



The Villager

A Cool Tradition Returns to Locust Park!

The Village of Colonie is excited to announce the opening of our newly designed ice-skating rink, located at Locust Park! Many residents may remember the ice-skating rinks that used to be open each winter, and reminisce about skating, enjoying cocoa and spending time with friends and fellow residents throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Now, years later, Mayor Rubino wanted to bring back this fun activity and further instill the sense of community on which the Village prides itself. During the fall, the Locust Park courts were repaved and resurfaced, and drains were installed to prepare for the rink. After many attempts to perfectly flood and set the ice, the weather cooperated, and the dream came to life. The Department of Public Works built a Zamboni



Village Zamboni of 1982

to smooth the ice, and worked tirelessly to install lighting, arrange walkways, and prepare the rink for skaters. The Village is delighted to bring this tradition back, and we are all looking forward to many years for it to continue. Hitting the rink makes for a memorable family past-time, a fun outing with friends, or an exciting new tradition for you and your family. Already, many residents of all ages have spent afternoons on the rink, mastering their skating skills or giving hockey a go. We hope to see more and more of our residents lacing up their skates and getting out on the rink!



Mayor Rubino and Members of DPW for Opening Day

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

— YOUR CALENDAR —

March 18
Village Election

April 5
Scouts Bottle Drive

April 12 & 13
Easter Bunny Parade

April 26
*Colonie Little League
Opening Day*

SAVE THE DATE:

June 7
Family Fun Day



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

Joe Lennox, Code Enforcement Officer, 518-817-2740

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

BREAKING NEWS

Visit the Village Website at:

www.colonievillage.org

• Message from **Department of Public Works**

Leaf and Brush Recycling Pick-Up Will Start for the Season March 24th, Weather Permitting

1. Leaf/brush pick-up 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. ROCKS, GARBAGE, SOD OR PLASTIC MAY NOT 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 are available for purchase at Village Hall; \$3.00 each.

Heavy Item Pick-Up Procedures for 2025

The Village of Colonie Heavy Item Program will begin on Monday, June 2nd and run until Monday, August 18th. 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 am – 4:30 pm. Beginning May 1st 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 www.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.

• Message from **Village Hall**

2025 Billing schedule:

April 1st **Water** Bills invoiced, due May 15th

June 1st **Sewer** Bills invoiced, due July 15th

June 1st **Village Tax** Bills invoiced, due July 1st

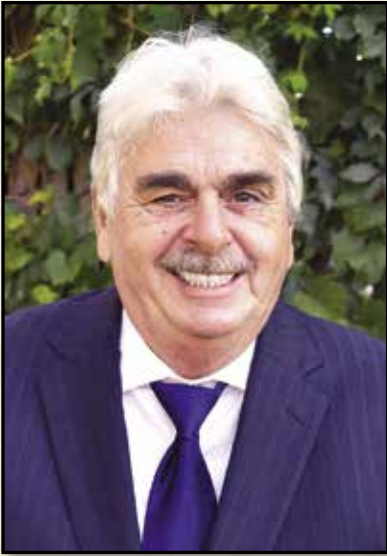
October 1st **Water** Bills invoiced, due November 15th

December 1st **Sewer** Bills invoiced, due by January 15th

All bills are due on the due dates listed above. If the date falls on a weekend, or holiday, the invoice will be accepted on the next business day without a late fee. Please note, if you have your Village taxes paid by your bank through escrow, we will send your tax bill to your bank for payment.

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

A Message from the **MAYOR**



Dear Residents,

I can report with confidence that Spring will be here soon, and we can all begin, once again, to enjoy the warm sunshine.

Over the past few months, we have been busy planning and holding a variety of events and keeping our Village running smoothly.

- A Veteran's Day observance was held in November at our Cook Park Veteran's Memorial;
- A new loader for our Department of Public Works was purchased;
- I attended the New York Conference of Mayors Winter Legislative Meeting;
- I had the privilege of serving as one of the judges for the Annual Chili Cook-off; and,
- The Locust Park ice rink opened and has been enjoyed by many!

We have decided to publish the Villager Newsletter three times per year rather than our traditional four. We will, of course, continue to inform our residents about activities, events, programs and Village news in a concise and timely manner.

Special thanks to our DPW workers for keeping our Village roadways clear of snow and ice and safe for all our residents.

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

Jim Rubino

Mayor Jim Rubino



Mayor Rubino, Budget & Capital Project Officer Ed Sim, Superintendent Chris Bisognano, Asst. Superintendent Chris Ciota, Water Foreman Dan Light and Highway Foreman Vinny Krzykowski gather alongside the Village Department of Public Works' recently acquired Loader.

"I know all Village residents share in the sorrow of the recent injuries and loss of our neighbors in the fire on Locust Park. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. I also commend the dedicated first responders for their selfless service and commitment to keeping our Village safe. Thank you for always being there when you are needed most."

- Mayor Jim Rubino



The Mayor takes a coffee break from serving breakfast alongside the Board and volunteers to thank Santa and Mrs. Claus for stopping by the Village's Breakfast with Santa event.



Trustee Frank Prevratil, Mayor Jim Rubino and Trustee Mark Stevens at the New York Conference of Mayors Winter Legislative Meeting.



Mayor Rubino and Town Supervisor Peter Crummey served as two of the judges for iCare's Annual "Mac and Chili Cook-Off." This event, sponsored by the Colonie Central School District, took place at the Village's Family Recreation Center on January 24th.

• Message from Traffic Committee

Dear Residents,

As we prepare to welcome the spring season, the Village of Colonie Traffic Committee reminds you that warmer weather means people are venturing outdoors and becoming more active. We are 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. We ask for your help in keeping our community safe.

We have received several complaints regarding increased speed on our Village streets. We ask everyone to be aware of the posted speed limits in the Village and obey them. Slow down and remind family and friends to do the same.

Please report problem drivers to the police by calling the non-emergency line at 518-783-2744 or completing a Traffic Safety Speeding and Aggressive Driving Complaint Form: www.colonie.org/departments/police/resources/traffic-safety-complaint. For emergencies, please call 911 or 518-783-2811.

Watch out for children playing, people walking their pets, and remember to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. School is still in session. A school bus with red flashing lights and a stop sign extended means STOP! School buses have cameras and violations will automatically be sent to offenders.

The Lawn Sign Program reminding people to “Slow Down” has helped to promote safety awareness in the Village. These signs will be placed on lawns again this year for those that request them. If you would like a lawn sign placed on your front lawn for a two week rotational basis, please scan the QR code below and complete the request or send an email to villagehall@colonievillage.org.



You are also welcome to attend the Traffic Committee meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month beginning at 6:30 pm in Village Hall.

Remember to “Drive 25” through the Village. This is our community, and we all want to be safe. Thank you.



REMINDER

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

- Tuesday, March 18th for Village Elections*
Garbage & recycling pickup will remain the same
- Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day*
Garbage & recycling pickup will remain the same
- **Please remember to have your garbage and recycling out by 6:00 am on your pick-up day.**

Water Service Lines



Important information for all residents

The EPA 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. The Village of Colonie is required by law to identify and log every water service pipe as it enters a house/building. Call to set up a quick five-minute appointment at 518-869-6372 if you have not yet had your water service line identified. 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. Failure to have your water service line logged could result in penalties. Thank you for your cooperation.

Hydrant Flushing

Our annual hydrant flushing program ensures that all fire hydrants within the Village are functioning in case of an emergency and that there is no stagnant water within the system. The 2025 flushing of the water system will begin on March 24th, 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; this is normal and not harmful. The discoloration is caused by naturally occurring sediment in the pipes stirred up when the high volume of water is run through them during the flushing. Residents are advised to run their cold water before using their washing machine or other appliances that use water. If discoloration persists, please notify the DPW at 518-869-6372.



Colonie Little League

Opening Day April 26, 2025 Cook Park

• Message from Code Enforcement

With the warm weather approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to remind our residents of a few codes.

- Portable basketball apparatus should not be placed within 10 feet of the Village right of way. §242-5(l)(4)(e)
- Unregistered, abandoned and/or junked motor vehicles should not be stored on any property in the Village. §222-4(A)
- All properties in the Village should be kept clear of weeds, litter and/or noxious growths. §145-7

The Code Enforcement Department will be strongly enforcing these codes this spring and summer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Code Enforcement. As always, take care of yourself, and look out for your fellow neighbors. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in making the Village "a place to be proud of."

Easter Parade

The Easter Bunny will be hopping on through the Village on Saturday, April 12th and Sunday, April 13th. The Easter Bunny and his friends, along with Mayor Rubino 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.

VERY IMPORTANT: On the days of the parade, keep an eye and ear out for the music truck playing Easter tunes. Windows and doorways are in shadows from the street, so grab your coats and head outside so our volunteers can see you. The Easter Bunny is on its way!

Follow the Village's Facebook page on the weekend of the Parade and you will be able to track the parade route and the location of the Easter Bunny throughout the day!



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
 Alison Curran / 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
 Frank Blake / 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

Marc Crow, Chairman
 Alison Curran / Maureen Lee
 Frank Prevratil / 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.

VOTE

Village Election

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

Positions 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 – 5:00 pm 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 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. 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 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.



Village of Colonie OUTREACH

The Village Outreach Office is a resource available to all residents that provides information and referrals on community services, support and government programs that 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.

United Way's VITA Tax Corner

Do you need assistance preparing your tax return?

Andrew Kochian is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Coordinator for United Way Greater Capital Region. VITA is a national, IRS-administered, volunteer program where volunteers prepare Federal and State tax returns for low-income clients for free. To make an appointment, visit www.unitedwaygcr.org/cash, or call the TOC Senior Resources Department at 518-459-5051, ext. 2. They can help you schedule an appointment.

Mental and Emotional Health Support

Are you feeling overwhelmed? Would you like to talk to somebody outside your home? Listed below are several resources that are available to help.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 988

• We can all help prevent suicide. The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential text and call support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

Albany County Mobile Crisis Team:

- 518-549-6500 - ask for Mobile Crisis
- Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Saturday - Sunday, 11:30 am to 9:30 pm
- Adult Emergency Mental Health Assessment

Northern Rivers 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
- Responds to calls in Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady

NEWS from Scout Troop 278

On Saturday, April 5th 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 Road 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!



**BOTTLE
DRIVE!**
Sat., April 5
Village of Colonie
Boy Scout
Troop 278

New Business Approvals

The Mayor and Board of Trustees would like to welcome the following businesses to the Village.

8 Wolf Road
Prince Tea House
Asian European fusion
dessert, brunch, and tea spot

1728 Central Avenue
ASY Petro Line Inc.
Gas Station

88 Wolf Rd
Fresh Wave
Sushi, Poke bowls
and smoothies

1558 Central Ave
The Naan Factory
Naan bakery and
sandwich shop

1545 Central Ave
Albany Coin & Jewelry
Coin and antique
jewelry sales

1892 Central Ave
IGRIND365
Fitness gym

1770 Central Ave
Seoul Korean BBQ
Homemade, traditional
Korean dishes



Senior Corner

We are here for all Village residents 55+ and Village Senior Center members, Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Delicious homemade lunches are available for Village residents and Senior Center members Monday - Friday from 12:00 to 12:30 pm. Dine-in meals are \$6 each; take-out meals are \$7 each. Cash & checks are accepted. **You must order one week in advance to ensure we can honor your request; we often sell out!** Check out our website at www.colonievillage.org/senior-citizens/ for our menus and order tickets. You can order and pay in advance! For take-out meals, you must come into the Senior Center for pick up. Convenient parking is located behind Village Hall. If you are shut-in at home, arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs. **Please call 518-869-7172** to order lunch and/or to make special arrangements.

The Senior Center has many great activities and classes for your participation:

MONDAY

- All Day: Billiards, Wii Bowling, Workout Room
- Qi Gong 9:00 am - 9:45 am
- Tai Chi 9:45 am - 10:30 am

TUESDAY

- All Day: Billiards, Wii Bowling, Workout Room
- Functional Movement with Isadore 11:00 am - 11:45 am
- Pinochle 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

- All Day: Billiards, Wii Bowling, Workout Room, Bingo
- Functional Movement with Isadore* 11:00 am - 11:45 am
- Mah-jongg 11:00 am - 2:30 pm

THURSDAY

- All Day: Billiards, Wii Bowling, Workout Room
- Body Fitness with Theresa 10:15 am - 11:00 am
- Mah-jongg 11:00 am - 2:30 pm

FRIDAY

- All Day: Billiards, Wii Bowling, Workout Room
- Chair Yoga 10:00 am - 10:45 am
- Mah-jongg 11:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Functional Movement with Isadore 11:00 am - 11:45 am

*TRS Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month. No Functional Movement on these days.

As always, there will be several fun events coming this Spring including our St. Patrick's Day Party, an Easter Luncheon and a Mother's Day Luncheon. Watch for more details. Everyone is welcome at our Senior Center, however, if you are not feeling well, be mindful of others, and PLEASE STAY HOME! We all want to keep our Center and Seniors safe and healthy! The Senior Center is FREE to join for all Village residents, 55 years plus. If you are not a member yet, we would love to have you join us. Please call 518-869-7172 for more information. See you soon!



Village Recycling Reminders

As you clean your home this spring, please consider donating items in good condition to local charities to be reused and follow the directions below for recycling in the Village.

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

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

YES – Paper, cardboard, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, egg cartons, paper milk and juice cartons, all plastics #1-7, glass bottles and jars, clean aluminum foil, clean aluminum and steel cans.

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

BREAK IT DOWN

Break down and flatten all cardboard boxes.

KEEP IT CLEAN!

Rinse all items of food and liquids.

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

Questions? Contact the DPW at 518-869-6372 or

cciota@colonievillage.org

Keep it Green, Keep it Clean



TUESDAY NIGHTS in the PARK



The Tuesday Nights in the Park Concert Series have entertained us all and showcased a great variety of musicians and artists for more than 20 years. Sponsors, benefactors, and individual patrons have faithfully and generously funded this program ensuring that no tax dollars from the Village are used to underwrite the series. Please take a moment to review the gift form on the following page and consider making a donation so that Tuesday nights in Cook Park will once again come alive this summer with music, laughter and community camaraderie.





The Village of Colonie

Mayor Jim Rubino * Deputy Mayor Patty Schwarz Lockart
Trustees: Frank Prevratil * Jason DePaulo * Mark Stevens

Frank A. Leak Amphitheater for the Arts



2025

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.

Christmas Recap

What a wonderful time of year!

Thank you to all our Village residents, families, and friends for celebrating the 2024 holiday season with us. It was wonderful to see so many at the Tree Lighting at Village Hall, the Santa Parade, and Breakfast with Santa! Our events are successful because of your continued participation and support. Here's to making more happy memories in 2025!



Toys for Tots - Stuff the Bus Recap

We were exceedingly proud to collaborate again this year with the South Colonie School District and the Marine Corps for the 2024 "Stuff the Bus" Toys for Tots campaign. The residents of our Village have once again demonstrated their commitment to supporting those in need within our community. The campaign was a tremendous success, gathering over 2,300 toys, with the Village contributing more than 400 of them! We extend our gratitude to all participants; it is through their generosity that local families and children facing difficulties were able to experience a genuinely joyful Christmas.



The Mayor, along with the Board and staff, in collaboration with the South Colonie Superintendent and the School Board President gather the Toys for Tots donations and "Stuff the Bus"!



Pictured are a few of our wonderful volunteers! We are so grateful to everyone who helped make our Breakfast with Santa event a success. Their hard work and positive cheer truly made a difference!



A huge thank you to the dedicated team at VFW Post 8629! They generously provide the food for Breakfast with Santa and volunteer their time to prepare the meal each year.

Veteran's Day Ceremony

On Monday, November 11, 2024, the Village conducted a ceremony in observance of Veteran's Day to pay tribute to all individuals who have served our country. Members of the Village Board and staff publicly read a list of names of Village veterans. It is significant to recognize the commitment to our freedom emanating from our small community within a much larger nation. We were privileged to have special guest speakers Jim Haas from VFW Post 8692 and Erwin "Dom" Dominguez from the VA Hospital, whose service and remarks were deeply appreciated. We extend our gratitude to all who participated and attended to honor these brave men and women. A heartfelt thank you is also extended to all our veterans for their unwavering dedication and sacrifices in safeguarding our nation's safety and freedom.



Mayor, Village Board and staff.

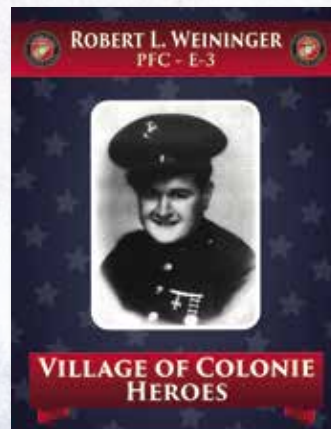


VFW 8692 member Jim Haas

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/heroes-banner-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.



Female Veteran Month

We are so proud of our Village residents who assisted with donations for "Help a Veteran Month" held in October, 2024. Recently, when talking with the Veterans Hospital, they expressed a need for their female veterans. Therefore, the Village of Colonie has declared the month of March "Help a Female Veteran Month". During March, the Village will be collecting items for female veterans such as grocery store gift cards (\$25 increments), socks and underwear, diapers, infant formula, toiletries and feminine hygiene products. Please note: all items collected must be new. Items will be collected at the Village of Colonie HBK Senior Center, 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. For any questions, please contact Jamie Blot or Ed Sim at the Village Hall 518-869-7562.

Veteran Salute



James J. Haas, Sr., represents the true meaning of what it is to be a volunteer, helping others and dedicating his time and energy to our community veterans. Jim served four years in the United State Air Force after enlisting in 1969. He served in Viet Nam at Da Nang Air Base with the 366th Security Police Force and also in Germany and state side with the 4784th Tactical Air Wing Security Police Force.

Jim graduated from Colonie High School and has been married to Kathy Haas for 53 years. They share three children and five grandchildren. Jim spent 23 years in the confection industry and retired as Vice President of Sales from The Supreme Chocolatier Company of Staten Island, NY.

It is quite evident when talking to Jim that his dedication and focus is on representing and supporting the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Over many years, he has served in leadership roles and is presently the Department of NY VFW Inspector and Surgeon. He serves as Chairman of the Colonie Veterans Memorial Project as well as the Quarter Master of the Robert L. Weininger Memorial Post #8692 in Colonie. This VFW Post coordinates and hosts "Breakfast with Santa" each year for the children and families in the Village.

Giving back to the community and helping veterans is Jim's life work. We salute him for his continued service as well as all our service men and women who sacrifice each day to protect us and preserve our freedom. Thank you!

The Villager

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Village of Colonie Awarded Grants

This past winter, the Village of Colonie applied for and received funding for the purchase of a RamAir 4-unit Turnout Gear Dryer. This funding was provided through the Public Employment Risk Management Association and enabled us to purchase this much needed equipment for our fire department. The cleaning equipment gives our firefighters the ability to clean multiple sets of gear within hours, as opposed to the many days it had previously taken. This purchase greatly enhances our organization's ability to support the community and respond to emergencies.

The Village of Colonie also applied for and received funding through the Albany County Parks and Recreation Department for the purchase of new picnic tables and benches for our Locust Park. The new tables and benches will bring a fresh look to the park for all residents to enjoy. The benches and tables will be arriving this spring!



Photo of the New Gear Dryer