

# VILLAGE OF HOOSICK FALLS SPRING NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE:

NY Forward Grant Update - New Water Source Update - New Local Laws

Misuse of Village Sewer System - Upcoming Projects - Summer Concerts

## NY FORWARD GRANT UPDATE

A few months have passed since the December 2023 announcement that our Village would receive the **\$4.5M NY Forward Grant**. The updated timeline for implementation, as recently laid out by the NY Department of State, has changed significantly since our initial application was made. Hopefully the following update will answer many questions we have received regarding the process and lay out our current progress to date.

First, the grant focuses on improving a **defined geographic downtown area** that meets the standards and goals set forth by the state. The grant does not allow the entire Village area to be included. That said, we have learned that it is possible for us to modify and even slightly expand the previously defined downtown area in our upcoming **community-based planning process** to accommodate a compelling opportunity or two, as long as they are in line with our goals and vision and fall within the requirements of the grant.

Second, the projects proposed in our application were conceptual in nature,

based on interest and opportunities at the time of submission, meaning none have been approved yet. Our community is about to engage in a 3 to 4 month long process, guided by a consultant provided by the state (at no cost to us), that will both review and modify previously proposed projects while inviting new proposals for projects identified in the application area. At this point, no grant money has been given to the Village or any private/non-profit entity to date, nor has official approval been given on any of the proposed projects. This will come much later in the process.

Third, it is our understanding that Village government will only be receiving grant monies for what are called public projects - sidewalks, improvements to our municipal building, park development and improvements, etc. The state will directly contract with non-profits and business entities for all other parts of the project.

So, where do things stand now?  
**Continue reading on page 3.**



**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**518-686-7072**

### VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Allen, Mayor

Robert Ryan, Deputy Mayor

Deb Alter Megan Walraed

Doug Sauer Dan Schuttig

Brett Hanselman

Longtime Board of Trustee **Kevin O'Malley** chose not to run again this year, ending a span of over a decade as a Village Trustee.

Kevin's dedication to the Village is near-legendary: he lives and breathes Hoosick Falls. Aside from over a decade of time on the Board, Kevin is well known for being a huge organizational force of our many successful parades, our Hoosick Summer Concert Series, and is a Hoosick-History junkie. His Facebook posts on many Hoosick Falls pages have led to fond memories shared and many connections made.

Thank you Kevin for your time on the Board and your dedication to our Village!

New Trustee **Brett Hanselman** joins the Board after running unopposed for the open Trustee seat. Brett, who grew up in the village on River Street, is a 2011 graduate of Hoosick Falls Central School and a 2015 graduate of SUNY Potsdam.

After living in a few other places in New York State, Brett has returned and settled down in the Village with his wife Toni (who works as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at HFCS) and their two year old child. Brett looks forward to giving back to the Village through his time on the Board of Trustees.

## NEW WATER SUPPLY: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS IN MAY

The long path to a **new water source** for the Village of Hoosick Falls has entered one of its final chapters. With the goal of securing a new clean and reliable drinking water source, NYS DEC officially announced the construction of this new infrastructure at a March 19th groundbreaking ceremony at the Water Treatment Plant.

This project, which will begin in May, will connect the two new (LaCroix) wells to the existing Village Water Treatment Plant. This will include 6,800 linear feet of transmission line that will run up Route 22 before turning East, going below the Hoosic River, where it will connect to existing infrastructure. As required by the 2021 Record of Decision, the Village's current supply well (Well 7) will remain as a back-up. Additionally, the GAC filtration system will become a permanent part of the Village's Water Treatment Plant.

From DEC's March 2024 Fact Sheet: "This new system represents a permanent water supply to address perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination from the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street Superfund Site. The

construction activities will be performed by Honeywell International and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics as the responsible parties (RPs), with DEC oversight. The Water transmission line construction activities will begin in May of 2024 and last approximately seven months. The estimated cost to Honeywell and Saint-Gobain for this work is \$5.5 million.



**Photo provided by NYS DEC.** From Left to Right: CPWG Co-Chair Patrick Dailey, Mayor Robert Allen, Michael Hickey, NYS DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, NYS DOH Commissioner Dr. James McDonald, Town Supervisor Mark Surdam, and CPWG Co-Chair Chris Bettis.

The DEC Fact Sheet can be found online here: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/der/factsheet/442046ou2watersupply.pdf>

## MISUSE OF THE VILLAGE SEWER SYSTEM

What do pieces of wood, old mop heads, clothing, and towels all have in common? **They are all items that have been forced through our sewer system, causing damage to our sewer pumps and infrastructure.** This misuse of the sewer system costs all residents by requiring Village funds and resources to be put toward sudden/emergency fixes and places added stress on our entire sewer system.

As a reminder, **non-biodegradable materials should NOT be entering the sewer system.** This includes towels (large and small), baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, and non-disposable power towels. Additionally, **grease, fats, and oils should never be poured down a drain.**

An issue we are facing is the excess water that floods the sanitary sewer system during heavy rains, even though our storm drain system is not connected to our sewer system. Please remember that no Village home or building should have rain water, gutters, and/or sump pumps connected to the Village sewer system. This can cause sewer backups into your basement or property!

Both of these problems are major issues, even though much of our sewer pump infrastructure is new in the past couple of years.

**Please do your part to use the sewer system responsibly, or we will all end up paying for it!**



Pictured above: a brand new impeller for a sewer pump.

Pictured below: the recently damaged impeller out of our pump.



## LOCAL LAW UPDATES

Over the past couple of years, the Board of Trustees has worked to make improvements to the Village through the creation of Local Laws. We wanted to highlight two of the more recent and significant local laws that came from requests and conversations from community members who desired to see these changes, and were modeled after similar laws created by other municipalities.

---

**Vacant Property Registration Law:** Due to the large number of vacant properties in the Village, a new local law was established requiring registration of any property left vacant and/or abandoned within the Village. Vacant and abandoned properties cause significant financial expenses for the Village, lower property values, create blight, and decrease the quality of life for Village residents.

Owners of vacant properties will be required to register the property with the Village Code Enforcement Officer. In addition to registration, an escrow account must be established to cover upkeep costs on said property.

---

**“Junk” Car Law:** Over the past several years the Village has received many complaints from concerned citizens and homeowners about the number of junk vehicles located within the Village. Junk vehicles create unnecessary hazards, blight, lower property values, and are attractive nuisances to children. Village Law now prohibits the accumulation, storage or abandonment of junk vehicles on any property in the Village, private or otherwise. Some key points regarding the law:

- A vehicle is considered “junk” when, amongst other indications, it is leaking fluids, has broken glass, harboring pests or animals, has general deterioration of the body, rust, flat tires, windows, is missing component parts such as tires, fenders, doors, tailgates, panels and/or generally appears to be in a non-operable condition. Please note that vehicles owned or stored at bona-fide repair shops within the village are exempt.
- Vehicles that derive most of their value from historical significance or are over twenty-five years old and are reasonably understood to be part of a restoration project are exempt from the junk car law. Additionally, any vehicle enclosed in a garage or otherwise shall be exempt.
- In the event that notice is given that a vehicle is believed to meet the definition of junk status, the property owner and/or tenant shall be advised that such vehicle must be removed within 72 hours from the property. Failure to remove said vehicle shall result in removal by a towing company designated by the Village at the owner’s expense.
- If a vehicle is considered to be of junk status, and the owner disagrees, the owner of said vehicle shall have opportunity to demonstrate that the vehicle is able to be started and driven a distance of at least 25 feet under the vehicle’s own power.

Any questions concerning either local laws should be directed to the **Village Code Enforcement office** at (518) 686-7072 ext 110. Both local laws can be viewed in full on the Village’s Code Enforcement Department website at:

<https://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Departments/bi.html>

### NEW YORK FORWARD GRANT UPDATE

*Continued from page 1*

As required by the grant, the Mayor has submitted to the state a list of 10 suggested community and business representatives to form a **“Local Planning Committee”**, or LPC. This committee will be co-chaired by the Mayor and a regional economic development representative, which is another requirement of the grant.

Once the state confirms the LPC membership, this will begin a months-long process where the committee will meet 5-6 times in meetings that will be open to the public. The committee, with technical assistance support, will develop a detailed planning profile of our designated downtown area, solicit and review proposals submitted for funding consideration, and make project recommendations to the state. With the hopes of this process wrapping up in late 2024, the state will then review all of the projects and recommendations and make the final decisions on awarding projects and project funding, which we project will be announced in early 2025.

Additionally, there will be two public sessions convened by the consultant specifically designed to solicit community views, project ideas, and overall feedback. There will also be a designated NY Forward website to keep our community timely informed of the process, as it progresses.

This is an exciting opportunity for the Village of Hoosick Falls and we encourage everyone to stay informed and involved. We will put out more information as it becomes available.

## SUMMER CONCERTS AT WOOD PARK

With Spring finally arriving, that means **Summer Music Events** at **Wood Memorial Park** are just around the corner!

### HOOSICK FALLS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The following are tentative dates and performances. For the most up to date information, you can either visit the **Hoosick Falls Summer Concert Series** page on Facebook or email Kevin O'Malley at [hoosickkid@gmail.com](mailto:hoosickkid@gmail.com).

Each concert will run from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

- Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>** - RCR Country
- Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>** - Bluz House Rockers
- Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>** - WailOn!
- Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** - The Shannon Roy Band
- Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** - *to be determined*
- Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>** - West Side Drive

### HOOSICK FALLS COMMUNITY BAND

Under the direction of **Bill Gaillard** and **Tim Stratton**, the **Hoosick Falls Community Band** will continue the tradition of performing free concerts at the Gazebo at Wood Memorial Park. They will also perform at the **Flag Day Ceremony** on **June 14<sup>th</sup>**. There also hopes for a reappearance of the **Stardusters** tentatively scheduled in late June.

**Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>: Flag Day @ 6:30 PM**

**Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>: Stardusters @ 7:30 PM**

#### July Community Band Concerts @7:30 PM

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, and July 31<sup>st</sup>

#### August Community Band Concerts @7:30 PM

August 7<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup>, and August 21<sup>st</sup>.

---

## UPCOMING VILLAGE PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

The following are a list of a few of the upcoming projects or goals that have been prioritized by the Village Board going forward:

**LED Streetlight Upgrades:** The Village Board has been working on upgrading our existing street lights to LEDs with better controls and quicker access to repair and replacement. This project has been in the works for a couple of years, but we hope to see the new lights arriving as soon as this calendar year. We will have more details soon.

**On-Street Parking Review:** We have received many comments about parking issues, especially near key intersections within the Village. We intend to review all applicable state and local laws regarding parking restrictions near intersections. Should we find we are out of compliance, we will immediately begin to address the issue, which unfortunately could lead to more parking restrictions at these locations. One essential part of this process will be notifying nearby residents and building owners of potential changes.

**Transfer Station:** While the transfer station is an important service we provide to Village and Town residents, the current fee structure is not close to keeping up with the rising costs to the Village. We expect to be updating our transfer fee schedule accordingly in the near future.