

# The Lancaster Villager

Stay informed and become involved in your community!



## A Vision for the Future

During the course of the next few years, the Village of Lancaster will be taking on some ambitious projects in the Central Business District. While change can be intimidating, and construction can be tedious, the growth and expansion of the Central Business District will breathe new life into the Village. Stay updated on all of the projects by visiting the village website [www.lancastervillage.org](http://www.lancastervillage.org). We hope that you will stay informed during this exciting time in our village's history!



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Be Informed – Get Involved!

**Follow us!**

**New Social Media!**

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VillageofLancasterNY

Instagram  
LancasterVillageNY

Twitter  
@LancasterVill

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Plans

### A Message from Mayor William C. Schroeder

The Village of Lancaster is preparing for some very exciting and long awaited changes in our Central Business District. For the first time in 50 years there is promise for the area where the Harvest the Best Market once stood. This has been a long and arduous process however the West Main Street Extension and Cayuga Creek Park projects will bring new retail and living spaces along with a beautiful park for our residents and visitors to enjoy. Along with this progress, there will be some casualties in that process, one of which is our annual 4th of July Celebration. For over 20 years we have been allowed to use that almost 5 acre parcel to hold what has been termed the "2nd largest 4th of July celebration in the state" with carnival rides, games, vendors, food, bands and a beer tent, drawing thousands of people each year to experience the hospitality and charms of our Village. This was a great site for many reasons; it was paved, centrally located, large enough, outside of a densely populated area and had easy access. Unfortunately, with the construction of the West Main Street Extension and new development, we can no longer use that property. Beginning with our 4th of July Celebration last year, an on-line survey was posted asking participants many questions about what they felt was important to them with the elements of our celebration and the results were largely the Parade, Fireworks, Bands and the Beer Garden. Carnival rides were on the high end but not over-whelming and the Village Board faced a dilemma; where do we move this celebration to? When we bring eight to ten thousand people to the Village for an event for one or two evenings, we need a large area. Several options were considered such as Central Avenue, the Clark Street Parking Lot and the area at Broadway and Central Avenue. After much debate, we decided to use the Elks Lodge parking area for this year's 4th of July celebration. We will hold this event Thurs. July 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sat. July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The parade route will remain the same and weather-permitting the fireworks will again be seen over the water tower. Our website and social media sites will provide more details. This is a transitional year for our Events Series and after the construction dust settles, we will re-evaluate our options and be in a better position to move forward.

## Village Wide Garage Sale 2020

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

The usual garage sale permit requirement is waived for the Village Wide Garage Sale. A free AD may also be placed with the Lancaster Bee. See the Village website Events page for a link to the form which must be received at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office by April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the latest.

## A Plan for Village Tree Care

*"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."  
~ Chinese proverb*

A 2018 grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Urban Forestry Program enabled the Village to conduct a Tree Inventory of all trees located within street right-of-way space, specified parks, & public facilities. Working with our consultant, Davey Tree Service, the Village now has a database of 5,270 tree sites, which includes 3,960 trees, 16 stumps, and 1,302 planting sites. This database indicates the type of tree, its diameter and general health & other information necessary to ensure proper care & maintenance. DPW workers can easily update this database when they perform pruning, removal, or other tree care operations. Overall, the Inventory indicates that the Village has been a good steward of their trees, although there are some actions that we can take to improve the quality and type of care we provide. Davey Tree worked with the Village to create a Tree Management Plan which identifies these actions. This plan, which can be found on the Village website, provides an analysis of the Tree Inventory information, as well as recommendations for additional planting, care and maintenance to enhance the benefits the Village receives from its urban forest. These benefits include the production of oxygen and reduction of pollutants, sequestering of carbon, and the reduction of storm water. The Village has established a Forest Advisory Board to assist with future plans for maintaining the trees you see and adding additional trees to beautify our landscape. Look for notices on the Village website and in future newsletters about Forest Advisory Board activities and ways that you can participate.



To help the Village fulfill the Urban Forestry grant requirements, you are invited to participate in a short Community Engagement Survey located on the Village website. This survey asks for your input regarding trees and tree care in the Village and will be open from March 1 through April 15. While you are on the website, take a look at the Tree Management Plan for further information about the current state of the Village trees and recommended plans for the future. And if you have additional questions about trees and tree care, consider visiting <https://www.davey.com/arborist-advice/> for information on how you can help keep the trees in your yard healthy and beautiful for years to come.

## Welcome to the Village of LANCASTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### Historic Tax Credit Workshop



**May 13, 2020 16PM**

**Village of Lancaster Municipal Building, 2nd Floor  
5432 Broadway, Lancaster**

Join **Preservation Buffalo Niagara** and the **Village of Lancaster Historic Preservation Commission** for a **Historic Tax Credit Workshop** where you'll learn more about the available homeowner and commercial tax credits, what kind of work is eligible and how to apply.

This program is open to the public.  
As space is limited, pre-registration is requested  
For more information call 716-852-3300



### Did You Know... Village of Lancaster's HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION has a website?

<https://www.villageoflancasterhpc.com/>

It contains useful information about the Village of Lancaster's Historic District and general preservation resources. In addition, for property owners in the Historic District, there are Certificate of Appropriateness forms and guidelines. We invite you to visit our website or join us for a meeting. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Municipal building second floor.

## Don't forget to get a Permit for Upcoming Projects

As the weather begins to warm up and home projects commence, please remember to obtain a permit before the work begins. 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. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm. Please contact this department for information and 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.

Phone: (716) 684-4171

## Bike Lane Project

The Central Avenue Corridor Improvement project is a transformative project for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists alike. Proposed improvements will be implemented along Central Avenue from Walden Avenue to Pleasant Avenue. The project design involves traffic calming measures, bicycle lanes, and consideration for some corridor lighting improvements. Funding for the project was awarded to the Village through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as part of Erie County's Smart Growth program.

Bicycle lanes, made possible through a process known as a road diet, is the most notable improvement. A road diet simply takes the distance between the curb lines on an existing roadway and repurposes the space between the curb lines. This process serves two advantages, it improves the safety of all traveling public, by reducing the width of vehicle travel lanes which naturally slows down traffic, and it allows for bicycle lanes to have their own dedicated lanes separate from other vehicles.

These improvements will all be managed through pavement striping along the road. The new striping will delineate each feature of the roadway including a single lane of vehicular traffic in each direction, a bicycle lane in each direction adjacent to the travel lanes, as well as vehicular parking and turning lanes where warranted. This encompasses over  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of a mile of new bicycle lanes between Walden and Pleasant Avenues which is a wonderful addition the Villages active living opportunities. Additional improvements for new street lighting are also being considered between Pleasant Avenue and Erie Street. Once complete, in the late summer or early fall of 2020, the corridor will improve safety for all traveling public and add a new mode of transportation for its residents along this feature corridor.

Here's a link to a nice video on what a Road Diet is visually.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSJp8Ht-ORU>

## Cayuga Creek Park Project

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 estimated to cost approximately \$500k and is partially funded by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY).

To make the project possible parcels of private property need to be transferred to Village ownership. This includes a process of parcel separations currently owned by a private owner and local developer, followed by mergers of existing and separated parcels and then a transfer of ownership to the Village so that the project can take place. This is a very unique opportunity for the Village and a great example of how working together can yield positive results and improvements for the entire community.



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.

Additional improvements for new park lighting are also being considered throughout the park. The environmental review process has been completed and the project is expected to be under construction in late spring or early summer 2020.





Village of Lancaster, New York

## The Lancaster Fire Department is looking for members interested in helping our community!

### Join Our Department

- Minimum of 18 Years Old
- Live in the Village of Lancaster
- FREE On the Job Training
- Pension Program
- College Scholarships available
- Long lasting friendship
- Serving your community!



### Join Our Explorer Program

- 14 to 18 Years of Age
- Live in the Village of Lancaster
- FREE On the Job Training
- College scholarships available
- Long lasting friendships
- Serving your community!

**Call (716) 683-1901 to get an application today!**



**"Neighbors helping neighbors, since 1874"**

## Local Man Needs New Liver

A local Lancaster resident, Brian Lorenz and his fiancée are reaching out to ask for help in finding a new liver for Brian. He is being treated for non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver and desperately needs a liver transplant. A potential living donor would need to donate part of their liver and needs to be between 5' 10" and 6' 3" tall, have either a B or O type blood and between the ages of 18 and 60 years old. Currently he has undergone well over 40 procedures to remove fluids from his abdomen and this causes many complications. Those wishing more information are asked to contact Jennie Errigo @ (585) 275-5875.

## An Important Note From our Code Enforcement Officer

Although the end of the winter heating season quickly coming upon us, we still need to talk about the importance of testing and maintaining Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors and Smoke detectors. On **February 10, 2010 Amanda's Law** went into effect in New York State to help protect you and your family from the deadly effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. Amanda's law is named for Amanda Hansen, 16, of West Seneca, who died of carbon monoxide poisoning while at a sleepover at a friend's home.



With Daylight savings time beginning on March 8th, most people know it is the time to replace your batteries in both your Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors and Smoke detectors. But, did you know that your CO detectors and Smoke detectors have life spans? CO detectors are 5-7 years and Smoke detectors are 8-10 years, depending on the manufacturer. With this being the 10 year anniversary of Amanda's Law going into effect. I ask; if you can't think of the last time you installed a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm, chances are, it's time to replace your old ones. This is true for both battery, plug-in and hard wired detectors.

So, not only should you be testing your detectors monthly and replacing the batteries (unless sealed units), but check the date and replace if out of date.

## Village of Lancaster Initial Design Proposals for the West Main Street Extension

The Village of Lancaster envisions the Central Business District as a vibrant, mixed-use destination providing opportunities for a “Shop, Stroll, Stay” experience for both residents and visitors. The West Main Street Extension Project represents a public realm investment that will stimulate this vision. This project includes these elements:

- Complete street design to accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, parking and streetscape
- Extension of West Main Street to Aurora Street. Conversion from one-way street to two-way
- Improvements to West Main Street/ Central Avenue intersection. Addition of mini roundabout at new intersection of West Main Street/Aurora Street
- 11 Foot shared vehicle/ bicycle travel lanes, 8 foot parallel parking lanes on both sides of street, pedestrian components
- Street trees, light poles, landscape amenities (benches/planters)
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Utility relocations and upgrades (including sanitary sewer, storm sewer, waterlines, gas lines)

### **Anticipated timeline of the West Main Street Project**

#### **Winter 2019-20**

- Bid the project out for construction

#### **Spring 2020**

- Construction begins

#### **December 2020**

- Construction complete



## Lancaster Roundabout Project

The first public meeting for the Downtown Lancaster Roundabouts project was held February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Lancaster Opera House. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project to the community & seek initial feedback about concerns and opportunities. After Mayor Schroeder welcomed the 85 attendees, Tanya Zwahlen of Highland Planning introduced the schedule for the evening. Jeffrey Lebsack of Mott MacDonald reviewed the background & context of the project. Jeff noted that the initial plan for revitalizing Downtown Lancaster prepared in 1998 and subsequent plans have all included goals for a pedestrian oriented downtown. Now, with the West Main Street



extension & related development underway, the roundabout project will create distinctive gateways that complement the downtown business district by improving pedestrian safety & slowing traffic. Attendees discussed why they care about the project, how the project can support the vision for downtown Lancaster, & ideas to maintain safety and minimize construction impacts to property owners & businesses.

Concepts for the roundabouts & the section of Pleasant Avenue between them will be presented for review & comment at the next public meeting scheduled for March 31 at the Lancaster Opera House.





# Events for 2020



THURSDAY – JULY 2, 2020 • 6pm-11pm  
 FRIDAY – JULY 3, 2020 • 6pm-11pm  
 SATURDAY – JULY 4, 2020 • 12 -11pm  
 (Beer Tent & Bands ONLY (Location TBD)  
 7/4 PARADE @ 2pm (Pleasant/Central Aves.)  
 7/4 FIREWORKS @ 10PM (Over Water Tower)



FRIDAY – JULY 17  
 thru  
 SUNDAY – JULY 19, 2020



DATE & LOCATION  
 (TBD)



## Fall Festival

DATE & LOCATION  
 (TBD)



FRIDAY  
 NOVEMBER 27, 2020 • 5-9pm  
 (SATURDAY  
 Nov. 28 Firetruck Parade @ 6pm)

## Thank you Dawn Gaczewski

Mayor Schroeder and the Village Board would like to thank our out-going Events Coordinator, Dawn Gaczewski for the wonderful job she has done in her 7+ years serving the Village. There is much planning, organizing and many details in running large scale community events and other than weather related problems, our Events were well attended, cost efficient and enjoyed by thousands. These are big shoes to fill. Dawn had brought her own style & creativity to the events series, from creating Zombieville & Christmasville, designing the winter window displays and getting the Village of Lancaster Events on the map!

We hope that the community will understand the challenges the Village Board faces with our new projects and that we are striving to continue to provide activities and Events that can be enjoyed as they have been in past years.

The Village of Lancaster wishes Dawn all of the best in her future endeavors and we hope to continue her legacy.

### Village Board Meeting Dates

The Village Board meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Municipal Building at 5423 Broadway.

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Monday, July 13<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:wschroeder@lancastervillage.org">wschroeder@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 - Jeffrey Moore	<a href="mailto:jrmoore@lancasterfd.org">jrmoore@lancasterfd.org</a>
Events Coordinator	<a href="mailto:events@lancastervillage.org">events@lancastervillage.org</a>
Village of Lancaster Justice Court	716-683-6780