A Message from the **MAYOR** and **TRUSTEES**

Dear Residents,
The Village of Colonie was set and ready to kick-off its Centennial (1921-2021) on March 2 and celebrate with events and special activities throughout the year. However, in view of the pandemic, we have decided to take all our plans and move everything into 2022. Although we will be one year older, it is more important that we maintain social distancing, wear our masks, and remain safe and healthy.

We are dedicating this issue of The Villager to our Centennial Celebration. I want to thank all the members of the Centennial Committee for their continuing efforts to plan a wonderful and meaningful celebration to mark our 100 “plus 1” birthday. This issue includes our plans and timeline, as well as some memorabilia, historical facts, and many photographs that the committee has collected.

In the coming weeks and months, please watch for further details. We will keep everyone updated and informed on the Village Facebook page, in future issues of The Villager and on the Village website, colonievillage.org.

We appreciate your understanding, and we are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Tom Tobin, Mayor
Village Directory

Department of Public Works  518-869-6372
Deputy Mayor  Ed Sim, Liaison
Les Decker, Superintendent
Chris Bisognano, Assistant Superintendent
Chris Ciota, Recycling Coordinator

Village Hall  518-869-7562
Kathleen Haas, Treasurer
Jamie Blot, Clerk
Benjamin Neidl, Attorney
Victor Caponera, Attorney

Building Department  518-869-7562
Steve Meservey, Code Enforcement Officer, Head, 518-275-3666
Randy Rivera, Stormwater Management Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, 518-857-3654

Senior Citizens Center  518-869-7172
Trustee Patty Schwarz Lockart, Liaison
Chrissy Lanza, Recreation Leader
Ginny Ritz, Office Administrator

Family Recreation Center  518-218-7782
Brian Casey, Youth Monitor
Katie Ciota, Youth Monitor

Outreach Center  518-218-1030
Sue Bredice, Outreach Worker
Joan Rueckert, Outreach Worker

Fire Company  518-869-9306
Trustee Art White, Liaison
Jeffrey Kayser, Fire Co. Chief
Ronald Coy, Fire Co. President

Visit the Village Website at: www.colonievillage.org

• Message from Department of Public Works

Important Please Read!

Heavy Item Pick-Up Procedures for 2021

The Village of Colonie has modified our Heavy Item Program which runs from May – October. This year we will not be publicizing the dates or taking phone calls for reservations. We will be taking reservations in person at the Department of Public Works office located at 1 Thunder Road on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8AM-12PM. Residents will fill out a Village Of Colonie Heavy Item Pickup Form and coordinate the date for their assigned pick up. You will need to bring in a proof of Village residency in the form of a driver’s license, cable bill, utility bill or tax bill. Upon your reservation, you will receive a copy of the Village Of Colonie Heavy Item Pickup Form signed and dated along with a list of rules of the program (what is accepted and what is not). If you have any further questions, please direct them to The Department of Public Works at 518-869-6372.

Leaf and Brush Recycling will start for the season on March 30th

1. There is no set day for leaf/brush pickup. It is done on a continual rotation around the Village starting in the spring and ending in the fall.

2. Put leaves/grass clippings in brown recycling bags or labeled barrels ONLY, not to exceed 40 lbs. Do not use plastic bags or boxes. NO ROCKS, GARBAGE, SOD OR PLASTIC MAY BE PLACED IN THE LEAF BAGS.

3. Branches must be cut in lengths of 4 ft. or less and securely tied with strings in bundles not to exceed 40 lbs. The diameter of the branches to be bundled MUST BE 3 INCHES OR LESS.

If you have any questions, please call the Department of Public Works, Monday through Friday, 7 am until 3:30 pm. The telephone number is 518-869-6372.

• Message from Village Hall

Due to COVID-19, in-person hours may vary at the hall. Please utilize our drop-box located at curbside or mail in any correspondence, as a precaution. The drop-box is checked daily.

April Water Bills will be mailed on April 1, 2021 and are due by May 15, 2021.

We will be sending receipts back on a “requested receipt” basis only. If you would like a receipt for your payment, simply turn your payment in with the bottom portion of your bill with the “receipt requested” box checked and we will gladly provide you with a receipt.

Please DO NOT STAPLE payments to remittance stubs. Staples and marks left from staples, tend to jam our electronic check reader.

Any April Water bills left unpaid after May 15, 2021 will be levied onto the June 2021 Village Tax Bill.

Yard waste stickers are available for purchase at Village Hall, please call ahead of time to ensure the building is open. Stickers are $3.00/each.
Village Streets of the Past

“The view on Tanglewood Rd looking up the hill towards Central Avenue in March 1955. Central Avenue, Route 5 at first was only a path running through the sand dunes of the Pine Bush. However, it was the first turnpike incorporated in New York State in 1797, with construction started in 1802 at the cost of $10,000.”

The view down Sand Creek Rd to the Northway bridge, from Wolf Rd in the 1950’s before it was paved.

This photograph shows the view down Sharon Drive in March of 1955.

This is the view down Sand Creek Rd looking past Myers Court and Mordella Road before it was paved.

This photograph shows Sand Creek Road looking towards Delafield Drive and Peter Drive before it was paved.”
The following are the Centennial +1 Events that we have been planning and continue to plan for 2022. We hope you are excited to join us in celebrating!

**Open House, May 2022**
Let’s kick off our Centennial Celebration by welcoming all our residents, families, friends, Village business owners, to come check us out! Our Open House will include tours of the following locations: Village Hall, HBK Senior Center, Family Recreation Center, Village Fire House and Department of Public Works. We are opening all our buildings up to you so we can show off everything we love to do for our Village. Check out some great Village memorabilia at the Village Hall and while you’re there, don’t forget to pay our wonderful senior staff a visit and some light refreshments. Take an up-close look at all of our big machinery in our Department of Public Works and see all our amazing apparatus located in our Fire House. Stop in to the Family Recreation Center and shoot some hoops or play a quick game of billiards. Let’s all be reminded of all the great amenities and growth we have achieved for our residents and community over the past 100+ years.

**Centennial Picnic, July 2022**
Come one, come all to our Centennial Picnic at Cook Park. With vibes of our annual Family Fun Day, this picnic will incorporate even more than the usual delights of food, fun, games, rides and more! There will be live music and plenty of all-day family fun!

**Mayors Cup Run & Walk August 2022**
In celebration of the Village’s Centennial, the Mayor’s Cup 5K and mile Fun Run is back! Come out to enjoy our fast and flat scenic route through Cook Park and the surrounding neighborhood. Event to be timed by AREEP. Age division awards for top men and women. Don’t want to run or walk the race? We are encouraging resident participation by cheering on our racers throughout the route, there may even be prizes for most creative/enthusiastic participation! Entertainment before and during the race to be provided by AREEP, but stick around for a community afternoon with food and music entertainment! Stay tuned for sign-ups on the AREEP website.

**Centennial Parade September 2022**
Set to parade down Central Avenue, and turn down Lincoln Avenue on our way to a finale in Cook Park. There will be fire departments, local business representation, local dignitaries, social organizations, bands and floats. We invite you to come out and celebrate with us. If you would like to participate in the parade, contact the Village Hall.

**Centennial Dinner October 2022**
Our grand finale to our yearlong celebration of our 100th birthday will culminate with our Centennial Dinner Celebration. It will feature a Roaring 20’s theme in recognition of the year we were founded. We hope to celebrate with friends, family and neighbors with good food, drinks and dancing. 20’s dress style optional, but always encouraged. What better way to celebrate then putting on your best shoes and dancing the night away to all those classic big-band hits! Check back for more details on how to purchase tickets.

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**REMINDER**
The Village Offices, D.P.W. and Recreation Center will be closed:
- **Tuesday, March 16th**
  - for Village Election Day *
  - Garbage & recycling pickup will remain the same on Tuesday, March 16th.
- **Please have all garbage & recycling out by 6 AM.**
The "Villager" Past and Present

Special Election

The Village of Colonie Special Election will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205.

Positions and Terms:
Trustee 1 year term (set to expire April 2022)
Trustee 3 year term (set to expire April 2024)

We ask that all eligible voters who plan to vote in-person wear a facial covering and follow all the Center for Disease Control and Health Department guidelines for social distancing. Our inspectors and poll watchers will also be wearing facial coverings and following all guidelines, as well as, disinfecting commonly touched areas. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry/exit to the building, as well as, in the voting room. Pens will be made available for voting or voters are welcome to bring their own pen if they feel more comfortable (black ink only please).

A note about Registration Day:
Village of Colonie Voter Registration day will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205. You may also register to vote with the Albany County Board of Elections before Friday, March 4, 2021 to be eligible to vote in the Village Election. If you are already registered to vote in Albany County, you are eligible to vote in the Village of Colonie Election.

A note about Absentee Ballots:
If you are interested in obtaining an absentee ballot, please contact Village Clerk Jamie Blot at 518-869-7562 to request an application. Once the application is received, the Village Clerk will deliver your absentee ballot in the manner to which you requested. The last day for the Village Clerk to receive applications for absentee ballots to be mailed to qualified voters is Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The last day for the Village Clerk to receive absentee ballots in person or by mail is Tuesday, March 16, 2021. If you are requesting an absentee ballot due to COVID-19 concerns, please select section D. Temporary/Permanent Illness or Physical Disability on your application and write in “COVID-19 concerns”.

For any questions related to the Village Election please contact Village Clerk Jamie Blot at 518-869-7562 or by e-mail jblot@colonievillage.org.
The Village of Colonie is one of the most strategically located municipalities in the State of New York. Its nearness to Albany International Airport, the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, the Northway and the Thruway, the picturesque Catskill and Adirondack Mountains, and its location within the triangle of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy make the Village a vital business and residential community in which to live and work.

The Village was officially incorporated on March 2, 1921. Under the leadership of its first mayor, Charles H. Collins, the Village borrowed $500 to defray the expenses of incorporation, created the Office of Police Justice, set a tax rate of $3.00 per $1,000 assessed valuation, and established a budget of $1,285.

In the decades that followed, each presiding Mayor and Board of Trustees initiated improvements, expanded services and programs, faced challenges as well as triumphs and molded the Village into a "place to be proud of." Today, the 3.3 square mile Village has some 3,200 properties and a business-lined corridor of Central Avenue from the East side of Route 155 to the West side of Wolf Road.

In the 1920’s, Mayor Nordin J. Shambrook improved Albany Schenectady Road and "raised" significant monies - more than $20,000 - from the collection of speeding fines before speed traps were removed from each end of the Village.

The 1930’s welcomed the incorporation of the Village Fire Company and the budget grew to more than $16,000.

The decade of the 1940’s ushered in the purchase of water from the Latham Water District for all Village residents, bus service between Albany and Schenectady was put into effect, Lincoln Avenue was paved and the Zoning Commission was authorized to protect the Village from undesirable buildings.

The era of the fifties saw population expansion in the Village as well as the budget increasing to nearly $100,000 to meet the growing demands of Village taxpayers.

The 1960’s were ushered in with a tie vote in the election of trustees between Edward Mahoney and William Cook. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court ruled that the choosing of the trustee would be done by lots. A deck of cards was produced — William Cook drew a jack of diamonds and Edward Mahoney drew the eight of diamonds. Thus, by the luck of the draw, William Cook became a trustee. He went on to become Mayor and served in that post until his retirement in 1971.
Growth in both size and delivery of services accelerated during the 1960’s and into the 1970’s. During this time, the Village Planning Commission was established, land was purchased to create Cook Park, the new Village Hall was dedicated, ground was broken for the sanitary sewer system, and a fire ladder truck was purchased to provide service to multi-storied buildings along Wolf Road. These achievements added to the comfort of residents as well as increased property value. It should be noted that although the Village budget had increased significantly, taxes remained reasonable and equitable - something that had become a tradition of the Village.

As the 1980’s unfolded, the Village played a vital role in the development of the Golden Mile - Wolf Road. Mayor Herbert B. Kuhn focused on the beautification of the Village and its future plan for growth and prosperity as the new millennium approached.

Throughout the 1990’s and the beginning of the 21st Century, Mayor Frank A. Leak guided the Village along a path of fiscal responsibility. He focused on the expansion of facilities and services, and on the welfare and safety of children and seniors in the community. Mayor Leak served for 24 years and ultimately managed an over-all budget of more than $7-million. Under his long-tenured leadership, more than 8,000 Village residents benefitted from snow removal, fire protection, senior and youth outreach programs, parks and recreational facilities and sewer and water services. As a force within the community, Frank Leak was proud of all the programs and facilities that were created under his watch, especially the Amphitheater for the Arts that bears his name.

Due to health reasons, Mayor Frank A. Leak stepped down in October, 2019 and the Board of Trustees appointed Edward Sim as Mayor. In less than three months, Ed Sim and the Board of Trustees were confronted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. History will show that the Village of Colonie leadership carried on during this difficult time with a renewed strength to focus on the health and safety of the entire community.

In September of 2020, voters turned out in unprecedented numbers to elect Thomas J. Tobin as the new mayor. Tom Tobin had served as a trustee since 1998 and as deputy mayor from 2001 to 2015. Mayor Tobin and his Board of Trustees are committed to leading the Village residents safely forward out of this Pandemic and to sustain the Village as a “place to be proud of” today, tomorrow, and into the future.
1950 Photograph of the original Village Hall, located at 1649 Central Ave. This building originally housed all the departments including the Village Hall, Village Court, DPW & the original Fire Department Killian Van Rensselaer Fire Company. The name was changed in the late 1930’s to Colonie Fire Company Inc.

Taken on March 25, 1968 of the site of the new Village Hall on Thunder Road.

Ground grading around the new Village Hall in 1968.

Construction of the new Village Hall in 1968.

Trustee Jack Murphy passed away on December 26, 2020. For much of Jack’s life, he was coaching sports such as St. Clare’s basketball, Colonie Little League and Colonie Babe Ruth baseball. Jack brought his love of coaching and outlook for the youth to his position in the Village of Colonie. He was an inductee to the Albany Twilight League and Christian Brothers Academy Hall of Fame. Jack was an avid supporter of the Village and a valued member of the Village Board of Trustees for 25 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jack’s family, he will be greatly missed.

Watch for an upcoming flyer that will be delivered to your door with more information on the Village Boy Scout’s socially distanced, drop-off spring bottle drive on April 17th, 2021.
When the Village was incorporated on March 2, 1921, it did not adopt an official seal. For almost 70 years, an unofficial seal for the DPW was displayed and used. The origins of this seal are unknown.

In 1994, Bob Rogowicz, Recreation Director, ran a contest approved by the Village Board, to create an official Village of Colonie Seal. A Village resident, Dottie Carroll, won the contest as the designer of the seal on March 28, 1994. Dottie, a member of the Village Senior Center and a Village resident for over 50 years, captured the feeling of pride in her prize-winning design. The Mayor and Board of Trustees felt her design best represented the safety, recreation, conservation and public service that all added to the quality of life in the Village of Colonie.

In 2019, in preparation for our Centennial Celebration, the Mayor and Board of Trustees began a contest to create our official Village of Colonie Centennial Celebration Seal. A local teen from South Colonie High School, Ryan Appleton created the winning design. The Mayor and Board were very impressed with his clean design, attention to detail and professionalism in creating the seal. This seal will appear on all Village Centennial correspondence and materials. The Board was so impressed with the new design, that with a few minor alterations, they have chosen it to be the new official seal of the Village of Colonie. So, keep your eye out as we transition to the new official seal!
Easter Celebrations of the Past

The Village Easter Parade in 1979.

Easter Egg Hunt at Cook Park in 1979, the DPW loader delivering the jelly bean filled plastic eggs for the kids.

Easter Egg Hunt at Cook Park in 1980.

The Village Easter Parade today.

Socially distanced COVID friendly Easter Parade!

The Easter Bunny and his helpers will be hopping on by the Village on Saturday, March 27th and Sunday, March 28th. Starting at 10 am each day, the Easter Bunny will visit every residential street in the Village. To keep things safe for you and your families as well as the bunny himself, there will be a few small changes this year. Kids and adults will be able to stand in front of the Easter trailer for pictures and Easter wishes, but climbing into the trailer, hugs and high fives will have to be saved for another time. We hope to see you out and about hopping around! The Easter Bunny, and his friends, along with the Mayor and the Trustees will have a treat for all little Villagers!
Senior Corner

For Village Residents 55+ and Village Senior Center Members:

The Senior Center To-Go lunches have continued to be a success with our Seniors! We will continue offering curbside To-Go lunches throughout the spring months!

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.

- Menus are released monthly on the Village’s website www.colonievillage.org/senior-citizens/ you can call to order and pay up to a week in advance!
- If you are shut in and cannot leave your home, we can arrange for accommodations.
- If you need anything or have any questions, please call Chrissy or Ginny at 518-869-7172. If no one answers, please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.
- Please make sure you are wearing your mask before you roll down your window to pick up your lunch.
- We cannot wait to see you all back at the Senior Center when we can safely open back up!
- Check the menus for each month’s Special Luncheon! Don’t forget to always order the Specials early as quantities are limited!

Message from the Senior Center Staff, Chrissy, Ginny, Joan, Holly, Mike & Mink: “We miss everyone! Stay safe and we hope to see you soon!”

Senior Center Through the Years

For Village Residents 55+ and Village Senior Center Members:

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Message from the Senior Center Staff, Chrissy, Ginny, Joan, Holly, Mike & Mink: “We miss everyone! Stay safe and we hope to see you soon!”

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This picture shows the current Pine Grove United Methodist Church next to the original chapel. The original chapel was built in 1857, long before either the Village or the Town of Colonie were incorporated. In 1893, 1905, and 1919, the chapel received additions due to the rapid growth of the local population. Then in 1954 the church we now see was built on the property right behind the original chapel. The old chapel was taken down in 1961, which made room for the current parking lot. The new church received an addition in 1962 that added classrooms, a gymnasium, and offices. These classrooms are still in use today by the South Colonie School District.