

The Villager

VILLAGE HALL
2 Thunder Rd, Albany, NY 12205
518-869-7562
villagehall@colonievillage.org

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

Dept. of Public Works
518-869-6372
Building Department
518-869-7562
Senior Citizen Center
518-869-7172

Family Recreation Center
518-218-7782
Colonie Fire Company
518-869-9306

VILLAGER EDITORIAL STAFF
Jamie Blot - Katie Ciota
Hannah Curran - James Rubino
Susan Tobin

NOTEABLE EVENTS

Easter Parade

The Easter Bunny will be hopping through the Village on Saturday, March 28th and Sunday, March 29th. The Easter Bunny, along with Mayor Rubino and the Trustees, will have sweet treats for all little Villagers. 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 the day and time frame the Easter Bunny plans to come to your neighborhood. **VERY IMPORTANT:** On the days of the parade, keep a lookout and listen for the music truck playing Easter tunes, then grab your coats and head outside so our volunteers can see you. The Easter Bunny is on his way!



Holiday Lights & Display Contest Winners

- North Loader District: 1st Place – 9 Moon Drive
2nd Place – 595 Sand Creek Road
- North Truck District: 1st Place – 16 Hillside Avenue
2nd Place – 54 Locust Park
- South Loader District: 1st Place – 5 Nicole Drive
2nd Place – 57 Rapple Drive
- South Truck District: 1st Place – 18 Peachtree Lane
2nd Place – 53 Nicholas Drive

Village Election

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
6:00am – 9:00pm

Village Hall
2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY 12205

Two (2) Trustee positions – 4-year term each

For questions about the Village Election, please contact Jamie Blot, Village Clerk at 518-869-7562 or jblot@colonievillage.org.

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The Villager

VILLAGE HALL
518-869-7562

MAYOR

Jim Rubino - 518-859-4464

DEPUTY MAYOR

Frank Prevratil - 518-727-7505

TRUSTEES

Patty Schwarz Lockart
518-456-3866

Jason DePaulo - 518-869-7562

Mark Stevens - 518-598-3305

Christmas Recap

Holiday Lights & Display Contest



Congratulations to our first and second place winners from each Village plowing district for their holiday lights. The Mayor and Board of Trustees presented gift cards for their participation during the December 15th Board meeting. Special thanks for the festive holiday spirit displayed throughout the Village! Pictured above is the winner from 18 Peachtree Lane. For a list of all winners, please check out the back page!

Santa Parade



On December 6th and 7th, Santa, along with his elves, the Grinch, Mayor Rubino, the Village Board and the Colonie Fire Co. drove through the Village spreading Christmas cheer. Thank you to our dedicated staff and volunteers who made this event possible!

Breakfast with Santa



A great time was had by all on December 13th when Santa stopped by to have breakfast and visit with Village children and families. A big thank you to VFW Post 8692, Village staff and our volunteers who helped create a bit of Christmas magic for this special event.

Stuff the Bus!



Mayor Rubino, the Village Board, Village Staff, South Colonie School Board Members, South Colonie Transportation Staff and Marine Corps representatives helped "Stuff the Bus" for the South Colonie School District and Marine Corps 2025 Toys for Tots Campaign. Thank you to our Village community for their generous donations.



An Official Publication of the Village of Colonie - December/January 2025

A Message from the **MAYOR**



Throughout this holiday season, I hope you take time to rest, reconnect and reflect on what matters most — family and friends. As your Mayor, I am happy to report recent activities and events that have taken place in the Village.

· Veterans were honored again this year in Cook Park on

Veterans Day.

- During October, items were collected for veterans to use during the winter and holiday season; thanks to all who generously participated.
- Helped South Colonie School District collect items to benefit the SNAP Program that provides families with funds to buy healthy food.
- Purchased a salter for our DPW.
- Continued to make tremendous strides cleaning up the Village.
- Our community came together for a good time at the Turkey Raffle.
- A delicious turkey luncheon was hosted by our Senior Center.
- Drove around the Village during the Santa Parade — greeting kids of all ages!
- Hosted the first Annual Holiday Lights and Display Contest — a new tradition we hope to celebrate each year. Thank you to all who participated.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a peaceful season and a healthy new year. Thank you for being an important part of the Village that we are proud to call home.

Happy Holidays,

Jim Rubino, Mayor



Our Department of Public Works recently acquired a 2025 Peterbilt dump truck with salter. A great addition to the fleet, keeping the streets safe this winter from ice and snow.

A 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. Senior and Disability exemptions are both income driven. If your income was less than \$37,400 for the income tax filing year 2024, and you are either over 65 years of age or disabled, you may qualify for an exemption for your Village Tax. Please contact Village Hall for more information. Renewal applications for anyone who received a senior citizen or disability exemption in 2025, were mailed out in December. We also offer a Veterans exemption. To apply, please fill out an application and submit it with supporting documentation, including your honorable discharge papers to the Village Hall. Anyone who is currently receiving a Veterans exemption is NOT required to renew, unless you are a disabled Veteran and your disability rating changed.

All exemption paperwork must be returned by Grievance Day, Tuesday, February 17, 2026, by 8:00pm, to the Village Hall office. Any forms received after this date will not be accepted. For more information, or to apply for any of these exemptions please contact the Village Hall at 518-869-7562.

2026 Rentals

Reservations for 2026 Pavilion rentals begins at 8:00am on Friday, January 2nd for Village Residents and Businesses Only; first come, first serve basis.

- Each facility has a specific fee and a refundable \$150 clean-up security deposit
- Rentals are for 6 hours; additional hours can be purchased
- Proof of insurance and/or liquor license may be required.

Call or visit the Family Recreation Center to reserve your date. Once reserved, renters have 10 business days to complete paperwork with Brian Casey; call ahead at 518-218-7782 to set up a convenient time.

Once the permit is approved, the renter will have 10 business days to submit payment (and insurance, if required). The renter will then receive a copy of their paid permit.

Facility: Tom Gentile Picnic Pavilion (Cook Pavilion)

Fee: Resident - \$375; Business - \$450

Facility: Michael A. Aidala Pavilion (Sharon Pavilion)

Fee: Resident - \$350; Business - \$420

Facility: Ralph E. Warren Pavilion (Pole Barn)

Fee: Resident - \$150; Business - \$175

Facility: Family Recreation Center

Fee: Resident - \$375; Business - \$400

Code Enforcement

Last year, the Village of Colonie Mayor and Board of Trustees passed Local Law #4 of 2024, that added Chapter 243: Rental Registry, to the Village of Colonie Code. This allows Village of Colonie Code Enforcement to require registration for rental properties; enforcement will begin January 1, 2026. Property owners will be required to fill out a permit application and have their rental properties inspected every 24 months, or when there is a new tenant, whichever comes first. This process will help ensure there are an adequate number of working smoke detectors, working utilities and clear means of egress in all rental properties. With an uptick in fatal fires, it is important that we all work together to maintain safety. For more information, please visit our website, colonievillage.org.

A Message from the **Department of Public Works**

Shoveling, snow blowing or plowing snow into the roadway is a violation of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law - Section 1219(a). 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 a summons by the Colonie Police Department, if an accident is caused by your actions, you may be held responsible for any injuries or damage caused. The Village of Colonie takes great pride in maintaining our roadways. We ask for your cooperation in helping the DPW keep Village roadways safe for everyone.



SNOW EMERGENCIES

A snow emergency in the Village goes into effect when 6 inches or more of snow accumulates or creates dangerous conditions for driving and walking. No vehicles can be parked on the street during a snow emergency to allow for timely plowing, salting and snow removal. Notice of a snow emergency will be posted in local media, posting boxes, and on our website: www.colonievillage.org. It will remain in effect for 48 hours unless it is deemed safe to suspend it earlier. Snow emergencies are enforced beginning at 7:00 am. If your vehicle remains parked on the street during an emergency, it will be towed at your expense.



A Message from the **Fire Chief**

Seasonal Safety Tips.....

During the holiday season, please refrain from over-loading electrical outlets or power strips. They are a very common cause of fire!

As you can imagine, firefighting becomes extremely difficult during inclement weather in the Northeast. Every second counts and we want the supply of water to be easily accessible to our firefighters. PLEASE take a few moments and dig-out any accumulated snow near your hydrants – it will make a huge difference during a fire.

Colonie Fire Company is always looking for volunteer firefighters to be a part of something special; join the Colonie Fire Company today. Find us at www.coloniefire.com and volunteer!

Veteran Ceremony

On November 10, 2025, Village officials and residents joined together to honor the Village's hometown heroes. Mayor Rubino and the Trustees read the names of the Village Veterans featured on the Hero Banners throughout Cook Park. Jim Haas, member of VFW Post #8692, noted the importance of honoring the service to our country by the brave men and women in our military. The Village of Colonie looks forward to continuing this annual tradition, thanking all veterans for their service.



Reminder

The Village Hall, DPW, Senior Center & Family Recreation Office will be closed:

Christmas Holiday

Thurs, December 25th & Fri, December 26th

*Garbage & recycling pick-up will be picked up on Friday, December 26th

New Years Holiday

Thursday, January 1st & Friday, January 2nd

*Garbage & recycling pick-up will be picked up on Friday, January 2nd

Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 19th

*Garbage & recycling pick-up will be picked up as usual

President's Day - Monday, February 16th

*Garbage & recycling pick-up will be picked up as usual

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