Winter 2026 Volume 9, Issue 3

The Lancaster Villager

STAY INFORMED AND BECOME INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

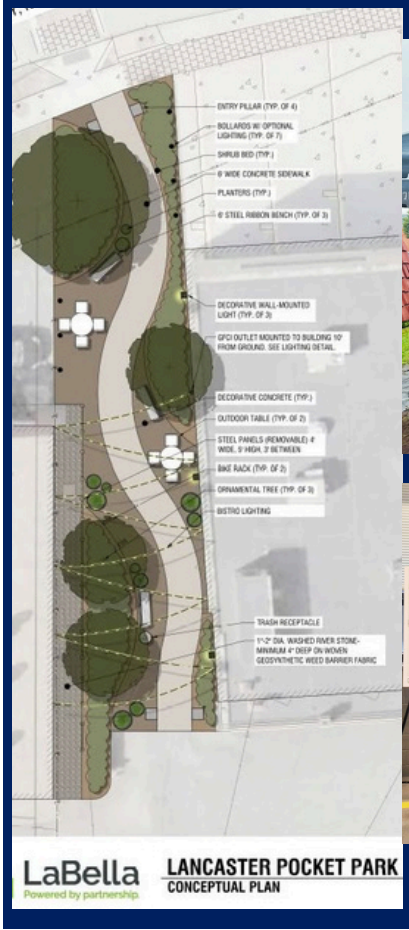


ON GOING PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE

The Village of Lancaster is excited to announce its plans for the Russel J. Salvatore Pavilion! The stage will be built in the southeast corner of Cayuga Creek Park by the clocktower, where the ground is set lower, giving the audience a better view of performances.



The pavilion is expected to be used for the summer concert series, outdoor movie nights, Fourth of July, as well as other Village and other community events. Mayor Bill Schroeder thanked Mr. Salvatore for his contribution of $200,000.00 toward the project that will bear his name. " This project will benefit the merchants and our visitors as we bring in various activities and events for all to enjoy and we are grateful for his generosity. "said Schroeder. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring.



Another project that has been underway is the Pocket Park. The design and construction of the Pocket Park , located between the Municipal Building and Picasso's, is made possible through a $206,000 award from the New York Department of State's NY Forward Program. When completed, the park will provide a vibrant pedestrian walkway from the public parking lot behind the Municipal Building, leading visitors to the sidewalk on Broadway and on to the Village's revitalized downtown core. In addition to the path, the pocket park will contain landscaping, bistro lighting, and seating areas to create a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.





Mayor William C. Schroeder said, "The new pocket park will transform a previously seldom-used and bland area into an appealing area for users to take a break, relax and to perhaps enjoy a quick lunch in a much more inviting atmosphere. We are grateful for our funding opportunities and will maximize this project for all to enjoy."

PLATE TO FIELD INITIATIVE



The Village of Lancaster is collaborating with Erie County through the Plate to Field Initiative to reduce food waste, expand composting education, and connect residents with practical ways to keep food scraps out of landfills.

Recently, Lancaster residents and participants from neighboring communities completed the four-week Erie County Soil Stewards composting course, gaining hands-on knowledge and resources to reduce food waste and explore composting at home. These educational opportunities help residents understand the benefits of composting and find approaches that fit their households. For residents who are unable to compost at home, Farmer Pirates in Lancaster provides a convenient community drop-off location for food scraps. Since launching in March 2024, the program has collected an impressive 9,100 pounds of food waste.

Through continued collaboration and education, the Plate to Field initiative can help Lancaster residents reduce household food waste, increase composting participation, and support healthier soils. The program and available composting resources are open to residents of Lancaster and surrounding communities.

Learn more about the program and access composting resources: https://erie-county.framer.website/

TREE PLANTING IN THE VILLAGE OF LANCASTER

The Village of Lancaster continued its grant funded tree planting projects with 279 trees planted this fall. Grant funding makes it possible to expand planting efforts and bring the benefits of trees to more neighborhoods. Residents were given the opportunity to select their preferred tree species from a list of suitable options for their location. This approach encouraged community engagement and allowed residents to have a say in choosing a tree they would enjoy for years to come.

Fall is an excellent time to plant trees in Western New York. Cooler temperatures help reduce transplant stress, while trees can focus on establishing their root systems before the ground freezes. This early root development helps trees become better established before the heat and potential drought of summer.

The majority of this fall's plantings were completed by the Village's Department of Public Works. The Village also partnered with the Lancaster Middle School Environmental Club to plant trees and provide students with hands-on learning opportunities about the importance of trees and their role in a healthy environment.

VILLAGE OF LANCASTER TREE DEDICATION PROGRAM



Honor a loved one with a lasting tribute in the Village of Lancaster.

The Village of Lancaster's Tree Dedication Program provides an opportunity to honor or remember a loved one while helping beautify our community.

Your dedication includes a bronze dedication plaque measuring 8"x7", featuring the Village seal and five lines of text.

Application and more details are available at www.lancastervillageny.gov

OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN



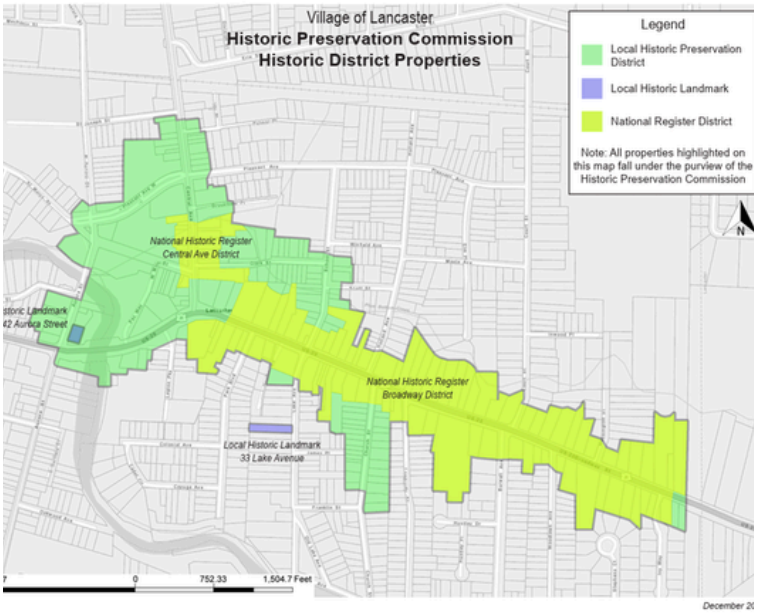
The Village of Lancaster's parking ban is effective from November 15th through March 15th, every year. Parking on all streets within the Village of Lancaster is prohibited from 2:00 AM until 7:00 AM.

When clear weather is forecasted, and after consultation with our DPW Superintendent and Emergency Operations Manager, a decision will be made to lift the parking ban to help assist residents. In that situation, notifications to local TV stations and our website will be made. The ban will go back into effect when weather forecasts predict measurable snow and/or ice. The overnight parking ban is in place so that our road crews can clear our streets safely and efficiently. Check our website or social media pages for updates.

LANCASTER HISTORIC COMMISSION

Many people ask us, are there any **financial benefits** of being located within a National Register **Historic District**? Did you know that the Village of Lancaster has 2 National Register Historic Districts – the Central Avenue and the Broadway National Register Historic Districts? All the properties that are listed on these two **National Register Historic Districts are eligible for New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.** If you look at the HPC Map – the properties eligible are highlighted in yellow.

For Owner-Occupied Historic Residences, the Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program offers a state income tax credit equal to 20% of Qualified Rehabilitation Expenses (QREs) associated with repair, maintenance and upgrades to historic homes. The Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit is straight forward and for an introduction, visit Preservation Buffalo Niagara's YouTube Channel for Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit Workshops - https://www.youtube.com/@PreservationBuffaloNiagara



The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit Incentives program provides a 20% federal tax credit to property owners who undertake a substantial rehabilitation of a historic income-producing property. For projects approved for the federal credit, the property owner may be eligible for an additional 20-30% New York State credit. There is one application for both programs.

All exterior work that would qualify for Historic Tax Credits will require review by the HPC. The NY SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) is the first point of contact and primary coordinator to gain approvals for both programs. Please visit the HPC site for links and additional information about both programs.
www.villageoflancasterhpc.com
https://parks.ny.gov/preservation/programs/tax-credit

LANCASTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Season's greetings from your dedicated Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department. Follow these tips and share them with family and friends to help keep the holidays safe and joyful.

Christmas trees, decorations, and holiday cooking can create fire hazards that contribute to a seasonal rise in U.S. home fires. Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are among the year's leading days for home fires.

Candles cause nearly half of December home decoration fires. Keep them at least 12 inches from anything that can burn and consider battery-operated flameless candles instead.

A nearby heat source caused more than one in five Christmas tree fires. Keep your tree and other combustible items at least 3 feet from fireplaces, wood stoves, candles, heat vents, radiators, and space heaters. Dry trees burn intensely and quickly. Make sure your tree does not block an exit.

Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. Keep towels, packaging, potholders, and other combustible items away from heat.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms monthly and replace them as needed. Keep a working smoke alarm on every level of your home. Install CO alarms on every floor, near sleeping areas and potential CO sources, away from obstructions, heat, and moisture. Keep exits clear for a quick escape. If you do not have a home fire escape plan, create one this holiday season. Have a qualified professional inspect and clean your chimney and vents annually.

Keep portable generators outdoors, away from windows and as far from your home as possible.
Clear snow and ice from entryways and exits so emergency responders can safely access your home or business.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lancaster Lights Up- Christmas Tree Lighting



Friday, November 27, 2026, from 5:00pm-9:00pm in the Girl Scout Garden at the corner of Broadway and Central Ave.

Keep an eye on our social media pages or website www.lancastervillageny.gov for more information.

19th Annual Christmasville Fire Truck Parade

Saturday November 28th, 2026, starting at 6:00 PM. The event will be held along Central Ave & W Main St.



Keep an eye on our social media pages or website www.lancastervillageny.gov for more information.

Last Night Lancaster

Thursday, December 31, 2026, from 10:00pm-12:30am on Central Ave near Brookfield.



Keep an eye on our social media pages or website www.lancastervillageny.gov for more information.

Village of Lancaster's Board and Commission Meetings

The Village's Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the first Thursday of the month.

The Village's Historic Preservation Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month.

The Village's Planning Commission meets on the third Thursday of the month.

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 23rd
Monday , December 14th
Monday, December 28th
Monday, January 11th
Monday, January 25th
Monday, February 8th
Monday, February 22nd

Clerk-Treasurer Office & Main Village Contact:

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Deputy Mayor & Trustee Malone Schaefer	Events, Human Resources	tschaefer@lancastervillageny.gov
Trustee Mikoley	Public Works, Sewer, Building, Lights & Codes	jmikoley@lancastervillageny.gov
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Trustee Miller	Finance & Claims, Tech & Marketing	dmiller@lancastervillageny.gov
Fire Chief Eric Feldmann	Lancaster Fire Department	efeldmann@lancasterfd.org
Justice Court	716-683-6780	Please call the office