



VILLAGE UPDATE

Village of Argyle, PO Box 7 Argyle, NY 12809
www.argyle-village.org 955-2766

Water Report

The Village operates a water department that provides water to residents. The New York State Health Department closely monitors our operation, and guides us in maintaining a safe water supply.

We are required to test water samples frequently, and to inform the water users of test results. In the past, we were required to mail an annual water quality report, which we included with the June tax bills.

Effective this year, we will no longer mail the annual water quality report. It will be available on the Village website at www.argyle-village.org. If anyone has questions, please call.

Snow Removal

This has been a difficult season for keeping sidewalks free of ice and snow. The State Department of Transportation recently removed snow banks that had built up over the past month.

Please keep shoveling, as is required by the Village sidewalk law. This law is posted on the website, and requires fines for those who don't keep their walks clear. We no longer have a contractor who can clear walks.

Don't throw snow into the highway, since this is a violation of Article 33 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law. It also may interfere with draining water off the road.

Home Grant

In 2009, the Village was awarded \$300,000 in a grant from the State to be used for repair and improvement of owner occupied houses in the Village. This grant was consumed, so the Village applied for and received a \$400,000 additional grant to be used in both the Town and the Village. A third grant in the amount of \$300,000 is being spent right now, and there is still a waiting list of applicants.

Another round of funding is available, but we have been advised that the Town should be the lead applicant, with the Village as secondary. This should help our chances for approval, and more people can be helped. Applicants can request up to \$25,000 for home improvements.

Well Status

In November, we noticed that our water storage tank was not full. This was a new problem, since our supply was good during the dry summer months.

At first, we suspected a leak, and looked all along the pipe routes for signs of water escaping. There were no leaks.

At the December meeting, we decided to drill a new well. It will be located near the existing wells to avoid major pipe and electric costs. The County leases land to us for well purposes.

The cost will be covered by existing savings in our water fund account.



Street Lights

News Coverage

The *Greenwich Journal and Salem Press*, which has always been our official news paper, was recently purchased by new owners. In an effort to serve the community better, they have been attending Village Board meetings and summarizing them in the weekly edition of the paper. The reporters also cover news of other municipalities in the southern end of Washington County. We can learn how other villages serve their residents and may use their good ideas in Argyle. They face the same challenges as we do.

Elections

March 18th is the date for the annual election in the Village. This is a Wednesday this year, because the State does not want elections to conflict with St. Patrick's Day. This will allow voting to take place downstairs in the court room of the Town Hall. The voting will start at 12 noon and end at 9 PM.

This year, Joe Lohret and Joanne McDowell are both running for the trustee seats that they currently hold. They have done good jobs serving the Village for several terms. Write in votes are always accepted.

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.

The Village has an agreement with National Grid to provide street lighting on Village streets. This is paid for by Village taxes, and is based on a formula using the number of lights and the length of time they are on.

From time to time, these lights need repair. We have a reporting form to tell National Grid which lights need to be fixed. If you notice a light not working, please contact the Clerk.

Sidewalk Update

As you know, we finally got major work done on the sidewalk from the Library to the School last fall. We had been hoping to start earlier, but our crew was not available.

Erik Johnsen and Jim Hempel were the supervisors of the project, and were hired by the Village. Town forces helped with moving material. We borrowed equipment from Greenwich and Cambridge. The State DOT has been helpful, and removed some tree stumps. The school provided us a staging area.

This was a much larger project than we had envisioned, and we had to stop work due to the cold weather. State regulations require a temperature of 55 degrees for 6 days after pouring cement. The new concrete is fragile, and should not be exposed to salt.

At this point, there are 5 driveways left to pour. We hope to complete them in April, and then do final grading and seeding. The State will help with some finish work. This will make walking much safer.