Winter 2025 Volume 8, Issue 3

The Lancaster Villager

STAY INFORMED AND BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!



A Message from the Mayor

With the Holidays right around the corner and the winter months approaching, I would like to assure our residents that we are prepared for winter weather events. Our DPW, along with our Office of Emergency Management, Police Department and I monitor weather forecasts and conditions and plan for whatever action needs to be taken when inclement weather hits. Of course, the on-street parking ban will go into effect soon, however, provisions have been made that allow the mayor to lift the ban temporarily when weather conditions are warrant. After consulting with various agencies, media notices go out to television stations and our Village website via our office of Emergency Management that the ban has been lifted and when those conditions change, the process is reversed. We feel that by doing this, some parking relief can be provided to our residents who rely on off street parking.

I would also like to thank the Lancaster High School Art Students and advisor Brett Miller who took their time and used their talents to paint Halloween scenes on some of the West Main Street businesses. We hope to expand the number of storefronts next year and to also paint windows on Central Avenue.

We would also remind residents of our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7pm on Friday, November 28 at the corner of Broadway and Central Avenue. Small Business Saturday and the annual Fire Truck Parade will be held on Saturday, November 29. The Parade will begin at 6pm. Over 100+ decorated Fire Trucks will parade down Central Avenue from Lancaster High School and show off their very best. A great weekend of holiday activities to begin The Season! We hope that you and your families can join us!

Mayor William C Schroeder



Congratulations to our #2025LGW photo contest winner, Lauren Grawe!



“THE RIGHT TREE, IN THE RIGHT PLACE”



This year, the Village planted 249 new trees with USDA grant support—and more are on the way. In 2026, we expect to plant more trees in the public right-of-way across the Village with help from USDA and DEC grants.

Our approach follows the principle of “the right tree in the right place,” such as planting small trees under powerlines to avoid conflicts. And by prioritizing species diversity, we’re building resilience—creating an urban forest that can better withstand pests, diseases, and changing conditions.

If you have a concern, would like to report an issue with a tree, or are interested in having a tree planted, please let us know at sustainability@lancastervillageny.gov



CLIMATE SMART AT FALL FEST

At Fall Fest, we asked residents and visitors what types of projects they would like to see the Village focus on to improve our environment—and how individuals might be able to contribute as well. With many thoughtful responses, we received valuable feedback that will help shape future planning and initiatives.
We’re excited to share that many of the ideas align with projects we are already working on, while others provide new opportunities for consideration. A few key themes that emerged included:

- More bike racks to support active transportation.
- Expanding renewable energy use in Village operations and facilities.
- More tree planting and wildflowers to support biodiversity, provide shade, and beautify our community.
- Additional EV chargers to make electric vehicle use more convenient.
- Recycling in public spaces and at events – making it easier to reduce waste when you’re out and about.
- Conserving green space

Thank you to everyone who shared ideas! Your input helps guide our work and ensures that projects reflect community priorities. We will continue to share updates as plans develop, and we encourage all residents to stay involved in shaping a greener, more sustainable Village.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

The Village of Lancaster wants to hear from you regarding short-term rental properties (STR’s).
STR’s are residential dwelling units which are leased out for periods of less than 30 days. Owners frequently use services such as Airbnb and VRBO.

The Village is considering adopting regulations regarding STR’s. Before doing so, we want to hear from our residents.

Do you own an STR in the Village of Lancaster?
What are your experiences with STR’s that might be in your neighborhood?

If you would like to be heard on this topic, please send an email to Trustee John Mikoley at jmikoley@lancastervillageny.gov.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS- NOVEMBER 2025

Daylight Savings is not just a good time to change batteries and test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your house. It has become the reminder of maintaining important safety features of our homes and how we can ensure a healthy, safe holiday season.

Here are some tips to look out for this winter:

1. Chimneys and flues should be cleaned before using fireplaces.
2. Changing furnace filters and cleaning exhaust systems allow efficient operation of equipment.
3. Leaves accumulating in gutters may pose a threat of ice backups later in the season.
4. Visually inspecting sump pump discharges and gutter connections can prevent flooding and foundation leaks.
5. Keeping drains clear of leaves can prevent localized flooding of roads and yards.
6. Updating your emergency action plan to prepare for unforeseen storms or events.
7. Create a neighborhood check in protocol especially for the elderly and disabled.

If there are any questions about these and other features, the Lancaster Building and Zoning Department is available to answer your questions and can be reached at 716-684-4171.

NEWS FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

It is time for another update from the busy world of grants and grant-funded projects!

One exciting project that deserves the spotlight is the brand-new pocket park going in between the Lancaster Municipal Building and Picasso's Pizzeria. Right now, it is just an alley. New York Forward funding is allowing us to take that alley and transform it into something much better. We are creating a space the community and visitors to the Village of Lancaster can enjoy.

We are currently in the design phase of this project, but when it is done, it will be a unique space that connects the public parking lot behind the Municipal Building to the rest of the Village downtown area. Our early designs have a winding path flanked by native plants. Additionally, the new park will include improved lighting and some places to sit and enjoy a private moment, have a conversation, or escape to eat your lunch outside.

The best part of this project so far has been the conversations we have had with stakeholders about the park. From the Lancaster Fire Department whose ramp abuts the park, to the Historical Preservation Commission who want to make sure we maintain the historic character of the Municipal Building, these and other conversations all have at least one key thing in common: excitement. Everyone is excited to see the end result, and we are delighted to do our part to get there.

The last newsletter contained an article regarding the New York Forward Small Project Fund. Since then, the selection committee chose four great projects to receive funding for building improvements! These projects are at different stages of the design and bidding process, but they are all moving along. Keep an eye on the old Mason's Lodge, Frosty's Ice Cream, Artemis Tattoo Studio, and 25 Central Avenue as these projects continue into the new year!

Over the next few months, we be waiting to hear back on some outstanding grant applications. Watch out for news about solar panels for our Department of Public Works Building and the exciting addition of a splash pad to the West Drullard playground!

A REMINDER WHEN CLEARING SNOW



Clear sidewalks after each snowfall.

Storages piles should be kept out of right of ways and away from any storm drain inlets or swales. Plowing across any road is prohibited.

Citations may result by not following guidelines that protect safe pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

LANCASTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the holiday season your Lancaster Fire Department sees an uptick in the variety of fire calls that we respond to. As we approach the upcoming season, we would like to share some safety reminders to ensure that your festivities stay merry and bright so that you can safely deck the halls this holiday season.



- Test your carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors at least once a month.
- If you are entertaining guests for the holidays, tell them about your home fire escape plan.
- Having fire extinguishers – and knowing how to use them – is an important part of maintaining a safe home for you and your family.
- Entrances to your residence or business should be kept clear of snow and ice for responding emergency personnel.
- Keep snow and ice 5 feet away from fire hydrants. In case of a fire, firefighters need to be able to get to the hydrants quickly to protect people and property.
- The primary cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended stovetops and ovens. If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen and use a timer for reminders.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights and other holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.
- Keep anything that can burn, including your Christmas tree, at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters, heat vents or candles.





If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Firefighter (18+ years old) or a Junior Firefighter (14 – 18 years old) please visit our website at www.lancasterfd.org and click the Join and Apply Today links and a member of our team will contact you with more information.

REMINDER FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Spring Construction season may seem far away, but it will be here before you know it! If your property is located within the Historic District, it may be time to start getting your plans in order for any Spring or Summer projects. If you have plans to make any exterior alterations that are visible from the public right-of-way (sidewalk or street), you will need an approved Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the HPC.

Here are some tips:

·Check out our Design Guidelines and educate yourself on the proper treatment of historic materials and features within our historic district. Use these guidelines to help guide your project plans.

·Plan ahead – COA applications are due to the Village Clerk's Office 2 weeks prior to the next HPC meeting. COA applications must be complete and include relevant backup information. There's a COA Checklist at our website.

·You may need other approvals beyond the HPC – reach out to the Building Department to ensure you have plenty of time to get the required approvals before starting work.

Common projects within the Historic District

Over time, character-defining features such as porches, roofs and windows require maintenance and repairs. Part of the Village Property Maintenance Code requires that property owners maintain their properties. Proper maintenance can prevent future needs for replacement or reconstruction, which preserves the historic character of our village.

·Wood Siding – should be maintained and repainted regularly to prevent deterioration. Vinyl replacement siding is generally not appropriate within the Historic District.

·Windows – should be maintained regularly to prevent deterioration. Windows and trim should only be replaced when necessary. New windows should maintain original configuration and be a compatible design and material. Aluminum clad wood is typically acceptable. Vinyl windows are generally not appropriate within the historic district.

·Porches – Repair and restoration of historic porches and decorative elements. Replacement materials may be appropriate if they are visually compatible with the existing porch.

·Fences – Retaining historic fencing where it remains is preferred. New fences should use materials such as brick, stone, cast iron and finished wood. Vinyl fencing and adding fencing around a front lawn where fencing never existed are generally not appropriate.

Our meetings are open to the public, we meet on the Second Wednesday of every month in Council Chambers (second floor) of the Municipal Building at 7:00pm. Please stop by to discuss a potential project or learn more about our Historic District and the HPC any time!

Check out our website for more information, forms and the Design Guidelines at www.villageoflancasterhpc.com



Repair existing wood siding when necessary. Paint is your first line of defense against the elements.



These windows were replaced with aluminum clad wood windows that matched the original configuration, profile and setback.



Where historic porches do exist, they are important character-defining features that help reinforce the style of the principal building. Porches significantly impact the rhythm and pattern of the district's streetscape.

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.

Light Up Lancaster

Friday, November 28th from 5:00p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The annual tree-lighting ceremony will be held at the Girl Scout Parking Lot on the corner of Broadway and Central Ave. The tree lighting will happen at 7:00p.m.

Fire Truck Parade

Saturday, November 30th at 6:00p.m.

Over 200 hundred fire trucks from NY and PA will be dressed in Christmas lights and parade down Central Ave.

Last Night Lancaster

Wednesday, December 31st from 10:00p.m. - 1:00a.m.

Ring in the New Year with style, sparkle, and celebration here in the Village of Lancaster! This event will be held on Central Ave. between Broadway and the roundabout.

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

The Christmas Spark

The magic of the holidays is about to hit the big screen, and it was filmed right here in our own Village of Lancaster! The Christmas Spark was shot in the village this past spring, turning our charming streets into a festive winter wonderland.

Now, the wait is almost over — the movie is set to premiere on Wednesday, November 26th on Great American Pure Flix, and Friday, November 28th at 8pm on Great American Family and GFAM+. Local viewers will recognize plenty of familiar spots throughout the film. From the cozy storefronts to the historic heart of downtown, Lancaster is the perfect backdrop for a heartwarming holiday story.

Keep an eye out when you watch and you just might see your favorite local landmark wrapped in Christmas cheer!



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 24th
Monday, December 8th
Monday, December 22nd
Monday, January 12th
Monday, January 26th
Monday, February 9th
Monday, February 23th
Monday, March 9th

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