



TOWN OF CORTLAND

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

THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS



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SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

It didn't take long for Old Man Winter to let us know he is here and is going to stay for a while!

As I am writing this, much like some of you, I am feeling the aches and pains that come with having to shovel a heavy wet snow, but at least he held off for another great Lion's Club 5K Race. I want to thank the Lion's Club Membership, especially Chris Fowler, for their dedication and efforts in bringing this wonderful event once again to our community.

The mild fall weather also allowed our Public Works Department to begin our newly implemented curb side leaf pick up. I have received nothing but positive comments about this program. I am glad we are able to provide this service to you. Also this fall, we completed the last of our building demolitions at 36 N. Somonauk Road. The property has been graded and will be seeded in the spring. This property is now owned by the Town of Cortland and will soon be marketed for sale.

I want to thank all the attorneys that represent the Town of Cortland for their individual and collective work in helping me and your Town Board bring positive aesthetic changes to our neighborhoods and move our community forward. There is still much left to do as we continue to deal with the challenges that were inflicted on our community by the previous "building boom" and depression.

Please read the article on Richland Trails. This exemplifies the work that has been done and in some cases still needs to be done. These situations will not resolve themselves. We need to be aggressive in bringing about positive changes for our community.

Requests for Proposals have been sent to 7 residential waste haulers based on the expressed objectives and concerns of our residents. I expect this issue to be further discussed and resolved by the Town Board in early 2016.

The National Weather Service is predicting more snow than what is usual for our area this winter. I ask that everyone please help our Public Works Department by not parking vehicles in the street during snow plowing operations and please do not deposit snow into the public street while clearing your driveway and sidewalks.

I wish everyone a very joyous Holiday Season and Best Wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

As always, I thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

Russ Stokes, Mayor

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

- 14 Town Board meeting
- 24 Christmas Eve (Town Hall closed)
- 25 Christmas Day (Town Hall closed)
- 28 Town Board Meeting
- 31 New Year's Eve

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 11 Town Board meeting
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(Town Hall closed)
- 25 Town Board meeting



Utility Billing Schedule

Months included in quarter

- August/September/October
- November/December/January
- February/March/April

Due on the 25th day of

- November
- February
- May



REMINDER

**NO PARKING ON STREETS
AFTER 2" SNOW FALL**

BUSINESS LICENSES TO BE REQUIRED IN 2016

The Town of Cortland has long had an ordinance requiring business establishments to be licensed that are doing business within our community.

Beginning in Year 2016 this ordinance will be enforced. Business license applications will be mailed to known businesses in the Town of Cortland. Applications will also be available on the Town of Cortland Website and at the Town Hall.

This is an annual license with a period of January 1 through December 31. The fee is \$25.00.

This nominal annual fee is not a "Money Maker" for the town. It will cover expenses associated with this requirement.

The need for the enforcement of this ordinance became evident during the creation of the Town of Cortland Emergency Operations Plan. Having a Business License on file will provide police and fire personnel with necessary information to contact a responsible party should there be an emergency at the business location after hours. It will also describe the type of business and whether any type of hazardous material is stored on the premises. This is vital information needed for the safety of our First Responders. The information can be updated by the business during its annual license renewal if necessary.

The Business License will also ensure that the business is suitable for our community and operating within the Town's zoning requirements and that the appropriate tax identification numbers have been obtained by the business.

The Town of Cortland Reaches an Agreement with Cambridge and Wells Fargo Richland Trails to See Improvements

After almost two years of what at times were intense negotiations, attorneys for the Town of Cortland have forged an agreement with Cambridge Homes and the bond holder for the developer, and Wells Fargo, which has allowed the Town of Cortland to make immediate improvements in the subdivision, with more being planned to begin in Spring 2016.

This Agreement involved many entities including DeKalb County and the DeKalb County States Attorney, as well as Bond Counsels.

In this Agreement, the Town of Cortland has received money that has been put in Restricted Asset Funds to be used exclusively for the necessary improvements to Richland Trails and the surrounding roadways. Those funds include \$150,000 for Administrative Costs, i.e. legal counsel and engineering expenses. \$181,289 to complete street lights, the repair and addition of sidewalks, necessary street signs and markings, and replacement and addition of parkway trees. \$669,149 was received to complete road improvements on Cortland Center Road, to include the intersections at Charles Street and Aspen Drive.

DeKalb County has received \$456,996 to complete improvements to Somonauk Road between North Avenue and Cortland Center Road to include the intersection with Meadow Drive. The Mayor has already had meetings with DeKalb County Engineers, Town Engineers, and our Public Works Director to coordinate these much needed improvements.

Also, as part of this Agreement, the Town of Cortland has taken possession of all the undeveloped lots in the Richland Trails development. Taxes had not been paid on these properties in over 3 years, as such; DeKalb County took custody of the properties. DeKalb County transferred ownership of the properties to the Town of Cortland. Costs associated with those property transfers were paid for by Cambridge and Wells Fargo.

Immediately upon reaching this Agreement, our Public Works Department, Water/Waste Water Department, and General Maintenance staff began overall cleanup and mowing of the properties. Utilities have been appropriately marked and needed adjustments of some water valves have been completed.

As of the time of this Newsletter, cost estimates for sidewalk work are being received and street lights and poles have been ordered. As part of these improvements all street lights in Richland Trails will be converted to LED lighting.

It is the Town's intention to offer the improved and unimproved lots For Sale. It is the Mayor's intention to have that money placed in a Restricted Asset Fund that will finance town-wide street repairs and maintenance.

Please check the Town's website @cortlandil.org for up-to-date information regarding snow events, warming centers, and Town sponsored events.

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN NEARS COMPLETION
CORTLAND TO BECOME COMPLIANT
WITH NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

During the past four months, under the direction and guidance of Cortland Police Officer Roy Garcia, the Town of Cortland Emergency Operations Plan is nearing completion and implementation.

This plan, and the required training of key municipal personnel that are responsible to respond to natural and man-made disasters, is vital not only for a rapid and organized response to such incidents, but the coordination of assistance that would be rendered through Police Department and Fire Department Municipal Aid Agreements, and County, State, and Federal agencies

A committee comprised of Police Chief Lin Dargis, Fire Chief Trent Moser, Public Works Director John Kocher, Water/Waste Water Superintendent Joel Summerhill, Town Clerk Cookie Aldis, and Mayor Stokes, have worked diligently to identify potential hazards to our community and identify what may be needed to effectively respond to those incidents and what mitigation would necessarily follow.

A draft of this Emergency Operations Plan is under review by the DeKalb County Emergency Services Disaster Agency and addresses concerns identified in the DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICIALS AND TOWN STAFF!

**Resident of
Cortland, IL 60112**

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