

The Villager

An Official Publication of the Village of Colonie

Summer 2020

A Message from the Mayor and Board of Trustees...

We hope that this edition of The Villager finds you well and safe. As your Village Board, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has remained committed to overcoming this global pandemic.

We have seen our daily routine change immensely, yet our residents, families and Village employees have shown tremendous strength and fortitude in finding ways to adapt and stay positive.

As we enter into the third month of partial and full closures, the Village Board and employees will continue to deliver essential services to you. We are here to support your needs and keep you safe.

Inside this edition, you will find a timeline summary of actions related to the pandemic. As we move forward in these unprecedented times, we will always make decisions with a priority on the health and well-being of our community.

We ask that you, too, place a priority on staying healthy, maintaining social distancing and wearing a mask when necessary. Thank you and until we can all be together again, please stay safe.

Ed. Tom, Patty and Jack



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VILLAGE HALL

518-869-7562

Mayor Edward Sim

518-869-1742

Trustees

Jack Murphy • 518-869-9638

Tom Tobin • 518-869-6760

Patty Schwarz Lockart
518-456-3866

A Message from Code Enforcement...



The Village of Colonie Building Department is considered an essential service during the COVID19 pandemic. We have been open, working limited hours and remotely when possible. We are issuing building permits and conducting building inspections where required. The building permit forms can be located on the Village of Colonie website. The forms can be e-mailed to mcerone@colonievillage.org. Any questions regarding building permits, building code requirements or Village code violations contact Michael Cerone, Building Department Head at 518-275-8770.

Village Hall...

Although our building is not open to the public, we want to assure you that your Village Hall staff remains available during these difficult times. Most of our staff have remote capability and the Village Hall phone number 518-869-7562, is being forwarded to someone on our staff. Your calls and emails will continue to be answered. We request that any tax bills, utility bills, permit applications, etc. be either mailed to Village Hall, 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205, or you may also utilize our drop-box at curbside, which will be checked by a staff member daily.

Sewer bills were mailed June 1, 2020 and are due by July 15, 2020, U.S Post Office postmark is accepted.

Village tax bills were mailed out June 1, 2020 and are due by July 1, 2020, U.S Post Office postmark is accepted.

If you do not receive your bills by June 15, 2020, please contact Village Hall at 518-869-7562. If you have an escrow account for your Village tax bill, those bills will be sent to your bank, upon their request. If you receive your Village tax bill, and it should have

gone to your bank, please forward the bill to them as soon as possible to ensure payment is made in a timely manner. Please note, that due to a limited in-person office staff there may be a delay in receiving a receipt of payment. We will try our best to process payments within 1-2 business days and get those receipts back to you. Receipts will be given only if the indication box on the bill is checked "receipt requested".

Credit card acceptance will be suspended until we re-open for public access in the building, thank you for your understanding. At this time, cash or check are acceptable forms of payment.

If paying by check, please make sure to note in the memo field the service address or account number. You may write one check for multiple payments, but please note if there is an error made on the check, neither bill will be processed, which may cause delays and late fees.

Village Hall is unable to hold credits on accounts, so please only pay the amount due or your payment will be sent back.

As always, if you should have any questions, please give us a call at 518-869-7562, our email us at villagehall@colonievillage.org

Thank you! Stay safe!

Dept. of Public Works...

Effective Monday, June 1 the Village DPW department will be returning to full staffing which will consist of the implementation of two separate shifts for the safety of our employees. Those shifts will consist of one crew working from the morning to early afternoon and another crew coming in from early afternoon through the evening hours so don't be surprised if you see Department of Public Works vehicles in your neighborhoods doing road repairs or other jobs in the late afternoon or early evening hours these are temporary measures moving forward and hopefully we will be returning to full staffing in normal hours soon. The heavy item program is still on hold. We encourage all residents to please see our website for any updates regarding this program.

Reminder Village Offices, DPW & Rec Center will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, 2020 for Independence Day. Garbage and recyclables will be picked-up Monday, July 6th.

Colonie Village

COVID-19 Timeline

- At noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Mayor Ed Sim declared a State of Emergency in the Village of Colonie due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 the Village buildings were closed for public access, although office staff continued to work remotely, and essential items like trash/recycling removal, Code Enforcement and the Fire Department response continued to remain in place.

- As per the Governors executive order, the Village Election that was supposed to take place on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 was postponed and rescheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020

- Access was set in place for all Village Board, Commission and Committee meetings to be done virtually and public access has been established through a YouTube live stream.

- The following events/services have been canceled for the 2020 year: the Easter Parade, Easter Egg hunt, the Village Farmers Market, Family Recreation Center Rentals, Cook Park Pavilion Rentals, the Summer Park Program at Locust Park and Cook Park, all summer field trips including the field trips to the Town of Colonie Pool, the Ice Cream Social, Kid's Night out, and the 2020 Tuesday Nights in the Park Summer Concert Series.

- The following events/services have been postponed: Family Fun Day, Gillette Carnival, Heavy Item program

- Beginning June 1, 2020, we will return to a working schedule with many of our departments.

- Village Hall staff will be working during normal business hours but will remain closed for public access until further notice.

- Department of Public Works will be working a split shift schedule and will have two crews on per day: a morning crew from 5:30 am – 1:00 pm and an afternoon crew from 1:30 pm – 9:00 pm, so if you see our department of public works employees out later than usual, it is due to this shift adjustment. The DPW building will remain closed for public access until further notice.

- Our Family Recreation Center will be open by appointment only, for items such as rental refunds. The building will remain closed for public access unless you have an appointment.

- The Outreach Center staff will be in from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, daily. Public access will be limited and by appointment only.

- The HBK Senior Center will remain closed to the public, the drive thru lunch program will continue to be available to our Village members.

- The Village Firehouse will continue to respond to calls and the building will remain closed for public access until further notice.

VILLAGE OF
COLONIE
2020
C E N S U S



2020 CENSUS – *We're halfway there!*

Albany County has reached a response rate of 58.5% so far, let's help everyone be counted!

Have some spare time on your hands? Fill out the 2020 CENSUS and Be Counted!

Did you know? By completing the Census, you help the Village receive funding that is used to serve you! These federal funds can be used to help with health clinics, schools, roads, disaster recovery initiatives and other public services for the next 10 years. It also helps represent you in government. The numbers collected, help determine how many seats each state has in Congress and at all levels of government.

It is quick and easy to fill out, about ten minutes. It's confidential, so your information and privacy are protected. Please remember that once you start the questionnaire, you must finish it, otherwise it won't be counted. Help our community get the resources and representation we all deserve for the next 10 years!

If you have already responded, thank you! You can help our community by encouraging your friends and family to respond too.

We're here to help you! For assistance completing the Census, please contact our Village Outreach worker, Sue Bredice by phone (518) 218-1030 or email sueb@colonievillage.org. Sue will also be trying to reach out to our community to assist individuals with their Census questions and needs!

**Thank you for doing your part to be counted
and keep the Village A Place to be Proud of!**

Dear Village of Colonie Residents,

To say that things have changed in recent months is a big understatement. With that being said, because of the current COVID19 restrictions, as well as the uncertainty of future regulations, one thing is for sure; Summer is on its way and we are seeing more people walking and riding bicycles as the weather gets warmer. As restrictions continue to be lifted, more people will be on the roads traveling in their motor vehicles. Summer will also see more of us spending time outside and we are very proud to live in such a wonderful community where we can enjoy our many parks, trails and well-kept streets for walking, bicycling and other outdoor activities. So we are asking that you help us all and **be responsible, Slow Down when driving; Remind family, friends and neighbors to be aware of the speed limits and Report problem drivers to the Police by using the non-emergency line 518-783-2744.**

However, if you need to report an emergency please call 911 or 518-783-2811.

Please continue to look for dates of scheduled Village meetings as we get more direction from the State and Federal Government and as always, remember to **"Drive 25"** through the Village residential streets. After all, this is your community and we all want to be safe.

Thank You —

**The Village
Traffic Committee**

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OUTREACH Center

THANK YOU!!!

(We still need your help!)

The Outreach Center is dependent on our community for donations to help those in need. Thank you to all those who continue to donate food, toiletries, cleaning products and gift cards.

During these trying times, the need in our community has increased. We are always accepting donations so that we may continue to help, as necessary. We are so proud of the Village of Colonie and our villagers' willingness to help others.



Village employees want to thank you for your continued support and wish that you have a safe and healthy summer.



Remember to stay Village Strong & NY Strong!

Covid 19 Support & Assistance PHONE NUMBERS

Albany County Health Department
(518) 447-4580
Mon–Fri: 8:30am–10pm
Sat & Sun: 8:30am–6pm

NYS COVID-19 Hotline
1-888-364-3065 (24 hours)

Albany County-NY Connects
(Senior questions & help with food)
(518) 447-7177

**Albany County Mental Health
Support Hotline**
(518) 269-6634
8am–8pm, 7 days/week

Albany County Government
(518) 447-7000

Albany County Coronavirus Hotline
to ask questions/report fraud
2-1-1 from any phone (24 hours)

**Food, Housing, Transportation and other
Support**
Call 2-1-1 or 1-888-366-3211 from
any phone, or visit www.211ny.org
for 24/7 assistance regarding food,
housing, utilities, health care, senior
services, disability services,
transportation, and more.

Food Pantries
For an updated list of available food
pantries for the Capital Region,
visit www.thefoodpantries.org. If you
need help finding your nearest food
pantry, please call the Food Access
Referral Line, M-F from 8am to 4pm at
(518) 458-1167 x 108.

National Grid (cust. service)
1-800-642-4272
7am–7pm, M-F

National Grid Gas emergency
1-800-892-2345 (24 hours)

National Grid Power outage
1-800-867-5222 (24 hours)



Village Election

DATE CHANGE:
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
6am to 9pm
at VILLAGE HALL

**If you are interested in an absentee ballot or
have any other questions, please contact our
Village Clerk Jamie Blot
at 518-869-7562.**

Up for election in 2020:
Mayor - 4 year term
Trustee - 4 year term
Trustee - 4 year term
Proposition for Service Award Program



SENIORS Corner

For Village Residents 55+ and Village Senior Center members:

The Senior Center is offering To-Go Lunches!

Monday - Friday from 12-12:30pm

Drive up for pick up, no need to leave your car!

You MUST CALL AHEAD At 518-869-7172!

Meals are \$5 each, cash & check are accepted.

Menu's released weekly, you can order and pay up to a week in advance!

If you are shut in and can't leave your home, we can arrange for accommodations.

If you need anything or having any questions, please call Chrissy or Ginny at 518-869-7172.

If no one answers, please leave a message, someone will get back to you as soon as possible!

We love our seniors and want them to stay happy and healthy during this time!

Can't wait to see you all again back at the Senior Center when we can safely open back up!



COVID-19 Temporary Public Meeting Schedule

From all of us at the Village, we miss seeing your friendly faces! However, to stay in compliance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1, and the best interest of our community, we remain closed to the public during these difficult times. Our mission to keep our residents informed has not changed! Village Boards and Commissions continue to meet regularly via teleconference which are all livestreamed on

the official Village of Colonie YouTube page! Questions, comments, and concerns for any of these meetings will continue to be heard and can be e-mailed to villagehall@colonievillage.org Be sure to visit our Village of Colonie website at www.colonievillage.org for a direct link to our YouTube page and all up-to-date information! Our meeting's schedules have not changed, be sure to tune in for the following meetings!

Board of Trustees –

Every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm

Planning Commission –

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals –

1st Wednesday of the month – 7pm - As needed

Sign Review Board –

4th Thursday of the month – 6:30 pm – As needed

Traffic Committee –

2nd Thursday of the month – 6:30 pm – As needed

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

The Village would like to congratulate our Attorney Henry De Cotis on his recent retirement. Henry served as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Colonie from 2003-2007. Henry started his career with the Village in June of 2007 as a part time attorney to our specialty boards. Henry was appointed

to the position of general counsel for the Village of Colonie on April 3, 2017 and has served in that position for the remainder of his career with us. We thank Henry for his loyal service over the years and wish him the best in his retirement!

A Message from **Colonie Fire Company**



Members of the Village Fire Department have been honoring children of the Village on their birthdays with their very own parade! To date, the Firehouse has celebrated over 47 Birthday Parades while families have been staying safe at home.

If you know of a Village of Colonie child, whose birthday has been canceled due to the COVID19 pandemic, please reach out to us and our Village of Colonie Fire Department will drive by on their birthday to give them something to smile about! Please submit the following information to: villagehall@colonie.village.org

Child's name, child's address (or address the child will be located at on their birthday, must be Village address, date of birth, & contact information consisting of your name and phone number for scheduling purposes. Please note: We will make our best attempt to do our drive by on the actual date of birth. We wish everyone who has a birthday during this time a very safe and happy day!



Visit us at www.coloniefire.com or on Facebook "Colonie Fire Company"
Consider joining the Village of Colonie 100% Volunteer Fire Company

The Villager

VILLAGE HALL

2 Thunder Road
Albany, NY 12205
518-869-7562
villagehall@colonievillage.org

Visit the Village website at...
www.colonievillage.org

MAYOR

Edward Sim

TRUSTEES

Tom Tobin
Jack Murphy
Patty Schwarz Lockart

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 532

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Les Decker518-869-6372
Superintendent of Public Works

Chris Bisognano518-869-6372
Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

Stormwater Hotline518-869-6372

Chris Ciota518-869-6372
Recycling Coordinator

OUTREACH CENTER

Sue Bredice518-218-1030

Joan Rueckert518-218-1030

YOUTH AND FAMILY

SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Brian Casey518-218-7782
Youth Monitor

Katie Ciota518-218-7782
Youth Monitor

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Chrissy Lanza518-869-7172
Recreation Leader

Ginny Ritz518-869-7172
Office Administrator

FIRE COMPANY

Fire Company518-869-9306

Jeffrey Kayser518-869-9306
Fire Co. Chief

Ronald Coy518-869-9306
Fire Co. President

IMPORTANT VILLAGE NUMBERS

Kathleen Haas518-869-7562
Treasurer

Jamie Blot518-869-7562
Clerk

Victor Caponera518-869-7562
Attorney

Ben Neidl518-869-7562
Attorney

Christopher Dennis518-869-7562
Planning Commission

Lou VanBuren518-869-7562
Zoning Board

Frank Prevratil518-869-7562
Traffic Committee

Jim Rubino518-869-7672
Sign Review Board

Mike Cerone518-275-8770
Building Department Head

Randy Rivera518-857-3654
*Assistant Code Enforcement Officer/
Stormwater Management Officer*

Steve Meservy518-275-3666
Code Enforcement Officer

Krysta Dennis518-669-2636
Farmers Market Manager