

# The Lancaster Villager

STAY INFORMED AND BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!



## A Message from the Mayor

## VILLAGE OF LANCASTER RECEIVES FIRST PUBLIC ART - MURAL UNVEILED!

The Village Board is continually investing our budget in projects throughout the Village of Lancaster, and while the investments in the neighborhoods look and feel different than the investments in the downtown business district, a tremendous amount of Village funding continually gets allocated to enhance the neighborhoods in our community. This year, the Village of Lancaster invested over \$377,750 in paving our Village streets. Over \$936,900 has been invested in upgrading and repairing our sewer system. The Village has, for the first time, spent tens of thousands of dollars planting trees throughout the neighborhoods to create a new tree canopy. As we successfully have received grants, the funding is being spent throughout the community. We have built an outdoor fitness center in the north part of our community, are currently adding mid-block crossings and rectangular rapid flashing beacons in the south side of our community and have received over \$250,000 in funding to plant trees throughout many neighborhoods in our Village. While our downtown business district continues to grow and be enhanced, I am proud to serve on a board that is continually thinking about all of our residents and finding every opportunity to ensure that they have the services and amenities that make living in this community such an incredible experience.

- Mayor Lynne Ruda -

The Village of Lancaster was thrilled to unveil their first public art piece in September. The mural was completed by artist, Kaylee Choate, owner of Lupine and Lead located in Alden. The artwork was funded through a grant that was secured by NYS Assemblymember Monica Wallace with Arts Services Inc. Through the process, a Request for Artwork was advertised, resulting in 19 submissions of art for consideration. A committee was formed and worked through the summer to decide which artwork was the right fit for the Village of Lancaster. Once artist Kaylee Choate was chosen, she was quick to get to work to create the mural. Mayor Ruda said “The Village of Lancaster is so excited to be able to showcase the first mural in our community. Public art should capture the spirit of a community and artist Kaylee Choate did exactly that.” The mural is located at the top of the new terrace connecting West Main Street and Cayuga Creek park. We encourage you to take photos and post on social media, tagging the Village of Lancaster. We look forward to future public art projects.



# 16th Annual Christmasville Fire Truck Parade

This year's Fire Truck Parade will take place on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 6:00p.m. on Central Ave and W. Main St. in the Village of Lancaster. The Greater Lancaster Museum of Firefighting has been holding this event since 2007. They are expecting around 200 vehicles this year! You can watch the live stream on Channel 7's Facebook page.



# Small Business Saturday

Unsure of what to get everyone on your shopping list? Tired of scrolling the same online websites? Saturday, November 25, 2023 is Small Business Saturday. Support local this holiday season by checking out the great businesses we have in our own village! Make it a day and grab a coffee, shop for unique gifts, get a bite to eat and then watch the Fire Truck Parade at 6:00p.m. Our local businesses appreciate your support.



# Village of Lancaster receives \$255,584 for trees

The Village of Lancaster has been awarded the USDA Forestry Grant in the amount of \$255,584. The application was called "The Village of Lancaster Tree Equity and Education Initiative" and will use the funds to plant and maintain 880 trees in five low-to-moderate income neighborhoods throughout the Village. The project will increase the tree canopy cover and encourage proactive maintenance of urban trees to provide several environmental, social, and economic benefits to residents. The project will also promote community engagement and education through volunteer tree planting events and educational workshops to create a new generation of people who value trees and what they bring to a community. Over the past three years, the Village of Lancaster has made great strides in positioning ourselves to be prepared to write this grant application, and administer the grant, if awarded. Using grant funds from the NYS DEC's Urban and Community Forestry program, the Village of Lancaster was able to conduct a tree inventory and create a tree management plan. The resulting tree inventory and plan, conducted by Davey Research Group, outlines the Village's urban forestry needs through 2024. The Village DPW has implemented the use of TreeKeeper inventory management software, which keeps the inventory current, with records of work needed, work done, photos, and other items necessary to maintain good health for the Village trees. Additionally, the Village of Lancaster established a Forest Advisory Board (FAB) in 2021. This board consists of community members and Village staff. The FAB meets quarterly and is tasked with discussing and recommending tree initiatives to the Village Board. These initiatives have included researching which species of trees to be planted, review of planting plans in construction projects, overseeing an annual Arbor Day ceremony, and recommending educational material and initiatives to community members. The Village of Lancaster DPW has a designated tree crew that focuses on the planting and maintenance of our Village tree inventory and proactively attends tree conferences and trainings. The Village of Lancaster is proud to be recognized as a Tree City USA community for the third year in a row, and has gained this status through consistent pro-tree initiatives, including adopting a shade structures policy that recognizes the importance of shade structures and trees to our community and designating a specific budget for tree planting each year. Grant funds that are received are never good fortune, they are the result of years of planning, collaborative work, and a vision for our community that aligns with the initiatives of New York State. I am grateful to the members of our Village Board, our Forest Advisory Board, our DPW, and our community that are supportive and play a role in our tree initiatives and look forward to planting 880 trees, establishing a new tree canopy for future generations.





# Cheers to 175 years!

Jan.

Demi-Semi Formal  
01/01/24

July

Old Home Week  
06/30/24-07/06/24

Feb.

Game Night  
02/07/24

Aug.

Historic Walking  
Tour 08/10/24

Mar.

Restaurant Week  
3/4/24 - 3/10/24

Sep.

Fall Fest  
09/28/24

April

Eclipse  
04/08/24

Oct.

Cemetery Tour  
10/05/24

May

Historic Walking Tour  
05/18/24

Nov.

Honor our Veterans  
11/09/24

June

Car Show  
06/22/24 & 06/23/24

Dec.

Holiday Home  
Decorating Contest

## Speaker Series:

Each month, we will have a speaker come to talk about a specific topic. Some of the topics so far are:

- History of the Opera House Clock Tower
- St. Mary's High School- Involvement in the Village of Lancaster
- Lancaster Historic Museum- Keeper of Our Past
- Lancaster Library- Service to our Residents
- Lancaster Police Department- Protection and Service
- Lancaster Fire Department- Celebrating 150 Years of Service

# Help the **Village of Lancaster** Prepare for Climate Hazards!



Over the next few decades, **Lancaster is expected to experience more intense and frequent natural hazards**, such as flooding, extreme temperatures, and winter storms. To prepare for these events, **we need to learn from community members.**

## Take this quick survey (5-10 minutes)

Share your input on hazard risks and what steps the Lancaster community can take to become resilient to climate hazards. Individual responses will be kept confidential.

**Lancaster's Climate Smart Communities Task Force is developing a Climate Resilience Plan.** The plan will identify future hazard risks in Lancaster and propose strategies to address the increased risks of flooding and other climate hazards.

**Your input is essential** to ensure the plan reflects the concerns of the Lancaster community.

**Thank you!**



Scan here to take the survey or go to:  
[bit.ly/LancasterCommunitySurvey](https://bit.ly/LancasterCommunitySurvey)



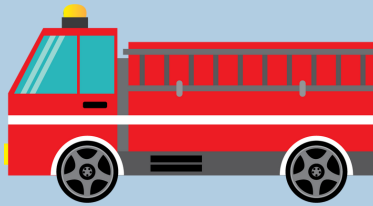
# A message from DPW:



When we think about the upcoming season, we think of the joy, laughter, and memories that so many have enjoyed in the Village of Lancaster over the years. Within the next few weeks, you will see our DPW crews preparing for the holiday season. We will be decorating the business district with illuminated snowflakes, lights in the trees, wreaths on the light standards and garland over Central Avenue and West Main Street. The seasonal traditions and their preparations have always been taken with great pride by our Department of Public Works employees. The Village of Lancaster Department of Public Works is also gearing up for the upcoming 2023 – 24 Winter Season. Our Salt Barn is fully stocked, and we have more road salt on order. The plows and salt trucks have already undergone service and are ready to roll at the sight of heavy snowfall. The sidewalk plows are ready to begin their routes as well. For more information or clarification on the sidewalk plow route, please visit our website at [www.lancastervillage.gov](http://www.lancastervillage.gov). We ask that you please remember to keep your vehicles off of the roads from November 15, 2023 until March 15, 2024. If snowfall is projected, please plan accordingly, and have consideration for our employees in maintaining a safe Village.

# LFD Winter Safety Tips:

- Test your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Clean and inspect your furnace, vents, and chimney.
- Keep anything that can burn away from heat sources like candles, fireplaces, space heaters, etc.
- Half of decoration fires in December are started by candles. Keep them out of reach from children and extinguish all flames before leaving the room.
- Avoid plugging too many lights into an outlet.
- Don't leave your stove or oven unattended while cooking.
- Have fire extinguishers in the house.
- Keep entrances clear of snow in case emergency personnel need to enter.
- Keep snow and ice 5 feet away from fire hydrants.



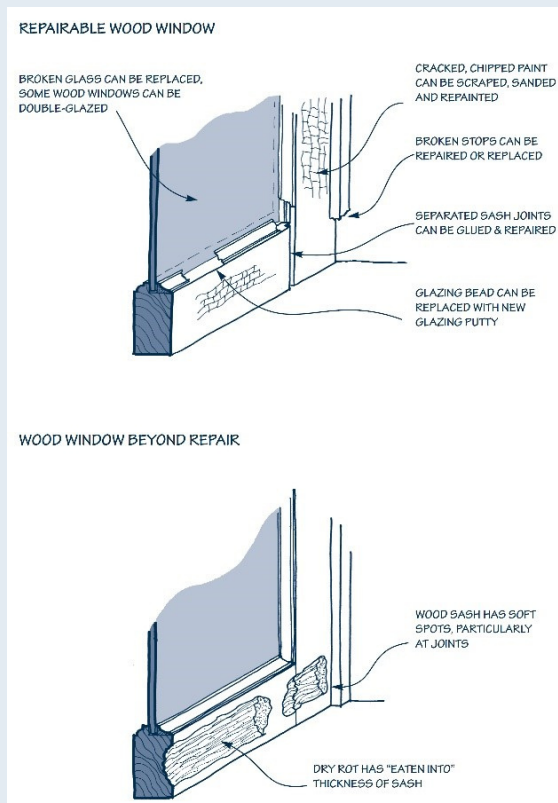
If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Firefighter, please visit: [www.lancasterfd.org](http://www.lancasterfd.org)

## From the Historic Preservation Commission:

### Window Repair versus Replacement:

Most older windows, especially wood windows, can be easily repaired by a contractor or a skilled homeowner with experience in window maintenance and restoration. If your original window isn't working properly or has some damage, don't think the entire window always needs to be replaced. Components can be repaired, and sometimes just individual parts need to be replaced. Replacement windows are "maintenance free" because they cannot be maintained or repaired easily. Once seals are broken or components warp, the entire component or unit will need to be replaced. Older windows perform very well when maintained. Most older windows can be made energy efficient by sealing gaps, replacing glazing compound, fixing broken glass, repairing loose parts, and installing weatherstripping. Replacement windows have a short life expectancy of less than 20 years. Compare this with old wood windows, which can last another 100 years. Good quality replacement windows are typically much more expensive than restoring an existing window and adding a storm panel. The minimal energy savings associated with new replacement windows, on average, takes 20 to 40 years to recoup (assuming they continue to perform well). With a maximum life expectancy of 20 years, the replacement windows will likely need to be replaced before any cost benefit is realized.

For more information, view the entire article and the HPC Design Guidelines on our website, [www.villageoflanasterhpc.com](http://www.villageoflanasterhpc.com).



# Aurora Street Crosswalks

This project will provide pedestrian enhancements on Aurora St. at Richmond and Artel Metz Dr with the addition of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons to create a safe opportunity for pedestrians to cross the street. Additionally, grass will replace pavement between the road and the sidewalk to create a visual barrier and better protect pedestrians in this area. This project was funded through \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from Erie County.



## New Year's Eve

West Main & North Aurora Street  
**Sunday, December 31st**  
**10:00PM-1:00AM**



## Demi-Semi Formal

Kick off the Demisemiseptcentennial (175th anniversary) of the Village of Lancaster with a cocktail party!

When: January 1, 2023 at 6:00p.m.

Where: Lancaster Opera House

Tickets on sale at [www.lancasteropera.org](http://www.lancasteropera.org)

## 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.

- Monday, November 27th
- Monday, December 11th
- \*Tuesday, December 26th
- Monday, January 8th
- Monday, January 22nd
- Monday, February 12th
- Monday, February 26th
- Monday, March 11th

Clerk-Treasurer Office & Main Village Contact:  
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## Important Contact Information

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Fire Chief Paul Stencil	<a href="mailto:pstencil@lancastervillage.org">pstencil@lancastervillage.org</a>
Events Coordinator- Nolin Jackson	<a href="mailto:events@lancastervillage.org">events@lancastervillage.org</a>
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