



23 East Buffalo St.  
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Spring/Summer 2013

# Village of Churchville Newsletter

## Message from the Mayor...

I hope everyone had a good winter and is looking forward to the summer ahead. Here are some highlights since our last newsletter:

- Several new businesses have moved into the village. We are welcoming the Bank of Castile to the commons, First Impressions hair studio on Main Street, Professional Drivers Institute (PDI) to Sanford Road North and the relocation of Marilyn's to Main Street. Please remember to support all of our local businesses.
- The Villas of Churchville, a new townhome development on Washington Street, will begin construction of another housing opportunity for our residents.
- The new electric substation is running and the old substation will be decommissioned this summer.
- This will be the first summer for our residents to enjoy the West Shore Trail since its completion. The trail has been busy with many walkers already.
- The Black Creek Trail feasibility study has been completed and a draft version of the final report is available on our website.
- Security cameras have been installed with a justice grant. There are now security cameras on the West Shore Trail, the cemetery and the commons parking lot.
- John Fitzsimmons has been sworn in as our village attorney.
- A thank you to Sam Burlingame for his Eagle Scout project of painting our flower planter boxes on Main Street. They will be bright white this summer thanks to Sam.
- A thank you to Ray Ehrmentraut and the scouts of Troop 133 for all the Eagle Scout projects that will be accomplished this summer. A brick patio will be repaired, birdhouses for the West Shore Trail will be built and mounted, and the entrance signs to the village will be refurbished.
- And finally, the completion of the CSX crossing...isn't it great!!!

We have some changes and important articles in this issue. Please be sure to read about changes with this newsletter, Creekside Cemetery and the streetlights at the I490/36 interchange.

We are all set with a new Summer Concert series at the Gazebo. There will be some exciting additions to the Chamber Walk About and to the Lions Country Fair. Read about them in this issue.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. My door is always open, please do stop in with any concerns or questions.

*Mayor Nancy L. Steedman*

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**The Village Office is updating electric customer phone numbers, if your phone number has changed or you no longer have your landline please contact the Village office at 585-293-3720. It is very important that your phone number remains current for electrical emergency purposes.**

## Churchville Exit To Go Dark?

Lights at Churchville Exit 3 on I 490/Rt 36

There has been recent discussion between the State of New York DOT, County of Monroe DOT, National Grid, Town of Riga and Village of Churchville regarding the lights at the 490/36 interchange. It is the desire of the State DOT and National Grid to 'turn off' the lights. They feel that the infrastructure is old and needs replacement, that there is not enough traffic to require lighting for safety reasons and no one is stepping up to make the needed repairs to keep the lights on.

At this meeting, I stressed the importance of lighting the interchange for reasons of safety and for the viable economic development of our community. If the lights are turned off, it will look like 'no one is home'. The Village board is in agreement with this and has passed a resolution encouraging the involved parties to do what is necessary to 'keep the lights on'.

We need to hear from our residents as to the importance of keeping the lights on. If you feel strongly that the lights should be kept on, I am encouraging you to let me know and to let our State representatives know in writing or by phone calls or emails. Our Assemblyman and Senator can help by encouraging NYS Dept of Transportation to find a viable solution. Here is contact information.

Mayor Nancy Steedman  
585-293-3720 ext.  
[MayorNancy@Churchville.net](mailto:MayorNancy@Churchville.net)

Assemblyman Steve Hawley  
585-589-5780  
[hawleys@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:hawleys@assembly.state.ny.us)

Senator Mike Ranzenhofer  
716-631-8695  
[ranz@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:ranz@senate.state.ny.us)

## Honoring Jim Fitzsimmons

In November of 2012, the Village Board celebrated Jim Fitzsimmons's 50<sup>th</sup> year as village attorney. Jim has decided to start a transition of turning over all village issues to his son, John Fitzsimmons. John works with Jim in the same law firm and is current on village issues. In December, the Village Board issued a proclamation honoring Jim's service to the village and named the village board room in his honor. We are very fortunate to have had the consistency of a great man as caring and dedicated to the village as attorney for all these years. Now we are to be able to transition over to the same dedication and expertise from his son, John. Please join us in congratulating Jim and John while thanking them for making this possible. We are very fortunate.



## New Attorney - John Fitzsimmons

Please welcome John Fitzsimmons as the new attorney for the Village of Churchville. John was sworn in at the January 14, 2013 board meeting and signed the oath of office administered by the Village Clerk Treasurer, Meghan Lodge. We look forward to working with John.



## Lions Club Country Fair

August 10 & 11

Join us for fun, food and more!

New this year- Lumberjack Competition



## Last Issue of Village Newsletter

I wanted to take this time to let you know that this will be the last published newsletter for the Village of Churchville.

The village board has decided during budget season to discontinue the newsletter. The number one reason was to help save tax dollars. The second reason was because our website has become a place where most people go to find out what is happening in our village. And thirdly, to take a step towards going 'green'.

The Village website ([www.Churchville.net](http://www.Churchville.net)) has become the place to 'go to' for news items, forms, information and a calendar of events. It is updated on a regular basis and the board felt that it was time to let the newsletter go.

A convenient option we have available for dissemination of information is via an additional page in our village utility bills. Please check your utility bill for important information. At some point, maybe we will go back to doing a newsletter. However, as of the new 2013-2014 budget season, we will no longer be preparing and sending a newsletter.

There will be continued discussion on how to effectively and efficiently disseminate information to our residents. If you have suggestions, please contact me.

I thank you for the many newsletter submissions from everyone over the years. I have been very proud of every issue that has been mailed.

Thank you again, Mayor Nancy

### Cemetery Repairs

This Memorial Day when you are in the cemetery at the end of the parade, please note the repairs that have been made to the headstones in the 'old section'. Much time and effort has been extended to set these headstones back up in their original structure and in straight lines. It looks beautiful. There is still much to do, but I am sure you will be pleased with what has been accomplished to this date.



### Creekside Cemetery Plot Rate Increase

The cost of purchasing a cemetery plot will increase as of June 1, 2013. After a study of surrounding cemeteries, the Village board has determined to set the cost of a cemetery plot at \$700 and a cremation plot at \$375. The last time there was a rate change in Creekside Cemetery was in 1997. This is for plot purchase only. It does not include burial.

### Cemetery Rules & Regulations

1. There will be **NO** planting of trees, shrubs, or flowers in the ground by the lessee of the cemetery plot.
2. Pots and urns must be removed from the gravesite by **October 15th of each year**. Christmas wreaths and other such decorations must be removed by **March 15th of each year**.
3. All pots and urns are to be placed at the **side** of the memorial marker and **not in front or rear** for ease of mowing.
4. Plot lessees and visitors are requested to assist the cemetery in maintaining the beauty of the lawns by refraining from placing on plots numerous obstacles that hinder proper lawn mowing, thereby increasing the cost of maintenance.

**The Village of Churchville reserves the right to remove any prohibited plot decorations at any time.**

## The Alarm That Roared

Well my friends, the time to bid farewell has arrived. Ever since 1998, I have had the pleasure of writing about the history of the village, its events and the people who have truly made this village a wonderful place to live. Through the years, I have been fortunate to meet many fine members of our community and would like to thank everyone for your kind words and encouragement. I would also like to thank my wife, Carol, for all her support and inspiration. With that said, I respectfully submit my last village article titled: "The Alarm That Roared."

The year was 1930 and in February of that year an incident occurred that nearly sent panic throughout the village. But before I tell the story, it is important that you understand what the United States was experiencing during this period of time. About four months earlier, on October 29<sup>th</sup> 1929, the stock market had crashed, throwing the nation into what was forever to be called the Great Depression. As stock prices plummeted, masses of people tried to sell their stock but were unable to. Along with the stock market crash, banks across the nation were ceasing to operate because they too had made investments in the market. Over 1,350 banks in the United States would close their doors, forcing massive bankruptcies. Our nation was truly in despair.

For the Village of Churchville, its only bank, the State Bank of Churchville which was once located on South Main St., had survived the stock market crash and apparently the confidence of its subscribers because the doors remained opened for business throughout the Great Depression.

The State Bank of Churchville was chartered in November of 1917 by a group of local investors, with a capitalization of \$25,000.00, replacing what was the only privately held bank in the village - the general store of Briscoe and Tupper. Just seven months before the State Bank of Churchville was created, the private bank of Briscoe & Tupper survived its second attempted bank robbery (the first was in 1904), with the yeggs blowing the safe doors off with dynamite. This time, they hastily escaped with a mere five dollars.

As the month of January, 1930, was winding down, certain individuals in the village couldn't help but notice that a well dressed man, a stranger to the community, was making what appeared to be daily visits to the State Bank of Churchville. Inquires as to the purpose of this individuals' visits were shrugged off by bank personnel. But, on Tuesday morning, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 am, the village residents were suddenly awakened by the noise of an alarm emanating from the State Bank of Churchville. In the cold darkness of the night, those who had bravely emerged from their houses watched cautiously as the bank doors were opened only to find nothing was disturbed. A false alarm? It was not until the next day that the true story was revealed in the local newspaper. The shocking headline read as follows: "DIRECTORS COVER BANK SHORTAGE, IRREGULARITIES ON PART OF CASHIER, CHARGED BY STATE EXAMINER, KNOWN FOR SOME TIME, CHANCE RINGING OF BURGLAR ALARM THROWS PUBLICITY ON CHURCHVILLE TANGLE." A Democrat and Chronicle reporter described the following: "Shortage of an undetermined amount of funds of the State Bank of Churchville has more than been covered by cash and securities furnished by directors of the bank following resignation of the cashier, George S. Murray of North Buffalo Street, Churchville, is the substance of a statement made last night by Joseph H. Zweeres, New York State bank examiner in charge of the Rochester district.

The shortage, said to have been known to the bank's officers, directors, and state authorities since last Thursday, was revealed after short circuit of a burglar alarm at the bank set the gong ringing soon after 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The resulting investigation is said to have brought into the open reports of the shortage that have been current in the village.

Mr. Zweeres, who has been auditing the bank's books since last week, said: "There were irregularities at the State Bank of Churchville on the part of George S. Murray, cashier who has since resigned. The directors have contributed to the bank an amount in cash covering the entire shortage. The bank is in a sound condition, and there is nothing to worry about."

Continued on next page...

"I will have a statement to make within a few days." said Murray, resigned cashier, when reached at his home in Churchville last night. "At the present time I will neither deny nor confirm anything" He said. Murray has been with the bank twelve years.

Mr. Murray would never make a statement to the newspapers, but he would eventually turn over the deeds to his home and other real estate to cover the shortage of \$55,000.00. A week earlier, the directors of the Churchville State Bank had covered the loss by depositing cash and securities from their own resources amounting to \$100,000.00. Apparently, Mr. Murray had claimed that he borrowed the money to invest in the Bison Real Estate Corporation, a Buffalo concern, of which he served on the Board of Directors. Mr. Murray was never criminally charged once full restitution was made.

In the weeks after the bank alarm had sounded, the citizens remained confident that the State Bank of Churchville, thanks to its Board of Directors, was intact. But, was the cause of that bank alarm really a short circuit as publicized in the newspapers or was it triggered by someone? I guess we will never know. That original bank alarm box is still visible, mounted above and to the right of the doorways of the Go Christian Center at # 22 South Main Street. If it could only talk!

*Submitted by: Ron Belczak, Historian*

## Harvey C. Noone

### Post 954 News

Harvey C. Noone Post 954 of The American Legion invites everyone to attend our observance of Memorial Day starting at 10:30am with our ceremony and remarks at the Churchville Elementary School, followed at 11:00am by the Parade through the Village ending at the soldiers' monument in Creekside Cemetery for our concluding ceremony.

Our Euchre nights are open to the public. The schedule is:

May 3 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Starts at 7:00pm
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Starts at 7:00pm
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Starts at 7:00pm
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Starts at 7:00pm
September 20 <sup>st</sup>	Starts at 7:00pm

The Legion facilities are available to rent for any occasion or party, Contact Gil Budd at 293-3418.



## Town of Riga offers Free Rabies Clinic

August 24th 1:00 to 3:00 pm

25 E. Buffalo St (at the old firehouse)

Additional parking is available across the street in the old Luster Coate parking lot.

\*\*All dogs & cats MUST be at least 3 months of age & on a leash or in a pet carrier!!

If you have any questions, call Riga Dog Control 293-3880 ext 125

In order to receive a 3 year vaccine we will need proof of a prior vaccine.



### Boy Scout Troop 133

#### 2nd Annual

#### Chicken BBQ

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Noon - 4pm (or until sold out)

At the old Firehouse

25 E. Buffalo St. Churchville, NY

Tickets: \$8.00 for advanced tickets  
call

293-3388 or 261-2719

### 15th Annual Torry Yahn

#### Chicken BBQ and

#### Benefit Auction

Saturday, June 8, 2013

Starts at noon

At the Churchville Moose Lodge



## Newman Riga Library News

It took about 8 long years, but it was worth the wait. Kent Haruf's **Benediction** was finally released and it was masterful. **Plainsong** and **Eventide** were set in fictional Holt Colorado, as was **Benediction** and the small town characters, once again, make you feel like you've returned home. Haruf calls it the "precious ordinary", and that it is. His books are filled with the small events of daily life that represent the true grace notes of our existence.

The conclusion of the book is a sad one. Despite the lack of sentimentality of the author, the reader mourns the passing of the characters, whether through death or time. It's always affecting for me to read him and I miss the language and the poetry of his prose.

One of the characters, a little girl called Alice, gets lost and finds her way home by the light of the street lamps. How appropriate is that? Metaphorically, that is what Haruf's characters do—no matter the definition of their "home."

Coincidentally, the reading of **Benediction** coincided with the springing forward into day light savings time. I may well be the only person in upstate NY who dreads the event. How can anyone in this part of the country argue with longer days and balmy weather after our long winters? How can one not relish the opportunity to be outside? Simply because people can't find their way home by the light of the street lamps! They don't even have to try. The sun is out, for crying out loud—at 9 PM!!

Coming home or "only connecting" as Forster referred to it, is replaced by longer soccer games, trips to the driving range, playing outside and not gathering together for any substantial period of time at the end of the day. It allows for busy people to just be busier.

I like the idea of "quiet time together" before the metaphorical hearth, before the start of a new day.

It explains my probably irrational affinity for the glowing lights of homes that I pass in the dark. Those bright windows represent all that "home" can possibly mean: peace, serenity, and everything that is the "precious ordinary." While common sense dictates that the warm glow of the windows aren't always harbingers of happy families, I need to believe they are. It gets me through the day.

Special thanks to Alice Kingdon and Ruth Foley for their hard work in making our Book Sale successful.

*Submitted by: Donna Haire, Librarian*

## Library Events

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

Meet a Fireman!  
Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.  
Suitable for Pre-school Aged Children

Summer Reading Games  
July 8<sup>th</sup> – August 15<sup>th</sup>  
Preschool- Adult Programs

Weekly Programs, suitable for all ages, will include:

The Magic Guy  
Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 P.M.

Hello Cello!  
Adele Mockevicius  
Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> @3:00 P.M.

The Ox Cart Man  
Genesee Country Village and Museum  
Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> @3:00 P.M.

25 Trains a Day?  
Freight Trains and Railroad Safety  
Genesee & Wyoming Railroad  
Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 P.M.

End of Game Bagel Party  
Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> @2:45 P.M.

## Chamber of Commerce News

The regular meeting schedule for the Chamber is coming to a close for the summer. Our last meeting will be held on May 9, 2013 and will be the presentation of the School Budget by the Churchville-Chili Central School District. The meeting will be held at noon at the Johnson House. Please call 293-1111 for reservations.

Our Walk About will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2013. We are still in the planning stage but expect it to be bigger and better than last year.. We had such great success with "Molly" the trolley last year that we are bringing it back. With the addition of Molly we'll be able to expand the area of coverage to include businesses beyond the Main Street area. Please hold the date – more information will be supplied as it becomes available.

Look for our meetings to start again in September – always the second Thursday of the month at Naughton's Johnson House.

*Submitted by: Sue Davis, President*

## Arbor Day

Saturday, April 27, 2013  
10:00 am

Village Memorial Park and Gazebo

This year's tree dedication will be an Oak tree donated by the Churchville-Chili Class of 1969 as a living memorial for all their classmates. There will be a dedication of the tree with refreshments following. Everyone is invited to attend.



## Planning Board News

When I see the water tower as I approach the Churchville 490 exit, I know I am nearly home. As Chair of the Planning Board (PB) I take pride in the village as I do my house; both are integral parts of why this place is home. The Planning Board meets the first Wednesday of each month. The meetings are always open and any suggestions you may have are welcome. The PB refers to the Comprehensive Plan as well as the Village Code in making determinations on projects. Growth is inevitable and desired. Residents' needs and concerns are important to the PB. In the past few years, a physical therapy practice, a credit union, new firehouse facilities, low income and non-subsidized apartments, and a new homeowner villa project have been reviewed and approved. These businesses, village services and housing options have provided a safe community where our youth and seniors can remain in residence. Churchville is a home to us and we invite others to join us here.

*Submitted by: Roberta Ames, Planning Board Chair*

## Appliance Advantage

Be sure to take advantage of the Village of Churchville's Appliance Advantage. The Village has partnered with the Independent Energy Efficiency Program (IEEP) to encourage residents to upgrade their appliances to Energy Star® labeled appliances. You will be eligible for a rebate if you purchase certain Energy Star® labeled appliances such as air conditioners, ceiling fans, washers, dryers and more! All you need to do is go to the Village office for a rebate form, fill that out and send it to the address on the form along with a copy of your receipt, copy of your most recent Village of Churchville electric bill and sufficient Energy Star® product documentation. Once processed you will then receive a rebate for the incentive amount listed on the rebate form.

## Prepare for Emergencies

The Monroe County Department of Public Health presented information to the Village Board regarding POD and preparing your family and pets for emergencies. Check out this website ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) for an emergency supply list, preparing your pets for emergencies and a FEMA brochure on "Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now."

## Brush Pick-up

Spring/Summer brush pile pick-up will be the first and third Monday of every month, weather permitting. **Lawn debris and leaves will be picked up only if they are in brown biodegradable bags.**

## Hometown Olympians

Our community is very proud to have several Olympians and we will be displaying banners with their photos on them at the four corner intersection of the Village. Please watch for these banners of Lyndsay Wall, Jenn Suhr and Ryan Chalmers.

## Chamber Walkabout June 13th

Come and learn about our local businesses. Returning this year on the library lawn will be the Music Makers Big Band with bandleader Dick Otto. Also returning will be transportation from the center of the Village to the East, West and South ends of the Village. Enjoy more music, art and dance by students from CCSD. The venue is expanding with new and exciting activities. See you there!!



## Calendar of Events

- May 18.....Bo y Scout Chicken BBQ
- May 18-19 .....Churc hville Greene Garage Sales
- May 20.....Cham ber of Commerce Youth Hall of Fame
- May 20.....Joint Village/Tow n Board Meeting
- May 27.....Memorial Day Parade
- June 8.....Tor ry Yahn Chicken BBQ
- June 13.....Cham ber of Commerce Walk-About
- July 25 ..... Waste M anagement Open House
- August 10-11 ..... Lions Cl ub Country Fair
- August 24 ..... Fre e Rabies Clinic

## Mark your calendar!!

Refuse will be picked up:

- Thursday May 30th due to Memorial Day
- Thursday September 5th due to Labor Day
- Thursday December 26th due to Christmas Day

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

- May 27th - Memorial Day
- July 4th- Independence Day
- September 2rd - Labor Day
- October 14th -Columbus Day
- November 11th - Veteran's Day
- November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving
- December 25 & 26 - Christmas

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

## 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](http://www.churchville.net) for meeting updates/cancellations, agendas and meeting minutes.

## 2013 Concert Series in the Gazebo

- June 26..... The Don Newcomb Band
- July 10..... Cold Sweat (Blues)
- July 17..... Timeline (R&B, Funk, Soul, Top 40)
- July 24..... Natalie B. Band (R&B)
- July 31..... Blue Sky
- August 7 .... Just 4 Fun (Tentative)



Concerts will start at 6:30 pm in the Churchville Village Gazebo and are jointly held by the Village of Churchville and Town of Riga. Concerts will be held Rain or Shine. Rain location is at the Cobblestone Hall on W. Buffalo St.

Village of Churchville  
PO Box 613  
Churchville, NY 14428

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### 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*  
Sue Davis  
Chris Flaherty  
Cindy Jessop  
Mike Marseglia  
Scott Cullen, *Trustee Liaison*  
Gerald Mitrano, *Alternate*  
Eric Roth, *Alternate*

### Village Office 293-3720

Meghan Lodge, *Clerk/Treasurer*

### DPW 293-3366

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

### Village Attorneys

John Fitzsimmons  
Mel Olver