

Village of Churchville Newsletter

Message from the Mayor...

Yes, by 'popular demand', the Village newsletter is back.. I was amazed at the number of calls and emails we received asking that the newsletter be continued. I do hope you enjoy this fall issue. Please read it carefully as we have included many of the regulations for fall and winter regarding our streets, cemetery and parking.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who help keep our village looking beautiful. We had volunteers plant, weed, mulch and trim many of our flowered areas. The Boy Scouts had several Eagle Scout projects completed such as a new bricked area and an updated bricked area at the Village Office. The sidewalk planters were newly painted and the benches at the Memorial Park were refinished. These projects enhance the beauty of our village. My sincere thanks go to everyone who helped.

As I travel to other villages, towns and attend conferences talking to other elected officials, I continue to believe that we are truly blessed to have such a wonderful village. Residents take pride in maintaining their property; our village is vibrant and surrounded by beautiful recreation areas. Our local businesses offer a variety of services to our residents and those visiting. Our streets are safe, clean and welcoming. I thank not only the Village employees but also the residents and businesses of our area. You are all part of what makes our village, in my eyes, the best in New York State. I am proud of it and I hope everyone else is too.

Once again, remember that my door is always open. I always enjoy your comments and suggestions.

Mayor Nancy L. Steedman

Volunteers Keeping Churchville Beautiful

Employees at Camping World have offered to volunteer some hours to 'serve our community' with a spring clean-up day. We are planning for this in late April or early May depending on the weather. We are pleased that they have shown an interest in our community through this activity. Weeding of the flower beds around the village office and spring planting of the planters on the sidewalks was all done by volunteers from Camping World. If your organization would like to join us on this day, please contact Mayor Nancy at 293-3720 or MayorNancy@Churchville.net.



Pictured here are Jean VanOrden, Jackie Capparelli and Darlene Mante from Camping World RV Sales accounting department.

Andy Zess Graduates from Lineman Training

Congratulations to Village employee, Andy Zess, for completing four years of classroom and hands on training to become a Journeyman Electrical Line Worker. Andy started his employment with the Village of Churchville as a seasonal employee in 2006 and became a full time employee in 2010. Andy's training was through the Municipal Electric Utilities Association (MEUA) partnered with North East Public Power Association (NEPPA). His training consisted of over 500 hours and included 40 different subject modules. The modules help students attain the skills necessary to work on and around live high voltage circuits safely. Some of the modules focused on pole climbing skills, rigging, transformer hook ups, feeder designs and the proper use of Personal Protective equipment. He will join fellow class members from the municipalities of Bath, Hamilton, Philadelphia, Richmondville, Salamanca, Solvay and Watkins Glen in a Class of 2013 graduation ceremony to be held on October 24th.

Eagle Scout Project

New Eagle Scout project completed by Alan Mosburger.... Re-bricking of the patio area behind the village office and new bricks in front of the office. Pictured here with Mayor Nancy Steedman and Scoutmaster Ray Ehrmentraut.



Planning Board Alternate Vacancy

There is an opening for an Alternate on the Village Planning Board. This position requires attendance at monthly meetings, meeting NYS training requirements and being a resident of the Village of Churchville. If you are interested in this position or would like some more information regarding becoming an alternate on the Village Planning Board, please contact Mayor Nancy Steedman at 293-3720 or MayorNancy@Churchville.net

Add us to your favorites!

Don't forget to check us out on the web at www.churchville.net or scan this QR code with your smartphone for recent news, meeting and event dates, pictures, cemetery information, forms and more!



Chamber of Commerce News

There has been discussion to change the Chamber's meeting schedule this coming year. Attendance at our meetings is dwindling even though Program Chair, Keith Ryan, continues to provide a great array of topics and speakers. We're going to try to have at least one breakfast meeting this year so be sure to check our website (www.churchvillechamber.org) and the Suburban News for more information. Luncheons are being held at 12:00 noon at the Johnson House. Everyone is invited to these meetings; you don't have to be a member to attend. So, join us to hear some great speakers while having lunch with local business persons. Call 293-1111, as reservations are required.

Our programs for the remainder of the year are:

November 14 – Again this year, we will have a special tribute luncheon for the veterans of Riga and members of the Harvey C. Noone American Legion Post #945 – Luncheon to be held at the Legion Post on Buffalo Road. Our speaker will present information on the Honor Flight that is offered to our veterans.

December 12 – Annual Holiday Presentation and Luncheon at the Gatherings at the Senators Mansion

Sue Davis, President

Churchville Phone Directory

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This year, we will be publishing a new edition of the Churchville Phone Directory. If you have any changes to the current directory or would like to **add your cell phone or remove your land line or use an email address**, you can submit these changes on our website or by contacting Kim Pape, Town Clerk at 293-3880.

Did you know...

The Village of Churchville offers many convenient ways to pay your utility bills.

Credit Card - The Village of Churchville accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover credit cards for utility payments, dumpster rentals and tax payments. The payment processing company charges a convenience fee of 2.45% or \$3.00 minimum to cardholders who use this service. You can pay with your credit card at the Village Office or via telephone at 293-3770.

2. **Direct Debit** - Stop writing checks and sign up for Direct Debit today! With this service, the Village debits your bank account on the 15th of the month for the amount of your utility bill. Please stop by the office for a Debit Agreement form or print it off our website, www.churchville.net (Forms and Applications tab, Utilities Forms, ACH Agreement Form). Complete the form and return to the Village Office with a voided check. This is a very popular way to pay electric and sewer bills. We have 115 customers that use Direct Debit!
3. **Checks** - Checks can be mailed to the Village of Churchville 23 E Buffalo St Churchville, NY 14428, dropped in the drop box outside the office door or brought in for an over the counter payment.
4. **Online Bill Pay through your Bank** - Many banks offer online bill pay. Remember that these payments come to the Village Office via US Mail in check form so be sure to include enough time to arrive by the due date.



Mayor Nancy Steedman Elected to MEUA Executive Board

On August 22, 2013 Mayor Nancy Steedman was elected to executive board of the Municipal Electric Utilities Association of New York State (MEUA) at their annual conference held at Ellicottville, New York. She is the first woman ever to be elected to serve on this board. Mayor Nancy will serve as Vice President/ Secretary this year and progress to President of the association in 2016. Mayor Steedman said that she is honored to be elected to this executive board and looks forward to serving the electric utilities of New York State.

The Municipal Electric Utilities Association of New York State (MEUA) was formed in 1930 and currently has 40 members. These utilities not only bring reliable and efficient electrical power to our communities, but they also offer an important support/mutual aid system to each other during storms, flooding, fires and other natural disasters that might have taken out power to our villages. Training programs for Linemen and apprentice programs are also a part of this organization. Membership is restricted to municipal corporations, rural electric corporations, and other organizations and individuals whose interests are compatible with the objects of the organization.

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.

A World's Record

The year was 1895, a time in history when powerful steam locomotives roared through the Village of Churchville delivering passengers and freight all across the country. In December of that year, the New York Central's Empire State Express train would provide the Village of Churchville an opportunity to participate in what would be the establishment of a new world's speed record. The details of that adventure, was captured by the December 3rd edition of the Tonawanda Evening newspaper as follows:

“ENGLISH TIME BEATEN - Buffalo, December 3 – The New York Central railroad has demonstrated its ability to run the fastest regular train in the world, although it failed in this particular run to finish upon the schedule time laid out for it. This failure was due entirely to an accident, the other portions of the run showing conclusively that the new fast scheduled time can be accomplished and even excelled.

Up to six months ago the train known as the Empire State express had the world's record as a regular train for fast running. The London railway of England, running from London to Aberdeen, began to run a train a trifle faster than the Empire State's record of 51 miles an hour. The Central has begun a new schedule for this train which necessitates an hourly run of 53 ½ miles, about two miles an hour faster than the English rival.

Leaving New York at 8:30 a. m. and with every condition against her, this train made more than three-quarters of the distance in even faster time than the new schedule calls for.

The regular Empire State express had added to it a special car of Vice President Webb, weighting 106,400 pounds. In addition to this extra weight a drizzling rain was falling making the tracks extremely slippery and the extra weight was carried on the end of the train instead of next to the engine, making the resistance greater.

The run from New York to Albany, a distance of 142.88 miles, was made in 2 hours and 30 minutes. And the train rolled into the Albany depot 4 minutes ahead of the new schedule time, and 9 minutes ahead of the old schedule.

Leaving Albany on schedule time, 11:13 a.m., and with a change of engines, Engineer

Chase at the throttle of engine 999, (Historians note: On May 10, 1893, engine 999 became the fastest land vehicle reaching a record speed of 112.5 mph.) pulled the train through to Syracuse, the end of the central division, so that she ran into the depot 2 ½ minutes faster than the old. With the gain on the Hudson River division, this made a total gain of 21 minutes between New York and Syracuse.

At Syracuse engine 904, Engineer Pellings, took charge of the train and pulled out of the depot 2 minutes late. Half way between Syracuse and Rochester the drizzling rain turned to snowfall, and the wind which had been with the train much of the distance changed to a head wind of great resistance. Despite these conditions the train reached Rochester exactly on time.

From Rochester as far as Churchville, 56 miles east of Buffalo, the Empire State's destination, the stations were passed exactly upon schedule time. Arriving at Churchville, where the engine takes water from the track water trough by scoop, without stopping, the scoop caught upon an obstruction in the trough and dropping down, banged against the ties for at least a mile until the train could be brought to a standstill

It was 14 minutes before the damage could be repaired and at least 3 minutes had been lost in slowing up and stopping. When the train was again started, after a loss of 17 minutes, it was close upon the long heavy grade running up to Batavia.

Lacking the tremendous momentum which it usually has, it lost 3 minutes more on this upgrade, the slippery tracks also adding to the delay, and when the Batavia station was passed the train was 25 ½ minutes behind the new schedule.

The run into Buffalo from Batavia, a distance of 40 miles, was made in about 31 minutes, very fast time, and the train rolled into Buffalo 23 minutes behind the new schedule time, and 2 minutes ahead of the old schedule.

The entire run of 440 miles, including three stops and exclusive of a delay of 26 minutes, was made in 494 minutes.”

Submitted by: Ron Belczak, Historian



Planning Board Update and Notes

The Planning Board has been relatively quiet for the past few months.

The last project approved and now being constructed is the Villas of Churchville. This project gives our residents and future residents a choice in home ownership while allowing a reduction in outside maintenance. The Villas' ranch style, townhomes offer residents a new housing choice in the Village of Churchville.

Making our community a walkable one has been a primary focus of the Village Board and the Planning Board. Sidewalks are now being required in all new projects.

The Village Board has worked diligently to keep the Code of the Village of Churchville up to date. The Planning Board is very pleased that the Code will now be fully reviewed with appropriate changes and additions included. Zoning, Chapter 108, is to be revamped with new definitions, renumbering and language included that reflects our current lifestyles. This will enable the Planning Board to review projects coming before it more fully informed to the desires of the community and in line with the Comprehensive Plan.

All Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members are required to obtain training each year by New York State. The members are able to network, form new ideas, and view changes in state and federal regulations effecting their decisions.

Planning Board is scheduled to meet the first Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to attend the meetings. Public Notice of meetings and projects can be found in the Suburban News.

Submitted by: Roberta T. Ames, Planning Board Chair

Walking Churchville

We are fortunate in the Village of Churchville to have a network of sidewalks that provides a great opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and see our neighbors. The sidewalks also connect to the West Shore Trail path and the county park for those who wish to get away from the traffic. Even though the cooler weather is here and winter weather around the corner, there are many people who continue to take advantage of these assets.

To maintain the walk-ability of our community please do not park vehicles or trailers such that a sidewalk is blocked. Doing so is not only against the law, it creates a safety hazard as it often forces pedestrians to step into the street or through snow and mud.

As the Fall season approaches please keep the sidewalk as clear as possible as leaves are brought to the curb for pickup by village crews.

The sidewalks are owned and maintained by the village and we strive to keep them in good order throughout the year. During the winter months please remember it is still important to not block a sidewalk to allow the sidewalk plow to pass easily to keep the walkways clear and safe for everyone's use.

By keeping these considerations in mind we all contribute to keeping Churchville a friendly and wonderful place to live.

Submitted by: John Hartman, Trustee

Selling your home?

The Village of Churchville requires an inspection to verify that all connections to the sanitary sewer comply with the Village Code. This inspection is free of charge. Please contact the Village Office (293-3720) to schedule an inspection. The Village will also need to do a final read on your electric meter which can be scheduled at the office as well.



Newman Riga Library News

A bookless library has just been built in San Antonio Texas. It's called the BiblioTech. (Cute, huh). I saw it on the evening news a couple of weeks ago, and it is the spitting image of an Apple store. The librarians look like Apple "geniuses" in their uniform shirts as they flit from patron to patron at the multitude of screens positioned around the room. It is said to have 100 e-readers on loan, and dozens of computers at which patrons will be able to browse, study and learn digital skills. Their 10,000 digital titles (I did say DIGITAL) will also be available remotely, to folks at home. Apparently the district in which the library has been built is in a relatively poor district on the city's south side. (Key fact to remember for later in this article) There isn't a single book or shelf to be seen.

They say the library was modeled on the Engineering school at the University of Texas which successfully opened up a bookless school library several years ago. I don't really understand the use of such a model for a public library as they are "horses of differing colors." Engineering libraries don't use or need paper books. Most everything for them is available online. Engineering students don't have to deal with Overdrive and big commercial publishers and all of their legal issues. Engineering school libraries have appropriately adapted to the times, painlessly. Public libraries are quite another matter. They cannot neglect both the legal and economic issues associated with e-books. First, most library fare is simply not available digitally to license and purchase. And when it is, cost is a huge factor. E-books cost a small fortune. Given their cost, it might have been cheaper to purchase 10,000 paperbacks at the Bibliotech, and build a little library catering to reading rather than a state of the art, technologically sound library for what might be a less- than-technical public. (Remember, this is a relatively poor district on the city's south side....related to the key fact I asked you to remember). That demographic is not likely to be as technologically savvy as patrons in other areas.

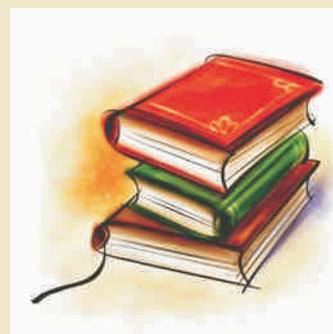
Over and over again, libraries seem to model themselves after the wrong entity. Just a few years ago, libraries were being encouraged to "look like bookstores." You know, places like Borders, Walden Books and Barnes and Noble. Big chain bookstores were oh so popular. If only libraries could look like them, circulation would soar. Need I remind you what happened to those big bookstores? Barnes and Noble is the only notable one left. And just 2 months ago, the CEO of Barnes and Noble resigned without explanation. Sales are down 7.4 percent from a year ago and net loss has doubled. Currently Barnes and Noble has 675 stores, down from 726 in 2008. While they plan to build 5 new stores this year, they are also closing 15 – 20 when their leases expire. Is it going the way of their counterparts, Borders and Walden Books? Let's face it; it's hard to run a bookstore in the Internet Age.

I propose public libraries just remain what we always have been, public libraries. We need to remain cognizant of our strengths and our basic mission. We need to run our businesses (and for crying out loud, they are businesses, not social service agencies) in a prudent, fiscally sound manner. We need to build and maintain facilities that are financially sustainable, not money pits. We need to adapt to new technology within reason. And most of all, we need to continue to connect our public with books, using common sense in our determination of what formats will work best within our community.

I'll be interested to see what lies in the future of the Bibliotech. Real books and bookshelves, perhaps?

Don't forget our monthly snapshot programs with **History Houses and Teresa Wood**. October will feature Felicity and the Revolutionary Period of American History, followed by Josefina in November. Learn through Josefina how New Mexico became part of America. December will feature Kirsten, a pioneer from Sweden learning to live in the American frontier. **Remember, the second Thursday of every month through June at 7 P.M. is a date to remember.** This program is suitable for the entire family. Adults are encouraged to attend.

Donna Haire



Fall Leaf and Brush Pickup

Two of the most popular Village services are leaf and brush pickup. To keep these services cost-effective please read and follow the information below:

Fall loose leaf pickup will run October through November.

- Rake leaves (no grass, sticks or landscaping) as close to the road as possible by 7am Monday mornings.
- Keep sidewalks, streets and concrete drains clear of leaves as this can cause drainage issues. Public Works crews will collect the leaves once a week, weather permitting.
- Items in cans/containers will NOT be picked up.
After loose leaf pickup is complete, place leaves in biodegradable lawn bags for pickup.
- Once crews make a sweep of an area they will not return until the next scheduled pickup, unless under special circumstances.

Brush pickup will continue through mid-November, weather permitting.

- Brush pick up is intended for residential trimming only. When hiring a tree contractor they should cut down and remove large trees from your property.
- Please stack branch piles neatly near the road by 7am on the first and third Monday of each month.
- Piles should be no larger than two feet high and five feet wide.
- Please place cut ends together.
- Keep sidewalks, roads and drains clear of debris.
- Vines, root material, thorny branches, and landscape material (weeds, grass clippings, timber) will NOT be collected unless it is in a biodegradable bag. Items in cans/containers will NOT be picked up.
- Once crews make a sweep of an area they will not return until the next scheduled pickup, unless under special circumstances.



Winter Reminders

The Village DPW prides themselves on keeping our streets and sidewalks safe and useable in the winter season. You can help by remembering the following:

- Overnight parking is prohibited on village streets from 2:00am – 6:00am, November 1 and May 21 for snow plowing purposes. Tickets will be given to vehicles parked during these hours. The fine is \$25 and must be paid within 7 business days.
- Please note the special winter parking regulations in the municipal parking lot on S. Main St. Tickets will be given to vehicles parked in these restricted areas. The fine is \$25 and must be paid within 7 business days.
- New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law states that it is illegal to shovel or plow snow into the roadway. If you use a snow blower, point the blower away from the street. If you hire a contractor to plow your driveway or shovel your walk, you should make certain that they do not plow or shovel snow into the street.
- Please do not place refuse and/or recycle bins in the street or on the sidewalk.
- Please keep bushes and trees trimmed so the sidewalk plow can keep the sidewalks clear.



Photo taken by John Spaulding

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

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.

Village of Churchville
PO Box 613
Churchville, NY 14428

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Calendar of Events

- October 21 Joint Village/Town Board Meeting at Village Office
- October 31 Halloween Parade @ 6:30 Starting at Bank of Castile
- November 14.. Chamber Veterans Luncheon at the American Legion Post
- December 7.... CESPA 2013 Holiday Craft Show - Elementary School
- December 8.... Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration @ 4pm
- December 12.. Chamber Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Gatherings

Mark your calendar!!

Refuse Pickup Date Change:

Due to Christmas Day, refuse will be picked up Thursday, December 26th.

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

- October 14-Columbus Day
 - November 11- 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 for meeting
updates/cancellations, agendas and
meeting minutes.



Scan to go to the digital version of
all newsletters or go to
www.churchville.net/newsletters

Board of Trustees

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

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Phil Latona, *Alternate*
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Zoning Board

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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