



# The Villager

## VILLAGE HALL

**518-869-7562**

Mayor Tom Tobin

518-461-2954

## TRUSTEES

Ed Sim • 518-869-1742

Patty Schwarz Lockart

518-456-3866

Art White • 518-390-4888

Jim Rubino • 518-378-3312

## UPCOMING EVENTS

— Your Calendar —

### **April 1-2**

*Easter Bunny Hops  
Through Village*

### **April 1**

*Scouts Bottle Drive*

### **April 22**

*Colonie Little League  
Opening Day*

### **May 18 - 29**

*Gillette Shows  
Carnival*

**Save the Date:**

**FAMILY  
FUN DAY**

**June 10, 2023**

## A Message from the **MAYOR**



Dear Residents,

It gives me great pleasure to say that spring will be here soon and we can all enjoy warmer weather and sunshine everyday.

This year, we have many events and activities planned for your enjoyment. I invite you to celebrate our Village at work and I look forward to seeing you all.

If you wish to rent one of our pavilions or the Recreation Center for a business and/or personal event or party, please contact our Recreation Department at 518-218-7782.

The Tuesday Nights in the Park Concert Series for 2023 will return with another full season.

The Gillette Shows Carnival will be coming to the Village in May, see inside for more details.

Our Senior Center will continue to serve the community with our lunch program, Village Outreach resources and activities.

Watch for the Easter Bunny in April and don't forget to support our Village Scouts during their spring bottle drive.

Please enjoy the photos of Santa's visit to the Village with Mrs. Claus this past December that are included in this issue.

On behalf of myself and the Village Trustees, I wish you all a bright and healthy spring.

Sincerely,

*Tom*

Tom Tobin, Mayor



Photo L to R: Patty Schwarz Lockart, Art White, Tom Tobin, Ed Sim, Jim Rubino.



An Official Publication of the  
Village of Colonie • Spring 2023

## Village Directory

### **Department of Public Works** 518-869-6372

Trustee Art White, Liaison  
Les Decker, Superintendent  
Chris Bisognano, Assistant Superintendent  
Dan Light, Water / Sewer Foreman  
Chris Ciota, Highway / Sanitation Foreman and  
Recycling Coordinator

### **Village Hall** 518-869-7562

Jamie Blot, Clerk  
Christina Secor, Treasurer  
Benjamin Neidl, Attorney  
Victor Caponera, Attorney

### **Building Department** 518-869-7562

Trustee Patty Schwarz Lockart, Liaison  
Steve Mesurvey,  
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, Creative Coordinator

### **Outreach Center** 518-218-1030

Trustee Patty Schwarz Lockart, Liaison  
Joan Rueckert, Outreach Worker

### **Fire Company** 518-869-9306

Trustee Jim Rubino, Liaison  
Jeffrey Kayser, Fire Co. Chief  
Lou VanBuren, Fire Co. President



To "Meet the Staff," please  
visit our Village Website at...

**www.colonievillage.org**

## • Message from

## **Department of Public Works** **Important! Please Read!**

### **Heavy Item Pick-Up Procedures for 2023**

The Village of Colonie Heavy Item Program will begin on Monday, June 5th and run until Monday, August 21st. Pick-ups will be each Monday, excluding holidays. Each residential address will be eligible for one pick-up per year. There is a non-refundable fee of \$25. Reservations must be made in person at Village Hall, 2 Thunder Road on weekdays during normal business hours 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Residents are required to fill out a Village of Colonie Heavy Item Form and coordinate the date for their assigned pick-up. Proof of residency will need to be provided (driver's license, cable bill, utility bill or tax bill). Upon your reservation, you will receive a copy of the completed Village of Colonie Heavy Item Form, along with a list of rules of the program. You can check our website at [colonievillage.org](http://colonievillage.org) for a list of items that will and won't be accepted for Heavy Item Pick-Up. Please note that this list is subject to change without notice. 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** **March 27th, Weather Permitting**

1. Leaf/brush pickup rotates continuously around the Village from spring until fall.
2. Put leaves/grass clippings in brown recycling bags or labeled barrels ONLY, not to exceed 40lbs. 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 4ft or less and securely tied with string in bundles not to exceed 40lbs. The diameter of the branches to be bundled MUST BE 3 INCHES OR LESS.
4. If you have any questions, please call the Department of Public Works, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am until 3:30 pm at 518-869-6372
5. Yard waste stickers for \$3.00 each are available for purchase at Village Hall.

## • Message from **Village Hall**

### **April Water Bills to be Mailed April 1st; Payment due May 15th.**

If you would like a receipt for your water bill payment, simply return the bottom portion of your bill with "receipt requested" box checked. Please do not staple payments to remittance stubs. Unpaid water bills will be added to June, 2023 Village Tax Bills.

**Reminder:** The dropbox, in front of Village Hall at 2 Thunder Road, can be used to place your payments and/or correspondence. The dropbox is checked daily.



## • Message from **Traffic Committee**

Dear Village of Colonie Residents,

As we get ready to welcome the spring season and warmer weather, the Village of Colonie Traffic Committee would like to remind you that spring also means more people venturing outdoors and being more active.

We are very proud to live in such a wonderful community where we can enjoy many parks, trails and well-kept streets for walking, bicycling and

other outdoor activities. We ask that you help us 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. Lookout for children playing, people walking their pets and remember to yield to pedestrians in cross walks.

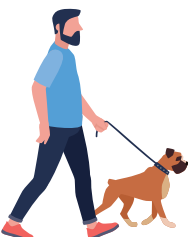
Do not forget, school is still in session, take note of school buses. School Buses that are stopped with Red Flashing lights and a Stop sign extended mean STOP! Do Not Pass or Attempt to Go Around!

Lawn Signs reminding people to "Slow Down", that were placed along various Village streets last year have worked in promoting safety awareness in the Village. We are happy to announce that we will be placing these

signs on lawns again this year. There will be an opportunity for all Village residents to display these signs in the future. We invite you to send requests to the Village Hall; attention: "Traffic Committee" as well as attend the Traffic Committee meetings at the Village Hall on the 2nd Thursday of every month beginning at 6:30 P.M.

Remember to "Drive 25" through Village residential streets. After all, this is your community and we all want to be safe.

Thank you,  
The Village of Colonie  
Traffic Committee



## **Colonie Little League Opening Day April 22, 2023 Cook Park**

## **Planning Commission Approvals**

*The Mayor and Board of Trustees would like to  
WELCOME the following businesses  
approved by the Planning Commission.*

### **AJW Caribbean**

18 Wolf Road, New Caribbean Restaurant

### **Accessible Bath Technologies LLC**

12A Petra Lane, New Bathroom Installations

### **Arjo MTM**

18 Petra Lane 3B, Rental of hospital beds to area hospitals

### **Waypoint Technology Group LLC**

4 Walker Way, Sales & support for high end commercial  
grade surveying equipment

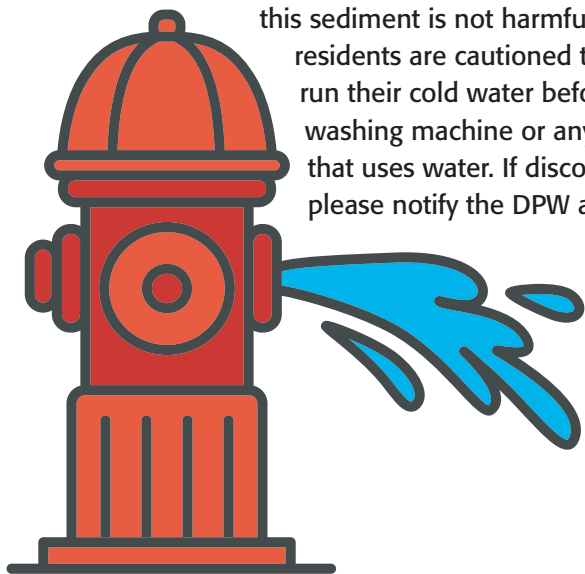


# Hydrant Flushing

This annual program ensures that all fire hydrants within the Village are functioning in case of an emergency and to ensure that there is no stagnant water within our water system. The 2023 flushing of the water system will begin on March 27th weather permitting. We do not flush hydrants when the temperature is below freezing. All flushing will be done between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am to cause as little disruption as possible to our residents and businesses. During this time, you will see our Village trucks and employees out at night with hoses at the hydrants. If you have any questions about their work, you can contact the DPW office the following morning.

Residents may notice discoloration in their water during this program and should be aware this is normal and not harmful. This discoloration is caused by naturally occurring sediment in the pipes that is stirred up when the high volume of water is run through them during the flushing. Again,

this sediment is not harmful. However, residents are cautioned to check and run their cold water before using their washing machine or any other appliance that uses water. If discoloration persists, please notify the DPW at 518-869-6372.



## REMINDER

The Village Offices, D.P.W. and Recreation Center will be closed:

- **Monday, May 29th**  
for Memorial Day \*

Garbage & recycling pickup  
will remain the same on  
Tuesday, May 30th.

- ***Please have all garbage & recycling  
out by 6:00 am.***

# The Easter Bunny is Headed Your Way!



The Easter Bunny will be hopping on through the Village on Saturday, April 1st and Sunday, April 2nd. The Easter Bunny and his friends, along with Mayor Tobin and the Trustees will have a sweet treat for all little Villagers. We hope to see you out and about hopping around!

If you are new to the Village or have new family members for the Easter Bunny to greet, you can call the Family Recreation Center at 518-218-7782 to get an estimate on which day and time frame the Easter Bunny will be coming around your neighborhood. Keep an ear out for the music truck playing Easter tunes, and then grab your shoes, sweatshirts, and head outside.







## Introducing.... the new official VILLAGE OF COLONIE SEAL

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. The Board was so impressed with the new design, that with a few minor alterations, they chose it to be the new official seal of the Village of Colonie. You may have already seen the new seal installed on our municipal buildings and imprinted on our letterhead. You will be seeing it much more as we take on the extensive process of transitioning the hundreds of seals all over our Village.

We are excited for this seal to take us through our next hundred years!

### BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

For all Village meetings residents can contact the Village Hall at 518-869-7562 the day of, to confirm the quorum. All agendas and minutes are available on our website, <https://colonievillage.org/agendas-minutes/>

#### • Mayor and Board of Trustees

*1st & 3rd Monday of the Month .....6:30pm*

Thomas Tobin, *Mayor*  
Edward Sim, *Village Trustee/*  
*Deputy Mayor*  
Patty Schwarz Lockart,  
*Village Trustee*  
Art White, *Village Trustee*  
James M. Rubino, *Village Trustee*  
Jamie Blot, *Clerk*



Thomas Tobin

#### • Planning Commission

*1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month .....6:30pm*

Chris Dennis, *Chairman*  
Brian Curran / Kenny Hart  
Brittany Kendall / Mark Keegan  
John Martin  
Jim Splonskowski  
Joan Rueckert, *Coordinator*  
Patty Schwarz Lockart,  
*Village Board Liaison*



Patty Schwarz  
Lockart

#### • Sign Review Board

*4th Thursday of the month as needed ..6:30pm*

Bill Levy, *Chairman*  
Cynthia Calabrese  
Jason DePaulo  
Sue Dickinson  
Carole Trifiletti  
Christina Secor, *Coordinator*  
Art White, *Village Board Liaison*



Art White

#### • Zoning Board of Appeals

*1st Wednesday of the month as needed. 6:30pm*

Lou Van Buren, *Chairman*  
Christopher Larrabee  
Phil Minissale  
Trevor Normandin  
Frank Prevratil  
Joshua Rowinski  
Stacie Douglas, *Zoning Coordinator*  
James M. Rubino,  
*Village Board Liaison*



James Rubino

#### • Traffic Advisory Committee

*2nd Thursday of the month .....6:30pm*

Frank Prevratil, *Chairman*  
John Gillivan / Daniel Hornick  
George Lashoff  
Les Samiof  
Hannah Curran, *Coordinator*  
Edward Sim, *Village Board Liaison*



Edward Sim

*If you are handicapped and need any assistance to attend a public meeting in the Village of Colonie, please notify the Clerk 24 hours before the meeting.*



# Santa & Mrs. Claus were here!

Thank you for coming out to celebrate the 2022 holiday season at the Tree Lighting, the Santa Parade, and Breakfast with Santa! Everyone had a wonderful time!





# The Sand Creek Road Complete Street Feasibility Study

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) has approved the Village of Colonie's request for a Sand Creek Road Complete Street Feasibility Study awarded on March 3, 2022.

The funding, through the Unified Planning Work Program, includes a consultant's budget of \$65,000 (\$50,000 of federal funds and a \$15,000 local match) with an additional \$30,000 in CDTC staff technical assistance.

The Village of Colonie will also contribute \$10,000 of in-kind staff support to this project. The project is expected to begin in March.



## NEWS from Scout Troop 278

On Saturday April 1st in the Village of Colonie - Boy Scout Troop 278 will be back with their Spring Drive-Up Bottle Drive. We respectfully request that if you are able, please drop off bottles to the DPW Garage at 1 Thunder Rd between 7:00 am and noon. For residents that are unable to drive, we will have a small crew of scouts and parents doing pick-ups. Leave your bags of bottles in front of your door in a spot that is visible from the street. This process may take us longer, so please have patience if they are not picked up by noon. It is your generous support that helps fund the troop's community service and activities throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact Scout Master Brian Casey at 518-218-7782.

**We thank you for your continued support!**

Socially Distanced  
**BOTTLE  
DRIVE!**  
Sat., April 1st  
Village of Colonie  
Boy Scout  
Troop 278



NICEST SHOW IN THE NORTHEAST

**May 18 – 29  
2023**

## COOK PARK

**Thurs 5/18 5-9pm**

**Fri 5/19 5-9pm**

**Sat 5/20 1-9pm**

**Sun 5/21 1-7pm**

**Mon 5/22 5-9pm**

**Tues 5/23 5-9pm**

**Wed 5/24 5-9pm**

**Thurs 5/25 5-9pm**

**Fri 5/26 5-9pm**

**Sat 5/27 1-9pm**

**Sun 5/28 1-9pm**

**Mon 5/29 1-7pm**

**[www.gilletteshows.biz](http://www.gilletteshows.biz)**



# Tuesday Nights in the Park is coming back!

As plans get underway for the Tuesday Nights in the Park Concert Series, we thank our community for supporting this Village program for 19 years!

These concerts bring together our residents, families, and friends to enjoy a free summer night of entertainment.

The summer line-up for 2023 has many favorites coming

back and a few new bands added for everyone's enjoyment.

This program is made possible entirely by the generosity and support of our donors, like you, and business sponsors.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Casey at the Family Recreation Center at 518-218-7782.



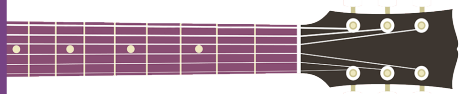




# The Village of Colonie

Mayor Tom Tobin \* Deputy Mayor Ed Sim  
Trustees: Patty Schwarz Lockart \* Art White \* Jim Rubino

Frank A. Leak Amphitheater for the Arts



## 2023

## TUESDAY NIGHTS in the PARK

Opportunities to give:



### GOLD SPONSOR

- \*\$1000 Donation
- \*Corporate Name in Tuesday Night Programs
- \*Corporate Name on Season Event Signage
- \*Opening Night Recognition



### SILVER SPONSOR

- \*\$500 Donation
- \*Corporate Name in Tuesday Night Programs
- \*Corporate Name on Season Event Signage



### BRONZE SPONSOR

- \*\$250 Donation
- \*Corporate Name in Tuesday Night Programs
- \*Corporate Name on Season Event Signage



### PATRON OF THE ARTS

- \*\$100 Donation
- \*Corporate Name in Tuesday Night Programs



### FRIEND OF THE ARTS

- \*\$25 Donation
- \*Name listed in Tuesday Night Programs



### DONATION

- \*I/we are unable to become a sponsor, but enclosed is a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of the Amphitheater Arts Program

PLEASE FILL OUT BELOW:

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME/BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

**\*PRINT EXACTLY HOW YOUR NAME/BUSINESS SHOULD APPEAR ON THE PROGRAM\***

Please address all checks to "**Village of Colonie - Amphitheater**"

Return this paper with your payment to:

**Christina Secor, Village Hall**

**2 Thunder Road, Colonie, NY 12205**

If you have any questions please call Brian at the Family Rec Center, 518-218-7782

***Thank you for your generosity, without your donations these concerts would not be possible.***

## • Message from **The Chief**

The Colonie Fire Company, your Village Fire Department, had a very busy 2022. We responded to 563 fire calls for the year, up from 517 in 2021. In 2022, our members assisted Colonie EMS at dozens of the highest-priority EMS calls (ECHO responses) and we were involved in several cardiac arrest reversals. We are a group of highly-trained volunteer firefighters who are there for our residents 24/7, 365 days a year. On this past January 20th, 2023 we fought 4 working structure fires in a 27-hour time period. Just this past February 9th thru the 11th we performed three successful automobile rescue extrications of victims trapped inside their vehicles upon being involved in an auto accident. Our members know that their efforts make a difference in people's lives on a regular basis. We are in desperate need of volunteers to help staff our fire trucks and fulfill our mission to protect this Village. We will train you and provide all of your equipment, the only cost to you is your time. You will receive a paid retirement incentive and there are several other benefits that you can qualify for as an active member of the Colonie Fire Company. Come down to the station and meet our members and take a tour of our firehouse and apparatus. You can call us at (518) 869-9306 or visit us on the web at [www.coloniefire.com](http://www.coloniefire.com). There is a "family" here at the Colonie Fire Company and we are waiting for you to come and join us! Become a part of something very special and join our "family" today!



*Pictured are some of our firefighters and our "Engine 406" fighting a four-alarm fire at 1204 Kings Road on this past January 20th.*



## Can I Recycle This in The Village?

***Need a reminder on what you can recycle in the Village? We have that information for you!***

**YES** – Paper, cardboard, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, egg cartons, paper milk & Juice cartons. All Plastics #1-7, glass bottles & jars, clean aluminum foil, clean aluminum & steel cans.

**NO** - Plastic bags & Styrofoam, shredded paper, straws, paper napkins & towels, batteries, light bulbs, electronics clothing, medical waste & needles.

### **BREAK IT DOWN**

Break down and flatten all cardboard boxes.

### **KEEP IT CLEAN!**

Rinse all items of food and liquids.

### **SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING**



There is no need to sort or separate your recyclables in the Village, they can all be placed in one container.

### **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!**

If you're unsure if something is recyclable, it's best to throw it out instead of contaminating all the recyclables in the truck.

For more information about recycling in the Village, visit [www.colonievillage.org/recycling](http://www.colonievillage.org/recycling)

Questions? Contact the DPW at 518-869-6372 or [cciota@colonievillage.org](mailto:cciota@colonievillage.org)

### **Keep it Green, Keep it Clean**

Chris Ciota, Recycling Coordinator



## Senior Corner

For Village Residents 55+ and Village Senior Center Members:

We are here for you Monday-Friday 8:30am to 2:30pm. Delicious lunches are served Monday-Friday 12pm-12:30pm. We end the week (Friday) with popcorn and a movie during lunch. Come join us!

Homemade lunches are available for our Village Residents and Senior Center Members. Dine-in meals are \$6 each, take-out meals are \$7 each, cash & checks are accepted. To pick up a take-out meal, you must come into the building for pick up. Parking for the Senior Center is located behind Village Hall in front of the main Senior Center Entrance. Seniors, you **MUST ORDER MEALS A WEEK IN ADVANCE** at 518-869-7172 so we are able to honor your lunch request, we frequently sell out! Menus and order tickets are currently released weekly, check out our website at [www.colonievillage.org/senior-citizens/](http://www.colonievillage.org/senior-citizens/) You can order and pay in advance! If you are shut in and can't leave your home, we can arrange for accommodations.

**SPECIAL:** Keep an eye out for the Seniors Special Easter Luncheon! Call the Center for all the information and make sure you order early, quantities are limited (and always delicious)!

Let's do our part to keep our Center open! Everyone is welcome, but if you



are not feeling well, be mindful of others and **PLEASE STAY HOME!** We want to keep our Center and our Seniors as safe as possible!

### **Not a member yet?**

Our Senior Center is **FREE** to join for all VILLAGE residents 55 years plus! Call 518-869-7172 today for more information. We would love to have you join our Center Family!

*Delicious homemade lunches every weekday!*



*Donations collected by the Seniors for the local charity Warrior Will Foundation and their annual event Bears, Books & Blankets for Boston Children's Hospital.*

## Village of Colonie



The Village Outreach is a resource available to all residents. The Outreach can provide information and referrals on community services, support and government programs that will assist individuals and families in need.

The Outreach Center has been relocated to the Senior Center behind Village Hall. The entrance is located on the side of Village Hall, directly across from the Locust Park Playground. The Outreach Center is open 8:00am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday. Please call Joan Rueckert at 518-218-1030 should you have questions or need assistance.

The Village Outreach is unable to accept donations of food, toys, furniture, or clothing. Please do not leave anything outside the former or current Outreach building. Donations of food and clothing can be made to Pine Grove Church, 1580 Central Ave. in Colonie. Food donations can also be made to the Capital Church food pantry, 31 Vly Road, Colonie.

THANK YOU, St. Michael's Church as you continue to support us by donating gift cards to local stores. Your Village Outreach is grateful for the continued support of Village individuals and families.



# 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 • Tom Tobin**

## TRUSTEES

Ed Sim • Patty Schwarz Lockart

Art White • Jim Rubino

## VILLAGER EDITORIAL STAFF

Katie Ciota

Susan Tobin

Tom Tobin

## PRINTED BY

Silver Griffin Business Services

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

## Central Avenue Tunnels

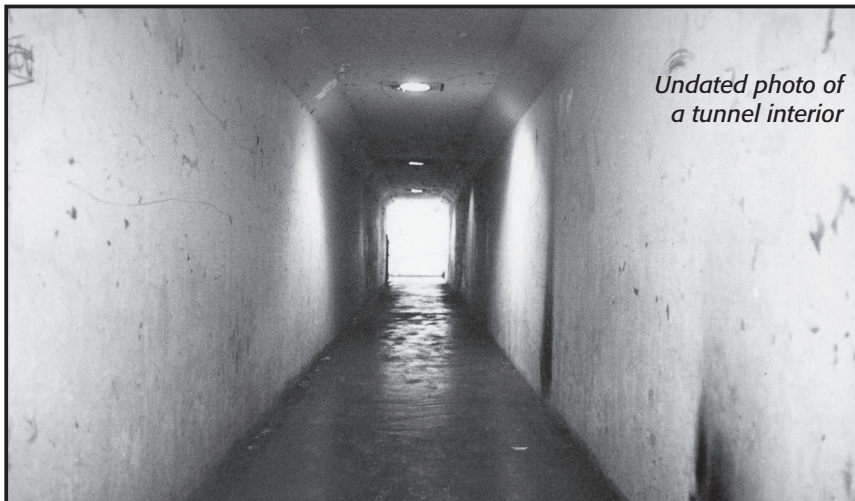
In the late 1920's, due to increased traffic of vehicles and trolleys on Central Avenue, four tunnels were constructed under the road for pedestrian safety, specifically near schools where there was heavy foot traffic. The four tunnels were located near Roosevelt School, Maywood School, Roessleville High School and Colonie Village School at 1653 Central Avenue. The tunnels allowed pedestrians and scores of school children to cross a bustling Central Avenue without worry of being hit by motorists or trolley cars, neither of which had quick breaking systems like we do today. After being in use for nearly sixty years, the tunnel entrances were demolished and filled in.



*Photo dated 1979, of the tunnel entrances in front of the Colonie Village School.*



*August 1980 demolition of tunnel entrance in front of Colonie Village School*



*Undated photo of a tunnel interior*