



VILLAGE HALL
518-869-7562
 Mayor Jim Rubino
 518-859-4464

TRUSTEES
 Patty Schwarz Lockart
 518-456-3866
 Frank Prevratil • 518-272-7505
 Jason DePaulo • 518-869-7562
 Mark Stevens • 518-598-3305

The Villager

Gone, But Not Forgotten

A special monument and memorial was dedicated on October 9th in memory of Sheila Allen, a Village resident who was abducted and killed in 1970, just days before her 17th birthday.

Jeff Kayser, the Fire Chief in the Village, spearheaded the effort to create a lasting memorial to Sheila. He felt strongly that as a resident of our Village, her story should never be forgotten and that her memory be memorialized in a serene and peaceful setting.



The Sheila Allen Memorial plaque, fountain, and bench beside Village Hall.

As the project took shape, it was decided to place a bench, fountain and stone monument on the front lawn of Village Hall. At the dedication, Chief Kayser said, "I think this memorial is respectful, yet not too obtrusive and when you sit and listen to the soft bubbling water, it is a peaceful atmosphere to sit and reflect." He also thanked the Village DPW staff for all their hard work in constructing the monument.

It has often been said that Sheila Allen's abduction and tragic death ended Colonie's "age of innocence." Perhaps this memorial will be a reminder to all of us just how precious our friends, family and life itself can be; a fitting tribute to the memory of Sheila Allen.



From left to right: Fire Chief Jeff Kayser; Glen Allen (Sheila's brother), David Allen (Sheila's brother), Mayor Jim Rubino, Deputy Mayor Patty Schwarz Lockart, Trustee Frank Prevratil, Trustee Mark Stevens & Trustee Jason DePaulo

UPCOMING EVENTS

— YOUR CALENDAR —

December 3, 2024
Tree Lighting

December 7 & 8, 2024
Santa Parade

December 9, 2024
Last day for Toys for Tots

December 14, 2024
Breakfast with Santa

January 2, 2025
2025 Pavilion Bookings Begin

January 15, 2025
Sewer Bills Due

February 18, 2025
Grievance Day

March 18, 2025
Village Election



An Official Publication of the
 Village of Colonie • Winter 2024

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

For all Village meetings residents can contact the Village Hall at 518-869-7562 the day of the meeting 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 Month6:30 pm

Jim Rubino, Mayor
Patty Schwarz Lockart, Deputy Mayor
Frank Prevratil, Village Trustee
Jason DePaulo, Village Trustee
Mark Stevens, Village Trustee
Jamie Blot, Clerk



James Rubino

• PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Chris Dennis, Chairman
Kenny Hart / Brittany Kendall / John Lemperle
John Martin / Jim Splonskowski
Carl Kuentzel, Alternate
Joan Rueckert, Planning Coordinator
Hannah Curran, Assistant Planning Coordinator
Frank Prevratil, Village Board Liaison



Patty Schwarz Lockart

• TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2nd Thursday of the month6:30 pm

John Lemperle, Chairman
John Dombroski / George Lashoff
Michael Normandin / Les Samiof
Stacie Douglas, Coordinator
Frank Prevratil, Village Board Liaison



Frank Prevratil

• SIGN REVIEW BOARD

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

Bill Levy, Chairman
Cynthia Calabrese / Krysta Dennis
Ann Paro / Marisa White
Diana Kuentzel, Alternate
Christina Secor, Coordinator
Jason DePaulo, Village Board Liaison



Jason DePaulo

• ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

Phil Minissale, Chairman
Les Decker / Chris Larrabee
Trevor Normandin / Joshua Rowinski
Ginny Ritz, Alternate
Stacie Douglas, Zoning Coordinator
Mark Stevens, Village Board Liaison



Mark Stevens

• ETHICS COMMITTEE

As needed

Frank Prevratil, Chairman
Marc Crow / Alison Curran
Maureen Lee / Jeff White

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.

• Message from Department of Public Works

Did you know that shoveling, snow blowing or plowing snow into the roadway is a violation of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law?

Section 1219(a) of the law states: No person shall throw or deposit upon any highway any glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, snow or any other substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle upon such highway.

In addition to the issuance of a summons by the Colonie Police Department, if an accident is caused by your action, you may be held responsible for the injuries or damage caused.

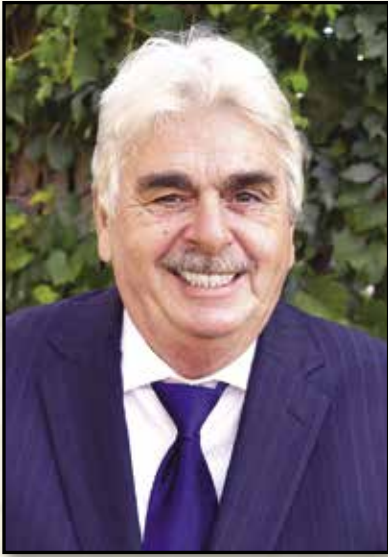
The Village of Colonie takes great pride in maintaining our roadways. We are asking for your cooperation in this matter. Please help the DPW keep Village roadways safe for all those who use them.



SNOW EMERGENCIES

A snow emergency in the Village goes into effect after 6 inches or more of snow accumulates or there is enough snow, sleet or ice accumulation that it creates or is likely to create dangerous conditions for driving and walking. Vehicles cannot be parked on the street during a snow emergency. Keeping vehicles off the street allows plowing, salting and snow removal to happen in a safe and timely manner. Notice of a snow emergency will be posted to local media, our posting boxes, and on our website www.colonievillage.org. Snow emergencies remain in effect for 48 hours or unless it is deemed safe to suspend one earlier. If a snow emergency is declared during the hours of 11:00 pm to 7:00 am, the snow emergency will not be enforced until 7:00 am. If your vehicle remains parked on the road during a snow emergency, it will be towed and the fines with the towing company will be the responsibility of the vehicle's owner.

A Message from the **MAYOR**



Dear Residents,

As the season changes and we begin to prepare for winter and the holiday season, let's look back at some Village highlights from this past fall:

- Many items were collected during October for our Village "Help-a-Veteran Month" project. So many veterans will benefit from the generosity of all who participated;
- Purchased a new Fire Truck Pumper for the Village of Colonie Fire Department;
- Continued paving streets in the Village. Most recently, we paved Space Boulevard, Moon Drive, DeVoe Drive, and Fritz Boulevard;
- Enjoyed the Annual Senior Club Picnic held in Cook Park as well as the Kids' Halloween Party held at the Family Recreation Center;
- Attended the New York Conference of Mayor's event, held in Saratoga Springs; and,
- Held a Dedication Ceremony for the new memorial, on the lawn of Village Hall, in memory of Sheila Allen.

Please check our website www.colonievillage.org or follow us on Facebook for the latest Village information.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Village staff and employees, I extend best wishes to all for a safe and joyous holiday season. Thank you.



Jim Rubino

Mayor Jim Rubino



Mayor Rubino and Town Supervisor Crummev at the Colonie Police Dog Show



Mayor Jim Rubino, Sue Rubino, their granddaughter Viviana Scott, Deputy Mayor Patty Schwarz Lockart and Trustee Frank Prevratil at the Kid's Halloween Party.



Village Outreach worker Joan Rueckert, Chief for the Center for Development and Civic Engagement for the Department of Veterans Affairs Erwin (Dom) Dominguez, Mayor Jim Rubino, Village Clerk Jamie Blot, and former Village Mayor Ed Sim delivering your donations to the VA Hospital.



The Mayor and Board stand with Chief Kayser with the Fire House's new Pumper Engine 405.

Village Election

The Village of Colonie Election will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 from 6:00am – 9:00pm at Village Hall, 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205.

Position and Terms: One (1) Trustee position – 1-year term

A note about Registration Day:

Village of Colonie Voter Registration Day will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 12:00 noon – 5:00pm 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 7, 2025 to be eligible to vote in the Village Election. If you are a resident of the Village and registered to vote in Albany County, you are also 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 by 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 11, 2025. The last day for the Village Clerk to receive absentee ballots in person or by mail is Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

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.

• Message from Village Hall

EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

If you are a Senior Citizen, a Veteran or a person with a disability, the Village of Colonie provides property tax exemptions for Village taxes. For more information, or to apply for any of these exemptions, please contact Village Hall at 518-869-7562.

Village residents who are 65 years of age by January 1, 2025 and whose total annual income is less than \$37,400 for the 2024 calendar year, may be eligible for a senior citizen exemption.

If you believe you are eligible for a disability exemption and your 2024 income was less than \$37,400, please contact Village Hall for more information or to apply for a disability exemption.

Senior citizen exemption and disability renewal forms were mailed in November, 2024. Please complete the form by filling out all required fields and include your 2024 tax information (or 2023 if 2024 is not available) with your submission.

All exemption applications, renewals and supporting tax information must be returned by Grievance Day, Tuesday, February 18, 2025 by 8:00pm to the Village Hall Office. Any forms received after this date will not be accepted.

If you are currently receiving a Veteran's exemption with the Village, there is no renewal necessary. If you are receiving a disabled Veteran's exemption, and your disability level has changed, please contact Village Hall and provide us with proof of your new percentage level so we can update our records. If you do not currently have a Veteran's exemption and you would like to apply for one, please call Village Hall and we will gladly provide you with the forms. With your application, you need to include a copy of your honorable discharge papers; if you are disabled, a copy of your military disability papers will be required.

REMINDER

The Village Hall, DPW, Family Recreation Center, Outreach Center and Senior Center will be closed:

- **Wednesday, December 25th for Christmas**
Garbage and recycling will be picked up on Monday, December 23rd
- **Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's**
Garbage and recycling will be picked up on Monday, December 30th

Please remember to have your garbage and recycling out by 6am on your pick-up day.

HAPPY
Holidays!

SEWER BILLS

Sewer bills will be mailed the first week in December and are due by January 15, 2025.

If you do not receive your bill by December 10, 2024, please contact Village Hall at 518-869-7562. Cash or check is acceptable; we also accept credit card payments in person; a 3% service charge



will be added. Payments may be mailed to Village Hall or deposited in the drop-box located at curbside. The drop-box is checked daily. Please do not staple checks, as they go through a check reader. Please do not post-date checks. If your June, 2024 sewer bill is still unpaid it will be included on the December sewer bill. The Village Hall is open 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday.

• Message from Code Enforcement

In October 2024, the Building Department worked diligently along with the Mayor, the Board of Trustees, and the Village Attorney to create a law that addresses short term rental properties in the Village of Colonie. Property owners that wish to rent their homes for 28 days or less, must register with the Building Department and comply with the regulations established in the code. We also passed code changes regulating gardening structures. This code will be available soon on ECODE360. Please feel free to contact Village Hall if you wish to obtain a copy of Local Law #4.

The implementation of our new software, CloudPermit, is well underway. This software enables us to be onsite while completing a digital inspection checklist. We can then email digital copies of certificates of completion/occupancy to property owners. Our department will be more organized and efficient as we further integrate this software. We will continue to provide updates as we make more progress.

We would also like to acknowledge that Building Safety Inspector, Joe Lennox, has successfully completed all necessary training to be a certified Building Code Official. Congratulations Joe!

Just a reminder with snow is on its way, to remove all basketball hoops from the Village right of way.

Come springtime, please refrain from placing basketball hoops in or within 10 feet of any Village Street line. Code enforcement will be strictly enforcing our code §242-5.1.(4)(e).

• Message from the Traffic Committee

Winter weather can present unique challenges for drivers and pedestrians. Here are some tips to help you navigate the roads safely during the winter months.

Car and Driving Safety:

- Check tire tread depth and consider using winter tires or all-weather tires.
- Ensure and maintain proper tire pressure.
- Avoid sudden braking when at all possible.
- Your vehicle responds differently in winter weather so reduce speeds for safety.
- Keep your car clean and free of ice and snow. Pay special attention to your windshield, roof and trunk. Uncleared snow and ice can become a danger to your fellow drivers and cause damage or worse.
- Use low beams in foggy conditions.
- Keep an ice scraper and/or de-icer in your car.
- Be on the lookout for children playing near snowbanks.
- Do not park on the street when snowplows need to clear the roads.

Plan Ahead:

- Check weather forecasts before driving or traveling.
- Have an emergency kit in your car that includes a winter

coat or blanket, gloves and a flashlight.

- Share your travel plans with friends or family.
- Have a plan for charging your devices.
- Monitor weather forecasts and alerts.
- Don't drive distracted. Set your phone aside. Whatever it is, it can wait.

Pedestrian Safety during the Winter:

- While walking, wear bright clothing and reflective materials.
- Use well-lit sidewalks and avoid snowy areas.
- Use designated crosswalks and obey traffic signals.
- Pay extra attention to your surroundings and the posted speed limits.

Thank You,

The Village of Colonie Traffic Committee

• Message from the Outreach Department

The Village of Colonie Outreach Office is a resource available to all residents. The Outreach Office can provide information and referrals on community services, support and government programs that will assist individuals and families in need. The Village of Colonie Outreach Office will be collecting donations for Veterans, such as nonperishable foods, personal toiletries, socks and underwear on an ongoing basis. Please note: all items collected must be new. You may drop off at the Outreach Office (inside the Senior Center) weekdays between the hours of 9:00am – 2:00pm. Please enter through the side doors of Village Hall, across from Locust Playground. Thank you for your support of this ongoing project to help our local veterans, and your continuing support of Village individuals and families. Please call Joan Rueckert at 518-218-1030 if you have questions or need assistance.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 988

- We can all help prevent suicide. The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones. It also provides best practices for professionals in the United States.
- Text Help - Send the word TALK to 741741

Albany County Mobile Crisis Unit:

518-549-6500 (ask for Mobile Crisis)

- Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 12:00 midnight; Saturday and Sunday, 11:30 am to 9:30 pm.
- Access to Adult Mobile Crisis Team.

Northern Rivers (Parsons Child and Adolescent)

Mobile Crisis Team: 518-292-5499

(ask for Child and Adolescent Mobile Crisis)

- Monday to Friday, 11:00 am to 9:30 pm
- Crisis Assessment, Intervention & Stabilization; Consultation and Information; Facilitation of Alternate Levels of Care.

Stormwater Management in Winter

Keeping our waterways clear from chemicals and pollutants is still applicable in cold weather. Please keep your walkways and driveways clear of snow and ice to help you stay safe. All the extra chemicals from salt and de-icers get washed away



through our stormwater drains and into our waterways. Only use what you need and enough to be safe.

If you have a storm drain in front of your house and you are able, clear it of any large chunks of ice or debris so melting snow can drain. Our DPW crews try to make sure all drains are clear when they plow, but shoveled and blown snow can cover up the drain again after they have left the area. Clogged drains can create flooding and in cold weather the water can freeze to create slick patches on the road. Keeping the drains clear keeps our roadways safe.

Water Service Lines

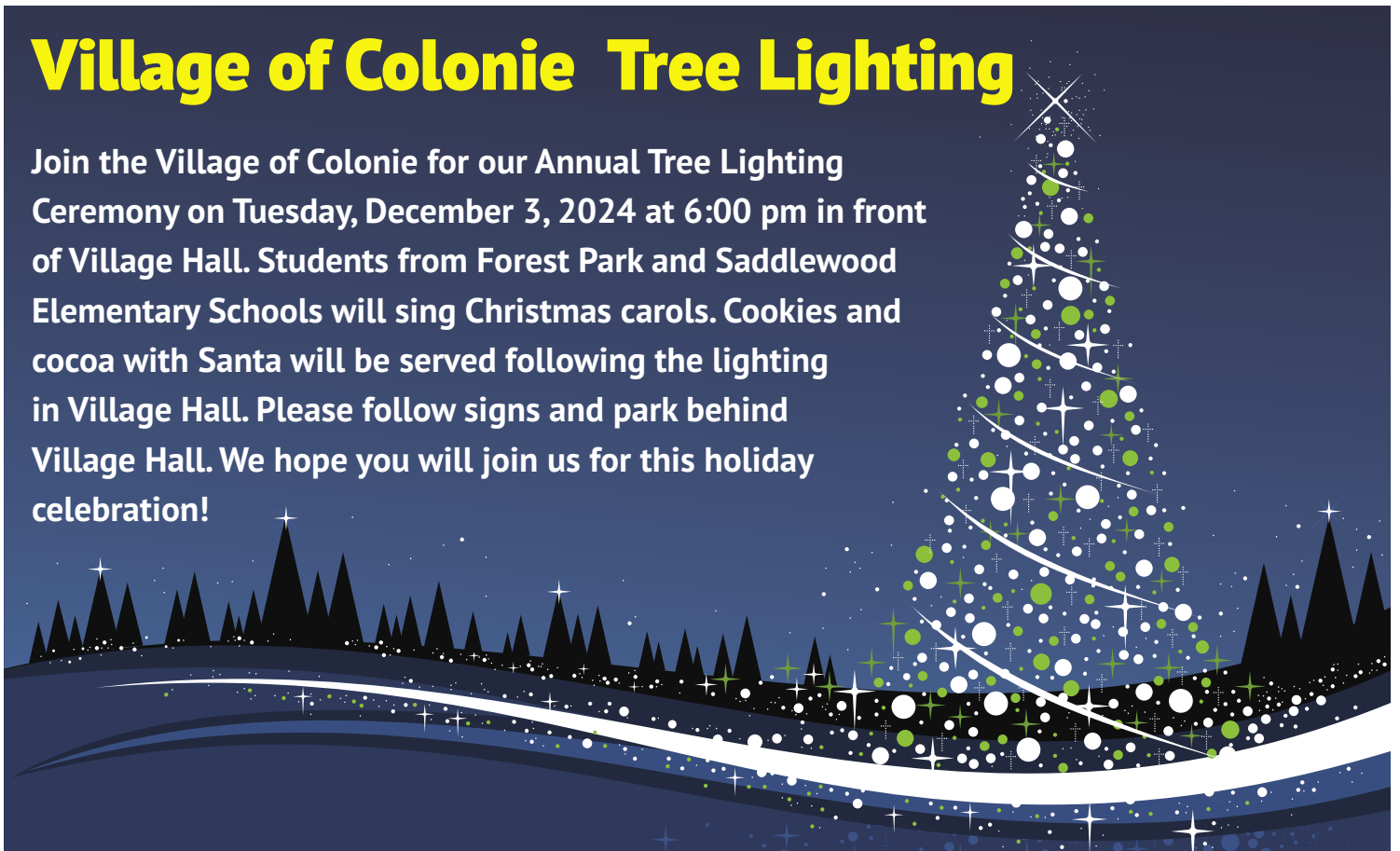


Important information for all residents

The EPA, as part of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, is requiring all water systems to prepare and maintain an inventory of water service line materials. This requirement is to ensure all communities' water services are safe and up to code. A water service line is the pipe that runs from a municipality's water main into your house. What this means for the Village of Colonie is that we need to have a log of every water service line that comes into a building. That log needs to contain the address, pipe material and a picture of the water line coming into the building. To meet this requirement, the Village of Colonie requests your help in identifying the water service pipe as it enters your house/building. If you have not submitted your water service pipe information to the Village DPW, please give them a call to set up an appointment at 518-869-6372. It is a quick five-minute appointment. A representative from the Village Water Department checks to identify if your water service pipe is galvanized steel, copper or lead and takes a picture of the water service pipe. This information is then logged for the EPA. The Village of Colonie is required by law to have and maintain this information. Thank you for your cooperation.

Village of Colonie Tree Lighting

Join the Village of Colonie for our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:00 pm in front of Village Hall. Students from Forest Park and Saddlewood Elementary Schools will sing Christmas carols. Cookies and cocoa with Santa will be served following the lighting in Village Hall. Please follow signs and park behind Village Hall. We hope you will join us for this holiday celebration!





Breakfast with Santa!

Our favorite holiday event is back!

**Breakfast with Santa will be held on
Saturday, December 14th
at the Family Recreation Center
Seating will be at 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

*A pancake breakfast will be served
by VFW Post 8692.*

*Children will enjoy goody bags, crafts and, of
course, a visit from Santa!*

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!

Parents/Guardians are required to bring a securely wrapped gift for each of their children which is clearly marked with the FIRST and LAST NAME OF THE CHILD to receive the gift. We request that you keep your gift around the \$20 range. Gift drop-off begins Monday, December 9th at the Family Recreation Center from 8:00am to 6:00pm. If you are unable to drop off your gift by Friday, December 13th, we ask that you discreetly bring the gift in a shopping bag and give your "donation" to one of the staff greeters. Remember these gifts are from the big man himself! Please help keep the magic alive for all children attending!

**Reserve your spot early,
this event fills up fast!**

Reservations begin November 20th

RSVP by calling 518-218-7782.

**No reservations will be accepted
after December 11th.**

*If you are unable to afford a gift this year,
please let us know, options are available.*

TOYS FOR TOTS

Stuff the Bus!



The Village of Colonie is ecstatic to team up again this year with the South Colonie Central School District and the Marine Corps for the 2024 "Stuff the Bus" Toys for Tots campaign! We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys at three locations within our complex.

Village Hall

2 Thunder Road
Monday – Friday
8:30am-4:30pm

Senior Center

2 Thunder Road
(Entrance at back of building)
Monday – Friday
8:30am – 2:30pm

Family Recreation Center

3 Thunder Road
Monday – Friday
8:00am – 6:00pm

The last day to donate is Monday, December 9th.

Let's help "Stuff the Bus" and deliver

Christmas cheer for children!

If you miss the deadline, any toys dropped off at the Village after December 9th will be given to local charities who support families in need.



South Colonie
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 Planning Commission Approvals

The Mayor and Board of Trustees would like to WELCOME the following businesses approved by the Planning Commission and wish them much success!

1693 Central Avenue, Colonie Towne Pizza / Pizza Restaurant

23A Walker Way, Scholastic Talent / After school and summer programming for youth in chess, music, dance, fashion, and sports.

132 Lincoln Avenue Suite 404, CXNS Customs
Auto detailing, window tinting and vinyl wraps.

1770 Central Avenue, Mobility City
Sales, rentals, and repairs on all types of mobility equipment.

1692 Central Avenue Unit 202, Perfectly Waxed / Body Waxing Salon

1698 Central Avenue Building 3, Rarick HVAC
Heating and cooling business.

132 Lincoln Avenue Suite 405, TSS Associates Inc.
Manufacturing Rep HVAC

134 Lincoln Avenue Suite 204, Spectrum Research Corporation
Business Expansion

12 Walker Way, Apex Energy Tec LLC / Charging Stations

132 Lincoln Ave. Suite 302, Limitless Auto LLC
Automotive detailing, window tinting, wrapping and audio work

14 Walker Way Section 5, Dream Lab Productions
Professional audio, video and lighting production rental company



Tips to Help Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Here are a few reminders to help reduce, reuse, and recycle as we celebrate the holidays.

- Don't forget your reusable bags for all holiday shopping.
- Wrapping paper belongs in the trash. **DO NOT** recycle wrapping paper; it has plastics, foil and finishes on it that are not recyclable.
- The holidays are one of the biggest times for cardboard recycling. Please remember to breakdown all your boxes flat.
- What should you do with your used Christmas tree? The Village has a fantastic service to reuse your tree wisely. If you leave it by the curb, we will pick it up and have it chipped. Please remove all lights, decorations, tree stand and bags. All the chipped trees are delivered to a local recycling facility to be composted. This service is for real trees only. You can bag your artificial tree and place it in or next to your trash bin for pick up.

Happy Holidays! Keep it Green, Keep it Clean!

Join us for our Santa Parade!

We are continuing our 40 plus-year-old tradition of driving throughout the Village's residential streets bringing Christmas Magic! Santa and his elves will be out and about on the weekend of December 7th & 8th. Bring your Christmas cheer! If you are new to the Village or have new family members for Santa to greet, you can call the Family Recreation Center at 518-218-7782 to get an estimate on the day and time Santa will be coming around to your neighborhood. **VERY IMPORTANT:** On the days of the parade, listen for the music truck playing Christmas tunes, grab your coats and head outside so our volunteers can see you, because Santa Claus is on his way!



Facility Rentals

Pavilion bookings for the 2025 calendar year will begin at 8:00 am on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Rentals are for Village Residents and Businesses Only.

Bookings are taken on a first come, first serve basis.

The Village of Colonie offers facilities that are exclusive for Village residents and businesses to rent. We have three separate pavilions in Cook Park, as well as the Family Recreation Center on Thunder Road. We take great pride in our facilities, and it shows in their popularity. If you are interested in a specific date or time of year, do not wait. Dates go fast. All information regarding rentals can be viewed on our website at colonievillage.org/facilities-rentals. If you are interested in renting, call the Family Recreation Center to reserve your date. If you have any questions, contact Brian Casey at 518-218-7782.



Facility: Tom Gentile Picnic Pavilion (Cook Pavilion)

Location: In the back corner of Cook Park, by the amphitheater and the pond.

Max Occupancy: 170 people

Available: Mid-April until Mid-November, until 9:00pm.

Good to Know: This is our most popular pavilion. It has a full working kitchen and 28 picnic tables. Windows and doors can be opened or closed depending on the weather. There is a volleyball net, picnic tables, horseshoe area and charcoal barbecues outside. Bathrooms are located right outside the door in a separate building and are handicap accessible.



Facility: Michael J. Aidala Pavilion (Sharon Pavilion)

Location: In Cook Park, but accessible only through the entrance off of Sharon Drive.

Max Occupancy: 88 people

Available: Mid-May until Mid-October, until 9:00pm.

Good to Know: This pavilion has a full kitchen and handicap accessible bathrooms inside. There are 11 picnic tables, a volleyball net, horseshoe pit and a charcoal barbecue outside. Metal window blinds and doors can be opened or closed depending on the weather.



Facility: Ralph E. Warren Pavilion (Pole Barn)

Location: In Cook Park located in a shaded spot behind the pond near the baseball fields.

Max Occupancy: 102 people

Available: Mid-May until Mid-October, until 9:00pm.

Good to Know: This pavilion has 17 picnic tables as well as charcoal barbecues. This rental includes the grass field adjacent to it for parking or fun! It is an open-air pavilion; there are no bathrooms located directly next to it, but you can use the public bathrooms by the Cook Pavilion. Please note that the walk to the Cook Park bathrooms is uphill, which may be difficult for some guests with mobility issues.



Facility: Family Recreation Center

Location: 3 Thunder Road, directly behind the Colonie Fire House.

Max Occupancy: 800 people

Available: All year round! Weekday evenings from 6:00pm-11:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays until 11:00pm.

Good to Know: The Recreation Center has a full kitchen and handicap accessible bathrooms. The area for parties is the entire basketball gym! It is heated and air conditioned, which makes it a great venue for any time of year. The facility can be rented for meetings, practices, large events or parties. Folding tables and chairs are available to renters.

Employee Spotlight



Employee Spotlight: Youth and Publicity



Left to right: Tara, Brian & Katie

Our employees are special people that keep our Village operating every day of the year. In recognition of their hard work and dedication, this season we are spotlighting our Youth and Publicity staff.

The Family Recreation Center consists of both the Youth and Publicity

departments, and the staff works closely as a team to provide day-to-day services. Youth Department Head, Brian Casey, oversees all facility rentals, managing schedules, contract applications and collaborates with members of the community. Publicity Department Head, Katie Ciota, coordinates the Village events, such as Family Fun Day, Breakfast with Santa and the holiday parades. Katie also manages Village social media and coordinates the publication of the quarterly Villager. Administrative Assistant, Tara Ilyadis, assists both department heads in their daily tasks and manages the front office. Our part-time staff, Connie, Amber, Kayleigh, Makayla, Amanda, Bethany, James, Keira and Caden, supervise events, the summer shed program, and chaperone field trips making sure participants have fun and safe experiences.

The Family Recreation Center was built in 2005 and serves Village of Colonie residents and the South Colonie School District. The mission of the Center is to create a fun, safe, non-threatening environment where Village residents, families and children always feel welcome. At any point in the day, at any point in the year, you may find the basketball courts or the game room occupied. In the summer, the parks are bustling with children who enjoy spending time with our staff playing games and making crafts. The holiday events are truly one-of-a-kind and residents of all ages look forward to them each year. The Recreation Center staff members are dedicated to working with families, have a strong passion for the community, and continue to make the Village “a place to be proud of”.



Back row left to right: Makayla, Caden, James, Amanda & Amber. Front row left to right: Kayleigh, Connie, Bethany, Tara & Keira

Wet Down Ceremony

NEW PUMPER!



The Colonie Fire Company held a “wet-down” ceremony to commission their new pumper truck “Engine 405” on Saturday, October 26th behind Colonie Village Hall.

A “wet down” is a historical practice to commission a new fire truck. It is a ceremony held by many volunteer fire departments as a way for firefighters to officially “bless” the new fire truck and dedicate it to the protection of the community. A typical wet-down ceremony includes squads of firefighters from neighboring departments who shower the new truck with water sprayed from their own fire trucks.

The wet-down ritual dates back to the 1800’s, when horse-drawn equipment was used. The horses were washed alongside the pumpers that they pulled before being pushed back into the fire house bay by the firefighters, in order to be prepared for the next call.

The new pumper, a 2024 E-One Cyclone II 2,000 gallon per minute pumper, will be assigned the radio identifier “Engine 405”. It will be replacing the 1993 Pierce 1,500 gallon per minute pumper Engine 405. The new pumper has a much greater water pumping capacity and numerous occupant safety features for the firefighters such as rollover prevention technology, numerous cab interior air bags, and better emergency lights and siren warning system.

We expect to place the pumper fully into service in November, after all of our members have been thoroughly trained on the truck and its features.

The Fire Company is very appreciative of the Village Board’s continuing effort to ensure that we have an updated fleet of fire apparatus to protect the Village and its neighboring mutual aid fire districts.



• Message from the Fire Chief

Your fire department has been extremely busy in the past several weeks, not only going to numerous fire calls but also attending to fall-related events.

Every year in early October, the nation celebrates Fire Prevention Week. It is during this week that our firefighters and apparatus visit Saddlewood and Forest Park Elementary Schools as well as the day care facilities in our district in an effort to educate the children about fire safety and fire prevention. We are happy to be able to spend some time with the students and teach them facts and skills that could very easily save a life.

Also, during the first week of October, our members brought all of their families together for our annual Family Picnic, providing the children of our firefighters an afternoon of food, fun and games.

On October 9th, over 20 of our members attended the Sheila Allen Memorial Ceremony at Village Hall to remember the tragic event in 1970 when 16-year-old Sheila was abducted and deemed missing for seven months. Colonie Fire Company members, along with dozens of neighbors and firefighters from other area fire departments, searched the wooded areas of the Village and the Pine Bush Preserve for any sign of Sheila. This ceremony honored her memory and allowed our present members to partner with the Village Board in the construction of the memorial, and to remember how our members from fifty-four years ago partnered with the police and the community to do whatever we could to help find Sheila.

On a much happier note, we attended the Trunk-or-Treat Day at Saddlewood School on October 20th and we handed out candy to many eager children and their parents – it was a great day to meet the community!



Students at Forest Park learning about fire safety.



Firefighter Joe showing Forest Park students how firefighters gear up and appear with all of their equipment. This helps to alleviate any fears they may have while also showing them how firefighters look and sound. A big part of fire prevention and safety is to encourage students not to run and hide and to remain calm when an emergency strikes.



Chief Kayser gives the Mayor and Board of Trustees a tour of the new pumper engine.

Village Directory

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 518-869-6372

Chris Bisognano, Superintendent
Chris Ciota, Assistant Superintendent
Dan Light, Water/Sewer Foreman
Vincent Krzykowski, Highway/Sanitation Foreman

VILLAGE HALL 518-869-7562

Jamie Blot, Clerk
Christina Secor, Treasurer
Charles Dumas, Attorney
Victor Caponera, Attorney

BUILDING DEPARTMENT 518-869-7562

Steve Meservey,
Chief Code Enforcement Officer, 518-275-3666
Randy Rivera, Stormwater Management Officer,
Code Enforcement Officer, 518-857-3654

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER 518-869-7172

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

Joan Rueckert, Outreach Worker

FIRE COMPANY 518-869-9306

Trustee Jason DePaulo, Liaison
Jeffrey Kayser, Fire Co. Chief
Frank Cuoiccio, Fire Co. President

Sign up for the Village News Alerts!

www.colonievillage.org OR:



SCAN ME

Visit the Village Website at:

www.colonievillage.org

• Message from the **Boy Scouts**



Troop 278 would like to thank the Village community again for their support in the Fall Bottle Drive.

Scout Troop 278 in the Village of Colonie is chartered with the VFW on Karner Road in Colonie and has been established for over 35 years. The Troop is open to all boys and girls in 5th through 12th grade (11-18

years old). The mission of the Scouting Program in America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Scout Oath is: *On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.*

Our troop currently serves kids that come from a wide range of socio-economic levels. Some struggle to pay dues, some



come from single parent families, some have learning disabilities – yet all are able to participate in Scouting trips. Our troop goes on outings once a month and has a one-week summer camp. All interested kids are able to participate, regardless of their financial ability to pay.

Part of the oath these children take involves them

helping others. Scouts interact with community members and Scout troops from surrounding communities. If Scouting is something you or someone you know would like to participate in, please give us a call, Troop 278 is currently recruiting new members, and we would be proud to have you become a part of our Scouting Family. Come visit us, we currently meet at the Village Recreation Center on Wednesdays from 6:30pm – 7:30pm. Brian Casey, Scout Master 518-218-7782.



1639 Central Avenue Demolition

Our Department of Public Works staff recently demolished the former Outreach Center located at 1639 Central Avenue. The building where our Outreach staff helped many Village residents and families over the last few decades had become dilapidated and unusable. Now, we have the ability to develop the land in the future to further provide for the Village of Colonie community members. Outreach services are still available at the Outreach Office inside the Senior Center at 2 Thunder Road. Please call Joan Rueckert at 518-218-1030 if you have questions or need assistance.



Vision Zero

Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan

In an effort to reduce accidents that result in serious injuries and/or fatalities, the Capital Region Transportation Council is leading the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. The plan ranges through Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties, and vows to improve safety among road users of all modes. The Village of Colonie is participating in this plan, and we ask all residents to participate. Please feel free to visit www.capitalregionvisionzero.org and find the interactive map that allows you to share safety concerns and proposed improvements, by dropping a point on a specific location. If you need assistance or more information, please feel free to contact Hannah Curran, in Village Hall, at 518-869-7562. As more information regarding the plan becomes available, we will keep you updated.



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 12:00pm-12:30pm. 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 and 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. You can order and pay in advance! If you are shut-in and can't leave your home, we can make arrangements to accommodate you. The Center also has many great activities and classes to participate in!

ACTIVITIES:

- Billiards – Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm
- Wii Bowling – Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm
- Bingo – Monday & Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm
- Mah-jongg – Thursdays & Fridays 11:00am-2:30pm

EXERCISE:

- Workout Room – Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm
- Qi Gong – Mondays 9:00am-9:45am
- Tai Chi – Mondays 9:45am-10:30am
- Body Fitness with Theresa – Thursdays 10:15am-11:00am
- Chair Yoga – Fridays 10:00am-10:45am
- Functional Movement with Isadore – Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 11:00am-11:45am (not held during TRS meetings, 2nd Wednesday of the month)

This Winter: We know the cold weather keeps everyone inside, but you can cozy up with friends at the Senior Center! Our staff and our new heating system is working wonders to create a warm and inviting space. Call the Center for more information about our festivities this holiday season! 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.



HALLOWEEN Recap

Halloween Happenings!

- **Kids' Halloween Party:** Special thanks to our residents, families, and friends for the success of our Kids' Halloween Party! We had an incredible time, and we hope you did too!
- **Trunk or Treat:** Our DPW, Family Rec Center and Fire House had the opportunity to join Forest Park and Saddlewood Elementary School for their joint Trunk or Treat event. Thank you so much for including us. We enjoyed the beautiful weather and seeing so many friends dressed up in their amazing costumes.
- **Pumpkin Patrol:** A Village tradition! It was great seeing so many friends and families out enjoying Halloween and trick or treating in the Village. We were happy to see that everyone had a safe and fun holiday!



Veteran Salute

In this issue, we salute Al Sagendorph, a veteran Village resident who has proudly served our country in the military.

Al was drafted into the United States Army in 1965 and served more than half of his deployment in Nuremberg, Germany as a SP-4. He remembers having his head shaved and being given a \$10 stipend for toiletries upon his arrival. He thought that was so generous, until he received his first paycheck, less the \$10 stipend! Al was in transportation in the Army and delivered food to the commissary and ammo to the supply depot.

Al said that his experience in the Army shaped his future. When he returned home, he decided to pursue a career as a truck driver. He feels his decision enabled him to buy a home and better provide a good life for his family. Al is still on the road, regularly driving seniors who live at Avila to their medical appointments and errands. Al says, "They depend on me and have become special friends."

Thank you, Al. We salute all our service men and women who make sacrifices every day to protect us all and preserve our freedom.

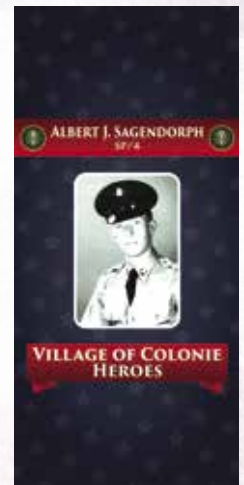


Giving Tree

Each year, the Village Senior Center displays a Giving Tree for those in need. This holiday season, the Giving Tree will benefit our Veterans. Let's help our veterans stay warm this winter with needed donations of coats, hats, scarves, mittens, winter boots (sizes 12-14), men's sneakers (sizes 9-12), sweatpants, sweatshirts, underwear and socks. Please bring in your donations to the Village of Colonie Senior Center located at 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205. All donations must be new. We thank you for your support and consideration for helping those who have given so much to protect our country. For questions or more information please contact Ed Sim, Jamie Blot or Joan Rueckert at 518-869-7562.

Heroes Banner Program

As you drive or walk through Cook Park, you will notice the Heroes Banners on many poles in honor and recognition of our Village Veterans and military members. You can also view these banners, along with a map and their locations on our website at colonievillage.org/heroesbanner-program. If you are interested in purchasing a Heroes Banner for display in Cook Park, or learning more about the program, please contact Hannah Curran at hcurran@colonievillage.org



Village Clerk Jamie Blot and former Village Mayor Ed Sim deliver your donations of food items and coats to Jason on behalf of VA services at the VA Hospital.

**Please keep an
eye out for pictures
from our
Veteran's Day Ceremony
on social media
and in your next Villager!**

The Villager

VILLAGE HALL

2 Thunder Rd, Albany, NY 12205

518-869-7562

villagehall@colonienvillage.org

Visit the Village website at...

www.colonienvillage.org

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New AED at Rec Center

In September of 2024, the Village worked with Colonie EMS Assistant Chief Robbie MacCue to secure a new Zoll AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the Family Recreation Center. The existing AED was outdated and in need of replacement. Once the AED was purchased, Assistant Chief MacCue inspected the equipment and put it into service. This new apparatus allows the Village to better serve all members of the community that may visit and utilize the Recreation Center.



*Colonie EMS Assistant Chief
Robbie MacCue, Mayor
Jim Rubino, Deputy Clerk
Hannah Curran, Youth
Monitor Brian Casey*