



VILLAGE UPDATE

Village of Argyle, PO Box 7 Argyle, NY 12809
www.argyle-village.org (518) 955-2766

Water Supply

As you know, we had a period of time where our water supply was very low. This started during the summer when there was a lack of rain. There was a large increase in water usage when compared to last year, so we began looking for leaks. Users helped identify several that we fixed.

To supplement our wells, we trucked in water from Fort Edward and used Summit Lake water on a temporary basis. This was becoming impossible in the cold weather.

In mid-January, we did find a large leak that had been going for a long time. This is fixed and the wells are now keeping up with demand easily.

New Well

Back in 2015, we were required by the State Department of Health to look for a new water source. We used professionals to locate a good place and the well was drilled in 2018. The water was tested and found to be fine.

In 2020, during the COVID pandemic, we began the project of connecting the new well to the system of water mains. This involved underground installation of a 4 inch pipe and hiring National Grid to extend electricity.

We had to have a building for proper chlorination, and this is in place. Equipment needs to be installed and tested next.

Summit Lake

We had been told by the Health Department that water from the lake could no longer be used. When we had the severe shortage this Fall, we were allowed to use it if treated.

We borrowed a treatment trailer from the State. This included a filter, a disinfectant, and a chlorinator and produced drinkable water. It did freeze in cold weather, however.

While we would prefer not to use lake water, it is preferable to having no water.

Our plan is to design a treatment plant that meets State standards and would withstand the conditions at the lake. If approved, this would make a more stable emergency supply.

Zoom meetings

Due to the risk of having board meetings with staff and public present, we changed to a Zoom format for most of the last year. We have a number of board members who are senior citizens or have health conditions.

We are able to share the meeting invitation with members of the public on an individual basis. It is not recommended that an invitation be posted, because of the threat of hackers disrupting the meeting.

If anyone wants to attend the Zoom meeting, they can contact the Village Clerk through the Village website. She can forward the invitation using email. These links are easy to use, but a computer is needed.

Sidewalks

This will be the last reminder for removal of snow on sidewalks for the season. The local law requires property owners to clear their walks within 48 hours of a storm.

The law can be found on the Village website, and should be referred to if anyone has questions.

The law also prevents cars and trucks from parking on the sidewalk. The sidewalks are not designed for parking, and blocking them forces pedestrians to walk in the street. This is unsafe.

Elections

March 16th is the date for the annual election in the Village. This is a Tuesday, as usual, and all villages in the State must vote on this day. The voting will start at 12 noon and end at 9 PM, and will be in the Presbyterian church this year. We often need election inspectors for this, and if you are interested, please call the office.

This year, Tony Montello is running for the trustee seat that he currently holds. Joy MacKenzie is running for the seat she currently holds. Write in votes are always accepted.

Please participate in Village government by voting on March 16th.

The Village Board includes Cher McCotter, Wes Clark (Mayor), Tony Montello, Joy MacKenzie, and Charlie Edwards. Our meetings are the first Monday of the month at 5:30 PM. Most months we meet at the fire house. Meetings have been held on Zoom since the COVID crisis.



Sidewalk Replacement

The Village has a number of sections of sidewalk that are in need of replacement. We are allowed to use State aid to pay for highway related improvements. The Village will pay for the concrete if the property owner pays for the labor and removal.

Is difficult to find a contractor to work on replacing sidewalks. Building related work has been plentiful for the last several years, partly because of the housing market. If anyone has suggestions, please contact the office.

Dissolve the Village?

At a recent Village Board meeting, a resident questioned whether anyone had considered dissolving the Village. This has been studied but not for a long time.

If the Village dissolved, the necessary functions of government would be taken over by the Town of Argyle. There would be separate taxes for street lights, and a separate water district formed.

This issue was studied in 1994 and again briefly in 2005. At those points, there did not seem to be enough benefit to refer the question to the voters in the Village.

With the current rise in State mandates, and the lack of interest in service on the Village Board, it may be a good time to examine whether residents would be better off without the Village.

If Village residents are interested in volunteering to be on a committee to research this issue, they should contact the clerk through the website. Thanks.