

Village of Churchville Newsletter

Message from the Mayor...

This has been a year of transition and many projects. I need to thank our Village Clerk/Treasurer, Meghan Lodge and DPW Superintendent, Paul Robinson for the excellent job they have done in their new positions. It is difficult to lose, through retirement, two employees such as Sue Davis and Dave Adams after many years of service and have a smooth transition to new leadership. I applaud Meghan and Paul for the marvelous job they have done during this year. I also applaud all of the Village employees for their adjustment to new leadership. We have stayed in line with our budget and completed many new projects while continuing to offer the best of services to our residents. As residents of this beautiful Village, you should be aware of this and join me in thanking them for their dedication.

I would also like to encourage everyone to support our local businesses. I continue to work with our Economic Development Committee and the Chamber. The businesses that are here need our continued support.

Finally, there is much to read about in this issue and I hope you check out our website at www.Churchville.net for daily updates about what is happening in the Village of Churchville. If you have any questions, my door is always open or contact me via email at MayorNancy@Churchville.net. Have a safe and prosperous fall and winter.

Mayor Nancy L. Steedman

Power Up!



O'Connell Electric employees suited up in protective gear during the powering up of the new Churchville Municipal Electric Substation.

Westshore Trail



The Westshore Trail and comfort station is almost complete. There will be several options for walking the trail. Park at the Buffalo Road location, or start walking from Howard Ave. The trail follows the former railroad bed and will loop to Park Road Extension and along the creek. Benches, signage and lights will be added for our ribbon cutting ceremony to be held next spring.



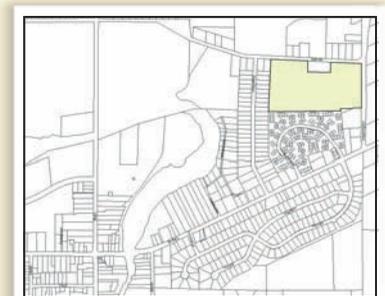
Baker Street Landing

Apartments are under construction!



Annexation

The Village of Churchville corporate limits now includes the properties along Washington Street and Gilman Road to Ridgefield Drive. This vacant farmland annexation has been approved by the Town of Riga and the Village of Churchville in accordance with the joint Town/Village Comprehensive Plan.



Welcome to New Businesses in the Village



Cranberry Hollow

Mayor Nancy Steedman and Chamber President, Sue Davis welcome Kimberly Ringelstein and Elizabeth Ridsen, Cranberry Hollow owners. Cranberry Hollow, located at 24 S. Main Street opened their doors to the public in September. With a lunch and dinner menu composed of homemade items, Cranberry Hollow is open five days a week until 7pm. A combination of gifts, great food and charming décor make this another great dining establishment in the Village of Churchville.

Wilkins RV

Mayor Nancy Steedman and Chamber President, Sue Davis welcome General Manager Denise Haggerty of Wilkins RV at 111 S. Main Street in Churchville. Brian Wilkins, 3rd generation of Wilkins RV in Bath, NY expanded his business to Churchville in August offering RVs, parts, service, sales and camping supplies six days a week. General Manager, Denise says with their expansion to this prime location, she has enjoyed the 'warm community' atmosphere. We welcome the new store and look forward to Wilkins RV actively participating in community events and offering employment opportunities.



Support the businesses in the Village-shop local!

Churchville Lions Club News

The Churchville Lion's Club wishes to sincerely thank the community for its support of the 2011 Churchville Lion's Country Fair. Without your generous support the many programs that the Club sponsors or contributes to would certainly not be possible. Just recently, the Churchville Lion's Club was awarded a certificate of appreciation for their financial contribution to the Leader Dogs for the Blind organization.

We look forward to your continued support and hope to see you at the fair next year.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2011 Fair raffle: Tom Klafehn, \$3,000.00; Susan Huff, \$500.00; Ed Feasel, \$300.00; Marcia Kehl, \$100.00; and Andy Barnard, \$100.00.

The Churchville Lions Club is holding its New Member Night on Tuesday Oct 25 at the Town Park on Buffalo Road starting at 6:15 PM. Prospective new members are cordially invited and welcome to come and see what the Churchville Lions is all about. It will be a chili supper so advance reservations are encouraged. Please contact Lion Marty Molinari at 293-1332 or Marty530@frontiernet.net for further information.

Winter Parking

Remember, **it is illegal to park on any Village streets from 2:00 am to 6:00 am, November 1st to May 1st.** Please note special winter parking regulations in the municipal parking lot on S. Main St. Any cars parked in these areas at said times may be ticketed.



Planning Board News

Though the Planning Board has had few projects come before it in recent months, due to economic conditions, it did present and the Village Board passed the new Subdivision Chapter to the Code. This chapter will clarify the requirements for subdivision within the village. It is enhanced by the Design Standards and the Comprehensive Plan, which are already in effect.

The Baker Street Landing project, approved for construction, continues to move ahead and soon there will be new apartments ready for occupancy within the village. This will give residents and future residents another alternative for living within the village.

Submitted by: Roberta Ames, Planning Board Chair

The Tax Cap

The Tax Cap bill originated with the Governor and was signed into law on June 24, 2011. It establishes a Tax Levy Limit on all local governments and most school districts (excl. NYC). The Tax Cap limits **total levy** set by local governments, **not** assessed value or tax rates. Local governments may not adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that exceeds the prior year's levy by more than 2 percent, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, unless the governing board first adopts a local law (or resolution) to override the tax levy limitation.

The Village of Churchville will be following these new guidelines during the 2012 budget process. The Village has held the tax levy for the past several years and remains in good financial standing. The Mayor, Trustees and Village Clerk have been attending workshops on this topic presented by the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC). If you have any questions regarding The Tax Cap please stop in at the Village Office or check it out on these websites: www.NYCOM.org or www.osc.state.ny.us

Community Memorial Park



The engraved bricks will be installed this October bringing the first phase of the Community Memorial Park towards completion. Many thanks go to the Lions Club, Village of Churchville, Town of Riga, Troop 133 Boy Scouts, Scout Tyler Swetman, Dave Becker, JBR Graf, the Chamber of Commerce and so many others who have had a part in providing a place where we can honor and remember our citizens. Landscaping will be completed this fall and we look forward to a ribbon cutting in the spring of the year as we kick off the 2012 Concert Season. Engraved bricks continue to be available for \$35 from the Churchville Lions Club. Pick up your order form from the Village Office or obtain one online at www.Churchville.net, www.Townofriga.org, or www.ChurchvilleLions.org

Openings for Zoning Board

There are two openings on the Village of Churchville Zoning Board of Appeals. If you are interested in becoming a member of this board, please submit a letter of interest to MayorNancy@Churchville.net as soon as possible. Our plan is to have these positions filled by the end of November.

CSX Railroad Crossing

The Mayor is working with Senator Alesi's office to have CSX make repairs to the railroad crossing on Main Street. **You can help!** Sign on to the CSX website at www.CSX.com and click on 'contact us' and then fill out the 'TellCSX' form. There are over 5,600 vehicles a day that bounce over the crossing...if drivers of those vehicles filled out the TellCSX form, I am sure CSX will begin to realize how important repairs to this crossing are to us.

Former Fire Hall Change of Use?

The Committee continues to study economically feasible options to convert the former Fire Hall into a Community Center for all to use. Here is the latest concept drawing and floor plan.



Cemetery Decorations

Please remember all pots and urns must be removed from grave sites by October 15th each year. Christmas wreaths and such decorations may be placed at the gravesites but must be removed by March 15th of each year or they will be discarded.



A New Path to Our Past

Nearing completion on the west side of the village is the West Shore Trail designated for use by outdoor enthusiasts such as walkers and cyclists. In its first phase, this trail extends from Howard Avenue to Buffalo Road along what was once the path of the New York West Shore & Buffalo Railroad Company, or simply, the West Shore Railroad. The West Shore tracks were constructed parallel to the tracks of the great and mighty New York Central Railroad from Buffalo to New York City with the first train arriving in the village on January 1, 1884. The Batavia Times newspaper covered the event and detailed the following: "In accordance with the announcement long since made by the management, but doubted by many, the West Shore Railroad was yesterday opened throughout its entire length for passenger and freight traffic. The first westward bound train on this division left Syracuse at a quarter after seven o'clock yesterday morning in charge of conductor B. J. Fuller. At Churchville a brass band awaited the train and Mr. Knickerbocker of the Utica Herald acted as orator. The first ticket out of Churchville over the West Shore yesterday was purchased by Henry Richmond. The Churchville brass band under the leadership of Henry Davis played excellently on the occasion of the arrival of the first train at noon."

Hoping to create competition, the West Shore ran for about four short years before it was forced into bankruptcy and then acquired by William Vanderbilt, owner of the New York Central Railroad.

Trains continued along these tracks until 1959 when the line was officially discontinued and the rails in the area were removed sometime in the early 1960's.

Surrounding the site of the West Shore Trail and just south of Richmond Avenue was once the location of a community park known as Richmond Park. Built around the late 1870's, this park served as a recreational area for the community. There was a baseball diamond, soccer field (which was also used for football games) and even a race track designated for horse racing. For many years, teams came from all over the county and challenged our local High School teams and organizations such as the Churchville Fire Department. The Fire Department also held their Fireman's Field Days at Richmond Field. Games such as baseball, horse races, boys 100 yard dash, girls 50 yard dash, umbrella race, wheelbarrow race, hitch up race, fat man's race, bicycle race, three legged race, tug-of-war, and sack races were played.

In 1906, the Batavia Times newspaper reported the Churchville Fireman's Day and Inspection as having a "greased pig and greased pole contest, races of all description, in addition to the usual contest between the fire companies. There will be a game of football between the Thistles of Churchville and a visiting team of professional Association football players and a baseball game between the strong Caledonia team and the Churchville Stars."

However, the most favorite local challenge, hosted annually, was a game of "nines" (baseball) played between the married and single men of the village of which it seems that the single men won more games than not.

The following Batavia Times newspaper article, dated November, 1907, provides us with a brief look at the history of Richmond Park just as the "wrecking ball" was clearing the grounds forever: "The residents, and especially the sporting element of Churchville, are looking with regret upon, the passing of Richmond Park, which for many years has been the playground, of the village. The tract has been acquired by the New York Central Railroad, and a great steam shovel is now despoiling race-course and baseball diamond and obliterating the sequestered spots where in days gone by the village fathers were wont to play marbles, croquet and mumble the-peg. Sentiment is swept aside by the iron monster and dinky engines, and trains of dump cars are now gliding in and out among the spruces and pines.

Years ago the park was the property of Major Henry Richmond (Civil War Veteran), who was then sheriff of Monroe County. It has been utilized for various purposes, and was once a part of a nursery, which accounts for the presence of so many fine trees. In the early nineties a fine racetrack was laid out upon it, and since that time it has been a popular rendezvous for old and young alike.

It was here the original Churchville Stars won victory after victory, and here they were recently vanquished by the Victors, a team of the twentieth century, also of this Village, which grew up under the tutelage of their older brothers, the Stars. It was here, also that the Thistles, the peerless Scotch Association football team of Churchville, won the title of the champions of Western New York.

All these treasured memories, which made the old park famous and inspired the young athlete to doughty deeds, will remain with the present generation while those to come will see only an iron-bound trail over which a great amount of coal, iron and miscellaneous freight is transported. Churchville is to become an important junction point-between the main line of the New York Central and the West Shore Division. Much of the heavy freight will be diverted from the main line to the West Shore at this point, and the influence upon conditions of transportation on the New York Central west of Chili Junction will be very general."

So when you get a chance, take a stroll down the West Shore Trail and if the wind is just right, you may still hear the roar of the crowds that once cheered at the many games played at Richmond Park and the occasional thunder of steam locomotives as they carried their passengers and freight to all parts of the United States, along the tracks of the West Shore Railroad.

Submitted by: Ron Belczak, Historian

The West Shore Abutment- A Village Curiosity



Remnants of the old West shore line, in the village, are still evident in the railroad bridge abutment which is presently located in Black Creek just south of Buffalo Street. This two track bridge abutment was built in 1907 by what was then called the New York Central Railroad. It replaced the original structure which was built in 1883 for the New York West Shore & Buffalo Railroad Company. Trains continued along these tracks until 1959 when the line was officially discontinued and the rails in the village were removed sometime in the early 1960's leaving a stone monument to the days of the great railroads.

Submitted by: Ron Belczak, Historian

Household Energy Monitoring Kits

Kits are now available that contain everything needed to determine the operational cost of each appliance in your house. Just stop in and sign out a kit at either the Village of Churchville or the Newman Riga Library, and get on the road to reducing energy costs!

Infrared Home Scanning

Contact the Village of Churchville for an Infrared Home Scanning. The DPW Crew will scan your home from the outside and prepare a report showing areas in your home that may be losing heat. This will be done in the winter months when conditions are best for the Infrared camera to capture potential heat loss.

Waste Oil

The Department of Public Works burns waste oil to heat their shop. If you have any waste oil you are looking to dispose of you may drop it off at the DPW. Any questions call 293-3366



George Morgan Retires

After 17 years with the Village of Churchville as the General Forman, George Morgan retired this summer. The Village Board of Trustees and I thank George for his years of service and wish him life's best today and always.

Mayor Nancy

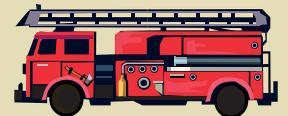


Churchville Fire Department

The Churchville Volunteer Fire Department is looking for friends, neighbors and community members to join our family. We have the great opportunity to host a New York State Certified First Responder course at your local fire hall. This training allows our members to become greater assets to our community responses. This training is free and the experience is priceless. We invite you to stop and meet our members, tour our building, and see our equipment on almost any Monday evening when we have our meetings and training sessions. We have a need for firefighters, EMTs, Fire Police and Explorers. If this opportunity sparks your interest, or you have considered volunteering, please use this as an invitation to join our ranks. We'd be happy to have you.

Join us for our annual Turkey Party on Friday November 4th at 7:30pm. There will be refreshments, drawings and a good time. Advanced sale cash prize tickets are available from members. Look forward to seeing you then@

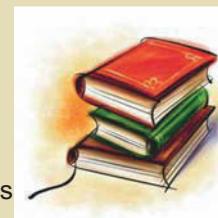
Be alert and aware during the upcoming Halloween event. There will be lots of people on the streets!





Newman Riga Library News

Small libraries simply cannot compete with larger ones. Big budgets allow for lots of new books for all ages, state of the art technology, big buildings and creative library spaces.



However, in a busy world, small libraries do provide the ability for staff to deal with reader's advisory on a case by case basis. Ask a library user about his or her first library experience, especially those folks from small towns. Sometimes, they will remember the first book they've ever borrowed but usually, the lasting memory is one of the person who worked behind the desk who took the time to suggest the best book to read. Often a long-lasting relationship was forged over a book.

At the Newman Riga Library, there is a strong commitment to readers advisory. (It's probably just tangible proof of my bossy nature...you've got to read (fill in the blank))The small population allows staff to learn the reading tastes of the patrons, and be able to suggest "read-alikes".

So, take my advice and note some suggestions of "under the radar" books that many have been told to read here, but few "out there" have ever heard of. As they say..."you need to read..."

Diana Abu-Jaber's **Origin**-- psychological thriller with some local flavor (Syracuse)

*Geraldine Brooks' **People of the Book** or **Caleb's Crossing**--fictional accounts of historic events

*Daria Russell's **Dreamers of the Day**--fictional account of historic characters in pre and post WWI

*Philip Meyer's **American Rust**-- murder in a northeast rust belt city with fine character study between 2 young friends

Elisabeth Kostova's **Swan Thieves**--excellent writing for serious readers interested in art and intrigue

*Richard Wheeler's adventure titles like **Sierra**—stories of the American west

*Dan Simmon's **Black Hills**-- addresses important issues in Native American/American history in masterful narrative fashion

Carol O'Connell's mysteries—introduces heroine Kathleen Mallory. While **Mallory's Oracle** begins the series, it improves over time. If you like feisty heroines, you may want to start with a title mid-series

*Joe Hill (son of Stephen King)--writes of the supernatural with his dad's good humor. I laughed out loud over some of the absurdities in **Horns**

Russell Bank's books-- are all good choices and deal with people who show resilience and strength in the face of tragedy notably, **Sweet Hereafter**

Still Alice by Lisa Genova--heartbreaking story of how a woman deals with early onset Alzheimers

Beachcombing for a Shipwrecked God by Joe Coomer --eccentric well- drawn characters who come together to "only connect"

The Confessions of Max Tivoli by Andrew Sean Greer--the confessions of a man growing younger

Vanishing Act and other Jane Whitefield series books by Thomas Perry—set in upstate NY, Native American Jane helps people on the run "disappear."

Local Author Miriam Monfredo mysteries--mysteries set in Seneca Falls amidst the Women's Rights movement

Mrs. Kimble by Jennifer Heigh--story about a "serial"husband and the inherent vulnerability of women

My Enemy's Cradle by Sara Young--instead of dealing with the Holocaust in Concentration Camps, this story tells of a Jewish girl hiding in plain sight by enrolling in a program to populate the Aryan race

***Child 44** by Tom Robb Smith--A serial killer is loose in Stalinist Russia and no one in government wants to admit it

Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor--demonstrates how thoughtless decisions can lead to wasted lives; beautiful prose

The Gendarme by Mark Mustian--deals the power of memory, the ability to survive and the transcendent nature of love

We Need to Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver--compelling fictional story told by the mother of a child who kills his classmates ala Columbine (soon to be released as a movie)

Mudbound by Hillary Jordan-- dark and troubling story about life in the Mississippi Delta in 1946

Ella Minnow Pea by Mark Dunn--zany book for word lovers

If more of these titles have a somewhat feminine flavor to them, I promise to try to address more masculine interests in the future. Those titles don't flow off my tongue quite as effortlessly. But note that the asterisked titles do have broader gender appeal.

Be sure to check the Community Calendar of the Suburban News for future library programs.

Submitted by: Donna Haire, Librarian



Chamber of Commerce News

We've welcomed two new businesses to the Village. Cranberry Hollow is located at 24 South Main Street (the former Florist Shop). It is a combination gift shop/restaurant. Also, Wilkins RV has opened at the location of the former Mark's Trucks – 111 South Main Street. Please stop in and help support our local businesses.

If you've driving down Baker Street you have noticed that Baker Street Landing is well under construction. Although I don't have a confirmed date, it looks like they may be ready to offer apartment rentals fairly soon.

We continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at noon at the Johnson House. You don't have to be a member to attend but need to make reservations by calling the Johnson House at 293-1111. Keith Ryan, Program Chair, has lined up the following speakers. Please join us.

November 10, 2011 – A special tribute luncheon for the veterans of Riga and members of the Harvey C. Noone American Legion Post – Luncheon to be held at the Legion Post on Buffalo Road

December 8, 2011 – Annual Holiday Presentation with a musical performance by the members of a group of students from Churchville Chili Central Schools – Luncheon to be held at the Gatherings at the Senator's Mansion on South Main Street

January 12, 2012 – Investment ideas for 2012 presented by Five Star Bank

February 9, 2012 - open

March 2012 (date to be confirmed) – Annual Community Awards Dinner

April 12, 2012 – open

May 10, 2012 – Presentation of the School Budget by the Churchville-Chili Central Schools

A reminder - this year, we will be undertaking another edition of the Churchville Phone Directory. If you have any changes to the current directory or would like to add your cell phone, you can submit these changes on our website or by contacting Kim Pape, Town Clerk at 293-2880. All changes should be made by November 1.

Our new website is up and running but still being updated. Please check it out at www.churchvillechamber.org

Submitted by: Sue Davis, President

Expanded File Storage

Thanks to a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund grant, we now have newly expanded records/maps storage areas located in the Village Office. The grant funded the installation of state-of-art movable storage units, and funded the salary of Abigail DeVuyst to purge, organize, and re-box all of the village's paper records. Abigail also entered all the records into a database for ease of retrieval.



Fall Leaf Pick-Up - Every Monday starting mid-October

There can be NO sticks or twigs in the leaf piles because they will damage the machine. Leaves will only be picked up if piled loosely between the sidewalk and street or in biodegradable bags. (Items in cans will not be picked up) **DO NOT PLACE IN STREET OR CONCRETE DRAIN!**



Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 4, 2011

4:30-6:00 pm

Village of Churchville Office
23 E. Buffalo Street

Join your friends and neighbors at the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting!! Enjoy music by Churchville-Chili's singing group, 'Off the Beat', a special reading by local author Terry Werth, cookies, refreshments, tree lighting and a special visit from Santa!

Non-perishable food and pet food donations will be accepted at the Village Office from November 8th through December 5th.

The Village Office & DPW will be CLOSED on the following dates:

November 11 - Veteran's Day

November 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving

December 23 & 26 - Christmas

Normal Office business hours are 8:30am to 4:00pm

Village of Churchville
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Churchville, NY 14428

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Meeting Schedule

Village Board Meetings

2nd & 4th Monday of every month at 7:00pm

Planning Board Meetings

1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm

All meetings are at the Village Office

Check www.churchville.net for meeting updates/cancellations, agendas and meeting minutes.

Board of Trustees

Nancy Steedman, *Mayor*
Don Suter, *Deputy Mayor*
Scott Cullen, *Trustee*
John Hartman, *Trustee*
Diane Pusateri, *Trustee*

Planning Board

Roberta Ames, *Chair*
Dave George
Mark Majewski
Larry Mitchell
Larry Powell
Don Suter, *Trustee Liaison*
Mike Bohan, *Alternate*
Phil Latona, *Alternate*

Zoning Board

Lyle Warren, *Chair*
Chris Flaherty
Cindy Jessop
Lorraine Linder
Mike Marseglia
John Hartman, *Trustee Liaison*

Village Office 293-3720

Meghan Lodge, *Clerk/Treasurer*

DPW 293-3366

Paul Robinson, *Superintendent*
Tom Perkins, *Building Inspector*

Village Attorneys

Jim Fitzsimmons
Mel Olver