



VILLAGE UPDATE

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Archaeology Study Results

As many of you know, the Village hired a consultant to perform a Phase 1 study of the proposed sewer treatment plant and collection system sites. We found out the last time we applied for a Federal grant to finance the proposed sewer that we would not be considered without a Phase 1 archaeology study. We had some money left in a State grant that was to be used for development costs of a sewer system.

The archaeologist dug holes along the proposed collection pipes, and in a wide area where the treatment plant would be located. He was looking for artifacts of both Indian and early American civilization.

Ed Curtin, the archaeologist, found 9 places where artifacts were found, and 6 where he recommends more digging. The additional work would be called a Phase 2 study, and would more than likely be required to get grant money for a sewer.

Ed reviewed his report with the Village Board at its meeting on February 7. The report is very interesting, and we plan to leave a copy at the library for others to review. The 6 sites include a former cheese factory, former doctor's office, and the old mill site on Mill St.

Home Grant

The Village was awarded a total of \$300,000 in a grant from the State to be used for repair and improvement of owner occupied houses in the Village. These are for up to \$25,000 to income eligible homeowners. This grant was completed, so the Village applied

for a \$400,000 additional grant to be used in both the Town and the Village.

Six homes have been approved for funding from this grant so far. It has been difficult to "get the word" out to Town residents, who may also qualify for the remaining funds. Application forms and additional information can be accessed on the marvinandcompany.com website.

Water Meters

Randy Cuthbert, our contracted plumber and resident water system expert, is picking up the pace of installing new water meters. He anticipates having this project completed by October, so if you have not had a visit from Randy, you should expect one soon.

Joyann Stimpson our Clerk, and Garry Robinson, our Water Commissioner, will be learning how to use the meter reader over the summer, so we can start collecting information. We will not be able to use the meters for billing for at least another year.

Stiles House Survey

The Village Board sent out a survey to residents to ask for suggestions on what to do with the Stiles House. Since the Village bought the property 10 years ago, volunteers have done some major work on the house, but more needs to be done. It would be helpful in planning future work to know what the house will be used for.

Response to the survey was fairly light, so if anyone did not get the survey, or wants to give new ideas, they can contact any Village Board member.

Sidewalk Update

Last January, the Village and Town jointly applied for a grant to replace the sidewalk from the library to the school. Because this section was in bad shape, is used heavily by students, and is shared by Village and Town landowners, we were approved. We were required to attend a meeting in February to learn about requirements for actually getting the money. The award was contingent on NYS DOT approval, since the sidewalk is along a State highway. We have to work with both a State engineer in Albany, and the Washington County Resident engineer, because both have jurisdiction. The Albany engineer wanted the local engineer to actually walk the route, after verifying that we don't need to install curbs. We looked at grading issues, as well as trees and water shut offs. All the landowners were asked about concerns they might have. Next, we received a large package of requirements to be included in the specifications that will need to be bid publicly. The Village engineer had to design details and assemble a full bid package, which now must be approved by the Albany DOT engineer.

Our plan is for the Town to help by removing the old sidewalk, and to do the work this spring.



Front Porch Forum

On February 6, the Argyle Front Porch Forum website was officially launched. This is a computer based service that will allow residents of the Town, Village and School District to send messages to each other. The Argyle Community Enhancement Team was instrumental in setting this up, and hopes it will build a better environment through better communication.

It is free to sign up for this website, and a current email address is required. Anyone who lives in Argyle can log in to <http://frontporchforum.com> to sign up.

Elections

March 20th is the date for the annual election in the Village. As usual, the voting will take place in the upstairs meeting room of the Town Hall. The voting will start at 12 noon and end at 9 PM.

This year, Cher McCotter is running for another term as a trustee, and Wes Clark is running for a second term as mayor. Peter Bailey chose not to seek a second term, but Jon MacKenzie has decided to run for the open seat.

Jon, his wife Joy, and their four children live in the former Marge MacAuley house by the Moses Kill Market. Jon and Peter Bailey became friends in college.

Please participate in Village government by voting on March 20.

The Village Board includes Cher McCotter, Wes Clark, Joanne McDowell, Peter Bailey, and Joe Lohret. Our meetings are the first Monday of the month at 5:30 PM. Winter months we meet at the fire house. Summer months we meet at the Stiles house, which is 55 Main St.