

VILLAGE UPDATE



Village of Argyle, PO Box 7, Argyle, NY 12809
www.argyle-village.org/index.htm

Office on the Move

By Wes Clark

The Village Board has been looking at moving the Village office for a number of different reasons. When the Stiles house was purchased in 1998, the primary goal was to have a place for a wastewater treatment plant, but a secondary goal was to have a place for the Village office. The town office has become more congested over the years, and the Village office was moved into the former kitchen on the second floor to provide more space for town offices. The kitchen is a much smaller space, and would not hold all the Village file cabinets, which were moved to the Stiles house. The Village has sometimes had overlaps in using the meeting spaces at Town hall, as well.

Our plan right now is to move the operation of the office to Joyann Stimpson's house at 52 Sheridan St. This will allow Joyann, who

Resignations Lead to Changes

By Wes Clark

There have been two resignations this Fall that will impact how the Village government functions. On September 30, Gianna Cross resigned from her unpaid position as Deputy Village Clerk. She had served in this role for 8 years, and was able to issue receipts for water bills. We have decided not to replace her in this position, and to work towards a new way of collecting taxes and water rents. Ed Ellithorpe resigned effective November 15, after serving for 10 years as Mayor. He cited personal reasons for his decision, and

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is our Village Clerk, to have a temporary space for clerical work during the transition. The Stiles Committee has given us hope that a suitable office can be located in the Stiles house next summer, which will solve our space and access problems over the long term. Village Board meetings will still be held upstairs at the town office, at least until the summer. (see separate article for meeting schedule)

he will be able to focus on other interests. We thank both for their years of service. The Village Board appointed Wes Clark to serve as Mayor for the remainder of Ed's term, which ends in March. Wes has served as Zoning Board of Appeals chair, Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk/ Treasurer. If anyone has questions or suggestions about the Village, or the contents of this newsletter, they are encouraged to contact Wes Clark at 638-8717, or email walgclark@juno.com

Taxes and Water Rents

The Glens Falls National Bank has become the tax collector for almost all the school districts in Washington County. This has been very popular, since their office hours are generous, they have a drive up window, and there is a night deposit. The bank has agreed to accept Village taxes starting in June, and is willing to work with us towards accepting water rents after that. This should be a much more convenient location for Village taxpayers and water customers. Your actual tax bill will contain more information.



Collections will be more convenient.

For the March water rents, we will install a drop box outside the Town Hall, near the stairway entrance. This will be checked daily. The Village has also opened a new post office box, which is Box 7. If neither of these is convenient, an appointment can be made with Joyann, the Village Clerk, by calling her at 955-2766.

Water Meters

One issue that has come up over many years is the inequity in charging all residential water customers the same rate, regardless of usage. Technology has advanced, and meters have cost less, so the Village has purchased enough meters to cover all its water customers. Our plan is to have Randy Cuthbert install these through the winter and spring, so that next September, we can begin billing based on water usage. Randy has experience doing plumbing in most homes around the Village, so he should be able to install each meter in just a short time

without inconveniencing residents. This change will result in some customers being charged more, and some will be charged less. It will probably result in less water usage, which will prolong the life of our wells.

Randy will contact you when he is ready to put in your meter. There will be no cost to you for this addition.

Future bills will be based on a combination of usage and a fixed fee.



Meters will be read from outside this house.

Meeting Dates

The Village Board has been experimenting with a number of different days of the week and times of day for Village Board meetings. At the December meeting, the Board decided to settle on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 for its regular time and date. This means that the next six meetings will be:

Jan 4,	February 1,
March 1,	April 5,
May 3,	June 7.

The public is encouraged to attend and to participate in Village decision making. We also need volunteers to serve in various roles.

The Village election will be March 16. Two trustees and the mayor will be elected.



Computers make communicating easier.

The Village has purchased a new computer system, which will make communicating easier. There is a village website, which is www.argyle-village.org/index.htm. Our goal is to make use of email and the website to better inform Village residents. We are now linked on the county website, which should make finding us even easier.

Sidewalks Clear

The first several snow events are now past, and the sidewalks have been looking good. As you know, the Village has a law that homeowners are responsible for clearing their walks within 48 hours of the end of a storm. If this does not happen, the Village contracts with Mike Newell to clear them, and the homeowner is billed. There are a number of students in the Village who would be interested in shoveling for hire. If you would like contact information, please call Wes Clark at 638-8717. Bills can be paid by mail or drop off at the Town office.

Sewer Update

For over 20 years, the Village has been exploring the possibility of installing a sewer system. This has looked like a good idea due to the poor percolation of our clay soils, and the small size of many of our lots. It looked for a brief shining moment that some of the Obama stimulus money would trickle down to us, and that would make construction possible. Unfortunately, other communities have more serious needs, and our place on the funding list is very low. The Town and County are pursuing funding, which may keep our sewer system plan alive.