



TOWN OF CORTLAND

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

THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS



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Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Another winter has come and gone. Fortunately, it was a mild one compared to past years. The mild weather played significantly in reducing our budgeted expenses for road salt, staffing, and maintenance of our snow plows.

We can now begin to enjoy the warmer weather and focus on spring and summer activities. For the Town, this will include many public works projects aimed at improving our roads, sidewalks, public buildings, parks, and other community assets.

Please read the article pertaining to the Residential Waste Hauling Contract which will begin July 1, 2016. The Town Board of Trustees undertook this challenge last fall for many reasons. Several of the major concerns was the negative impact that five waste haulers, doing weekly pickups, was having on the integrity of our neighborhood streets and the presence of waste containers at our neighborhood curbs almost every day of the week. The Board sent out Requests for Proposals to nine waste hauling companies of which five companies submitted proposals. Those proposals were discussed and company representatives answered questions at regular Town Board meetings. After much discussion and scrutiny by the Town Board, DC Trash was selected and contracted to perform town-wide Residential Waste Pickup. I commend and thank all of our Trustees, especially Mike Siewierski. Mike took a major leadership role in this endeavor, an issue which has never been previously addressed by our town. All Trustees demonstrated a great deal of patience, care, and diligence in coming to their decision.

One of the immediate benefits that will be realized by most residential customers is a reduction of what they may currently be paying for this service. Others include:

- Containers that will be provided for trash and recyclables pickup.
- Weekly pickup of trash AND recyclables.
- Seasonal pick up of yard waste.
- Seasonal pick up of discarded Christmas trees.
- An 11% Discount for Senior Citizens that are recorded owners of property.

Benefits to our community will be numerous:

- DC Trash is presently making plans to relocate its corporate office within the corporate limits of the Town of Cortland. The Town will benefit from both Property and Retail Sales Tax.
- DC Trash will be providing trash pickup, without cost to the Town, at all of our public facilities and for special town sponsored Events.
- DC Trash will be providing to the Town of Cortland, a quarterly Administrative Fee that is based upon the amount of residential units they service. The money received by the Town from this fee will be placed in a Restricted Assets Fund with the money to be used ONLY for the Preventive Maintenance of our Roadways.

The Town of Cortland has lacked the funds to do preventive maintenance of our roadways. It is imperative that a maintenance plan be developed and this effort be undertaken as soon as possible. The concern is simply this; streets are presently repaired by the Public Works Department and then ultimately replaced using money received through the Illinois Motor Fuel Tax Fund (MFT) when they reach the point where patching is no longer a reasonable option. Given the amount of money the Town receives annually from the MFT, it has taken 3-4 years to restore the roadways in the Woodland Acres Subdivision which was built approximately 20 years ago.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April

- 11 Town Board Meeting
- 25 Town Board Meeting

May

- 8 Mother's Day
- 9 Town Board meeting
- 30 Memorial Day
(Town Hall closed)

June

- 13 Town Board meeting
- 19 Father's Day
- 27 Town Board meeting

All Town meetings start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Please check our website for cancellations or changes to meeting schedule. Planning Commission Meetings, when scheduled, are held the first Thursday of every month. Check the Town's website for meeting agendas.

CORTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT ISSUES NOTICE ON SOLICITORS

Just Energy Group has been granted a Peddler/Solicitation permit to solicit door to door in Cortland. They have met the legal requirements to receive this permit to solicit in Cortland. While Just Energy Group has met these requirements, it should be noted that in no way does the Town of Cortland endorse, support or validate this company. For more details visit our website at cortlandil.org.

Under the Town ordinance, any individual with a Peddler/Solicitation permit cannot solicit or go upon any property for the purpose of soliciting or related activity prior to 9:00 a.m. or after dusk or 7:00 p.m., whichever is earlier, of any weekday, or any time on a Sunday or on a state or national holiday.

Citizens experiencing issues with Just Energy solicitors should contact Cortland Police Department at 815-756-2558.

Direct Energy Solutions is the electric aggregation supplier of electricity to Cortland residents and small businesses through August 2017. Please check the Town website for information. If you wish to speak to Direct Energy please call them at 866-760-6040. No one from Direct Energy will ever contact you.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TRASH PICK-UP

The Town of Cortland has contracted with DC Trash to provide a collection program for residents of Cortland. This change is for residential customers only. Commercial and industrial users are exempt. Residents will need to contact their provider (if not already using DC Trash) and notify them of this change beginning July 1, 2016. Collection will consist of trash, recyclables and yard waste. The negotiated price for 1st year service is \$15.55 per month, billed quarterly.

DC Trash will bill you directly and has been provided a list of property owners. Under the new curbside collection program each customer will receive a new 65-gallon poly-cart for their recyclables and a 96-gallon trash cart collected once a week at the curbside (**carts will be delivered the last week of June**). These containers are provided at no additional cost. Upon receiving the carts, residents will roll the containers to the end of the driveway or designated pickup location on collection day. These changes will provide a cleaner and more efficient way to collect trash, yard waste, and recycling in the Town.

Collection days will be: Friday for the northern half of the town, and Monday for the southern half of the town. Some adjustments in service days may change in the future but you will be notified in advance if this occurs.

DC TRASH WILL BE DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO ALL RESIDENTS WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS, PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT DC TRASH AT 815-758-7274.

The Town website cortlandil.org is updated regularly. Staff is available to answer questions. The Cortland Police Department has a Facebook page to keep you up to date on police happenings. You can check it out at Cortland IL Police Department.

SPRING CLEAN UP

The Town of Cortland Public Works Department is providing large waste containers for a week of spring clean-up activities. We would like to encourage Cortland residents to take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of household trash and accumulated “junk”! These containers will be placed at the Cortland Fire Station located at 30 West North Avenue and will be available from **Sunday, May 1 until Monday, May 8**. These dumpsters may NOT be used for the disposal of yard waste, large appliances, tires, paint or other hazardous materials.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Visit the Town’s website for details)

Magic Matt Family Fun Show - April 23 at 3:00 p.m. at Cortland Community Park (See town’s website for details.)

Garage Sales - April 29 & April 30

Registration forms may be found on the Town’s website at www.cortlandil.org or contact Donna at 815-756-4851

Cortland Fire Department Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, May 1, 7:00 a.m. until noon (see Town’s website for details.)

Spring Clean - May 1 through May 8 (see above article for details)

Hydrant Flushing - May 16 through 20

Bike MS: Tour de Farms 2016 - June 25 & 26. For information contact Melissa Foley at melissa.foley@nmss.org

Cortland Summer Fest - August 12 and 13

The 2016 Cortland Summer Fest will be held August 12, 6:00 p.m. until midnight, and August 13, 12:00 p.m. until midnight. Local bands, food vendors, and more surprises all weekend!

Parade and Festival - October 16

The 35th Annual Parade and Festival will be held on October 16 at 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful event that is fun and affordable for the whole family.

WATER RATE INCREASE

The 2nd year water rate increase will take effect on May 1. Water base increases by .50 per month and water usage increases by .50 per 1,000 gallons used. Bills are due the 25th day of the months of May, August, November and

STREETS & MAINTENANCE

Somonauk Rd. railroad crossing will be closed for repairs sometime this summer. When the dates are known to us, we will post information on our website and the electronic sign outside Town Hall.

TOWN WATER DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to Water/Wastewater Director Joel Summerhill and staff for receiving the Illinois Department of Public Health award for maintaining the state mandated fluoride level every month in 2015. This is the 8th consecutive year the Town has received this award.

Please see Town’s website for weather alert information.

Mayor's letter continued from pg. 1

Looking forward, Natures Crossing, NeuCort Lakes, Cortland Estates, Heatherfield, and Chestnut Grove subdivisions will need the same attention and ALL AT THE SAME TIME. Meanwhile, the older sections of Town are already in need of road repair and/or replacement. We need to be proactive now to prevent the potential that all those streets will need extensive work or replacement at or about the same time.

With the on-set of warmer weather, work has once again begun in the Richland Trails neighborhood. Work has begun to complete the street lighting and vacant lots are being prepared for appraisal. Quotes on needed sidewalk work have been on-going. Bids have been prepared by our engineers for the completion of the work on Cortland Center Road. Those bids will go out later this month with the work to be completed this summer.

Public Works has arranged for the paving of gravel alleys on West Chestnut Avenue and North Prairie Street and the repaving of Mary Aldis Lane north of East Chestnut Avenue.

This year's road projects, funded by the Illinois Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) are still being reviewed and will be announced later this summer. Town Engineers and our Public Works Department are planning a major road project to begin this summer for Elm Street west of Somonauk Road. This project will also be addressing the problem of storm water that collects and fails to drain in that area.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the people responsible for the Cortland Mobile Home Park for undertaking a project that has enhanced the aesthetics of the Park. The mobile home park is not within the corporate limits of the Town of Cortland but it is most certainly a part of the Cortland community. The improvements being made were much needed and welcome.

I encourage everyone to be informed and get involved in moving our community forward.

As always, it's a pleasure to serve.

Russ Stokes

Car Burglary Update



Between November and March, Cortland Police and the DeKalb County Sherriff's Department have been investigating a number of car burglaries that have occurred in the NeuCort Lakes and Richland Trails area. The offenders gained access into unlocked cars and took various items like loose change, computers, ipods, etc. The burglaries occurred between the hours of 2:00AM and 5:00AM, usually on Saturday mornings. Cortland Police did do specialized patrol in those areas during the hours the burglaries occurred and was provided security video from a resident that caught two teenage offenders entering the resident's car.

This video footage, along with an extensive investigation by Sheriff's Department detectives did lead to the arrest of two juvenile offenders. Information gathered from citizen tips assisted the investigation extensively and lead directly to the offenders. This is a great example of citizens and police working together to find a solution to a problem that affected the quality of life in our community. We would like to remind everyone to lock their car doors and install proper lighting on their homes. The use of motion lights is a very effective tool in the prevention of these types of incidents. Also, please note that the Cortland Police Department now has a Facebook page for information sharing. We must continue to be diligent in our efforts to work together in making Cortland a safe and secure community.

The Cortland Police and Fire Department hosted a fundraiser for Cortland resident Ryker Newhouse at Sullivan's Tavern in DeKalb. Our "Ryker Rocks" event raised over \$3000 with all funds going to the family for medical expenses for Ryker. Great raffle prizes were donated by local businesses and citizens. There is also a donation account at Resource Bank in Cortland. You can donate directly For the Benefit of (FBO) Ryker Newhouse. Thanks to all who attended, donated and helped us to have a great night.

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK FOR SURVEY ON REVERSE SIDE.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TOWN HALL.

THANK YOU.