



# The Village Report

Volume 17 Issue 2

Autumn/Winter 2017

## Contact Information

[www.villageofvoorheesville.com](http://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

Bob Conway 765-0036  
Mayorconway@albany.twcbc.com

### Deputy Mayor

Dick Berger 765-2674

### Trustees

Jack Stevens 765-4350  
Rich Straut 765-2068  
Sarita Winchell 765-2133

### Village Clerk/Treasurer

Linda Pasquali  
clerk@villageofvoorheesville.com

### Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Karen Finnessey  
deputyclerk@villageofvoorheesville.com

### Codes Enforcement Officer

Glenn Hebert 765-2698  
building@villageofvoorheesville.com

### Superintendent, Public Works

Brett Hotaling 765-4512  
DPW@villageofvoorheesville.com

## Board Meetings

### Village Board:

4th 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

### Planning Commission:

2nd Tuesday 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 and the website calendar to confirm meetings. Public Notices for the Village of Voorheesville can be found in The Enterprise's advertisement section and are posted at: Village Hall; US Post Office, Key Bank, and Stewarts

## From the Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

It appears that fall has finally arrived after some very pleasant Indian summer weather. Please take a few minutes from the leaf raking and get caught up with village news:

A dedicated group of village residents, assisted by very able professionals, has been working tirelessly to develop the Village Comprehensive Plan. The draft is ready for review and comment. Information about the process and the next steps are detailed later in this newsletter.

The Board of Trustees recently approved and completed the purchase of Tork's Hill to allow its continued use as a winter recreation area. Tork's Hill has become an iconic part of the Village and will now be there for all to refine their sledding skills.

The village sidewalk projects including Maple Ave, Voorheesville Ave, Altamont Road and School Road continue to move forward with preliminary planning and engineering work taking place and with full construction activities to commence in 2018.

The long awaited Quiet/Safety Zone for the village rail crossings continues to inch forward as we coordinate the funding stream with our various partners. There is reason to be hopeful that this will conclude within the next year.

Further details for all of these projects are available at Village Hall. I would also encourage everyone to attend our monthly board meetings, email us, or just drop by to let us know your thoughts and ideas on how to better serve your needs or to make this wonderful community an even better place to live.

Hope to see you at the holiday tree lighting!



## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

### Committee Recommendations to be presented to the Public

By Trustee Richard Straut

The Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee and Village Board of Trustees will be holding a Public Hearing to formally present their recommendations to Village residents on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 PM at the Voorheesville Fire House

A group of dedicated volunteers has been working for nearly a year on developing a Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Voorheesville. The Draft Comprehensive Plan is available for review on the Village's website [www.villageofvoorheesville.com](http://www.villageofvoorheesville.com), or on paper at Village Hall and at the Library. Please take some time to look through the plan and give us your thoughts. At the November 29<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing (7:00 PM at the firehouse), our planning consultant, Nan Stolzenburg from Community Planning & Environmental Associates, will present the Draft Plan and the Committee will receive comments. In addition to the Public Hearing, you can submit your comments in writing to the Village Office, or by emailing us.

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as the road map to guide the Village Board in the Village's future growth and development. It expresses the vision, goals strategies and policies to the Village over the next 10 - 15 years. The Draft Comprehensive Plan was developed with the input of many Village residents and business owners through focus groups, our public workshop and a Village-wide survey.

Comp Plan  
Continued on page 3

## NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTED

After serving 3 years, Village Trustee Flo Reddy resigned her seat effective September 30. She indicated she has enjoyed the experience of being a Trustee but would like to free up more time to spend with her family and their activities. Mayor Conway has appointed Sarita Winchell to complete the term.

While growing up, Sarita and her family frequently visited her grandparents on their farm in Voorheesville. When she and her twin (Lydia Tobler) graduated from college in 1971, they moved into that same house and she has lived there ever since. Sarita married her husband John in 1972, completed a masters in Economics at SUNY Albany, and worked at General Electric. She began working at the Voorheesville Central School Business Office two years later, first as Treasurer, and for her last nine years as the Assistant Superintendent for Business. She also completed 30 credits in Educational Administration at UAlbany to qualify as a school district administrator. Sarita retired in 2011 but loved the job so much she agreed to fill in 2014 and again in 2015 when the need arose for an interim to head the Business Office.



Sarita has 2 daughters, Lynette and Katherine. She notes that she is greatly interested in local history as her paternal family goes back to the original settling of this area. She is an active member of the New Scotland Historical Association, and a member of the local Methodist Church. She is also serving as a member of the Village's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Her greatest pleasure, though, comes from spending time with her grandchildren.

Sarita says she has a strong love of this area, and looks to a positive future for Voorheesville. She believes that realistic planning for the future will set the Village apart from other communities as we move forward.



## DPW NOTES

*By Brett Hotaling*

This newsletter is an opportunity to remind our residents of fall and winter DPW issues.

**LEAVES:** Curbside leaf pick-up will continue as long as the weather allows. Please rake your leaves to the curb, not into the roadway. Keep rocks out of your leaf piles; they cause excessive wear & tear on the leaf vacuum resulting in additional repairs. Help keep storm water flowing: rake leaves and debris away from storm drains.

**BRUSH/STICKS:** Brush pick-up ended back in mid-September. Please do not put larger limbs and brush at the curb at this time. Bundles of sticks, no longer than 3 ft. in length and tied together, will be picked up.

**LAWN BAGS:** If you choose to bag your lawn debris and smaller sticks we will continue to collect these bags.

**SNOW REMOVAL:** When the time finally arrives, please DO NOT shovel or snow blow snow back into the street. This practice is dangerous for drivers who have to drive through the snow.

**PORTABLE BASKETBALL HOOPS:** Portable basketball hoops are to be removed from the street or shoulder areas, especially in cul de sacs. DPW will not be held liable for any damage done to these hoops while doing our jobs.

**VILLAGE RIGHT-OF-WAY:** Mailboxes, trees, shrubs or other items located within the Village's ROW that are damaged by snow and ice removal are not the responsibility of the Village. In the majority of cases damage is caused by the force of the snow being pushed up off the road and is beyond the control of the driver.

As always, if you have any questions about what we do at the DPW please do not hesitate to call us at 518-765-4512. Our normal business hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 am until 3:30 PM. If you have an emergency, we may be reached by pager at 518-342-2772 or by calling 911.

## Winter Parking Restrictions

**There is  
NO PARKING  
on any Village Street  
12 Midnight to 6:00AM  
NOVEMBER 15 - APRIL 15.**

This is for snow plowing purposes. This law is enforced whether or not snow is predicted. Please plan accordingly for the winter months and be sure to tell your guests!



## Holiday Office Hours

Village Hall will be closed for a variety of upcoming holidays

- Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24  
**Thanksgiving**
- Monday, December 25  
**Christmas**
- Monday, January 1, 2018  
**New Year's Day**



## NOTIFY ME!

**Website Service Keeps Residents Informed**

[www.villageofvoorheesville.com](http://www.villageofvoorheesville.com) is the place to go to sign up for notifications on Village news and emergencies. Simply log on to the website, click on the NOTIFY ME tab, and follow the instructions. Notices can be sent via email, text, or both. Topics include (but are not limited to) water breaks, paving notices, public hearing notices, etc. Suggestions are always welcome.

As always, notices on other Village happenings not covered by the NOTIFY ME system are posted on the website and on our Facebook page – The Village of Voorheesville. For those not connected to the internet, an old-fashioned phone call to Village Hall will help you get the information you need.



## PROUD OWNERS OF TORK'S HILL



On October 31<sup>st</sup> Mayor Conway, the Board of Trustees and a small group of Village employees and residents gathered atop Tork's Hill for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the fact that the parcel is now property of the Village. The planned Use? Why, snow sledding, of course!

Just a few reminders before you head out at the first sign of snow:

- No snowboarding, skiing or motorized vehicles will be allowed.
- Please be courteous to nearby residents – don't block driveways or park on lawn areas
- Take home any trash you may create.

Rules of use will be posted; please adhere to them.



### *Comp Plan continued from page 1*

The information gathered was evaluated by our consultant and the committee, and guided the Plan's development. We received a robust response and strong participation from the community, and the Village Board thanks you all for providing your guidance. The high number of responses is a testament to the strength of community that is Voorheesville.

Special thanks to the committee members who put in countless hours working on the plan: Mike Bates, Jessica Burns, Dan Cronin, Kathy Fiero, Jim Giglio, Georgia Gray, Laura Minnick, Steve Reilly, Katrin Schamberg and Sarita Winchell. Also, thank you to Village Office staff Linda Pasquali, and Karen Finnessey for all of their help collecting information and coordinating the many things that needed to be coordinated as the Plan was developed over the past year.

We hope to hear your thoughts on the Plan, and hope to see you at the public hearing on November 29th.

## FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

### CO<sup>2</sup> Detectors and Smoke Detectors

It is now a New York State law that every residence have a CO<sup>2</sup> detector installed. They are available at a wide array of stores and in a wide range of prices. Also, make sure your smoke detectors are working properly. Batteries should be changed twice a year.

### Tips for Reducing Stormwater Pollution

#### Vehicle and Garage

Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain.

Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible.

Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand; don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.

Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

#### Lawn and Garden

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.

Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas.

Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.

Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day, and don't let water run-off into the storm drain.

Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies.

Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

#### Home Repair and Improvement

Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.

Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.

Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely.

Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.

Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.

Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.

Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.

Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods.

Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

#### Pet Care

When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

#### Swimming Pool and Spa

Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.

Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.

Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

## The Voorheesville Volunteer Fire Department's Annual **HUNGRY MAN'S BREAKFAST with SANTA**



**Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017**  
**from 7 - 11 AM**  
At the firehouse  
12 Altamont Road

Menu: eggs and toast  
Pancakes and French toast  
sausage and bacon  
Coffee, Tea and Juice



## **Voorheesville Family Bicycling Day June 3, 2018**



Once again the committee is hard at work planning for Bicycle Day 2018. The event is planned for Sunday, June 3, 2018, with a rain date of June 10.

Voorheesville Family Bicycling Day provides families with a safe and fun day of bicycling. The 2018 event will be expanded to encourage intermediate riders (tweens and teens) to explore the Village and the Rail Trail on two wheels.

Contact Kevin Relyea at 655-0059 or [kbrelyea@gmail.com](mailto:kbrelyea@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved.

Like their Facebook page (Voorheesville Family Bicycling Day) to keep up to date!

## **Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony**

*By Lois Gallager*



All are invited to the annual Holiday Tree Lighting, sponsored by the Helderview Garden Club, to be held in Hotaling Park on Sunday, November 26th at 4:00PM. Mayor Robert Conway and the Village Trustees will be there to welcome everyone and to turn on the holiday lights. The Garden Club will be passing out cookies and candy canes. There will be a carol sing for all, led by Ken George of the Methodist Church with assistance from local Scout Troops. We hope to see you at this wonderful community event.

## **Community Cares Days to be Held April 28 & 29, 2018.**

Community Cares Days 2018 will be held the weekend of April 28 & 29. The weekend will feature Green Clean activities and Neighbors Helping Neighbors projects throughout the Village of Voorheesville and the Town of New Scotland. This weekend of caring for our community is organized by a small committee of dedicated community members from New Scotland Kiwanis, the Village of Voorheesville, and the Town of New Scotland.

Volunteers are essential for making Community Cares Days a success. You and your family, your business and associates, school or community group can choose from a variety of pre-arranged service projects such as helping at the recycling event, Vly Creek debris removal, park and roadside clean-ups, and projects to help our senior and disabled neighbors around their homes. Or, you can work with our committee to initiate your own project(s).

How can you help in the early stages of planning? Mark your calendars now and plan to be a part of this worthwhile event, and then spread the word about the event dates so we can get as many community members as possible prepared to participate in the weekend's service activities. Contact our committee at [communitycaresdays@gmail.com](mailto:communitycaresdays@gmail.com) to let us know you are interested in learning more about the events. We can then add you to our distribution list for updates for the coming year's Community Cares Days. Updates will also be posted via the Village of Voorheesville and New Scotland Kiwanis Facebook pages.

We look forward to a successful Community Cares Days 2018!!!!



A special **THANK YOU** to Jerry Parmenter of Elemental Landscapes, Inc. for the recent re-do of the Village Hall front garden. We appreciate the gifts to the Village of his design talents and his time, as well as that of his crew, for the installation of the garden.

