



TOWN OF CORTLAND

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

THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS



Volume 28 No. 3

November/December 2014

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

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

The summer we had all waited for has come and gone and now we all brace for the challenges of another winter.

I want to publicly thank the members of the Festival & Parade Committee for another colorful and well organized parade and festival. The weather cooperated for the most part and both were well attended by residents and guests to our community. The committee is chaired by Trustee Brad Stone. Members included Trustee Chuck Lanning, Judy Butler, Fred Hornbuckle, and Samantha Lanning. They were assisted by many volunteers including members of the Cortland Lions Club, neighbors, friends, and family.

These events are coordinated with our Public Works Department under the direction of Supt. John Kocher. Public Safety concerns and traffic control are addressed by our Police Department under the command of Chief Gary Spangler with the assistance of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Auxiliary. Expenses that are for this event are paid for through the admission fees that are collected from the previously held Cortland Summer Fest.

Since the last newsletter this year's Motor Fuel Tax project has been completed with the repaving of Dogwood Street and Linda Avenue. Our Public Works Superintendent and Town Engineers will now be focusing on next year's road improvement projects and sidewalks that need repair or replacement.

All diseased Ash trees have been removed from publicly owned properties. Replacement of trees that were located in our Parks will commence in the spring.

An effort to rid our community of abandoned, blighted residential properties has been no small undertaking, but positive improvements are being seen. Of the 6 properties that have been targeted, the property at 85 S. Somonauk Road was condemned and recently demolished. Properties at 86 S. West Street and 94 S. West Street were sold as a result of this effort and the new owner has immediately begun rehabilitation of the properties. Rehabilitation or condemnation & demolition of properties at 36 N. Somonauk Road, 86 S. Somonauk Road, and 473 S. Hampstead Street are still being actively pursued.

The new North Avenue Lift Station has been completed and is now in full operation. North Avenue and the intersection at Prairie Street have been improved and repaved. Demolition of the old lift station building located on the Southwest corner of the intersection should be completed in several weeks and final soil work and seeding in the area will be completed in the spring. I appreciate the work of our Town Engineers and Water/Wastewater Supt. Joel Summerhill in overseeing this much needed improvement to our wastewater system.

The Spruce Street water tower has received much needed painting. Comments from residents have been positive regarding the color change.

The Town of Cortland has obtained the necessary easements to begin a drain tile project that should mitigate much of the surface water created by melting snow and heavy rains that have caused flooding in the Elm Avenue area. While additional work will be needed, this is a large step in the right direction for resolving this problem. I expect work will begin still this year.

Continued on pg. 2

Improvements to Suppeland Park are nearly completed. Trees that had been removed to provide for off-street parking will be replaced in close proximity to their previous locations on park property in the spring, as well as improvements to the tot park. Power has been run to the Southeast corner of the park to provide light for the flags that are displayed at that location. That location was dedicated by the Town of Cortland in 2007 to the memory of Joseph B. McGuan.

Joe was a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corp serving from 1963 to 1967. Much of his service was in Viet Nam during the war. After his honorable discharge, Joe was an active member of the Marine Corp League and was instrumental in forming the DeKalb County Detachment. He also was a life member of the DeKalb County Chapter of VietNow and the VFW, and served as chairman of the POW/MIA Committee for the Marine Corp League at the State and National levels.

Joe was well respected and well-liked by many in our community. Joe cared about the Town of Cortland and served as Trustee on the Cortland Town Board from January 9, 1989 thru April 30, 1995. Joe passed away in 2006 at the age of 61.

Trustee Chuck Lanning, local Veterans, and I are actively working to have the Suppeland Park flag display re-dedicated as The Honorable Joseph B. McGuan Military Veterans Memorial. This will not only serve in memory of Joe, but to those past and present Town of Cortland residents that have served our Country and those that are still actively serving our Country in military service. This re-dedication is being planned for next summer as part of the Town of Cortland Sesquicentennial which officially commences in February 2015. Any resident interested in assisting with this project is encouraged to contact Trustee Chuck Lanning.

In recognition of our up-coming Sesquicentennial, local businesses, the Town, and I, have purchased commemorative banners that have already been hung from light poles along Somonauk Road in the downtown area and at entrances to the Richland Trails, Heatherfield, NeuCort Lakes, Natures Crossing, and Chestnut Grove neighborhoods. We are in the early stages of planning events that will commemorate this historic event throughout Year 2015.

The Cortland Police Department has some much needed additional police officers. Officer Louis D'Attomo has been hired as a full-time Patrol Officer to fill one of two full-time vacancies. Officer D'Attomo is no stranger to law enforcement. He brings with him 30 years of experience and training with the Norridge Police Department. Officer Fred Busby, Officer Adam Jones, and Officer Meagan Pettengell have been hired as part-time Patrol Officers. Officer Busby recently retired from the DeKalb Police Department after 27 years of service. Officer Jones is an Officer with the Rockford Park District Police Department. Officer Pettengell is a Deputy with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department. It is our goal to re-establish crime prevention and community policing initiatives and strategies with the much needed addition of these officers.

I would like to thank Eagle Scout Will Todtz for the excellent job he did in completing a restoration of the Skate Park located at Cortland Community Park. Will coordinated the repainting of the ramps and platforms that had rusted and had been defaced with graffiti over the years. This Community Service Project was taken on by Will as a requirement for his promotion to Eagle Scout. Nice Job Will and Thank You for your service!

I would like to publicly congratulate two of our Town Staff that have recently received honors from their respective peers:

On October 13, 2014, Chief of Police Gary Spangler was honored by the Illinois Homicide Investigators Association at their annual conference held in Itasca, Illinois. Chief Spangler received the Award of Excellence. This award is presented to an Investigator or a team of Investigators "who exhibited the highest level of professional dedication and diligence in the investigation of a violent crime." Chief Spangler was nominated by his peers for this award. He served as Co-Commander of the DeKalb County Major Crimes Case Squad in the investigation and subsequent arrest and conviction of a person responsible for the homicidal death of NIU Student Toni Keller in year 2010.



**SANTA CLAUSE
IS COMING TO TOWN**

Cortland Lions Club is hosting a breakfast with Santa on December 20, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Cortland Lions Den, 70 S. Llanos Street. Cost is \$10.00 per family. Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation.

Cortland Police Department To Distribute Project ChildSafe Firearm Safety Kits To Town Residents

The Cortland Police Department will provide 6 free firearm safety kits to each resident through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, the nationwide firearms safety education program. The safety kits, which include a gun lock, will be distributed while supplies last.

Project ChildSafe, a program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), has distributed more than 36 million firearm safety kits throughout the country since 2003. The program is supported by the firearms industry and donations by individuals and organizations.

By partnering with Project ChildSafe, the Cortland Police Department is participating in a national effort to promote firearms safety education to all gun owners. Project ChildSafe has distributed gun lock safety kits to all 50 states.

Firearm safety kits can be picked up at the Cortland Police Department, 250 S. Halwood St.

Chief Gary Spangler

DATES TO REMEMBER

November

- 24 Town Board meeting
- 27 Thanksgiving
(Town Hall closed)
- 28 Town Hall Closed

December

- 8 Town Board meeting
- 22 Town Board meeting
- 24 Christmas Eve
(Town Hall closed)
- 25 Christmas Day
(Town Hall closed)

January 2015

- 1 New Year's Day
(Town Hall closed)

All meetings start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Please check our website for cancellations or changes to meeting schedule.



SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS

If you have plowing questions or concerns and have access to a computer, please e-mail John Kocher at streets@cortlandil.org or you can email him directly from the Town website; just click on departments and follow the link. You may also call the Town Hall at 815-756-9041. However direct email to Mr. Kocher is the best way to contact him and receive the quickest response

**REMEMBER IT IS ILLEGAL TO PARK ON
STREETS AFTER A 2" SNOWFALL!**

The Public Works Director determines need for plowing based on public safety. If snow is in the forecast, you should consider moving vehicles off of the street.

The Town's History Dog will be displayed in the Town's courtyard area in the near future. If you would like more information on its depictions please visit the Town's website at cortlandil.org (In The News).

The History Dog was donated to the Town several years ago by Custom Stone Works, Inc.



For contact information for the Mayor , Town Trustees or Department Heads visit our website at cortlandil.org

**Cortland Community Library
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-9
Friday & Saturday 9-5
Website: www.cortlandlibrary.com**

Activities Schedule

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Crochet
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Story Time
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Preschool Story Time
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Poke Club



On October 15, 2014 Town Clerk Cheryl “Cookie” Aldis was honored in Springfield, Illinois at the Annual Conference of Illinois Municipal Clerks. “Cookie” was nominated by her peers and received the prestigious Iliion Crabel Member of the Year Award. This award is presented to a Municipal Clerk in recognition of his or her “Achievements, Dedication and Contributions to the Profession of the Municipal Clerk.” I attended the ceremony and was impressed by the respect shown to Cookie by Municipal Clerks from all over the State of Illinois. She has been the Municipal Clerk of the Town of Cortland for over 25 years and has served as such for Mayors Ken Hetchler, Ben Suppeland, Robert Seyller, and me. She is recognized for her tenure, knowledge, and her willingness to mentor not only other Municipal Clerks but also newly elected officials in things that pertain to the various functions of municipal government.

Both Chief Spangler and Clerk Aldis are truly assets to our community and I am proud to have them serving our community during my administration as Mayor.

This letter is long, but I wanted to keep you informed of some of the events that have occurred since the last newsletter.

I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and very Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!

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

Russ Stokes



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

Presorted
 Standard U.S.
 Postage Paid
 Cortland, IL
 60112
 Permit No.1

**Resident of
 Cortland, IL 60112**

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