from the center of each road. This right-of-way (ROW) is often a source of confusion and frustration, especially when there is a sidewalk. The Village owns it but except for trees, the resident is supposed to maintain it as they do their lawn area. When the lawn extends to the road, there isn't usually a problem unless there is a drainage ditch at the end of the property. In this



touch.

Property

your contact information and I will be in

· Linda Woodard; Mayor

Maintenance Law.

situation it can be impossible to use a lawn mower and a weed whacker is needed. What if you live on a busy road? Should the Village expect you to deal with traffic to keep this area as grass below 10 inches and not allow it to grow up in weed species like Queen Ann's Lace or Chicory? Or should this be left to the Department of Public Works (DPW)?

Should back yards be treated in the same manner as front yards? If your neighbors can see into your back yard does that make a difference? Where should wood piles be allowed? Compost bins? Furniture that isn't lawn chairs?

The DPW collects brush once a month on the second Monday of the month. Piles can be put in the ROW starting the Friday before pickFind information, quickly and easily on the Village Website:



www.cayuga-heights.ny.us.



Many residents wonder where their Village of Cayuga Heights taxes go and what services are provided with those funds. Each spring the Village Trustees in partnership with the staff from the Fire Department, Police Department, the Department of Public Works, the Justice Department, and the Administration work on the budget for the following fiscal year. Our budget year goes from June 1 to May 31st of the following year.

The bulk of our revenue comes from taxes. The Board of Trustees sets the rate for the Property Taxes each year. We also receive a portion of county sales taxes, mortgage, and utility taxes. We determine how much of the money we saved from the previous year (called fund balance) and decide how to spend that in the new year. A smaller amount of revenue comes from the state and town, permits, sales of trash tags, interest from the bank, rent, and donations. (See Chart #1)

Each department submits a spending budget which is reviewed by the Finance Committee, discussed among the Trustees, edited by the department head, and finally approved by the Board of Trustees. Salaries and benefits make up most of the Village Expenses.

The village employs both full time staff and part time staff and provides a small stipend to the six Trustees. The staff are split among the Justice Department (a part time clerk, a justice, and a part time justice), the Police Department (Police Chief, a full-time and a part time clerk, six full time police officers, eight part time police officers, and four crossing guards), the **Department of Public** Works (Assistant Superintendent plus eight staff), Fire Department (Superintendent and a Fire Inspector - the rest of the Fire Department are volunteer firefighters and paramedics), and the Administrative Staff (Mayor, Engineer, Clerk, two Deputy Clerks, Treasurer, Trustees, as well as a seasonal intern).

The next biggest expenses are departmental expenses. This includes things like trucks and equipment that are needed for the police, fire department and the DPW to take care of public safety, roads, garbage, and snow removal. It also includes insurance, software, building maintenance, gas and electric, etc. (See Chart #2)

Salaries and Benefits can also be broken down for each department. The chart below shows the total budgeted salaries and benefits per department. Benefits include FICA, health + vision / dental insurance, retirement contributions, and workers comp insurance. (See Chart #3)

#1

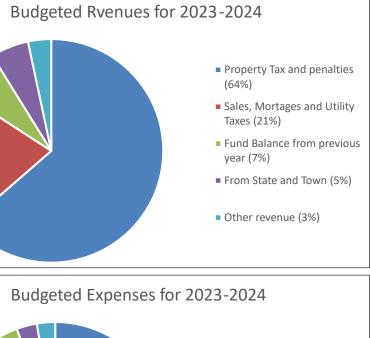
#2

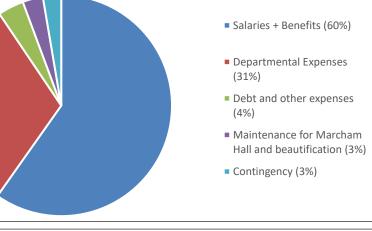
#3

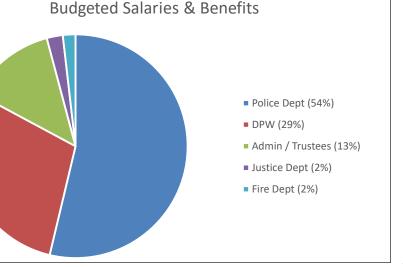
2

are open to the public in person and on zoom and both the preliminary budget and the final budget are posted on the village website for anyone to review. I'm also available to answer any questions you have about the budget process or the final budget.

Our annual budget workshop in mid-March as well as the final budget approval meeting - Laura Dolch; *Village Treasurer*









On December 16, 2021, the EPA revised its Lead and Copper rule to better protect communities from exposure to lead in drinking water. The new rule requires municipalities to identify all lead water supply lines by October 24, 2024, and begin their removal.

Fortunately, with the help of Bolton Point the Village has good records of its water supply lines, leaving only 147 properties with unknown material. The Department of Public Works began work on a project to discover the material of these 147 service lines in the Village this past July. Hydro-X, out of Syracuse, was engaged because they use a method of digging called Hydro Excavation. This method uses pressurized water to break up the soil and industrial vacuums to remove it. It is an environmentally friendly method of



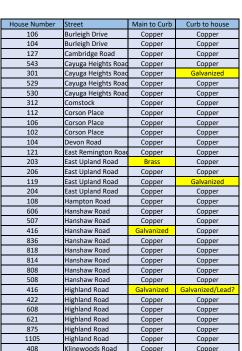


safely digging around underground utilities. Our main hope was to minimize damage to anyone's lawn, and I think that was accomplished. As you can see by the images, the size of the holes dug were only about two feet wide.

So far 81 of the 147 properties with unknown material have been excavated and analyzed by the DPW staff. The findings of this work, which was finished at the beginning of September, can be found in the included list to the right. I hope to be able to engage Hydro-X again next Summer to excavate the remaining 66 curb valves still to be analyzed.

Residents might understandably be concerned about the prospect of having lead pipes and drinking the water from their tap. However, the Village is doing a fantastic job of maintaining communication throughout the process of investigation. Letters have been sent out at each stage to inform residents who are affected. If you have not received any letters this year in reference to lead pipes, then congrats your water service lines are all made of copper! If you did receive a letter, there is information available to you about the work that has been done. Everything that we know so far, we have published on our website, under the project menu tab labeled "Lead Water Pipes Project" (https://cayugaheights.ny.us/projects-2/village-lead-waterpipes-project/).

In the meantime, if you are concerned about lead exposure there are steps you can take to protect yourself and your family. To reduce the concentration of lead in your water, run the tap for a few minutes in the morning. Never use hot water from the tap for drinking or cooking. Use of a simple filter like a Brita filter will remove lead in your water. If you still have questions, feel free to reach out to



Copper Copper 407 linewoods Ro Copper Copper 107 isa Place Coppe 105 isa Place Copper Copper 104 isa Place Lisa Place 106 Copper Copper 1idway Roa Copper Copper 110 lidway Road 111 dway Road 147 orth Sunset Drive Copper Copper 132 orth Sunset Drive 213 123 2115 orth Sunset Drive Copper Copper 205 Copper Copper Coppe 190 Copper 190 asant Grove Copper Copper Coppe indolph Roa msbury Road Copper Copper ruce Lane Spruce Lane Copper Texas Lane Texas Lane Copper Copper Fexas Lane Texas Lane Copper Copper Fexas Lane Copper Copper 208 Texas Lane Copper Copper 118 Texas Lane Copper Copper 117 Texas Lane Copper Copper 122 Texas Lane 205 Fexas Lane Copper Copper Texas Lane 207 Copper 210 Texas Lane Copper Copper 206 Fexas Lane Copper 204 Texas Lane Copper 114 Texas Lane 207 The Parkway 505 The Parkway Copper 204 The Parkway Lead

me or call the Village Clerk's office at (607)277-1238.

Nhite Park F

Wyckoff Road

Wyckoff Roa

Wvckoff Roa

211

514

518

520

-Mike Wiese; Director of Public Works



The Cayuga Heights Police Department (CHPD) would like to remind residents, there is no overnight parking on Village streets between the hours of 2 A.M. and 6 A.M. Signage is posted at entry points into the Village. When parking during overnight hours, vehicles must be at least 4 feet off the roadway and may not be parked between the curb and the sidewalk. Residents may call the CHPD to request overnight parking leniency for extenuating circumstances.

Code 280-7 D. No Overnight Parking:

The parking of a vehicle is hereby prohibited on all highways within this Village between 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM. A vehicle will be deemed to be in violation when any tire of a vehicle is on any roadway or within 4 feet of the edge of any roadway.



SIGNAGE IS POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING VILLAGE ENTRANCES:

Burleigh Drive	West	Simsbury Drive
Cayuga Heights Road	North	Triphammer Road
Cayuga Heights Road	South	Tyler Road
Highland Road	North	Tyler Road
Highland Road	South	W Remington Ro
Kline Road	West	Winthrop Drive
North Sunset Drive	South	Wyckoff Road
Pleasant Grove Road	East	Wyckoff Road

Village of Cayuga Heights Police Department

Parking on Village Streets



ve	West
load	South
	North
	South
Road	West
ve .	West
1	East
1	West

Questions about the

Village Laws and

ordinances?

The Village has codified all laws and ordinances through eCode360

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

Village of Cayuga Heights eCode360



Two School Openings a Hundred Years Apart

There have been two school openings in the history of Cayuga Heights, a hundred years apart: one for the children of farm families who lived here in the nineteenth century, and one in response to suburban development in the twentieth. In 1823, a farmer from New Jersey named Philip Kline bought 117 acres of land around Community Corners, setting aside a triangular shaped lot between Hanshaw and Pleasant Grove Roads for a school. Laws passed at that time in New York required schools to be within walking distance of home; by mid-century there were over 10,000 serving the predominantly rural state population, each in a self-funded school district governed by a local board of trustees. At the turn of the century, although the farm population was shrinking, there were still over 130 in Tompkins County, and the Kline School in District 6 (originally District 22) was one of nine in the Town of Ithaca. The opening in 1923 of the Cayuga Heights School was a key event in the transformation of Cayuga Heights from a farming community to an inner suburb of Ithaca close to Cornell University. You will find a treasure trove of information in material compiled by Pat Longoria for the centennial of the Village of Cayuga Heights in 2015 at http:// www.cayugaheightshistory.org/schools.html.

When the Village of Cayuga Heights was incorporated on half a square mile in the Town of Ithaca in 1915, it didn't include Community Corners where the Kline School was located. Land there, along with other land outside its boundary, wouldn't be part of the village until the 1950s. In 1920, Jared Newman, principal developer of Cavuga Heights, sold a double lot in the village on East Upland Road to Union Free School District 6 for \$2,000. Adopted at the time of the purchase, the designation "union free" allowed consolidation of two or more school districts in New York State to provide a high school. That was not the case in District 6, however, where parents were happy to send their children to Ithaca High School in the City of Ithaca union free district. Academic



Two doors used by generations of children - one for boys and one for girls - recall the original use of 1001 Hanshaw Road in Cayuga Heights

families moving to the area because it was near Cornell were enrolling younger children in city schools as well: either the public elementary school on East Hill two miles away from Cayuga Heights by streetcar, or a private school in Cornell Heights run by a teacher named Martha Hitchcock. What they bigger than the little Kline schoolhouse and more up to date.

When the new building opened on September 10, 1923, it met all expectations. Designed in the mock Tudor style by local architect firm Gibb and Waltz, it fit right in with period revival homes in Cayuga Heights to date. Twice as large as the Kline School it was wanted was a grade school closer to home, replacing, though small by today's standards, no expense was spared furnishing four classrooms, a workroom for teachers, and a

seven-member

of the

to "a decided boom in

the construction of

residences in this

university suburb."



Original section of Hitchcock Hall, shown shortly before it opened in 1923-24, had four classrooms with two grades housed in each room.

The Cayuga Heights School facing East Upland Road between Hanshaw Rd. and The Parkway shortly before opening a hundred years ago this September. Photo reproduced from a July 11, 1969 article by Jane Marham in the Ithaca Journal.

playroom for the children on rainy days. Along with the building, the landscape affording scenic views of the surrounding countryside was much admired.

The district school board convinced Martha Hitchcock to give up her school in Cornell Heights and become principal of Cayuga Heights School. Parents of children she was leaving behind asked the city school district to arrange enrollment for them there, too, but were refused. Miss Hitchcock, as she was always known, was joined on opening day by an assistant and three teachers. As reported in the *Ithaca Journal*, "maximum results" were anticipated from "thorough instruction" and "individual attention" to each child: expectations, like those of the building, were met and even surpassed. Principal for over twenty years, the school became so closely identified with her that fifteen years after she retired the building was renamed Hitchcock Hall

From the time it opened, Jared Newman or anyone else selling real estate made proximity to the school a selling point. Yet the building was only built to accommodate a hundred students, and as real estate sales increased in Union Free School District 6, overcrowding became a problem. In 1931, two options were considered: enlarging the school, which is what happened, or joining with adjacent rural school districts to build another in Cayuga Heights through the twelfth grade. The latter, which would have occasioned a third school opening, was rejected in part because providing road access and utilities were beyond village resources in the Depression. It would also have required extending the boundary of the village before it was ready after World War II. Furthermore, parents wanted to continue sending their children to Ithaca High School downtown in the city.

In 1933, two more classrooms and a kindergarten were added to the Cayuga Heights School; nevertheless, overcrowding persisted with constant arguing about whether to alleviate it by sending seventh and eighth graders to Boynton Middle School in the present-day Beverly J. Martin building downtown. Such controversy is familiar to anyone remembering school redistricting in the 1980s, long after Cayuga Heights became part of the Ithaca City School District in 1956 and Hitchcock Hall was replaced in 1969. What students remember most about school, though, is their teachers. The late Barbara Thuesen of Hampton Road recalled Miss Hitchcock reading aloud from the Iliad and the *Odyssey*.

-Beatrice Szekely, Village Historian



The Southern Tier Building Officials Association's (STBOA), goal is to help maintain a level of professionalism that will allow our members and the public to reap the benefits of properly built housing and enjoy a safe atmosphere while at work or play.

The New York State Building Officials Conference (NYSBOC) was formed in 1928 by a group of building officials who met informally to discuss mutual problems related to their work. In 1930 the group formally organized in Syracuse, electing James Armstrong of Yonkers its president. However, by 1931, the impact of the depression was being felt, and the organization did not meet again until June 1946, when some 100 building officials from all over the state answered the call to meet at the Seneca Hotel in Rochester to reconvene the Conference. A full slate of officers was elected, working committees established and efforts to form local chapters were begun. NYSBOC was formally established on November 21, 1947. The Conference voted to affiliate with BOCA, the Building Officials and Code Administrators, a nationwide organization.

This year the 2023 NYSBOC was held in Jamestown on September 19th. Among the many prestigious yearly awards being presented is the Presidential Award. This year, our very own Brent Cross was awarded the Presidential Award. This award is given



6

Award Winning Code Officer

to those that rise above and beyond the typical Code Official. Brent has been involved in the NYSBOC organization for approximately 25 years. He has served on our Bylaws Committee (at four separate Presidents requests), the Nomination Committee (at two separate Presidents request), the Urban Blight Committee, and has represented our local chapter in Albany on various occasions throughout the years. He has also been instrumental in mentoring new code officials in the Tompkins County Region, been part of community engagement with County Organizations, and assisted other municipalities on occasion.

According to the Director of Code Enforcement for Ithaca, Marty Moseley, Brent has had a profound impact throughout the State of New York and is highly respected in the Code Official Community. As the current President of the New York State Building Officials Conference, Mr. Mosely was excited for Brent to receive this recognition.

William Knickerbocker, President of STBOA writes, "I can tell you that Brent is always prepared and represents our chapter well. He goes above and beyond to see that our voice is heard at these meetings. There is often drama but he is informed and steadfast when it comes to important issues that come before the delegation."

We, the staff and officials of the Village, wish to congratulate Brent on this great achievement; it is well deserved!







The office continues to be a go-to place for new and current residents' needs such as trash tags, refuse schedules, bill paying and catching up with news around the Village. One great addition to visiting us at Village Hall is to pick up the very popular refuse magnet.

Our website (https://cayuga-heights.ny.us) has proven to be everything we hoped it would be. Deputy Clerk Kiersten Perkins has done an amazing job keeping it both beautiful and functional, with easy access to all our resources and answers to your questions. We encourage all residents to peruse the site and come back regularly for updated news posts and new projects. Our website is a great way to gather information about what is happening in the Village. Please take advantage of this wonderful resource.

It has been a busy year for our office with the passage of six new local laws. You can find a brief description of each of these laws in the column to the right. For a complete listing and any other information on laws and

ordinances please visit https:// ecode360.com/CA3773.

missed.

Our long-time justice the Honorable Judge Glenn Galbreath as well as our long-time court clerk Pat Kannus will be retiring in the spring of 2024. We would like to acknowledge their commitment and hard work on behalf of the Village. We wish them well in retirement. Jim Marshall has decided to retire from the Board of Trustees and will not seek reelection next March 2024. He will have served nine years. He will be truly

Maintenance and beautification of Marcham Hall has been a priority, but it has been difficult to find affordable contractors to do the various projects including repairing our slate roof. This year I decided to tackle the task of scraping, caulking, and finally painting the exterior of Marcham Hall. What a difference it has made.

Looking to the future, my main goal is to build relationships with the local businesses in the Village and strengthen our community bonds. We are now fully staffed and ready to serve the residents here in the Village in whatever capacity they need.

- Jeff Walker; *Village Clerk*



The Laws passed by the Board in 2023:

Local law 1 of 2023 – Amending the Zoning law to update the section on removal and pruning of trees and shrubs on private property.

Local Law 2 of 2023 – Amending the *Zoning Law to eliminate "Affinity House" as a permitted use*

Local Law 3 of 2023 – Allowing for a 10% exemption of assessed value of property tax owned by Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Worker.

Local Law 4 of 2023 - Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Pre-Treatment Understanding

Local Law 5 of 2023 – *Modifying the* Short-Term Rental Law to remove the penalty for posting a listing before renting.

Local Law 6 of 2023 – *Amending the* annual sewer rates, as defined in article XII, sewer rents, of the Village of Cayuga Heights articles.





Before

Village Officials & Employees

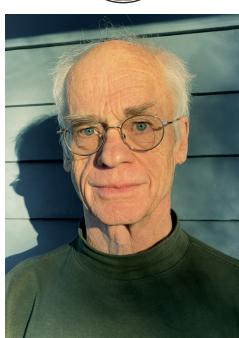
Village Employees:

Main Phone number; (607)257-1238

Clerk	Jeff Walker	ext. #102
Deputy Clerk	Amy Jacot	ext. #105
Deputy Clerk (part-time)	Kiersten Perkins	ext. #100
Treasurer	Laura Dolch	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
Fire Superintendent	George Tamborelle	ext. #261
Court Clerk	Pat Kannus	ext. #107
Fire Inspector	Chris Hamilton	(607)592-0



Glen Galbreath



Iames Marshal

Pat Kannus





During

After



Village Officers

Mayor Linda Woodard lwoodard@cayuga-heights.ny.us ext. 103

Deputy Mayor and Trustee Richard Robinson rrobinson@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Deputy Treasurer and Trustee Kristi Rennekamp krennekamp@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Trustee Jennifer Biloski jbiloski@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Trustee Kent Hubbell khubbell@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Trustee James Marshall jmarshall@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Trustee Peter Salton 0599 psalton@cayuga-heights.ny.us



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

Refuse Schedule

DATE	BRUSH	BULKY	RECYCLING
NOV 2023	13	20	3,17
DEC 2023	11	18	1,15,30*
JAN 2024	8	16*	12,26
FEB 2024	12	20*	9,23
MAR 2024	11	18	8,22
APR 2024	8	15	5,19
MAY 2024	13	20	3,17
JUN 2024	10	17	1*,14, 28
JUL 2024	8	15	12, 26
AUG 2024	12	19	9, 23
SEP 2024	9	16	7*, 20
OCT 2024	14	21	4, 18

- *Late due to holiday
- 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.recycletompkins.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

