



Newsletter
Volume 20 No.1
Jan/Feb
2006

Incorporated 1865

1909 Somonauk Road, PO Box 519, Cortland, IL 60112

Town of Cortland

Third Largest Town in Illinois

Administration
(815) 756-9041

Fax Number
(815) 756-4583

Office of the Clerk
(815) 756-3030

Police (Non-Emergency)
(815) 756-2558

Visit our website!
www.cortlandil.org

2005 DELAINE MULLIS Outstanding Citizenship AWARD



With many family members and friends present, Mayor Seyller presented the 2005 DeLaine Mullis Outstanding Citizenship Award to Jim and Marian Huffman at the December 19 Board Meeting. The DeLaine Mullis Award is an annual award given to Cortland residents for outstanding service to their community.

2006 TOWN BOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATES

Town Board of Trustees

January 9 & 16	July 10 & 24
February 13 & 27	August 14 & 28
March 13 & 27	September 11 & 25
April 10 & 24	October 9 & 23
May 8 & 22	November 13 & 27
June 12 & 26	December 11 & 18

Planning Commission

January 16	July 3
February 6	August 7
March 6	September 4
April 3	October 2
May 1	November 6
June 5	December 4

Town Board committees meet every 2nd Monday of the month (during Town Board meeting).

Dates to Remember...

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 9 Town Board meeting
- 10 Park Advisory meeting
- 16 Planning Commission meeting
- 23 Town Board meeting

February

- 6 Planning Commission meeting
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 13 Town Board meeting
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 20 President's Day
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 27 Town Board meeting

Cortland Town Officials

Mayor
Robert K. Seyller
office 756-9041
home 758-0649

Clerk
Cheryl Aldis
office 756-3030
home 758-3036

Trustees
Chuck Lanning 756-1803
David Liddick 758-0649
Shawn McAllister 748-4300

Dan Milroy 756-4205
Randy Reiter 748-5871
Michael Siewierski
754-5815

You may reach any Trustee or Department Head by email by using their first initial and last name @cortlandil.org. You may reach the Mayor at mayor@cortlandil.org, Town Clerk at townclerk@cortlandil.org, and Deputy Clerk at deputyclerk@cortlandil.org



Please send suggestions, comments and article information to www.deputyclerk@cortlandil.org.



LETTER FROM MAYOR ROBERT K. SEYLLER

Happy New Year.

As we end 2005 and begin 2006 we have all begun to feel the affects of the tough decisions that were made this past year, e.g. development changes, sewer treatment plant considerations, and town-wide address changes. These decisions were very difficult to make. When decisions are made, the Board takes into consideration all parties affected and then applies that decision to the community as a whole. We are taking into account not only the present but the future. I assure you these decisions are being well thought out. We have some of the smartest and best people in their industries working with the town to ensure that we make the best choices possible and to do it in the most efficient way.

I am so proud of all the department heads and their staffs. Everyone goes above and beyond to make every dollar stretch. I know many residents thinks the taxes they pay to Cortland are way too high. I would like you to take some time to examine your tax bill when it arrives and you will be able to see the exact amount assessed for the Town of Cortland and Cortland Library.

As a summary: Cortland's tax rate applied to a \$240,000 home with an assessed value that has not been changed since last year will pay the Town of Cortland and the Cortland Library a combined total of approximately \$697.20 this year or \$58.10 per month. A \$180,000 home with an assessed value that has not been changed since last year would pay a combined approximate tax of \$511.28 this year. For LESS than \$2.00 per day of your real estate tax dollars the town provides all of the town services. A different perspective could be the combined total of your basic TV service, internet access and/or a cellular phone bill could cost you more than your combined Town of Cortland and Cortland Library tax. If you are interested in understanding the tax levy please stop by the town hall or look on the town's web site on the home page of Cortland's web site at www.cortlandil.org "Understanding the Tax Levy Process." I am proud to say this Town Board only wants the best for Cortland. They do their job as Trustees for very little money and make a huge sacrifice in time and commitment to try to make Cortland a better community.

The departments and staff here are truly dedicated to making a positive impact. 2006 is going to be a trying time for all of us. Please remember the difficult decisions the Board and I have to make affect all of us, ourselves, our families, our friends and neighbors. I encourage you to contact me with constructive suggestions or comments. I can be reached by email or telephone. I have been receiving negative e-mail with no suggested alternatives or offers to help fix perceived problems, only just plain anger. I have also received unsigned letters of the same content. Please know that unsigned letters cannot be responded to. The task we have is not an easy one. If you are willing to get involved please let me know and we can discuss the ways you can help. I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.





Snow Removal Reminders

Please do not blow or shovel snow from your driveway into the street. You must have your sidewalk shoveled by noon the day after a snowfall.

REMINDER

Parking on streets after 2" snowfall could result in a \$25.00 fine.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR NEW ADDRESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ADMINSTRATION OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT 756-9041.

ATTENTION OTTAWA STREET RESIDENTS

The change of address letter you received at the end of December had a typo for Ottawa Street. The correct spelling is

Ottawa Street

ENERGY ASSISTANCE (IHEAP) COMMUNITY CONTACT 815-758-3835

Home Energy Assistance Program provides a once per program year benefit to eligible households to be used for energy bills. Weatherization Program is designed to help eligible residents of DeKalb County save fuel and money while increasing the comforts of their home. Can include insulation, water heater, new furnace, windows and doors.

Cortland School PTA Important Dates:

- 1/4 Market Day Pick-up 5: 00 – 6:00
- 1/9 PTA Meeting 6:30
- 1/23-1/27 Spirit Week
- 2/1 Market Day Pick-up 5:00 – 6:00
- 2/13 PTA Meeting 6:30
- 2/17 Fun Fair 5:30-8:00
- 3/1 Market Day Pick-up 5: 00 – 6:00

Mark your calendar for The 8th Annual Extra Terrestrial Family Fun Fair scheduled for Friday, February 17, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. There will be lots of fun and games with raffles.

Family Fitness is every Tuesday from 4:30 – 6:30 at the school, so bring your child and get fit together. For more information call Michelle Wilson at 748-4736.

The PTA Membership is open not only to our parents, teachers and staff, but to the community as well. Please contact Melissa Johnson for information or to join at 787-7811.

- Lynnae Ihm, President 754-4466
- Melissa Johnson, Vice 787-7811
- Michelle Wilson, Treasurer 748-4736
- Mary Ann Pinne, Secretary 756-4302

Any PTA Organization with children from Cortland in their schools are welcome to add their PTA updates to this newsletter. Please contact Rita Nielsen, Deputy Clerk, at the Town Hall (756-3030) if you have any questions.

Forgot something you read here?

This newsletter, along with up-to-date information, can be viewed on your Town of Cortland website at www.cortlandil.org

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



ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- ✓ Have your furnace inspected by a reputable mechanical contractor.
- ✓ Change furnace filters regularly for efficient operation.
- ✓ Have your chimney inspected and, if necessary, cleaned—this is especially important if you burn wood, as creosote build-ups inside the chimney are a prime cause of chimney fires.
- ✓ Rebalance the air flow in the ductwork to insure the comfort level in each room is as you prefer.
- ✓ Check the caulk and weather stripping previously installed, and if necessary, recaulk or replace worn weatherstripping.
- ✓ Utilize solar energy in your home by leaving drapes or shades open during the daytime and closed at night—window treatments help create a thermal barrier against heat loss.
- ✓ Adjust the humidity level on your humidistat as temperatures change—too much humidity in any home can lead to moisture on windows and doors (no matter how energy efficient the windows are).
- ✓ Avoid blocking heat registers in order to make the most of your home's heating system.
- ✓ Close the damper in your fireplace chimney when there is no fire to cut down on heat loss.

In the upcoming newsletters, the Department of Building Safety column will focus on permit requirements for various home projects, including replacing roofs, changing and/or adding to electrical systems/fixtures, and swimming pools. If you have any questions, please call us at 630-551-ICCI (4224)...should someone be unavailable to personally answer your call, please leave a message and a staff member will call you back.



**Town of Cortland
1909 Somonauk Rd.
PO Box 519
Cortland, IL 60112-0519**

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**Residents of
Cortland, IL 60112**

Town of Cortland

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

This notice is for informational purposes and is directed to the 85% of the Town using public water as opposed to private wells.

Town of Cortland Public Water Supply Has Levels of Gross Alpha & Combined Radium Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system has violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, you - as our customers - have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results we received for the most recent testing periods show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for combined radium. The standard for combined radium is 5 pCi/L. For quarterly testing samples collected for the year through [September 2005](#), the average of the highest level of combined radium found was [12 pCi/L](#).

What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

- This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, certain minerals are radioactive and may emit a form of radiation known as alpha radiation. *Some people who drink water containing radium-226 or radium-228 in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

What happened? What is being done?

- We are working to correct this problem. The Town of Cortland will be treating the water to reduce the gross alpha and combined radium levels. The treatment equipment has already been installed at two of our three wells; the test results for these wells have shown improved results. We anticipate completing the process in the year 2006.

For more information, please contact our Town Engineer, Tom Simmons, at 815/562-9087. A fact sheet on "Radium in Water" prepared by the Department of Nuclear Safety is also available at the Town Hall.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Cortland Public Water Supply, Facility #0370051. Notice distributed [January 3, 2006](#).