

# What's New in the Village of Fonda

Newsletter – Mayor's Report  
September 2020

## Mayor

William Peeler

## Board of Trustees

Timothy Healey, Deputy Mayor

Lynn Dumar

Randy Wellman

Kimberly Flander

## Village Clerk & Treasurer

JoAnn Downing – Deputy

## Street & Water Commissioner

Christopher Weaver

## Code Enforcement Officer

Stan Waddle

Village of Fonda, 8 E. Main Street, Fonda, New York 12068

[www.villageoffonda.ny.gov](http://www.villageoffonda.ny.gov)

[VillageClerk@villageoffonda.ny.gov](mailto:VillageClerk@villageoffonda.ny.gov) 518.853.4335

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Business Development
2. Construction Updates
3. New Decorations Have Arrived
3. New Way to Pay Bills
3. Law Enforcement
3. New Appointments
4. New School Sidewalk
4. Code Enforcement - COVID-19 & More

## Potential Good News for Fonda

I am pleased to share some potentially good news for the Village of Fonda and our neighbors. I recently met with a highly interested investor who wishes to build a waterfront and rail port in our Village. As we are in preliminary discussions with the potential developer and other local officials, I am limited as to what I may reveal at this time. Once we have a firm commitment, I will hold public meetings with our residents to discuss the proposals and seek input. We also will require commitments from other local government officials representing their jurisdictions.

Besides the investment into a local port, we are discussing additional investments into the retail area where we want to attract a supermarket and small motel to anchor the plaza created with extra space for other retail and restaurant establishments.

### *What these investments accomplish for our communities?*

- Expansion of our Real Property Tax Base
- Provides Local Jobs
- Increase Sales Tax Revenue
- Provides our Local Manufacturers and Distribution Centers an Alternative to Getting Products on the Shelf and Where Needed



## Village Elections

September 15<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon to 9 PM

**National & State General  
Elections – Early Voting  
Available**

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 6 AM to 9 PM

**Stay Tuned** - for opportunities to give your input to our local officials and boards as we consider this multi-million-dollar investment for our residents.

**For More News - Visit Our Website**  
[www.villageoffonda.ny.gov](http://www.villageoffonda.ny.gov)

## Construction Project Updates

Our projects are moving along, even with the impact of the COVID-19 issues making everything difficult for all of us.

### ***North Center Street, Upper Prospect, and Montgomery Terrace***

We have completed the Center Street Water, Sanitary, and Storm Drains work. Our engineering firm will complete the process for final approval of the contractor's work for this project. The Street and Water Commissioner will visit or correspond with residents in the construction area to confirm satisfaction with completed work that impacted their properties.

### ***Putnam Avenue, West Prospect, and Mills Terrace***

Sanitary Work in these areas is complete. Our construction crews will return to the site in the coming month to complete the paved resurfacing of these streets with partial resurfacing of Mills Terrace.

### ***Lower Prospect Street***

The construction crew has completed much of the sanitary work on this street, and our Village DPW crew has repaired, replaced, or removed water services as they are inspected and discovered. We are awaiting approval for entry to Broadway (State Highway 30A) from the New York State Department of Transportation to complete the sanitary and water service work. Once completed, the construction crews will pave the street for a newly finished surface. The complete project will not only improve our sanitary services but will also provide better storm drainage.

### ***Jansen Street***

Major work of replacing the sanitary lines and storm drains in this area was completed by our DPW team. We await the contractor to pave this street when they return to pave the other project areas.

### ***Park and Waterfront Restoration***

New York State required our engineers to establish new drainage and natural filtration of runoff water for the parking lot. We utilized dirt fill from other construction work to bring the grade to the required levels while saving thousands of dollars in cost. Our DPW team will return to the area to install concrete foundations and new lighting poles with fixtures in the parking lot. We anticipate paving this parking lot in the spring after the new fill can settle.

We have awarded the boat pump-out station to a contractor who will deliver the equipment once we have the site prepared. The new digital sign for the park is going out to bid. We will utilize this sign for Village events, announcements, and emergency communication with residents. The memorial bid is to be presented at our September Board of Trustees meeting for approval. The original proposal came in much higher than the budgeted dollar amount, and the low bidder was allowed to make adjustments to their bid costs. We anticipate the memorial completion before winter.

Unfortunately, due to high proposal costs, we rejected bids on the entertainment pavilion. After negotiating with the grant providers, Mayor Peeler has received initial approval to bring expenses under the budgeted dollar amounts. When we receive final approval, we anticipate construction to begin in October to meet our Spring 2021 completion goal.

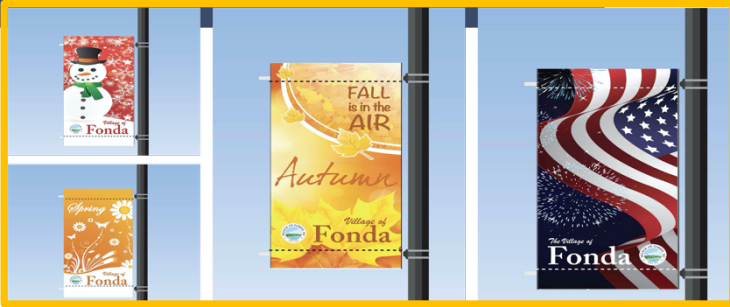
### ***Lighting Improvements***

As you likely noticed, we completed the LED conversion early this year, and it has made a noticeable difference within the community. National Grid needs to return for some corrections on some of the lights and have this completed by late fall.

### ***Waste Treatment Facility***

Our improvements to the waste treatment facility are complete, and we expect the new board will recommend additional enhancements needed in the next few years.

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it." - Marianne Williamson



## New Street Pole Snowflakes & Banners

The new snowflakes have arrived for this holiday season. These new snowflakes are luminated with LED lights and are sure to make great impact on brightening our decorations this year!

### New Banner Decorations

We anticipate the arrival of our new banners for our decorative light poles within the next month. Our Department of Public Works team will hang the new banners once they arrive.

### Wish to Honor Someone Who Served Their Country?

If you wish to memorialize a loved one who served their country in the Armed Forces, let me know. During our Memorial Observance in 2021 and Veterans Day, we will provide space where you may purchase a banner with an image, name, and branch of the person you wish to honor. Please drop me an email or note of your interest, and I will get a form out to you.

## Law Enforcement Complaints

I am often made aware of issues affecting our residents after the incident occurs, and it is sometimes too late for action. Although I welcome information sent to me and always open to assisting in any issues I can, we need to direct public safety issues to our law enforcement officials in a timely fashion (when the incident occurs).

Please - telephone the Montgomery County Dispatch Center for any issues related to crime, public safety, or vehicle and traffic violations. These professionals are beneficial in responding to your needs and take action needed.

How to Reach Dispatch

## NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE JOINT WASTEWATER PLANT

I, along with Mayor Linda Peterson- Law, have made our appointments to the new board for the Fonda-Fultonville Wastewater Treatment Facility with approval from the Board of Trustees for both Villages.

### Our Chair and Members:

- ◇ Jim Park, Board Chairperson
- ◇ Mark Scott, Member for Village of Fonda
- ◇ Melissa Zanella, Member for Village of Fonda
- ◇ Tracy VanAlstine, Member for Village of Fultonville
- ◇ Scott Walker, Member for Village of Fultonville
- ◇ Administration & Operations
- ◇ Jacquelyn Zimmer, Account Clerk Typist
- ◇ Barney Wemple, Plant Operator

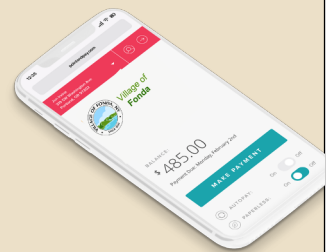
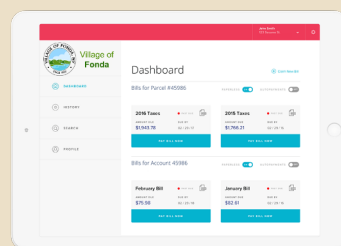
We look forward to continuing improvements to our sanitary services and perfecting the critical ongoing services they provide.

## New Payment Alternative

In an attempt to make it more convenient to our residents and property owners I have initiated a new payment system as an alternative to mailing or dropping your payment off in person and avoiding penalties when you just didn't have time to get your payment to the Village. **Coming Soon - Fall-Winter 2020!**

### What Our New System Will Offer

- Online, Mobile Application and Telephone Payments
- Visa, MasterCard, American Express (Debit/Credit)
- More Access!



Non-Emergency: 518.853.5500

Emergency: 911



## New Sidewalks Cemetery Street - (School Hill)

As you may know, the Village attempted to construct new sidewalks through state and federal grant applications and was denied three times. After waiting for a long time for the availability of additional funding and not arriving, I have created a plan and budget to construct a new sidewalk to our school district.

New sidewalks to our school have been a long time coming and spoken about even when I attended school there. I have finally managed to receive labor assistance from Montgomery County and allocated funding with the Board of Trustees' approval. These improvements to safety have become all more critical since traffic has increased with the closing of Switzer Hill.

Our hurdle now is to fit in everyone's already busy schedule for construction. My goal is to have it completed by mid-November with a fallback date of April 1, 2021.

The sidewalk placement is on the East side of Cemetery Street and will now join the existing sidewalk. We will post updates to the Village website as they become available.

## Newly Passed Village Traffic Laws

Earlier this year, I wrote and approved new local laws related to the restriction of commercial trucks traveling on Cemetery Street. The exception to this law includes local deliveries.

I will extend these local laws to encompass many of our Village streets on September 2020, at a Board of Trustees meeting. The Street and Water Commissioner will place new signs once the law is adopted.

Your input is welcomed by writing to the Board of Trustees before this date.

## I have Listened and Heard Your Concerns Code Enforcement

Since hiring the new Code Enforcement Officer, I have listened to our residents and their feedback related to Code Enforcement within the Village and will work with the Board of Trustees in making adjustments to how codes are applied.

I first want to say; Stan has done an excellent job working in this challenging position, and he cares for our community. I am working with Stan to identify the codes that require our focus, and the procedures followed. I want to assure you; all enforcement actions follow local or state laws - in many cases, state laws for safety. It is at the state level that I may disagree with some regulations and where I feel we need to make changes while still complying with the required regulations.

Later this fall, I will hold a special public meeting to receive information from the public as I work with Stan and the Board of Trustees to create procedures and Village policy.

## Route 334 Water Improvements

We are finally close to addressing the water distribution issues on Route 334 in the Town of Mohawk. The lines supplying the homes in this area are undersized and need replacements. With approval from NYS DOT expected we will replace these lines in the near future for our water users.

**Take 10 & BE COUNTED**  
[www.my2020census.org](http://www.my2020census.org)

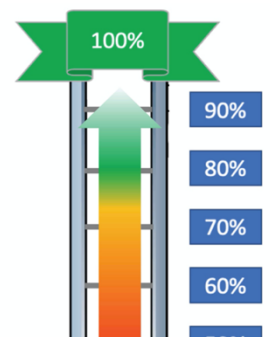
Answering 10 Questions Means Money



Children's Assistance



School Funding



## COVID-19 Pandemic and Public Meetings

First let me say, I hope that you and your loved ones have escaped the illness caused by this virus. I know first-hand, with my daughter contracting the virus early on, it can be dreadful for some people with others not knowing they had the virus. I also know this year has thrown challenges at all of us coping through the COVID-19 restrictions. We will continue to monitor this ongoing issue and will advocate in any way we can for our residents & businesses.

Although restrictions are ongoing for attendance of Public Meetings, I still wish to hear from you - please write to me and let me know how I may assist you in being heard on matters within our community.

**Please stay informed with State and County Notices & Follow Our Website for Updated Information**