



TOWN OF CORTLAND

59 S. Somonauk Rd., P.O. Box 519
Cortland, IL 60112

THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS

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Incorporated 1865

July/August 2009

Administration
(815)756-9041

Fax Number
(815)756-4583

Office of the Clerk
(815)756-3030

Police (Non Emergency)
(815)756-2558

Website
www.cortlandil.org



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

CORTLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

Cortland Community Library is celebrating their 25th anniversary with a party at Lions Club Shelter and Cortland Community Park. Everyone is invited. The following events will take place on Friday, July 3, from 11:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

- 11 a.m. Mother Goose (story teller in shelter).
- 12 p.m. Bring your picnic lunch.
Friends of Cortland Library will be serving free cupcakes.
- 1 p.m. Mother Goose (story teller in shelter).
- 2-5 p.m. Games, face painting, crafts, outside and in the shelter house.
Face painting from 2:00-4:00 only.
Crafts: bracelet, sun visor making and coloring table.
Games: Duck pond, pop can toss, Bounce House, bags game, and water balloon toss.
- 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Nelson's Garage Orchestra performs on the ball field
- 4:30-7:30 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner, or purchase food from Dough Brothers Pizza (Cortland) or Jamba Juice (Geneva). Serving 25th Anniversary Cake donated by Friends of Cortland Library.
- 6-7 p.m. Free Concert at the Ball Field. **"Cavern Beat"**, a Beatles tribute band.
Bring your own chairs or blankets.
- 7-7:30 p.m. Break.
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. **"Cavern Beat"** plays a closing set.
- 8:30 p.m. Party ends.



Cortland Community Library Cookbooks available for sale all day (\$10).
50/50 raffle held all day. Winner announced at end of last band concert.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July

- 3 Library 25th anniversary party
(Cortland Community Park)
- 4 Independence Day
(Town Hall closed July 3)
- 6 Planning Commission meeting
(Cancelled)
- 13 Town Board meeting
- 27 Town Board meeting

August

- 3 Planning Commission meeting
- 10 Town Board meeting
- 24 Town Board meeting

Did you know July is National Baked Bean Month and August is National Catfish Month?

CORTLAND TOWN OFFICIALS

Mayor

Robert K. Seyller
 Office 756-9041
 Home 758-0649
 Mayor@cortlandil.org

Clerk

Cheryl Aldis
 Office 756-3030
 Townclerk@cortlandil.org

Trustees

Chuck Lanning 739-1673
 Doug Corson (630)673-3129
 Sandra Barzso (847)224-4351

Brad Stone 756-1025
 Mike Siewierski 745-5815

You may reach any Trustee by email by using their first initial and last name @cortlandil.org

For information regarding articles for this newsletter you may email the Deputy Clerk at deputyclerk@cortlandil.org.

WEATHER ALERT

The Town of Cortland does not have a community shelter. Pre-plan with your family where you will go and what you will do in the event of a tornado! For information on tornados contact the National Weather service at www.nws.noaa.gov.



**INDEPENDENCE DAY
 JULY 4TH
 PLEASE
 REMEMBER TO SUPPORT
 OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS**

Permits Required for Inflatable Swimming Pools

Residents are reminded that a permit is required for the inflatable swimming pools that are becoming more popular these days. Since many of these swimming pools are 24-inches or more in depth, they are considered swimming pools that fall under the zoning and building requirements for swimming pools, including the requirement for a fence around the pool or the yard in which it is located and proper electrical connections for any filters and pumps that may be used.

REMINDER



**IT IS ILLEGAL TO
 SELL, KEEP,
 EXPOSE, OFFER
 FOR SALE, OR
 SET OFF FIREWORKS WITHIN
 THE LIMITS OF THE TOWN.**



Cortland Community Library

Summer Reading is in full swing for kids & adults. Read for fun and prizes until August 20. Preschool Story Times at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Special programs Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Live animals, puppets and magicians, oh my!

What's a Rain Barrel?

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains and streams. Usually a rain barrel is composed of a 55 gallon drum, a vinyl hose, PVC couplings, and a screen grate to keep debris and insects out, and sits conveniently under any residential gutter down spout. They can be arranged in series so that more roof run-off is collected.

Rain barrels are available from the DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District, www.dekalbsilwcd.org/new_page_1.htm, for a fee, or from many home improvement centers and numerous websites.

Why would anyone consider using a rain barrel?

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most—during periods of drought—to water plants, wash your car, or to top-off a swimming pool. It provides an ample supply of free “soft water” to homeowners, containing no chlorine, lime or calcium, making it ideal for gardens, flower pots, and car and window washing. Since the average single-family roof will shed between 400 and 700 gallons of fresh rain water in a one-inch rainfall, a rain barrel will save most homeowners well over 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it saves money and energy (decreased demand for treated tap water). Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to streams that are tributary to the Kishwaukee River. Rain water that travels under the ground surface to streams and rivers is good; rain water that is flushed over the surface of the ground to streams and rivers is not.



Do I need to get a permit to place a rain barrel under my downspouts?

No. The Town Board expects residents will use common sense and decorum when using rain barrels and, for the time being, no permit is required. But if you are using rain barrels, we'd like to know because if Cortland becomes the rain barrel capital of Illinois, we want to be able to prove it.

A few words about rain gardens and mosquitoes. Mosquitoes won't find rain gardens to be good breeding areas because if a rain garden is properly constructed the water will drain within 24 hours (but usually within an hour or two). The *Culex mosquito*, the primary variety that can transmit West Nile virus to humans prefers to breed in small, stagnant containers of water such as old tires, pots, birdbaths, pans under planters, unused swimming pools, and storm sewer catch basins.

The development of a mosquito, from egg to adult takes 10 to 14 days depending on the air temperature. The warmer the air the shorter time the eggs take to mature. It takes 24 - 48 hours for eggs to hatch. After the eggs hatch the mosquito larva must live in water for 7 -12 days.

Town Board Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Meetings start at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Agendas for all meetings are typically available on the Friday before. To view agendas go to www.cortlandil.org.

Welcome from the Mayor's desk.

The calendar says it's summer. I think we are all waiting for it to get here, but when it does show up I'm sure it will make up for lost time. As many can see we still have new construction going on in some of our neighborhoods. I would like to welcome those and other new residents to our Town. The new water tower is nearing competition and should be ready to go on line later this summer.

I am very excited about the Board paving the way to make it easier to take Cortland green. I hope you take the time to read the enclosure to see how easy it is to make a big difference in conserving our natural resources while saving money in the long run. I encourage you to check the links in the "How Green can Cortland Be" insert.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees regretfully accepted Trustee Ben Suppeland's resignation, due to illness, at the June 8 Town Board meeting. Applications to fill this unexpired term, until the 2011 election are available through the Town Clerk's Office or the Town's website. Applications are due no later than 10 a.m., Monday, July 6.

I also wanted to mention that the Town accepts payments in advance of utility billing. Sometimes those quarterly bills sneak up on people and having a portion already paid can help with family budgeting.

I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer. Please remember to be courteous to your neighbor and do your part on controlling your animals and maintaining your property.

Bob



Town of Cortland
59 S. Somonauk Rd.
P.O. Box 519
Cortland, IL 60112

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**Resident of
Cortland, IL 60112**

How Green Can Cortland Be?

Recently the Town Board approved a number of Zoning Ordinance amendments that removed local regulatory obstacles for residents (and business owners) who wish to make renewable energy and water conservation improvements on their property. “Given all the attention being paid to sustainable development, renewable energy technology and reducing energy costs at home, this is the responsible thing for the Town to do,” says Mayor Bob Seyller. “One of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan’s goals is to make Cortland a sustainable community, and making it easier for residents to conserve water or to produce renewable energy with wind or solar helps to achieve that goal. And we don’t want the Town Code preventing residents from doing the right thing.”

The Comprehensive Solar Energy Act of 1977 prohibits municipalities from creating zoning regulations that limit or make it impractical to use solar energy collection devices. The Town Code is consistent with this Act. But the adoption of the Wind Farm Act in 2004 caused the Town Code to be in conflict with some new state statutes. And the Town Zoning Ordinance, like most, is written such that if the use or activity is not specifically identified in the ordinance, it is prohibited. Consequently, wind energy conversion systems, rain barrels, rain gardens, and permeable paving surfaces were not permitted.

“A number of residents have inquired whether they could put rain barrels on their lot, or what the Town’s regulations for wind energy conversions systems are, and we found that our Code was not up to date with recent changes in technology and recent laws,” according to the Mayor. A small number of homeowners in Cortland have made solar energy improvements to their property over the years and the Town Code has always permitted solar energy systems. It is hoped that the amendment will encourage others to do so, as well.

While the amendments remove the regulatory obstacles for residents, there remain some minimum requirements for renewable and conservation practices. Rain barrels must have a manufacturer’s insect screen, and they have to be secured and stabilized. Porous paving materials can be used on any lot. Small wind energy conversion systems, or SWECS (that’s the technical term for a small wind turbine), are limited to 10kW; and if they are on a freestanding tower they must be on a monopole-no guy wires are permitted. Because of the number and variety of SWECS available today and the rapid advancements in design and efficiency, the amendments do not regulate in favor of any type (horizontal- vs. vertical-axis) or style. Full details of the green amendments can be found at the Town’s website, www.cortlandil.org.

The wind energy conversion systems amendment does not address the utility-scale multi-megawatt wind farms. While the Wind Farm Act grants municipalities like Cortland the authority to regulate these facilities even outside its municipal limits, the Planning Commission felt that without a specific project or request, establishing regulations for wind farms at this time was premature.

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Practice What You Preach

In addition to removing regulatory obstacles for residents who want to go green, the Town is investigating ways to reduce its energy consumption (and costs) and is evaluating proposals to develop renewable energy installations at Town facilities, such as the wastewater reclamation and re-use facility. “It is amazing how much money the Town can save on an annual basis by converting street lights to LED and using solar and wind energy to produce electricity at the wastewater plant,” according to Mayor Seyller. And, if going green is good enough for Cortland residents and business owners, the Town government should do so too, adds the Mayor.

Cortland’s Building Code has always reflected the latest in energy conservation requirements in new construction with most new homes being relatively energy efficient. “The Town Board has always run into resistance by the homebuilder associations whenever we have adopted the latest amendments to the energy conservation code,” says Mayor Seyller. Following the Town’s Energy Conservation Code and implementing renewable energy improvements on your property can increase upfront costs, but when full life-cycle costs are considered these requirements and technologies often are more cost-effective than the alternative. “But, in the end, the homebuilders always use the energy efficiency of their homes as a selling point. And, besides, it’s the responsible thing to do.”

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Rain Garden Pilot Projects Wanted

The Town is looking for a few good rain garden pilot projects that can be used as models for others to follow. Rain gardens are an effective water conservation technique that has a number of benefits.

Rain gardens are small depressions constructed in the yard to collect storm water run-off and downspout discharge and temporarily store it on the property. Generally, rain gardens are small and planted with native plants that can tolerate both wet and dry conditions. The depression allows water to be absorbed deep into the ground rather than running off down the lawn and backyard swales and street storm sewer systems. The plants filter the rain water by absorbing the chemicals and compounds that run off the roof, pavement and lawns. It has been demonstrated that properly constructed rain gardens can reduce *or eliminate* flows to a storm water detention basin in storms of one-inch or less. Rain gardens also provide habitat for certain insects and birds, such as butterflies and hummingbirds.

Rain gardens are not difficult to construct but they do require a significant amount of planning before you start digging. (Remember to call JULIE, before you dig). Since the location of rain gardens are a function of the slope in your yard, they are permitted in all yards around the house. Recommended plant lists and other rain garden resources may be found at www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/rg_native.php. Additional resources may be found at The Rain Garden Network, www.raingardennetwork.com, and the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District, www.kendallswcd.org/images/pdf%20files/RainGarden_Presentation.pdf. A highly recommended manual for constructing rain gardens prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources may be downloaded at www.cortlandil.org.