



The Village Report

Volume 2 Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2022

Contact Information

www.villageofvoorheesville.com

Village Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Notary Services available

Phone: (518) 765-2692

Fax: (518) 765-2967

Mailing address: 29 Voorheesville Ave.

Mayor

Rich Straut 765- 2692
mayor@villageofvoorheesville.com

Deputy Mayor

Dick Berger 765-2674

Trustees

Jack Stevens 765-4350

Kait Wilson

Sarita Winchell 765-2133

Village Clerk/Treasurer

Linda Pasquali
clerk@villageofvoorheesville.com

Deputy Clerk/Treasurers

Karen Finnessey
deputyclerk@villageofvoorheesville.com

Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Amber Bleau-Green
treasurer@villageofvoorheesville.com

Building Inspector

Steve Mason 765-2698
building@villageofvoorheesville.com

Superintendent, Public Works

Brett Hotaling 765-4512
DPW@villageofvoorheesville.com

Stormwater Officer

Frank Fazio 765-2692 ex 14
stormwater@villageofvoorheesville.com

Board Meetings

Village Board:

4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM
at Village Hall

Planning Commission:

1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM
at Village Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals:

1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM
at Village Hall

ZBA and Planning meet only when applications have been submitted. Call the Village Office or check the Public Notices or website calendar to confirm meetings. Village Public Notices can be found in The Enterprise's advertisement section and are posted at: Village Hall; US Post Office, the Library and BSNB

From the Mayor

Welcome to Spring, Voorheesvillians!

First and foremost – Thank you for officially electing me Mayor back in March! I appreciate the votes of confidence and look forward to what the next 4 years will bring. There is a lot happening in our Village and a lot to report so please read on...

Memorial Day observances and traditions return

After a 2-year pandemic hiatus, Voorheesville Memorial Day traditions are back! On Saturday May 28th American Legion Post 1493 will host the Memorial Day parade with a ceremony in the Village Park immediately following. Post Commander Wendell Thayer tells me the tradition of complimentary beverages and hotdogs will continue. The 2-mile and the 15k road races are also being planned, as is the evening Village Party at the firehouse, complete with food, activities for the children, music and fireworks sponsored by the Jim Nichols Fund. Thank you to all who are helping to organize the events, and most importantly, we thank our veterans for their service to our country! See page 3 for a timeline of events.

Establishing a railroad "Quiet Zone"

About a decade in the making so far, we are chugging ever closer to having a Quiet Zone established in Voorheesville. Once established, trains will not have to blow their horns when passing through the two at-grade road crossings in the Village – one at Voorheesville Avenue and one at Main Street. While we had secured a grant through former Senator Amedore to help bring the Quiet Zone to fruition, the project seemed to be stuck in the mud.

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A New Face to Grace Village Hall

After an extensive search process, the Village has hired a replacement for our soon-to-leave Linda Pasquali. Welcome Amber Bleau-Green.

Amber has lived in the Town of Wright in Schoharie County for the past 26 years. She says "I am very excited to become part of the Voorheesville Community. I have always admired your village, now I get to be part of it."

Amber began her career in public service as a planning board member



Amber Bleau-Green

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However, last year CSX and Norfolk Southern (NS) railroads proposed a deal whereby NS would connect their tracks that run along Prospect Street to the CSX tracks between Voorheesville Avenue and Main Street. The deal would allow 2 double stacked NS trains each day to run on the CSX tracks to deliver cargo toward eastern Massachusetts. As we discussed the Village's concerns and our desire to establish the Quiet Zone with representatives of CSX and NS, we were able to come to an agreement with the rail companies that will help bring the Quiet Zone to reality. Since Main Street and Voorheesville Avenue are County roads, Albany County is playing a key role in the project. The County and CSX are currently working on an agreement that will satisfy requirements of the NY State grant, and it is expected that design for the CSX/NS project, as well as the Quiet Zone Improvements, will be completed this year. We are creeping ever so closer to the Quiet Zone reality.

Streetlights, energy savings and cost savings

On March 11th, the Village of Voorheesville closed on the purchase of the 315 (or so) streetlights in the Village from National Grid. In the past we had a lease-type arrangement with National Grid, where they owned the streetlights and we paid for electricity as well as a fee for use and upkeep of the streetlights. Purchase of the lights from National Grid was one piece of an overall project whereby we will convert all the lights to LED fixtures, thereby substantially reducing electricity consumption. In addition, by owning and replacing the fixtures we will save substantially on maintenance. To make it even better, we secured an \$80,000 Clean Energy Communities grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to help pay for it. In all, the Village expects to save about \$70,000 per year on our streetlights budget. With these savings the project will be paid off in about 5 ½ years. Retrofit of the lights is expected to begin within the next few months.

Water and sewer infrastructure improvements

The Village is ramping up upgrades to our water and sewer infrastructure to ensure it continues to provide reliable service to our residents. As I write this, construction has begun on an extension of sanitary sewers to serve Voorheesville Avenue and Main Street south of the CSX railroad tracks. This extension will provide much-needed service to residents and to commercial businesses in the Village. We've also completed an evaluation of the oldest sewers in the Salem Hills development to determine where repairs are most needed. Our plan is to prioritize improvements and begin making repairs soon. This should reduce the amount of leakage of groundwater and stormwater into the sewer which overloads the treatment plant. The treatment plant itself will also be improved. Our DPW is working on fixing the water filters and we are soon going to be adding an ultraviolet light disinfection system required by NYSDEC to disinfect the treated effluent before it is discharged to the Vly Creek. Further, we are beginning to plan for replacement of our oldest and most vulnerable water mains – some of which are nearly a century old.

There are good things happening in Voorheesville! As always, the Village Board welcomes your input and insights. Please consider attending some of our Village Board meetings (7 pm) held the 4th Tuesday of each month (Village Hall) to share your thoughts.

Be well,
Rich Straut

Annual Property Clean-Up Reminders

Spring is a busy time for your Village DPW. As they work to get the Village in shape after winter, your help with the following items is appreciated.

- Loose debris must be in brown biodegradable bags and placed at the curb for pick-up. Bagging is required because of an increase in stones, rocks, and larger debris that can damage our chipper.
- Brush and limbs should be placed in piles at the curb - ***do not block sidewalks or place on roadway*** - with the cut side facing the street; limbs can be up to 10" in diameter.
REMINDER: If you hire a contractor to trim your limbs or cut a tree, the contractor is responsible for hauling away the debris.
- Moveable basketball hoops are an obstacle if placed in, or along the side, of any street or cul de sac. Keep these hoops off/out of these areas as they make it difficult to maneuver DPW equipment, emergency vehicles, and the garbage/recycling trucks.
- DPW is aware that snow removal may have damaged some lawns. Repairs are on the schedule for the crew and will be taken care of as time allows.
- Fire Hydrants – materials are available from DPW for residents who wish to paint hydrants near their homes. Give us a call!

As always, if you need to contact the Public Works Department, we can be reached at 518-765-4512 Monday - Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM or by email at DPW@villageofvoorheesville.com

Memorial Day Parade Returns *Air Force – 75 Years of Service*



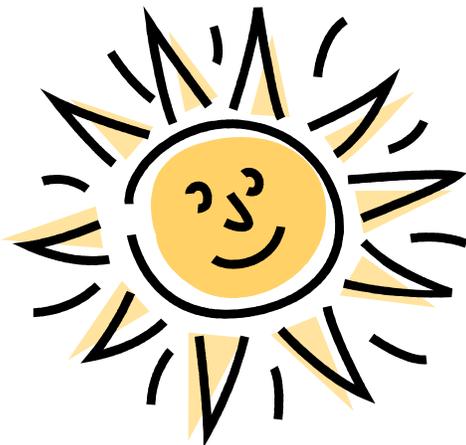
Here is the schedule of happenings for our returning Memorial Day festivities on Saturday, May 28th.

- 10:00 AM Annual parade begins at the corner of Rte. 85A and Circle Drive
GRAND MARSHALL is Paul Jeffers
- 11:00 AM (approx.) At the conclusion of the parade the American Legion Ceremonies will begin at Nichols Park, followed by the Kiwanis children's races
- 12:15 PM The 45th Annual Voorheesville 15K (9.3 miles) Race begins – entry form available at Village Hall and on our website.
- 12:25 PM The 42nd Annual Voorheesville 3.2K (2 miles) Race & Fun Walk begins - entry form available at Village Hall and on our website.
- 2:00 PM Kiwanis Brook's Bar-B-Q begins at Reilly & Son Funeral Home; dinners served until 6:00PM or SOLD OUT!
- 6:00 PM The Annual Village Party (fun for the whole family) will be held at the Voorheesville Fire House on Altamont Road. Thank you to Atlas Copco and the Voorheesville Road & Gun Club for their generous contributions towards this event. Come and enjoy live music featuring The Electric City Horns, food by the Rod and Gun Club, and fireworks at dark.

If your business, group, or organization has not already received an invitation to march in the parade and you would like to do so, contact Wendell Thayer/Legion Hall (after 4:00 PM) at 518-765-4712.

Whiz, Boom, Bang, Help Keep the Party Hopping!

Fireworks for the Memorial Day festivities are possible through the generous donations of individuals, civic groups, and businesses. The Jim Nichols Foundation commits each year to ensuring the show will go on regardless of fund-raising results. Please consider donating at Village Hall. 100% of donations are used for fireworks or, if donations surpass expenses remaining funds go to support graduating Voorheesville students with college scholarships. Checks should be made payable to the Jim Nichols Foundation. Checks should be made payable to the Jim Nichols Foundation. Thank you for your generous support!



Hooray!! Let's Have Some Fun!! **Village of Voorheesville Summer Recreation Program**

The Village's Summer Recreation Program will once again be held in Nichol's Park behind Village Hall.

Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursdays from 9:00 AM - 12 Noon
July 12 - August 11, 2022

Arts & Crafts & Games with Director: Juli Scoons

This program is for children entering grades K - 6
Use your child's grade in the fall to determine eligibility.

Cost for Village Residents is \$60/child, Non-Residents is \$80/child
Registration forms will be available June 1st

Building Department Information

Steve Mason

Be sure to take preventative measures to reduce the risk and protect yourselves, your families, and your community from a house fire.

Fire and Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

Make sure your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms are functioning by testing them once per month. Both alarms should be battery-operated or have a battery back-up, and batteries should be changed once per year. You should have a *separate* alarm for each to prevent these separate emergencies.

Have a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm on every floor, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms. You can check for interconnecting alarms so that when one sounds, they all sound.

Your smoke alarm doesn't just sound when there is a fire. Learn the difference between the sounds: **three loud beeps (continuous)** mean there is smoke or a fire, and **one "chirp" every 30-60 seconds** means it is time to change the battery.

Your smoke alarm must be changed every 10 years. Make sure you find out how old the smoke alarm is when you move into a new residence. If your smoke alarm continues to "chirp" even after you have replaced the battery, it's time to replace your smoke alarm.

Most home fires start in the kitchen. Make sure you always keep watch over your cooking and that there is a fire extinguisher nearby.

Have a fire escape plan and review it with your family. Make sure plans meet the needs of those with disabilities, children, and those with mobility issues in the household.

Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.

On average, one of every 13 hotel or motel reports a structure fire each year. Make sure you are staying at a hotel or motel equipped with smoke alarms and sprinklers, locate the fire exits when you arrive, and review the escape plan with your traveling companions.

Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.

Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open. Use generators outside only, at least 20 feet away from your home.

You can find more sources of information at the Consumer Product Safety Commission (<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Materials>).

Get a Building Permit!

New York State law requires local municipalities to have a way to enforce the NYS Uniform Code and the NYS Energy Code and local zoning laws.

The Building Permit process will assure:

- If a permit is necessary
- That you or your contractor are meeting the minimum code standards.
- That your contractor has all the insurance coverages that will protect you.
- That in the future your insurance company will cover any damage to the work done.
- That if you sell the property, it will not be held up by having an unpermitted modification.

The permit fees in the village are minimal and are an economical way to get the resources and information to comply with the codes and have oversight of contractors.

Stormwater Corner

Frank Fazio

Pesticide & Fertilizer Application

Now that spring is here, attention will be given to our lawns and gardens. Careful consideration needs to be given to the application of fertilizers and pesticides. Chemicals contained in them can enter waterways from stormwater runoff. Nitrogen and phosphorous lead to eutrophication, which is excessive richness of nutrients in water bodies that causes a dense growth of plant life and death of animals from lack of oxygen. In order keep the impacts to a minimum, read labels of the products and follow the application rates and procedures. Keep applications to a minimum and use other methods if possible. Avoid applications near water bodies. The cumulative impacts from fertilizer and pesticide application in a community can be detrimental to our water bodies and with minimal and proper application, we can reduce these impacts.

MS4 Annual Report

The Draft Joint Annual Report (AR2022) for stormwater management of the Village will be posted on the Stormwater Coalition and the Village stormwater website on May 3, 2022. The Annual Report is prepared to record how the goals were met for stormwater management to be in compliance with the NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit. If you have any comments or concerns, you can access a comment response form in the Coalition stormwater website at <https://stormwateralbanycounty.org/> The public comment period will be from May 3 to May 17, 2022.

Recycling Updates

Home Smoke Detectors Disposal

It's important to remember to switch out your home smoke detector when it has reached the end of its functioning life and properly dispose it. Household smoke detectors contain a small amount of the radioactive isotope Americium-241, but it is not necessary to treat these items as low-level radioactive waste.

Instead, do the following:

- **Remove any batteries** from the smoke detector that are easily accessible. (Do not breach smoke detectors with non-removable batteries to get the battery out.)
- **Dispose of your old home smoke detector(s) in the regular trash.** Alternatively, you may be able to return smoke detectors to the manufacturer if the manufacturer can be contacted and agrees to take the item(s) back.

Use the [Call2Recycle website](#) to find a recycling outlet for any batteries removed from the smoke detector. Small rechargeable batteries, like those used in smoke detectors, should always be dropped off at these outlets for recycling. Primary batteries may be disposed of in the regular trash if you're unable to find a recycling outlet for them.

Article is from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Household Plastics

Our curbside recycling program is once again accepting plastic numbers 1- 7. Be sure to clean plastics and other recyclable items before placing in your recycle bin. Recycling items that are dirty or have residual food waste on them contaminate the whole load and these items get rejected and end up in the transfer station.

Some Things Never Change... And They Are Still Important!

Annual Village Tax, Water & Sewer bills are processed during the month of May and will be mailed June 1st. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** so that if you don't receive your expected bills soon after that date – contact Village Hall for duplicates. As per NYS, bills not received are still due and subject to late fees; we cannot waive late fees, please do not ask! When audited – they look at all payments received.

We can accept a postmark date as the payment date. **NOTE:** Bank issued payments do NOT have a postmark and must be considered late if arriving AFTER the due date. Allow about 2 weeks lead time when scheduling these payments.

On our Village webpage (villageofvoorheesville.com) you have access to current balances as well as amounts previously paid, should you need that information for your records. Payments are also accepted here using credit or debit cards or bank draft. Third party fees will apply. Look under the *Pay Tax/Water/Sewer* banner for this information.

VFD Auxiliary

Saturday, May 14, 2022
8:00 Am – 12 Noon
Voorheesville Fire House
12 Altamont Road



Accepting returnable
bottles and cans
Proceeds benefit Auxiliary
community activities

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day Mark Your Calendar

The annual Household Hazardous Waste collection event is scheduled for
Saturday, August 20, 2022

8:00 am – Noon

**Town of New Scotland Highway Garage
New Scotland Road**

This program is for Town of New Scotland & Village of Voorheesville residents only.

Acceptable wastes include pesticides, paints, wood preservatives and stains, thinners, solvents, drain cleaners, swimming pool chemicals, automotive fluids, batteries, cleaning products, gasoline, kerosene, acids and bases, hobby chemicals, asbestos (wet and double bagged), mercury thermometers, CFL and fluorescent light bulbs.

Our Household Hazardous Waste program is partially financed with a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Mark your Calendar!

**Pre-registration coupon will be required and can easily be
Emailed to you.**

and worked her way through to Councilwoman, Supervisor and Confidential Administrator. She enjoys helping people and being a voice for them.

At home, Amber is married with two young ladies and a brand-new granddaughter. She is an outdoors enthusiast who loves to ski, mountain bike, backpack, camp and more.

Amber says with a smile, "I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all." Be sure to stop in at Village Hall soon to return the smile and welcome Amber to the Village.



Keeping it Fun in The Ville!

New Restaurants Add to Choices

Voorheesville is on the verge of growing our culinary offerings. We are fortunate to have **Gracie's Kitchen, Jaycee's Pizza Depot, China Garden** and **Brick House Pizza** to keep us fed. And now there are other options in our future. **Northern Barrell Brewing**, located on North Main Street is targeting an April 29 opening. Business for Good is planning two new establishments- the **Blackbirds Tavern** and the **Blackbirds Bike Café** - at the corner of S. Main Street and Voorheesville Avenue. The **Crowing Hen Coffee Shop** is planning to open soon in the Voorheesville Center Plaza, and **Romo's Pizza and Restaurant** is moving forward with their proposal to open a new restaurant at 112 Maple Avenue – formerly Smitty's. Let's get ready to eat!



Please join us for the 6th Annual **Voorheesville Family Bicycling Day (VFBD)** to be held on **Sunday, June 5th from 12:00 to 3:00 pm!**
Rain date is June 12th.

VFBD is a celebration of bicycling with something for the whole family including care-free riding, raffle with lots of prizes for your bike, bike clinics, guided ride, ponies to ride, bouncy house, music, food, local exhibitors and much more.



Voorheesville/New Scotland Volunteer Day
Saturday May 14
9am-12pm
 Help seniors & other neighbors in need with yard work or assist with park or road clean up.
 Sign up at communitycaresdays@gmail.com
 Rain date May 15th



Organized by New Scotland Kiwanis & Vville Key Club

Volunteer Day, organized by the New Scotland Kiwanis Club and the Clayton A. Bouton High School Key Club, and in partnership with the Town of New Scotland and Village of Voorheesville, will be held Saturday May 14th from 9am – 12pm with a rain date of May 15. Town of New Scotland seniors and others in need due to disability or illness in the community are encouraged to contact Janna Shillinglaw at 518-369-0093, Lance Moore at 518-765-4969, or communitycaresdays@gmail.com by April 30th to be considered for yardwork or small outdoor projects. You may also contact the Town of New Scotland Senior Outreach Liaison Deborah Engel at 518-439-9038. All proposed service projects will be outdoor only.