

S P R I N G 2 0 2 1

V O L U M E 4 , I S S U E 1

# The Lancaster Villager

Stay informed  
and become  
involved in your  
community!



## DPW Injury Free!

The Department of Public Works employees have now passed one year without a lost time accident. The number of days stands at 385 at the time of writing this report. In recognition of achieving this momentous milestone the employees were recognized with lunch provided by Trustees Lynne Ruda and Paul Maute at no expense to the taxpayers. The public works employees have previously reached a total of 870 days without a lost time injury in 2016. Superintendent Cansdale requires everyone to treat safety as job number 1 each day. Congratulations to all Public Works employees as they set their sights on year 2 of an injury free workplace!

## Follow us On Social Media!



**IT TAKES A VILLAGE**  
**Be Informed – Get Involved!**

## The Village of Lancaster Continues to Undergo Construction in the Central Business District

As the Village of Lancaster continues to grow and develop, we will continue to have to work through the growing pains of construction. Please be aware of the following projects that will be occurring in the Central Business District. For the most up to date information, please go to the Village website at [www.lancastervillage.org](http://www.lancastervillage.org) and follow us on social media. Construction timelines and road closures are subject to change and these timelines are tentative:

- **North Aurora Bridge** – the Town of Lancaster is working with Erie County to re-deck the North Aurora Bridge. The bridge will be closed from March through June, with a detour in place.
- **West Main Street completion** – the West Main Street construction will resume in the spring with the completion of the concrete center for the mini roundabout, landscaping, and the final topcoat paving. This construction is dependent on weather but is anticipated to be completed by the end of May.
- **Phase 1 Private Development** – Anticipated March – December. Sidewalks and parking spaces alongside the construction will be closed as needed to maintain a safe construction zone.
- **Cayuga Creek Park** – this project will be bid out with construction anticipated in the summer.

## Special Events Series TBD

The Village of Lancaster is in the process of hiring an events coordinator. The 2021 Event Series is still TBD and will be dependent upon the COVID restrictions. Continue checking our website and social media for more information.

# Spring Clean-Up Event

**How can you help make a difference in our community?**

Sponsored by the Community Development Corporation



**Saturday  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
9am**



- *Sign up to volunteer for this event.*
  - Email [mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org](mailto:mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org) to reserve a spot on a cleanup crew – you will be cleaning up the Village gardens and planting flowers for our 2021 summer season. Due to the ongoing uncertainty with COVID-19 the details of this event are subject to change.
- *Sponsor a garden, basket, or planter with your donation.*
  - Your donation will benefit our community and it will advertise your business or organization. Donations can be made to the Community Development Corporation of Lancaster, with Beautification Program in the memo line and mailed to 5423 Broadway, Lancaster NY 14086.
- *Volunteer to maintain a garden.*
  - Email [mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org](mailto:mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org) to volunteer to help with the upkeep of our village gardens throughout the Summer.



The Village of Lancaster is a registered New York State Climate Smart Community and is actively seeking its Bronze Certification. Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY.

**Climate Smart  
Communities**

greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles.

**Registered** communities have made a commitment to act by passing the CSC pledge. **Certified** communities are the foremost leaders in the state; they have gone beyond the CSC pledge by completing and documenting a suite of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level.



## Lancaster Garden Walk 2021

July 16 – Night Showing  
July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – Day



Did gardening become a new hobby during COVID? Do you want something to look forward to in the summer? **Sign up to participate in the 2021 Lancaster Garden Walk – Newcomers are welcome!** There is no judging, no contest and no pressure! Share your gardening talents with your community!

### How do you sign up?

Fill out the entry form on [www.lancastervillage.org](http://www.lancastervillage.org) or contact Richard Groblewski at (716) 686-9476.

**Forms are due by May 1st**

## Lancaster Village Center Update

**"GROUNDBREAKING WAS MARCH 1, 2021"**

We are excited to announce the groundbreaking ceremony and start to the first phase of construction for the Lancaster Village Center Project in the Central Business District.

This first phase, once complete, will host luxury apartments and six commercial spaces. The apartments will be a combination of 1 or 2 bedrooms with 1 or 2 bathrooms, stainless steel appliances, in unit laundry with a high-quality touch on finishes. The commercial spaces will include several retailers as well as food & drink establishments.

We look forward to continuing our work with the community to make a difference that future generations will enjoy. A Place to work, shop, stroll, play and live. We are actively pre-reserving apartment leases for the Spring of 2022. Feel free to reach out to us via email at: [GlasscoManagement@gmail.com](mailto:GlasscoManagement@gmail.com)



## W. Main Construction Update

Work on the West Main Street Extension Project will resume this Spring. Depending on weather, construction should re-start in April and be complete in June. Remaining work includes completion of the mini-roundabout, installation of concrete sidewalks, crosswalks, the Save-a-Lot intersection, landscaping including new trees and planting beds, final paving and striping of the street, and installation of amenities such as bollards, bike racks, benches, and trash receptacles.

W. Main St. construction will be coordinated with the Lancaster Village Center Development building construction & the Aurora Street Bridge Project that will occur in the same area of the Village. To accelerate construction, W. Main Street will be closed to vehicular traffic. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times & the contractor will work with West Main businesses to accommodate deliveries.

## Roundabouts Project Schedule

February- September	Right-of-way acquisition process	September/October	Advertise project for bids.
March- April 2021	Develop preliminary landscape, drainage & work zone traffic control plans.	December	Award Project
Late April/ Early May	Public Meeting #3 to review preliminary plans.	March 2022	Begin Construction
May- July	Develop final detailed plans & cost estimate.		

Stay Updated with Project information throughout 2021 at [www.LancasterVillage.org](http://www.LancasterVillage.org)



## LED Street Lighting Comes to Lancaster

Note from the Mayor: William Schroeder

Modernizing our infrastructure in the Village of Lancaster is essential. It improves our quality of life and, in the case of upgrading our street lighting to LED technology, is already saving tax taxpayers money, and will for years to come.

This winter crews have been busy changing out old, inefficient lamps with new LED fixtures. The project includes all street lighting throughout the Village—approximately 850 fixtures. The new LED street lights are more energy efficient, provide a better quality of light, are longer lasting, and are cheaper to operate than our old style of lights. Village residents will benefit with a win-win: better lighting for less cost.

This project was made possible by the Village's decision to purchase the street lighting infrastructure from NYSEG and then embark on a turnkey project that is nearing completion. The Village selected Wendel, a local architecture,

engineering, energy efficiency, and construction management firm, to lead the project. Many thanks to the installation crews who stayed dedicated through the middle of winter and kept the project on schedule.

To pay for this project, we are repurposing money we were formerly paying to NYSEG and using those monthly savings to pay for project financing. In so doing, we are realizing net savings, even at the outset of the project. This project will accrue net savings of more than \$1.5 million dollars over the next 25 years—with positive net savings being realized every year. This will help ease the stresses on our Village budget.

In addition to the economic benefits of the project, the LED street lighting upgrade has the equivalent environmental benefit of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 186,000 pounds annually, which translates to saving 197 barrels of oil, or planting 2,191 trees. LED light fixtures consume approximately 50-70% less electricity than the lights they replace!

The LED lighting replacements have been designed to provide adequate light levels while reducing light pollution as compared to the old fixtures. LED fixtures direct light to the surfaces intended for illumination. The new LED lighting project also features an asset management system which allows the Village to monitor fixture performance and outages.

The Village Board and I are proud to support and implement this project to improve the quality of street lighting in the community while reducing Village operating costs. This exciting project provides superior functionality for a new street lighting system that will serve Lancaster well for many years to come.

## Tree City USA

The Village of Lancaster is pleased to announce that for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, our community has been recognized as a 2020 Tree City USA. To earn this recognition, we have had to demonstrate that planting & care of trees is a priority. The benefits of a sustainable urban forestry program are:



- **Reduce costs for energy, stormwater management, and erosion control.** Trees yield 3–5 times their cost in overall benefits to a community.
- **Cut energy consumption by up to 25%.** Studies indicate that as few as three additional trees planted around each building in the United States could save \$2 billion annually in energy costs.
- **Boost property values across your community.** Properly placed trees can increase property values from 7–20%. Buildings in wooded areas rent more quickly, and tenants stay longer.
- **Build stronger ties to your neighborhood and community.** Trees and green spaces directly correlate to greater connections to neighbors.
- **Honor your community** and demonstrate your commitment to a healthier environment through Arbor Day celebrations and Tree City USA recognition.
- **Benefit from a framework for action provided by the four core standards.** Many communities use the Tree City USA standards as a way to begin caring for city trees. Others regularly enhance urban forest management through improved ordinances, innovative programs and increased emphasis on planting and care.
- **Educate people living in your city about the value of trees and the importance of sustainable tree management.** Annual participation as a Tree City USA community provides this opportunity and makes it easier to engage individuals and organizations throughout the city. Tree City USA status can also create a strong working relationship with your state forestry agency and other groups.
- **Improve community pride.** Participation in the Tree City USA program helps residents feel good about the place they live and work. Annual recognition shows visitors and prospective.



## Village of Lancaster Receives Funding Through Community Development Block Grant

The Village of Lancaster was awarded \$94,929 through the Erie County Consortium Community Development Block Grant – Cares Act Recreation Improvements Project Fund. This funding has no required match by the Village of Lancaster and has no impact on Village Taxpayers. The project that will be funded is for outdoor physical fitness equipment. The equipment designated for installation will enable users to engage in physical fitness activities outdoors. This fitness center will be built on the open green space adjacent to the playground at the North End Firehall on West Drullard Ave.



### Junior Firefighters

The Lancaster Fire Department's Junior Firefighter Program is open to all students in the Lancaster Central School District between the ages of 14 – 18. Joining the ranks of the LFD Junior Firefighters will provide you with many exciting opportunities and many awesome benefits. Being a Junior Firefighter will also make your résumé more appealing to both colleges and employers!



**SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**



**MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**



**LEARN NEW SKILLS & WORK ON A TEAM!**

**When do the Lancaster Junior Firefighters meet?**

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

**I think that I have what it takes to be a Junior Firefighter! How can I get an application?**

Call or text our head advisor Mr. Dan Bonk at (716) 681-0826. Lancaster High School Students can pick up an application from Mr. Ruda in Room # 103 before or after school.

**Where else can I learn about the LFD?**

Follow the Lancaster Fire Department on Instagram - @lanasterfd  
Check out the Lancaster Fire Department Website – [www.lanasterfd.org](http://www.lanasterfd.org)

### Cayuga Creek Park

The Cayuga Creek Park project is an urban pocket park that will provide beautification to the bank of Cayuga Creek, a public gathering space, vegetated areas with rain gardens, pedestrian connectivity between Aurora Street & Broadway and the possibility of lighting throughout the park. The project is located in the Village south of the proposed West Main Street Extension and North of Broadway along Cayuga Creek. The project is partially funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY).

The Village of Lancaster continues to work with CPL to design and bid out the Cayuga Creek Park project. The project will include:

- Multi-use green space
- Walking path along the creek
- A terrace connecting West Main Street to the park
- Park lighting
- Rain Gardens

The project is anticipated to be put out to bid soon with construction in the summer/fall. The project will be funded through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York and additional grant funding.



A pathway will be installed the length of the project, allowing pedestrians to safely travel the beautified banks of Cayuga Creek between Broadway and Aurora Streets. This will include great overlook locations to enjoy the water. A portion of the project does reside in the 100yr flood plain. The design team at CPL who is currently designing the project will consider the potential impacts this may have on the park and will implement best practices into the design wherever possible. The design also includes green infrastructure, with the consideration of bioswales and or rain gardens, a great example of how the Village is striving to go green with its infrastructure investment and improvements.

## Remember to Obtain a Permit for Upcoming Projects

As the weather begins to warm up and home projects begin, please remember to obtain a permit before the work begins. Per Village Code; "Before any person shall erect, construct, alter, move, demolish or commence to erect, construct, alter, move or demolish any building or structure within the Village of Lancaster, such person shall first apply for & obtain a building permit from the Building Inspector." The Building Department is located at 21 Central Ave and can be contacted at (716) 684-4171. Please contact this department for information & specifications regarding set back, permitted size and height of structures, prior to permit application submittal. You can also visit our website [lancastervillage.org](http://lancastervillage.org) to view village codes. Some examples of required work permits are as follows: shed, garage, fence, pool, deck, and demolition.

### Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission received a NYS CLG Grant in 2019 to develop and adopt Local Historic District Design Guidelines. Clinton Brown Company Architecture of Buffalo, NY was hired by the HPC to work with the Commission to develop and compile these design guidelines. The Design Guidelines are a comprehensive guide for property owners within the historic district for historically appropriate treatments for the exterior of their buildings. They include information about the historic architectural styles within our historic district and the history of Lancaster. The Design Guidelines provide accurate information about the proper treatment of historic materials and features within our historic district as well as provide tips and guidance for proper maintenance of historic buildings for our local property owners. This is an important, informative tool for our property owners to help us maintain and enhance property values as well as the aesthetic of the historic district and continue to improve our Village. The HPC adopted the Design Guidelines at our October 2020 meeting. The document is available at the HPCs website.

[www.VillageofLancasterHPC.com](http://www.VillageofLancasterHPC.com)

### Letter from the Mayor

As we begin to emerge from the doldrums of the Winter months, you will notice some significant changes in our Village. The first of which will be the completion of the West Main Street Extension Project and the repairs that the Town is making to the Aurora Street Bridge. We apologize for the temporary inconveniences however they are necessary, and we are working with all contractors to keep the closures to the very minimum. Our LED street lighting conversion project is in its final stages and looks very good. We are proud and happy to have been able to accomplish this energy and cost saving work for our residents.

Planning and design work for Cayuga Creek Park and Fireman's Park continue as well as plans for future projects and we sincerely appreciate the patience and support from that you have shown. This promises to be another progressive year for the Village. I urge you to look at all that is going on and our accomplishments.

Please stay safe and well!  
William C. Schroeder - Mayor

### Village Board Meeting Dates

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

Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, June 28<sup>st</sup>  
Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Clerk – Treasurer Office & Main Village Contact

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

[mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org](mailto:mstegmeier@lancastervillage.org)

### Important Contact Information

Mayor William C. Schroeder	<a href="mailto:wshroeder@lancastervillage.org">wshroeder@lancastervillage.org</a>
Trustee Paul M. Maute	<a href="mailto:pmaute@lancastervillage.org">pmaute@lancastervillage.org</a>
Trustee Joseph E Quinn	<a href="mailto:jquinn@lancastervillage.org">jquinn@lancastervillage.org</a>
Trustee Lynne T. Ruda	<a href="mailto:lruda@lancastervillage.org">lruda@lancastervillage.org</a>
Trustee Paul H. Rudz	<a href="mailto:prudz@lancastervillage.org">prudz@lancastervillage.org</a>
DPW Superintendent William Cansdale	<a href="mailto:wcansdale@lancastervillage.org">wcansdale@lancastervillage.org</a>
Code Enforcement – Shawn Marshall	<a href="mailto:smarshall@lancastervillage.org">smarshall@lancastervillage.org</a>
Fire Inspector and OEM – Scott Kuhlmeier	<a href="mailto:skuhlmeier@lancastervillage.org">skuhlmeier@lancastervillage.org</a>
Fire Chief - Mark Stonebraker	<a href="mailto:mstonebraker@lancasterfd.org">mstonebraker@lancasterfd.org</a>
Events Coordinator	<a href="mailto:events@lancastervillage.org">events@lancastervillage.org</a>
Village of Lancaster Justice Court	716-683-6780