

VILLAGE UPDATE



Village of Argyle, PO Box 7, Argyle, NY 12809
www.argyle-village.org

Village Organization

As a small Village, Argyle depends on volunteers and help from other organizations to accomplish projects. The only paid staff we have is our part time clerk-treasurer (Joyann Stimpson) and two chlorinator attendants (Randy Cuthbert and Doug Koos). Our Water Commissioner, Garry Robinson, works as a consultant only when needed. The Mayor and Village Board work together with minimal compensation, to make plans for public work that must be done in the Village. The current mayor is Wes Clark and the Trustees are Pete Adams, Cher McCotter, Joe Lohret, and Joanne McDowell. The Village does not operate with political parties, and candidates run for office by filing independent nominating petitions. These usually require only three or four signatures because of our size and the low numbers who vote in elections. The Board

Elections

According to New York State law, all villages must have their elections on the third Tuesday in March, except if that date is St. Patrick's Day. Those years, it is on Wednesday. The minimum hours the polls can be open is from noon to 9 PM, so this is what we do. The voting takes place upstairs at the Town Hall.

On March 16, two trustee positions and the office of mayor are up for election. As of the February 9 petition deadline, Wes Clark was the only candidate running for mayor, and

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meets the first Monday of the month at 5:30 upstairs at the Town Hall. Village residents are welcome to attend.

The Village has about one mile of street length that must be maintained. The Town provides help in clearing snow, and we have been contracting with Peckham to do repaving recently.

As was stated in the last Update, the Town Clerk, Gianna Cross, is no longer the Deputy Clerk for the Village, and cannot accept or issue receipts for water rents. She will, however, accept large items in an emergency.

Cher McCotter and Peter Bailey were the candidates for trustee. This continues our tradition of uncontested elections. Of course write in candidates are always welcome.

Housing Grant Update

There have been some home improvements in the Village made possible by the recent \$300,000 housing grant obtained from the State. These grants are available based on income, and are for owner-occupied one-family homes. One of the purposes of the work is energy savings, with others being handicapped access and improved appearance.

At the January meeting, the Village Board voted to apply for another grant to improve housing. This grant will be available based on income as well, but will also include property



The grant, if approved, will include the Town of Argyle.

outside the Village. In the last round of applications, some people applied who were not able to participate because they were not in the Village.

If the grant application is approved, we will advertise for a new round of applications from homeowners.

Sewer Grant Update

There was another deadline in February to apply for a federal grant to install a sewer system for the Village. Due to the real possibility that we would not qualify, we have not invested the time and funds to apply in several years, but thought it was worth another shot this year, given the new Federal money being provided to stimulate the economy.

We were notified that our State grant for \$543,150, which was approved four years ago, was being withdrawn because we had not been able to use it because we did not

have the required matching funds. However, we have been told that if the federal grant is approved, the State grant can be reinstated. Funding from both agencies will be required to move ahead with this project.

*Village Board meeting is scheduled for March 1
At 5:30 in the Town Hall*



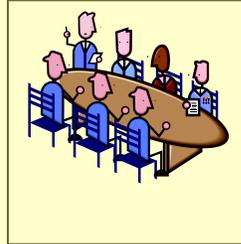
We hope Federal stimulus funds will be available.

Stiles House plans

The Village purchased the Stiles house over ten years ago in an effort to be ready with a site for a sewer plant. The house has 10 acres with it, and the land had been suggested as a good place for a waste water treatment plant, since it borders the Moses Kill.

The house needed a lot of work, so a committee was formed to raise funds and oversee the repair work. Volunteers spent hundreds of hours cleaning, pouring cement, installing a heating system, and in general making the house ready for a new use. Chris Castrio has been organizing this task as a volunteer, and deserves our thanks.

The Village office will only use a small part of the available space in the house. The committee has envisioned using the first floor for community events and meetings. So far, the haunted house and the car show have been held successfully. The Youth Commission uses part of



The house will be available for community events.

the land for baseball games.

We are looking for ideas from the community to help the House improve the quality of life in the Village, as well as preserve this historic structure. Please contact any member of the Board or Stiles committee with ideas.

Snowmobiles on Sidewalks

There has been a lot of discussion over the years about snowmobile traffic in the Village. As we know, they can be noisy and dangerous if operated improperly. Several years ago, the board adopted a local law that prohibits snowmobiles from driving on sidewalks. This is a safety concern for walkers, as well as a snow removal problem, if the sleds kick snow back on the bare walk.

Snowmobiles are allowed to drive on the edge of State highways, and allowed to cross bridges on the roadways. Many of our snowmobile visitors are on their way to and from Stewarts to buy fuel. If you see snowmobiles operating illegally or unsafely, you should call the county sheriff at 747-4632. They are responsible for enforcing the access laws and the registration laws in New York.

Contact Us

The Village office is in the process of moving from the Town hall. Our Clerk, Joyann Stimpson, has taken the day to day necessities to her house at 52 Sheridan St. She is carrying a phone with the number 955-2766. She has a sign on the front of her house, and office hours are on Monday morning. As Mayor, Wes Clark can be reached at 638-8717, or during the day at 692-9542 X 2203, or at his 110 Main St. home. We are deciding on the best way of handling faxes, but for now, 692-9547 will work.

There is now a drop box at the Stiles house, and this is an option for paying the current water rents. It will be checked daily after March 1, and it is in a visible spot on the front porch.

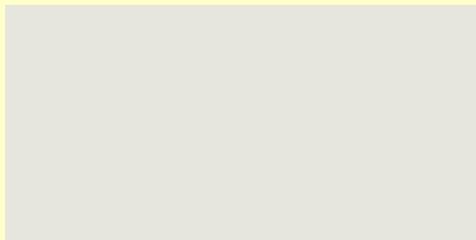
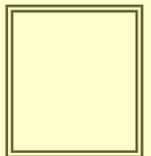
All mail should be addressed to P.O. Box 7, Argyle, NY 12809.

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