

S U M M E R 2 0 2 1

V O L U M E 4 , I S S U E 2

The Lancaster Villager

Stay informed
and become
involved in your
community!



Message from the Mayor

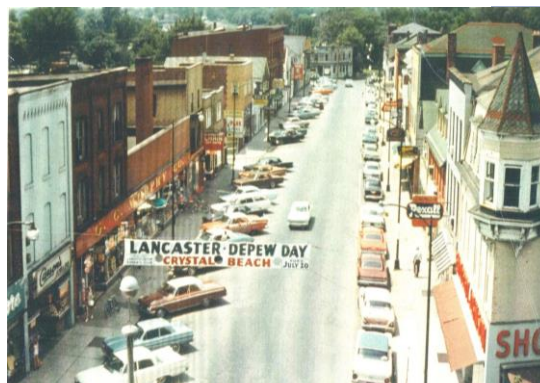
The Village of Lancaster has launched two new social media campaigns recognizing local businesses and citizens that live in the village. If you know of deserving candidates, I encourage you to go to our Village website, www.lancastervillage.org to fill out the "Citizen Spotlight" and "Support Local" nomination forms. Congratulations to this year's Village award recipients. Richard Groblewski received the James Siemon Keysa Mayor's Community Service Award for his dedication to running the Lancaster Garden Walk and coordinating the beautification efforts in the Downtown Business District. David Bondrow received the Urban H. Rozler Citizenship Award for his contributions to the community through his work as the Director of the Lancaster Opera House.

-Mayor Lynne Ruda

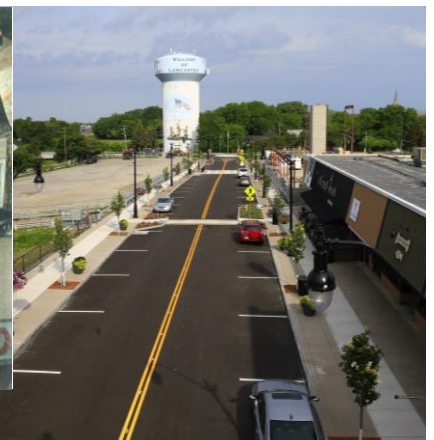


The Village of Lancaster Celebrates the Reopening of West Main Street

In 1961 a major fire on West Main Street destroyed a portion of the Central Business District and the downtown business community. This area was turned into a Federal Urban Renewal project, a program for deteriorating business districts. The Urban Renewal project demolished buildings on Central Avenue, West Main Street and Clark Street. In 1970 Harvest Markets of Buffalo was selected as the developer and in 1971 excavation started on the Harvest Plaza. The Harvest Plaza did not bring the anticipated revitalization to the Business District and the large commercial building sat vacant soon after opening until Erie One BOCES moved into the space. After Erie One BOCES left the Village of Lancaster in the late 1990's, the Community Development Corporation (CDC) obtained the property with the goal of finding a developer to revitalize the area. In the past few years, the Village of Lancaster has been fortunate to collaborate with Empire State Development and the State of New York, proposing Downtown Revitalization Initiatives and finally receiving a \$2.5 million grant for the extension of West Main Street, helping to make the next step in revitalization a reality. We hope that our community will "Shop, Stroll, and Stay" in our Village, enjoying the new streetscape.



W. Main St then (above) and now (right).



NOTICE – Sewer Rates and Billing Info

As part of the budget review process each year, the Village Board looks at the current sewer rates and the financial needs of the Sewer Fund. The Village has been incurring additional costs each year to make repairs to the sanitary sewer system as required per a Consent Order from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The costs of these projects result in increasing budget needs for contractor services, ongoing maintenance, and debt service costs.

It was expected that the costs noted above would create a possible need to increase sewer rates for this year.

However, the Village Board realized that the 2021-2022 billing cycle would be the first time that the Town revaluation would be reflected in the bill calculations. This change in assessments itself will in many cases result in an increased annual charge for many properties. The Village Board gave this careful consideration and decided not to increase the sewer bill rates for this year so that the impact to property owners would be minimized. The Board did however increase the annual maximum sewer rent for single-family homes (class 210) to \$225 and two-family homes (class 220) to \$400. This does not increase the rate for those property classes, but only reflects a small increase in the overall annual rent that can be billed for those accounts.

Sewer bills are mailed out 3 times a year in July, November, and March. The July bill included in this mailing represents the first bill in our annual billing cycle. For owners who prefer to pay their bills for the entire year in full, this July invoice is the time to make this annual payment which covers the period from June 1st through May 31st (our budget year). Mail payments should be sent directly to the lockbox address listed on the invoice. You may also pay your bill in person (cash or check) at the Clerk's office located in the Municipal Building at 5423 Broadway. A drop box is available to the right of the back door for after hour payments – check or money order only (no cash please). Credit card, debit card, and e-check payments are available online at our Village website – www.lancastervillage.org

Garbage Pick-Up

In 2019, the rules for garbage pickup changed due to a new contract with Waste Management. Waste Management has changed to automated trucks with a one-man crew. The sanitation worker does not leave the driver's seat to retrieve trash. Therefore, you cannot pile trash at the curb. Any extra trash that needs to be picked up in a regular week requires a sticker from the Town of Lancaster. Once monthly, during the second full week of the month, you may place three large items out for the bulk pick up. Please refer to the Town of Lancaster website at www.lancasterny.gov for all the new regulations and dates for bulk pick up. As always, televisions and computers will not be collected by Waste Management and will need to be taken to an Erie County electronics recycling event. Check out the Erie County website for electronics recycling events <https://www2.erie.gov/recycling>. They also have a list of locations that may accept your recycling as well.

VFW Post 7275

The Lt Colonel Matt Urban VFW Post 7275 is celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year. To celebrate this anniversary, a special event will be held bringing in guest speaker Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Staff Sergeant David Bellavia. Through the years, the VFW/Amvets Post, which is open to the public has acted as a community center for senior groups, Boys and Girl Scout events, Lancaster HS Marching Band Basket raffles, political groups, and Disabled Veterans' groups. This important community asset is proud to be celebrating 75 years with the Lancaster community!

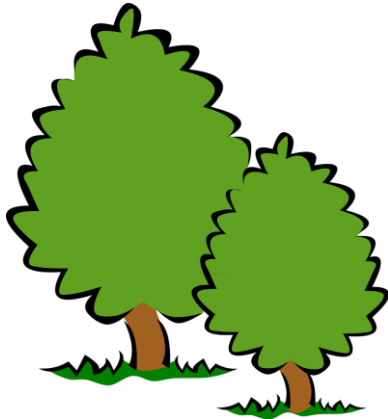


Village of Lancaster Awarded Forestry Grant

The Village of Lancaster has recently been awarded a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, totaling \$16,032 for tree trimming and maintenance. This grant will help fund the continued care and special attention that the Village of Lancaster pays to its trees and urban forest. A total of 56 trees will be affected by this grant; special attention will be paid to the trees that need the most help.

A contractor will be hired to perform the work, and our local Department of Public Works laborers will follow closely behind, cleaning up debris that will be created by this process. We welcome any input or questions that Village residents may have about this project. Any communication may be sent to the Village Clerks office, 5423 Broadway Lancaster, NY 14086. The village appreciates welcomes the help and responses of all village residents. To learn more, please visit dec.ny.gov/press.html.

A community forum, in which village residents may see the plans that the village has, will be scheduled at a later date. Stay tuned for more information coming in future village newsletters, in which tips and other info will be shared for those who are interested in trimming, pruning, and general care and maintenance for trees on private property.



Arbor Day 2021

The Village of Lancaster celebrated Arbor Day by planting a new tree in Hadsall Park on Richmond Avenue. April 30th was proclaimed Arbor Day in the Village of Lancaster and urged all citizens to celebrate and support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.



Events

The Village of Lancaster welcomes new Special Events Coordinator, Tammie Malone Schaefer. After a successful 4th of July Parade and Fireworks, the Village will be hosting a Fall Fest on October 9th in collaboration with the Community Development Corporation and the Lancaster Opera House, featuring family friendly activities, a haunted house, and the Rocky Horror Picture Show.



Welcome!

The Village of Lancaster welcomes Morgan Heist to the Clerk/Treasurer's Office Staff. Morgan is responsible for managing the Village website and social media platforms, as well as Clerk's office duties.



Recreational Vehicle's, Boats and Trailers, Rules, and Regulations

Since 1976, Chapter 329 of the Village of Lancaster Code has had rules and regulations for recreational vehicle's, boats, and trailers. A recreational vehicle includes but is not limited to travel trailers, mobile homes, tent trailers, boat trailers, pickup campers, and horse trailers. With the increased number of people purchasing such vehicles it is a good time to remind and inform residents that there are regulations for them.

General Prohibitions:

- Under no circumstances shall any recreational vehicle be parked on any public street in violation of existing federal, state, or local laws, or stored on the street side of the owner's property line.
- No recreational vehicle shall be used for purposes of habitation while parked or stored on an owner's property within the Village of Lancaster.
- No vehicle over **30 feet** in length shall be stored on private property located in the Village of Lancaster.

Parking and storage regulations:

Recreational vehicles may be parked on the private property of the owner of such vehicle only under the following conditions:

- A recreational vehicle may be parked for a continuous period not exceeding 72 hours.
- A recreational vehicle must be parked on the owner's property and behind the property line. It must be parked in such a manner as not to restrict visibility of traffic using any adjacent public street. A recreational vehicle's wheels must always be blocked or otherwise rendered immobile to prevent any movement of the vehicle while it is in a stopped position.
- Any recreational vehicle stored for periods exceeding 72 continuous hours, shall be parked in a garage or behind the front and side building lines. The recreational vehicle may be stored in a rear yard.
- Not more than one recreational vehicle may be parked or stored on a private lot in the Village of Lancaster unless that vehicle is parked in a garage

Village of Lancaster Codes can be found at <https://ecode360.com/LA0609> or you can call Village of Lancaster Code Enforcement 716-367-0697 for further information.

Fire Department

The Lancaster Fire Department will start training with new Scott Air-Paks. The Village of Lancaster received \$255,171.43 in funding through an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to pay for this vital new equipment. If you are interested in volunteering with the Lancaster Fire Department, go to the LFD website at www.lancasterfd.org and click on Join.

Follow the Lancaster Fire Department on Facebook and Instagram @Lancasterfd.



Changes to the VOL Code

The Village of Lancaster recently made changes to the Village Code within the last quarter. These changes bring much needed updates to reflect current conditions here in the Village.

- Chapter 14 Ethics – Language was modified regarding Municipal Officers and employees.
- Chapter 104 Building Construction – Incorporating provisions of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention & Building code and the NYS Energy Conservation Construction Code.
- Chapter 257 Records – amends Records retention and Village Investment Policies and Procurement policy.
- Chapter 329 Recreational Vehicles – extends the time frame for permitted parking on premises from 24 to 72 hours.
- Chapter 350 Zoning – Permitting sidewalk cafes and outdoor service.

SENIOR CITIZEN INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

Did you know that the Village of Lancaster provides a partial tax exemption for senior citizen property owners aged 65 and older based on annual combined income?

The Village Board recently reviewed its income limits for this tax exemption. Currently, a partial tax exemption is provided for senior citizens with an annual combined income of \$25,725.00 or less. After discussing the current limits at a work session and following a public hearing held on June 14th, the Village Board approved an increase in these income limits so that more senior citizen property owners will be eligible for a partial tax exemption.

The revised levels will now provide an exemption if the annual combined income is less than \$29,700.00. Due to the timing of the tax bill cycles and tax exemption process, these new limits will take effect with the 2022 village tax bill.

If you are aged 65 or older and own property in the Village of Lancaster, and you have an annual combined income below \$29,700.00, or if you know a friend or relative who meets these criteria, please contact the Town Assessor's office at (716) 683-1311 to request a tax exemption application form.

Annual Total Income (Effective 2022 Tax Bill)	Percentage of Discount
\$0 to \$24,000	50%
\$24,000.01 to \$24,999.99	45%
\$25,000.00 to \$25,999.99	40%
\$26,000.00 to \$26,999.99	35%
\$27,000.00 to \$27,999.99	30%
\$27,900.00 to \$28,799.99	25%
\$28,800.00 to \$29,699.99	20%

NEEDED – SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

The Village of Lancaster is accepting applications for the position of substitute school crossing guard for the 2021-2022 school year. This is a part time position with morning and afternoon shifts between 7:00am – 9:00am and 2:00pm – 4:00pm on an as needed basis. If you are interested, please contact the Village Clerk's office at 716-683-2105, or email mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org with any questions or to request an application.

Historic Preservation Committee

In honor of Preservation Month, the Village of Lancaster Historic Preservation Commission, at their May meeting, recognized one distinct Town property within the Village Historic District for its' contribution to historic preservation.

"Town of Lancaster - Historical Society Building" (40 Clark St.) is recognized as a Heritage Property for recently completed repairs and historic reconstruction of a historic property. The Colonial Revival style residence (ca. 1894 – moved 1940) "Potter-Eaton House" is a contributing structure to the Central Avenue Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The recent repair/reconstruction campaign, conducted by the Town of Lancaster, included: new porch foundation piers; reconstruction of the rounded open entry porch deck; new porch roof; reproduction of rounded spindle work balustrades at the porch and porch roof; and reconstruction of the widows walk balustrade at the upper roof.



Michael Meyer, RA, Chair of the Commission, presented a plaque to Town Supervisor Ronald Ruffino and Historical Society President Karen Sutton recognizing the Town's property at the Commission's June meeting.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Be Informed – Get Involved!

Facebook 
VillageofLancasterNY

Twitter 
@LancasterVill

Instagram 
@LancasterVillageNY

Thank you to the Community Development Corporation and to all the Volunteers and Sponsors from the Spring Clean Up Event! The plants in the hanging baskets and planters in the Central Business District look beautiful!

Gold Sponsors

Lancaster Fire Dept.
 Dark Forest Chocolate
 Gilded Maple
 Glasco Management
 Good Neighbors Credit Union
 Lancaster Elks Lodge 1478
 Lancaster School Board
 Lancaster Central Teacher Association
 Monica Wallace
 Lancaster Police Benevolent Association
 Purely Pets
 Senator Gallivan
 Thill-Demerly Realty Corp-
 Robert Thill & Betsy Moll
 Lynne Ruda
 Josie's on Central
 Lilly Belle Meads



Silver Sponsors

Riexinger Wood Company

Friend of the Village

Bloomsbury Toy Shoppe
 MaryAnn Arbor
 The New York Store



Village Board Meeting Dates

The Village Board meets on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 7pm on the 2nd Floor of the Municipal Building at 5423 Broadway or on zoom. Info always posted on website.

July 26, 2021
 August 9, 2021
 August 23, 2021
 September 6, 2021
 September 20, 2021
 October 4, 2021
 October 18, 2021
 November 1, 2021

Clerk – Treasurer Office & Main Village Contact

Michael E. Stegmeier
 5423 Broadway
 Lancaster, NY 14086
 (716) 683-2105

mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org

Important Contact Information

Mayor Lynne T. Ruda	lruda@lancastervillage.org
Trustee Joseph E. Quinn	jquinn@lancastervillage.org
Trustee Cynthia A. Maciejewski	cmaciejewski@lancastervillage.org
Trustee Paul H. Rudz	prudz@lancastervillage.org
Trustee Tyler D. Sojka	tsojka@lancastervillage.org
DPW Superintendent William Cansdale	wcansdale@lancastervillage.org
Code Enforcement – Shawn Marshall	smarshall@lancastervillage.org
Fire Inspector and OEM – Scott Kuhlmeier	skuhlmeier@lancastervillage.org
Fire Chief - Mark Stonebraker	mstonebraker@lancasterfd.org
Events Coordinator- Tammie Malone Shaefer	events@lancastervillage.org
Village of Lancaster Justice Court	716-683-6780