

The Lancaster Villager

STAY INFORMED AND BECOME
INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!



A Message from the Mayor

It's Good to be back! I have enjoyed serving our community and I am very proud of the services we provide and grateful to be a part of those services.

Many residents have asked about Central Avenue and when it will be paved. We realize that it is in poor condition and will pave that road from Broadway to Walden Avenue. We have been awarded a TAP Grant from New York State that will provide new sidewalks from Broadway to Walden Avenue with handicapped access points on all street corners, new stamped concrete sidewalks in the Central Business District and other related work. This grant is similar to the TAP grant that we were awarded several years ago that provided new sidewalks Aurora Street and Broadway, saving our local taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. This work is scheduled to be done in 2026 and as with any construction project, we ask for your patience and understanding during that time. The Village of Lancaster will completely pave Central Avenue in 2027 after the completion of the TAP grant work. It makes little to no sense to pave now when so much of the road will be affected by the TAP Grant work. The last time Central Avenue was completely paved was in the '90s and it is long overdue however following this plan will have great results. We will continue to patch and keep the road safe for all until it is completely resurfaced.

We are here to serve you and will always do our best to provide the best customer service possible for our residents. Have a happy and safe Summer!

William C. Schroeder

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD AND THEIR COMMITTEES!



Mayor Schroeder

- Economic Development
- Public Safety



Deputy Mayor Malone Schaefer

- Events
- Human Resources



Trustee Mikoley

- Public Works
- Sewer



Trustee Miller

- Finance & Claims
- Tech & Marketing



Trustee O'Brien

- Climate Smart
- Finance & Claims
- Grants

TREE TALK: TREE CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE VILLAGE

The Village of Lancaster is proud to maintain an urban forestry program, with more than 3,800 street trees forming a vital part of our community's green infrastructure. Each tree is part of a larger, carefully managed system that enhances public health, environmental quality, and neighborhood beauty.

As part of our ongoing commitment to a healthy urban forest, the Village is also working to correct planting and maintenance. This includes removing trees that were poorly sited, improperly pruned, or planted without consideration for long-term growth.

Through our Tree Management Plan, we're making smarter, more sustainable decisions—from species selection to planting location and maintenance protocols—so that Lancaster's street trees thrive for generations to come.

WHY DO WE PRUNE TREES?

Pruning trees is important for both safety and tree health, and a single pruning can often achieve multiple goals. Pruning for safety removes branches that could fall and cause injury or property damage and also clears low branches to improve visibility and allow safe passage for pedestrians and vehicles. For tree health, pruning removes dead, damaged, or insect-infested branches, improves airflow to help prevent pests and diseases, and encourages strong structure so trees can better withstand storms.

WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A TREE PLANTED IN THE RIGHT OF WAY?

Residents may request a tree be planted between the sidewalk and the curb in municipal right of way by completing a form on the village website. An inspection of the planting area by the Village Arborist and Forestry Team is required before any planting decisions are made.

WHAT SHOULD RESIDENTS DO— OR NOT DO?

We encourage you to help support the health of trees in your neighborhood, especially newly planted ones. Watering is especially important during dry periods—young trees need about 15–20 gallons of water once a week during their first two to three growing seasons. Slowly soak the soil around the base of the tree to ensure deep watering. You can also help by:

- Keeping lawnmowers and string trimmers away from the base of trees to prevent damage to bark
- Avoiding piling mulch directly against the trunk (keep it a few inches away)
- Reporting any signs of disease, pests, or damage to the Village

We ask you to never prune, remove, or plant street trees on their own. This includes not attaching swings, signs, or decorations to trees, or causing intentional harm to prompt removal. These actions can damage trees, pose safety risks, and violate Village regulations.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRUNING TREES IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY?

Responsibility is shared between utility companies and the Department of Public Works, depending on the situation. Utility companies prune trees around power lines to maintain safe electrical clearance, which is legally required and helps prevent power outages and fire hazards. However, when utility pruning is delayed or done improperly, it can unfortunately lead to unsightly trees and long-term damage to tree health.

The DPW is responsible for pruning trees within the public right of way for safety, visibility, and overall tree health. All DPW work is conducted in consultation with the Village Arborist and follows best practices for urban tree care.

WHY MIGHT A TREE BE REMOVED?

A tree may be removed if it is dead, diseased, structurally unstable, interfering with utilities, damaging infrastructure, or poses a significant safety hazard. Tree removals are only made after inspection by the Village Arborist or Forestry Team. Whenever possible, the DPW replaces removed trees, considering site conditions and species suitability to support a resilient canopy.



If you notice a tree that appears damaged, diseased, or hazardous, please report it through the Village website at <https://lancastervillageny.gov/tree-trimming-and-removal/> or to sustainability@lancastervillageny.gov.

A Note from Trustee O'Brien Grants Committee



It has been an exciting and busy few months since I joined the Village Board as trustee on April 7th! If you watch our Village Board Meetings, either in person or online, you have a sense of what I have been working on as chair of the Grants and Climate committees and co-chair of the Finance & Claims committee. From day 1, it was abundantly clear that there was a lot to do. I would not have been able to pick up these projects so quickly without the tremendous support of Sustainability Coordinator Amy Stypa and Clerk-Treasurer Michael Stegmeier, as well as everyone in the Village Office.

On the Grants Committee, one of my responsibilities has been implementing the NY Forward Small Project Fund (lancastervillageny.gov/smallprojectfund/). Not only did I need

to educate business and property owners in the grant area and encourage them to submit projects before the deadline, I also had to form a selection committee made up of stakeholders and residents to identify which projects would receive a piece of the \$270,000 in available funding. In the end, we received 20 applications for almost \$1.5 million in projects! These applicants saw an opportunity to continue the revitalization of our Village and all told were willing to invest nearly three quarters of a million dollars of their own money to make it happen. Thank you to all who submitted applications. Congratulations to all of the funded projects; the selection committee had a difficult task!

On top of that, I had the privilege of participating in the Village of Lancaster's first ever community tree planting event, attending a tree dedication ceremony for five families on West Main Street, walking in the Memorial Day parade, working with consultants, engineers, and other subject matter experts on additional, grant-funded projects, and have started looking at future opportunities to fund additional important projects in our Village. There is plenty of more work to be done, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to do it on behalf of such a supportive community!

Historic Preservation Commission



Porches have served a practical and social purpose throughout time. Functionally porches provide a transition from outside to inside and protect visitors from the weather. Porches are also a character-defining feature of a home which means they help define the building's style and significance. You might not know what style a house is, but you would probably notice if the porch didn't fit with the rest of the house. A well-designed porch welcomes neighbors to stop and socialize. Have you noticed that in older neighborhoods the porches tend to line up? This was a great way to chat with your neighbors without leaving your wicker chair or rocker. As you walk around the village for Porchfest take time to notice the variety and styles of the porches the village has. Please visit our website

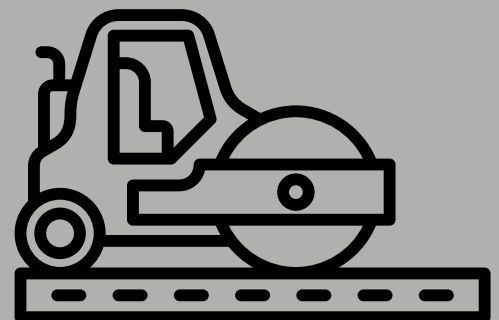
<https://www.villageoflancasterhpc.com/> for more information about the HPC, the historic district and designating your home as a local landmark.

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works will be repaving 5th Ave, Court St, and Sheldon Ave this summer.

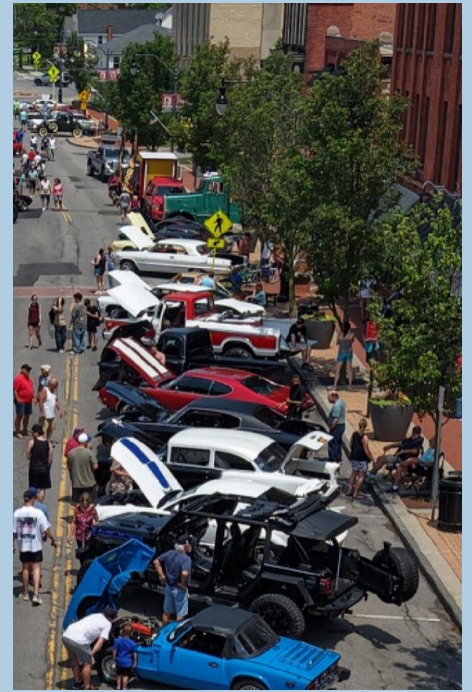
Milling took place starting on Monday July 7th and Tuesday, July 8th.

Paving is expected to begin the week of July 21st.



Legendary Rides

This year's car show was a tremendous success and we are grateful to everyone who came out to support this remarkable event! The irresistible aroma of kettle corn permeated the air and people dancing in the street made it a truly memorable day! Keep your eye on next year's calendar for another extraordinary car show!



Fourth of July

The Village of Lancaster held our Fourth of July event on July 3, 4 and 5th. We were happy to see the carnival and games come back this year! Our heartfelt thanks to all who joined us and helped make this event truly unforgettable.





EVENTS SCHEDULE

Get ready for our thrilling lineup of upcoming events! Be sure to mark your calendars and participate in a range of activities and gatherings suitable for all



**July
18, 19, 20**

Garden Walk

Friday, July 18th 8:30 PM- 11:00 PM
Saturday, July 19th 10:00AM- 4:30 PM
Sunday, July 20th 10:00 AM- 4:30 PM



**August
16th**

PorchFest

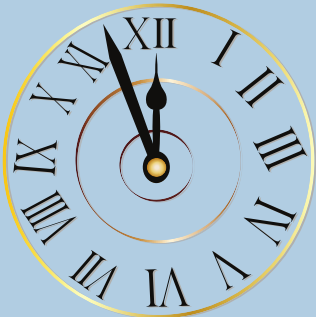
Saturday, August 16th 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM
Enjoy an afternoon of live music as talented musicians perform from porches, patios, and front yards throughout the Village. For more information, visit lancasterporchfest.com



**September
20th**

Fall Fest

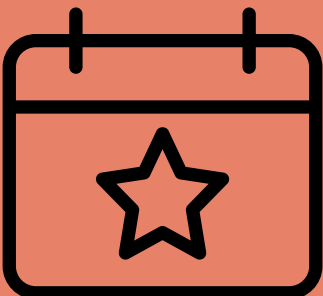
Saturday, September 20th Time TBD
Join us for a day filled with autumn fun and activities. Soak in the crisp air, vibrant leaves, and festive spirit.



**December
31st**

NYE Event

Wednesday, December 31st Time TBD
Ring in the New Year with style, sparkle, and celebration here in the Village of Lancaster!



For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website Lancastervillageny.gov or follow us on Facebook @VillageofLancasterNY.

To keep up on merchant-sponsored events, please visit their website at linktr.ee/lancastervillagemerchantassoc or on their Facebook page @LancasterVillageMerchantAssoc



Hello from your Village of Lancaster Fire Department!



Please keep the following tips in mind as you and your family enjoy the summer season.

- Use grills, barbecues, and outdoor cooking appliances at least 3 feet away from your house in a safe and designated area away from flammable materials.
- Keep a close eye on the grill or cooking area and never leave it unattended.
- Ensure proper disposal of charcoal and ashes in a metal container, allowing them to cool completely before disposal.
- Stay hydrated by drinking water steadily, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- Stay cool by taking frequent breaks in the shade or indoors in an air-conditioned space.
- Stay connected by checking on others and asking for help if you need it. Make sure pets have access to fresh water and shade.

Looking for a fun way to cool off and connect with your community? Stop by one of our summer events, enjoy some ice cream, and meet the dedicated members of your Village of Lancaster Fire Department. Learn how you can get involved and make a difference—whether it's volunteering, supporting safety initiatives, or just saying hello.



We'll be at the following locations—come say hi and bring the whole family!

Frosty's Ice Cream (5500 Broadway) - 7/23 - 5:00PM-8:00PM

The Village Scoop Ice Cream (318 Central Ave) - 7/30 - 5:00PM-8:00PM

Big Papa's Creamery (20 W Main St) - 8/7 - 5:00PM-8:00PM

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, July 28th

Monday, August 11th

Monday, August 25th

Monday, September 8th

Monday, September 22nd

Monday, October 13th

Monday, October 27th

Monday, November 10th

Clerk-Treasurer Office & Main Village Contact:

Michael E. Stegmeier

5423 Broadway

Lancaster, NY 14086

(716) 683-2105

mstegmeier@lancastervillageny.gov

Hiring



Now Hiring: Crossing Guard

We are hiring a crossing guard starting in September.

Starting rate is \$17/hour. Please email your resume to mstegmeier@lancastervillageny.gov

**CONTACT
US**

Mayor Schroeder

wschroeder@lancastervillageny.gov

Deputy Mayor & Trustee
Malone Schaefer

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Trustee Mikoley

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Trustee O'Brien

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Trustee Miller

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Fire Chief Eric Feldmann

efeldmann@lancasterfd.org

Justice Court

716-683-6780