

**2024**

## **Annual Village Update Letter**

The Village Board provides this update letter to residents on the many ongoing projects, as well as some of the issues and challenges facing the Village. Much of the work we do goes unreported by our local press, so we employ our website, Facebook, Village Sign, and this letter to keep residents informed.

If you have questions or concerns after reading the update, please feel free to reach out to us, or attend a Village Board Meeting on the second Monday of each month. Minutes for Board Meetings are also available on the Village website: [www.villageofcoxsackie.com](http://www.villageofcoxsackie.com). Coxsackie is on the verge of completing some important projects, and long, sought after downtown re-development is beginning.

**NY Forward Grant**- Over the summer and fall, the Local Planning Committee (LPC) worked with the Department of State, and the consultants, on a \$4.5 million NY Forward Grant. After a long process, a list of ten projects totaling \$5.6 million was submitted, and can be found in the link of the Village's website. A review process is undertaken now by the State, and the Governor's office, and we anticipate hearing which projects are approved in the second quarter of 2024.

**McQuade Park Pavilion** – Thanks to Sen. Michelle Hinchey, we are receiving a \$102,000 grant for a new steel pavilion. The pavilion is on order and expected to be in place in late spring.

**Champlain-Hudson Power Express**- This is an underground power line that will run from Hydro Quebec express to NYC. It is following the CSX tracks and will come through the Village near the tracks and by Firemen's Park. We will get some annual tax revenue from this project with no noise or visual impact. As a gesture of good will for going under the park, they are able to make donations to the community, and the Village asked for and will receive \$50,000 towards the dog park at the old American Valve site.

**Development**- The Village has experienced some significant growth during and after Covid. While the Village does benefit from property tax it does **NOT get any sales tax money**. Greene County is one of seven counties in NYS that does not share sales tax.

**Old American Valve Site (Dog Park)**- Many people over a number of years have asked for a dog park, and we have received petitions as well. By the time you get this update letter, the Village should own or be very close to owning the property.

**New Water Tank** – In 2019 we received a \$3 million grant towards construction of a 1.5-million-gallon water tank to give us enough storage capacity. We purchased a piece of land adjoining the water plant and expect to start construction in late 2024.

A long-standing weakness in our water system is the lack of storage capacity. We presently only can store about 450,000 gallons of water, which is very, very small, for a water system of our size. When a water break occurs, it can deplete the present storage capacity very quickly threatening to run our water system dry and diminish our firefighting capability.

**Riverside Park**- The State Parks worked with the Village to design the upgrade to the Riverside Park, and was officially re-opened in May 2022 with many new features and experiences. Riverside Park is owned by the state but maintained and run by the Village. If you wish to reserve the Gazebo, Pavilion, or a section of the park for an event, please visit the Village's website.

**Sidewalks** – The summer of 2023, our DPW crew replaced several bad sections of sidewalk. The intersection at Bailey & Mansion was redone to allow a sidewalk and safe passage along the side of the firehouse, with some more work there still to be done. A section of sidewalk and a crosswalk was installed on Sunset for the students and residents coming from Sunset Apts.

**Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan Committee** – (LWRP for short). In 2019, the Village received a \$100,000 grant to develop this plan. Nine people were appointed to a committee by the Village Board and Elan Planning. The draft plan is being reviewed by the State.

**14 South River St.** - Many plans have been developed over the last several years for improvements to the park. The restoration of 14 South River St., a historic building originally built as the George H. Scott Firehouse, continues as we apply for grants and accumulate funds. Our plan will be to develop this as a welcome/historical center, celebrating the history of the Village and downtown. The building will be available for meetings and events, and an initial design plan includes bathrooms.

**Farmers' Market** – In a few months, the highly successful Farmers' Market will return for its 12<sup>th</sup> year under the guidance of market manager Eileen Goble. Each year, the market has increased the number of vendors, added restaurants/food trucks providing food each week, along with music and other entertainment. Volunteer help is always welcome, or if you are interested in being a vendor, please contact the Clerk at Village Hall 518-731-2718. Look for information on our website and Facebook page.

**Owls** – A full set of owls will return in 2024 with an auction. Please watch our website and Facebook for details. Some of the original Owls Committee have retired, and they are looking for people to be involved on the committee. Please reach out to the Village Clerk if you are interested in helping.

**Mansion St. Cemetery** – The Restoration Committee has done a dramatic job in restoring the cemetery. A new front fence section was installed with funds raised by both the Cemetery Committee, and Village Funds, benches have been placed, and stones have been cleaned, to name a few. This work comes at a great expense, so consider a donation, or joining the Restoration Committee. Info is available at the Village Hall, and you can check out several of our famous graves located in the heart of the Village.

**Veterans Banners & Field of Flags** – In 2022, we saw the Veterans Banner Committee place the initial banners on utility poles, to a great reception by the residents and visitors. The Committee of; Trustee Don Daoust, Suellen Meier, Lou Martin, Bob Desrosiers, Kaaren Kiernan, and Bill Steele, have made this happen and deserve our thanks. The project is back for 2024. A Field of Flags will happen this year on the lawn of 91 Mansion St. (the Old School). For information on both visit the Village's website.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** The Village has received \$265K in ARPA funds to be used for projects specified by the grant guidelines. The projects designated this far; is approximately \$25,000 was spent to purchase a fire gear washer and dryer for the Hose #3 firehouse. This allows immediate washing of gear as soon as a return from a fire to get the toxins off the gear and protect the \$5,000 investment in each set of gear.

The Village has also committed to a joint project with the Town of Coxsackie to replace the water line at the top of Ely St. in the Village, and extending into the Town, where very small inadequate lines exist now. This area in the past had contributed to 50% of all the water breaks. Cost projection is \$130,000-\$200,000, and the County has given us \$100,000 in ARPA for this project.

**UMH / Mountain View Estates** – This project recently submitted an updated Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). This is the project's first step in a long approval process. Please watch the Village's website for updates and information.

**Spencer Blvd Turnaround:** In 2022, the Village DPW, with assistance from the Town and County, developed a turnaround at the end of Spencer Blvd. to allow firetrucks, ambulances, oil delivery trucks, and any delivery vehicles to not use residents' driveways to turn around. Once the area has settled well, it will be paved.

Village of Coxsackie,

Mayor & Board of Trustees