



TOWN OF CORTLAND

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



THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS

December 2017

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 Neighbors and Friends,

Our Summer and Fall seemed to pass quickly. I hope many of you had the occasion to enjoy our annual festivals and parade.

Our Staff was extremely busy, taking advantage of the seasonal weather, to accomplish our budgeted road improvements and improvements to our parks and cemetery.

Our town has been experiencing some interest in residential development and commercial/ industrial development. While both are welcome, and good for our community, we must move cautiously as we continue to litigate matters stemming from the Great Recession of 2008. While I am not able to publicly discuss those matters, I can say that I am pleased in the direction these matters have taken. Our Town is being well represented by a tremendous team of attorneys that are dealing with unprecedented issues and have been working closely with me, Town Trustees, and Staff. I will prepare a Special Letter to you, the residents of our community, upon the resolution of the numerous lawsuits that have plagued our community; many going back to 2008.

Our efforts to enhance the image of our community through improvements along Somonauk Road is well underway.

The DeKalb County Highway Department completed roadway improvements between North Avenue and Barber Greene Road. There will be additional work, according to that Authority, next Spring relating to sidewalks and crosswalks.

Our municipal parking lot at Somonauk Road and Chestnut Avenue has been completed and our new electronic sign is operational. The sign was purchased with money from our TIF Fund. This lot will provide the off-street parking that is required and will be needed as efforts are made to bring commercial business to our downtown area under the guidelines that were previously established with the creation of the Downtown Overlay Plan.

Casey's General Store has submitted plans and applied for the required permits to demolish their existing store and the former Griner's Automotive. Their plans to enlarge the store, in keeping with the improvements seen at their other locations, is welcome and much needed. It will most certainly enhance the appearance of our downtown area and hopefully inspire the sale and redevelopment of the grain elevator property which has been vacated and is presently for sale. I hope this lays to rest rumors that the store is closing.

The Planning Commission has vacancies and is looking for interested applicants. The application is available on the website -Your Community| Planning Commission | Application. This group is an advisory body made up of citizens, who make recommendations to the Town Board. The Planning Commission's regular meeting day is the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Candidates are appointed to fill current vacant terms; if there are none, then for three-year terms.

With the onset of winter, set-up has begun at Suppeland Park for the Hartness Skate Rink. This will be the second year that the rink will be in place. It is generously provided to our community by Chris & Ashley Hartness and All Around Pumping. Parents are asked to please keep your children off the rink until it is adequately frozen and safe for skating purposes. The rink will be open daily until 9:00pm.

At the time I am writing this letter we have experienced very little snow. I want to remind residents that parking is not allowed on streets after two (2) inches of snow accumulation and until the snow event has stopped and snow plowing is complete. Please have a plan in place to remove your vehicle from the street during a snow event. Violators will be ticketed and subject to tow.

I wish everyone a great Holiday Season and the Very Best to You and Yours in the year ahead!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve our community!

Russ Stokes
Mayor

A MESSAGE FROM CORTLAND CHIEF OF POLICE

Dear Cortland Residents,

As we head into the holiday season, on behalf of officers and staff of the Cortland Police Department, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe, happy and fun holiday filled with much love, kinship and friendship. I hope that you all take a moment to pause and reflect as we have a lot to be thankful for in our community. As we look toward 2018, may your year be filled with peace and prosperity. Happy holidays from the Cortland Police department. Stay focused. Stay Vigilant. Stay safe.

Chief Lin Dargis

Resident of
Cortland, IL 60112

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