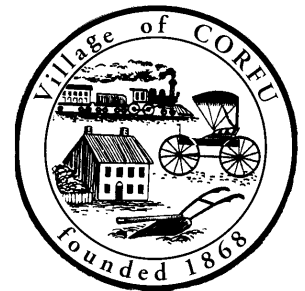




Village of Corfu
116 East Main Street
Corfu, New York 14036
Telephone: (585) 599-3327 Fax: (585) 599-3822



WINTER 2012

VILLAGE OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY --- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
TUESDAY, THURSDAY --- 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: THE OFFICE WILL NOW BE CLOSED 12 NOON-1:00 PM EVERY DAY.

Village Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Committee meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Public is welcome to attend. REMINDER: Meeting Minutes are on **Website: corfuny.com**

VILLAGE REGISTRATION AND ELECTION

This year the terms of two Trustees, David Bielec and Ken Lauer will expire. Offices to be filled at the Annual Village election on **March 20, 2012** will therefore be:

Trustee (2): Term 2 years – 4/02/12 – 4/07/14

The Village election will be held on Tuesday March 20, 2012 at the Pembroke Community Center in the Corfu Fire Hall from 12:00 noon until 9:00 pm. Since the Village no longer holds a registration day for Village elections, any resident not registered to vote must do so with the Genesee County Board of Elections at least ten (10) days before such Village election.

GET INVOLVED! PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS!

Republican Caucus - Jan. 26th, 7:00pm at Saleh's, 54 E Main Street

Democratic Caucus – Jan. 30th, 7:00pm at Village Office, 116 E Main St

NOTE: Independent Nominating Petitions must be filed between February 7–14, 2012.

COME ONE, COME ALL!!!
WINTERFEST IS JANUARY 28, 2012!
A LOT OF NEW ENTERTAINMENT
SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS!

MEMORIAL

The Village Board would like to take this opportunity to pay our respects some residents we lost in 2011 that served our Community for several years.

Joseph Murray	Mayor	1975-78
Larry Sformo	Trustee	1969-70
Clyde Starkweather	Mayor	1959-60
	Trustee	1948-50, 1957-58

We convey our condolences to their families and gratitude for their years of service to our Community.

SNOW REMOVAL

We would like to remind Village residents that under the law, the removal of snow and ice from the sidewalks is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The Village will try to assist in the removal of snow from the sidewalks; however this does not and cannot reduce owner's responsibility. If everyone will abide by the following rules, it would facilitate snow removal in the Village:

- 1) Please do not pile snow from driveways onto the sidewalks, particularly after the Village plow has gone through.
- 2) Please remember there is a parking ban on Village streets between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am from November 1st to April 30th. Vehicles in violation will be issued tickets and may be towed away. This is regardless of whether there is snow or not.
- 3) Please do not park on sidewalks or block sidewalks at any time.

MAYOR & TRUSTEE NEWS

From Mayor Todd Skeet:

I hope everybody had a nice Holiday!

Maintenance: We've been pretty lucky with no significant snow this year but I have a feeling it's coming. When it does we will probably get it hard. I want to remind you that keeping fire hydrants and sidewalks clear are the residents' responsibility. Also, please do not push snow onto sidewalks or into the street as mentioned above. Sidewalk cleaning by the Village is a courtesy. Jesse and Mike have been instructed to remove excess snow from the heart of the Village to keep parking lanes clear and enable residents to stay safe on walkways. Be sure to be a good neighbor and check on the neighbors around you.

Half of the rail has been replaced on the underpass. We will be working on budgeting for the other half to be replaced next year. The cost of this year's portion should be covered by Chips funds. The underpass was put in place in 1942 and we are assuming the old rails were installed then as well. The 70 year old rails were in such bad shape they had to be replaced.

This fall the boys cleaned out the Village waterways. Drainage seems to be moving well with the new system.

Police: This is the quieter time of year traffic-wise so our police officer hours have been cut back some for the winter. We will be working on the budget with the Police department in the next month or so.

Office: We were recently awarded an Archive grant for \$9,225.00 for new file storage so the girls will be busy working on setting up a new filing system in the coming months. We were also notified that we were awarded \$1,200.00 from Go-Art for the upcoming Winterfest. Sandy and Denise will also be getting busy with paperwork for the Sewer grant very soon.

In the upcoming year there will be many challenges with the Budget with State and Federal government cut-backs and rising costs (especially on Retirement and Insurance.) We will be working hard to keep taxes where they are.

Court: The Final Draft of the State Comptroller's audit of the Court will be going public in the very near future. We would like to stress that the Court is a separate branch of the Village government and the Village Board does not have the right to control the administration of Court personnel or the Judge. The Justice is the legal administrator and has legal responsibility over the Court with the Board having no control over the inner workings of the Court.

We would like to thank Dave Saleh for his many years of service as the Village Prosecutor. Dave has chosen to step down from that position to pursue other avenues in his career. We would like to welcome Bob Zickl as the new Village Prosecutor. Bob is very experienced and works with many of the Courts in Genesee County.

Sewer: We have been working hand-in-hand with the Engineers and the Town of Pembroke on the upcoming joint Sewer Project. The Town is looking at changing the original plans and instead of going all the way to the Thruway they are looking at the possibility of going west on Route 5 to pick up Yancey's Fancy on the system. This is not yet set in stone but a work in progress. The Village's Engineers are working on upgrades to our plant so we can take on the additional flow. We should be breaking ground mid-spring to early summer on both the Village and Town projects. We are also working in conjunction with NYS DOT as they will be working on Route 77 when our project is going on.

In Other News: We would like to welcome Mark Boylan as the Village's new attorney. Mark is from Leroy and represents the Fire District and Town of Pembroke. He has many years of experience working with Municipalities and will be our legal counsel on the Sewer Project as well. Don't forget to put the Winterfest on your calendar. I have stepped down from the Committee but know the event is even bigger and better this year. I would like to thank the Committee for all their hours dedicated to our annual event.

From Trustee Dave Bielec: The calendar says it is winter, but it sure does not look like it. Almost no snow and we are about half way thru January. The Winterfest is coming up on Saturday the 28th. Lots of activities, should be a good time for all.

A new railing has been partially installed in the underpass sidewalk. It will be completed next summer. "The Market" is now open. It has a wide variety of goods. Go visit and see for yourselves.
The sewer extension to the thruway will take off in the spring, along with our plant upgrade.

From Trustee Al Graham: If you haven't seen the underpass guard rail check it out. We used our Chips grant money to replace as much as we could and plan to finish the rest next budget year.

The sewer project is moving along. You may have seen workers doing soil tests along Routes 77 and 5 recently. One proposed change in the plans will be a pipe run down Route 5 to Yancey's Fancy. This will allow them to complete an expansion project that otherwise the DEC would not let them do on their current system. The Engineers are still getting pricing together for the bids to go out and we're on track to start construction in the early spring! We will be coming around looking for illegal hookups. It is very important to get them out of our system. If you're not sure about your hookup call the Village office and someone will come check it for you.

The State Comptroller Audit of the Court system should be made public soon. Remember the Village Board has very little say in how the Judge runs his court. We basically set wages and vacations, holidays etc. The Judge has total control over the money collected and how it is handled and any and all paperwork that goes with it. The Village Board did request the State to come out and do the audit because of some things we felt needed looking into but had no control over. I will be proposing a public hearing on this matter as soon as possible.

Sandy and Denise worked hard on a grant for a new filing system that we just got. Congrats Ladies! Norm and I (mostly Norm) found out we got our grant from NIAMO to replace the lighting all over the Treatment Plant inside and out to low energy equipment. Thanks Norm!

I also want to thank Dave Saleh for all his years of service to the Village.

Congrats to "The Market". If you haven't stopped down to see Jim, Lori and Ryan you should make it a point to. They have worked hard and have some great produce and meats there!

As always if you have any concerns feel free to get hold of me.

From Trustee Ralph Peterson: My lack of participation in the newsletter is due to my disappointment in the leadership of the Village Board. I have based all my board decisions on what is best overall for the community and the residents of the Village.

"It is election time and budget time. Communities work best when residents get involved in the process!" I encourage all residents to attend our meetings to observe and understand the leadership decision of this board. The process to attend and/or speak at our meeting requires you to contact the Village Office.

From Trustee Ken Lauer: Years come and go and we are now well into 2012. There has been a great deal of change in the Village in 2011 and 2012 will probably see more. My hope is that the Village and its residents continue to grow and prosper in 2012. Like 2011, there will be challenges and change for the Village, its residents and government. We'll all need to play a role, large or small, in 2012 and remember to look at the betterment of the entire Village and not just our own little world.

In the coming months we'll most likely be challenged by the general economy, cuts in aid from the State and Federal government, audit results, changes in your representatives on the Village Board, and construction on Route 77. As we work on the budget for the coming year, we'll have to take these factors into account and strive to keep the taxes flat and services you receive in the village at the same or possibly increased level. We welcome your thoughts or ideas in this process and hope to see you at future meetings.

For me 2012 started great with the addition of the Market to the Village. Personally it has been wonderful to get great meats locally and it certainly has helped improve the appearance of the Village. Hopefully in 2012 we'll also see some additional business and employment growth in the Village. Ideas for new businesses and growth in the Village are always welcome by your elected officials and I'd encourage anyone with an idea for a business to begin exploring it. Down economies tend to be the best time to start a new business and as Mark Twain said: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

The Village can do some things (and direct you to other sources) to help you in the development of a business. It does take time and resources to get going but you'd be surprised what can be done if you set your mind to it! Just look at the recent effort of the Pembroke Girls Varsity Basketball team and their efforts that raised \$4,100 dollars for Cancer Research at Roswell Park. Through their determination and teamwork they did a phenomenal amount of work in just 3 weeks and once again showed what a great group of young adults we have in the area.

Also remember to send in events to Sandy for addition to the Village newsletter. See you at Winterfest!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Corfu will conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 23, 2012 at the Village of Corfu office, 116 East Main Street, Corfu, New York. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow any and all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the adopting of a Proposed Local Law #1 of 2012 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c. The entire Local Law #12 of the Village of Corfu is currently on file at the office of the Village Clerk during regular office hours and is available for inspection.

TAX CAP OVERRIDE INFO

There has been a lot of information circulating regarding overriding the 2% tax cap that the State has put into effect. The Village budget has no plans to increase more than 2%. As explained to clerks at GAM meeting and by NYCOM, overriding the 2% tax cap will protect the Village in case of a miscalculation in figures or other future projects that could occur and need to be shown on the Village Budget. It simply safeguards the Village in the event there is an unforeseen expense (including any water/sewer district charges/assessments) in the upcoming fiscal year. There is absolutely NO "obligation" to raise taxes.

If the override is not adopted and the tax cap is exceeded it would be in violation of State mandate. The override law is only effective for one year and must be adopted every year thereafter if the Village is inclined to do so. The local law must be adopted before the budget is approved. There is a citizen's guide to the Tax Cap on the State Comptroller's website at www.osc.state.ny.us.

SEWER REMINDER

Village of Corfu Sewer Law Section 1118 reads; "If there shall be any payments which are due to the Village of Corfu, or any Department thereof, pursuant to any Article or Section of this Law, which shall remain due and unpaid, in whole or in part, for a period of **thirty (30) calendar days** from the date of billing by the Village of Corfu, the same shall constitute a default, and there shall be added to the entire amount of the original bill a penalty equal to **ten percent (10%)** of the original bill, and **interest shall accrue on the unpaid balance at a rate of two percent (2%) per month**, retroactive to the date of the original billing." If you pay your bill late and do not include all interest due, it will be added to your next bill, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

NO OPEN BURNING!!!

Once again we remind all residents that there is no open burning allowed within the Village limits with the exception of "Barbecue grills...and similar outdoor cooking devices when actually used for cooking or processing food". This is a STATE LAW and is enforceable by any conservation or police officer or you can call 1-800-TIPP DEC to report the burning. If you would like further information the NYS DEC website is www.dec.ny.gov/regulations. You may be fined if found in violation of this law and the fines can be stiff. Please observe the law. **It will be enforced.**

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM AL

The year 2012 is an important year for the Town of Pembroke:

- It is the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. When the British burned Buffalo during the War, Brickhouse Corners was one of the places the residents of Buffalo fled to. There are three veterans of the War of 1812 buried in the Evergreen Hill Cemetery in Corfu.
- 150 years ago in 1862 the Civil War entered its second year. There are at least 55 veterans of the Civil war buried in the Evergreen Hill Cemetery. Seven of these soldiers died during the war either in battle or from diseases caught while they were prisoners of war.
- It is the 100th anniversary of the worst fire in Corfu history, which destroyed a good portion of downtown Corfu.
- 2012 is the Bicentennial for the Town of Pembroke which was formed from the Town of Batavia on June 8, 1812.

There will be several events during 2012 to celebrate the Bicentennial. These will include: A Display of Local Artists at the School Budget Vote on May 15th, an Opening Ceremony at the Town Park on June 9th, an old-fashioned picnic at the Town Park on July 14th, a square dance at the Community Center in Corfu on August 11th, the Brick House Fair on September 8th and the burying of a time capsule in September. More events may be added and more details will soon be available.

A 2012 Historical calendar is now available for \$5.00. There are also a few Bicentennial cookbooks still available, also just \$5.00. These are on sale at the Town Hall and will be available at the Winterfest on January 28th. Be sure to stop by and see the History Display at the Winterfest. A new Town of Pembroke history book will be ready this spring.

Pembroke Historical Programs will resume on April 4th with "Farm Hands" presented by Tom Reeves, Batavia Daily Columnist. On May 2nd is "Hand Weaving" presented by Gary Green, member of the Town of Pembroke Historical Society.

SEE YOU AT THE WINTERFEST!

