



VILLAGE UPDATE

Village of Argyle, PO Box 7 Argyle, NY 12809
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Website Features

There have been some recent questions about Village laws regarding new construction. In response, the website has been furnished with new information. The Village zoning law, which was already in place on the website, now has the zoning map, which shows the commercial zones marked along Main St. There is a link to the State website about outdoor wood burning furnaces, since we are covered by that regulation. The Zoning law includes the setback provisions for new buildings.

The website already includes the Village budget and meeting minutes. If anyone has ideas for new features that would be helpful, they can contact the clerk.

Sewer Update

We spent some time at the last meeting in discussion about the prospects of a sewer system for the Village. This has been discussed for many years. The main issue is not that one is not needed, but that it is too expensive to be affordable.

Our engineer and Water Commissioner, Garry Robinson, has been doing more research on current options for funding and construction. We had to set a target of the top yearly amount that a property owner could be expected to pay for service. There had been a \$400 target, which we moved to \$600.

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

This grant has been exhausted, and there are several properties on a waiting list. We have decided to apply for a CDBG which will provide roughly the same benefits. These are more difficult to get, but there are future rounds of funding if we do not succeed the first time.

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.

Reverse 911

Washington County has been working on a system to notify residents of various towns and villages of emergencies that might arise from time to time. When the water line broke on East St. in the summer of 2012, this service was used. It was effective in contacting Village residents with traditional phone service.

More recently, we have been adding cell phones and water customers outside the Village to the water system notice list. If you would like to be added, please contact the Clerk.

Elections

March 18th 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. Wes Clark is running for a third term as mayor, and Jon MacKenzie is running for his second term as trustee.

Please participate in Village government by voting on March 18.

The Village Board includes Cher McCotter, Wes Clark, Joanne McDowell, Jon MacKenzie, 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.



Front Porch Forum

In February 2012, the Argyle Front Porch Forum website was officially launched. This is a computer based service that allows 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 it has built 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.

Sidewalk Update

In January 2011, 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.

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 State DOT engineer was busy with projects related to Hurricanes Sandy, Irene and Lee, so was unable to issue an approval until late in September 2013. The approval is contingent on using local forces, since we did not have enough money to bid out a formal contract.

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