



# TOWN OF CORTLAND

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

**THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS**



Volume 31 No. 1

April-May 2017

**Administration**  
**(815)756-9041**

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**(815)756-4583**

**Office of the Clerk**  
**(815)756-3030**

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

**Website**  
**[www.cortlandil.org](http://www.cortlandil.org)**

Hello Neighbors and Friends,

Despite our mild weather, it seems spring is really not here until we've been treated to one more snow. It held off just long enough for us to put our new snowplow in service. Even with this storm, the reduction of salt used this year will compliment financially, the amount of public improvements we will be able to address this summer.

Since our last Newsletter your Town Board has been busy addressing numerous issues. One of those has been refinancing of the bonds associated with NeuCort Lakes Subdivision Special Service Area Bonds (SSAs.) Those efforts have come to fruition after much work from our municipal finance and legal teams and the numerous bond holders and their respective financial and legal experts. This effort will reduce SSA payments for those in the NeuCort Lakes neighborhood. Unfortunately, there was no interest by the bond companies to refinance, at this time, the SSA bonds associated with other neighborhoods. Residents in NeuCort Lakes will be seeing a reduction in those payments.

We have continued to work with, through our partnership with the DeKalb County Economic Development Association, several new businesses that will be relocating and building on a 20 acre parcel of land on East North Avenue. DC Trash will be relocating to that location from unincorporated DeKalb County. All Around Pumping will be building and relocating there from DeKalb. They are a welcomed and true asset to the future of our Town.

Recently I have been fielding numerous inquiries regarding residential development. Further residential development has been a great concern, given the type of wastewater treatment facility that the previous administration approved and subsequently had built. The facility is high tech and very efficient. It is well maintained and professionally managed by licensed staff. However, the capacity of the facility is dictated by the amount of effluent it can spray. When the recession struck our community, areas that had been planned by developers, that would be used to spray the effluent, went away with the developers. Those properties were basically abandoned by the owners and the properties became available for purchase from DeKalb County at tax sales. The new owner(s) of those properties do not feel they should be responsible to the Town for paying into the SSA's agreed to by previous owners. I cannot report to you anything further due to ongoing litigation. We continue to defend lawsuits brought about by the decisions that were made years ago. In all fairness, no one at that time saw the economic downturn that was ahead.

In early February I met with our Town Engineers and the Director of our Water/Wastewater Department to discuss wastewater capacity. I asked State Representative Bob Pritchard to join in those conversations and asked that he facilitate a meeting with the Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in Springfield regarding our situation. I requested the meeting as a result of interest expressed in completing Phase One of the Nature's Crossing subdivision and the Robinson Farm subdivision. As a result of that meeting, the Town will be issuing building permits for lots in all the unfinished subdivisions that have infrastructure already in place.

Our staff will be working with the IEPA for the next 36 months monitoring the impact on the capacity of our Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Town of Cortland was complimented by the IEPA Director for being "proactive" in confronting this situation before it became problematic.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER****April**

- 10 Town Board Meeting
- 14 Good Friday (Town Hall Closed)
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 24 Town Board Meeting

**May**

- 5-6 Garage Sale Weekend
- 5-14 Spring Clean-Up
- 8 Town Board Meeting
- 14 Mother's Day
- 22 Town Board Meeting
- 29 Memorial Day (Town Hall Closed)

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.


**TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALES  
FRIDAY MAY 5 AND SATURDAY MAY 6**

**New Contact Information:  
Cherie Kavanagh 815-756-1234  
dckavanagh@yahoo.com**

As you can see, there is a new contact person for this year's garage sales. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Donna Klemm for 15 years of coordinating this event. Some of her duties included setting up, taking down, advertising, creating forms, posting signs, creating the map and working with local officials and police department to make sure this weekend is safe and fun for many residents as well as visitors. Through these efforts, the garage sale proceeds (after expenses) have been awarded to organizations throughout the Town. Some of the organizations benefiting from the donations are Lions Club, Senior Center, Parade & Festival Committee, and the Cortland Library. All donations stayed within the community. Donna has made herself available to help her replacement, along with others that have "stepped up," to make this year and future garage sales a successful event.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

The Police Department welcomed a new full time officer in February. Officer Tom Bellinger has over nine years of experience as an officer with Warrenville and Kirkland Police Department. His experience and professional approach to law enforcement will be a great asset to the Town of Cortland. He replaces Officer Adam Jones and joins Commander Pat Treacy and Officers Peggy Hopkins, Lou

D'Attomo and Dan Gregory as our full time patrol staff. Join us in welcoming Officer Bellinger to our department. As spring approaches, it is once again time to be aware of children playing outside, especially while riding their bikes. Please observe all traffic laws, including speed, so that we can maintain a safe environment for all our residents and visitors. Also, we have had some concern about speeding and other traffic issues around Cortland Elementary School. We have increased patrol during morning drop off and afternoon pick-up and will continue to do so until the end of the school year. As always, we must work together to forge a partnership to create strong neighborhoods, resist criminal activity, and maintain the quality of life we all deserve. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Police Department at 815-756-2558.

**Stay focused. Stay vigilant. Stay safe.**

**NEED INFORMATION?**

The Town website at [cortlandil.org](http://cortlandil.org) is updated regularly. Staff is always 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.



**ELECTION DAY!  
APRIL 4, 2017**

### 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 Cortland Community Park near the skate park parking area and will be available from **Friday, May 5 until Sunday, May 14**. 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 22 at 3:00 p.m. at Cortland Community Park** (See Town’s website for details.)

**Pancake Breakfast - April 23 at Cortland Fire Department, 30 W. North Ave.** from 7:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. Adults \$8.00, Children 4-12 \$4.00. Under four is free.

**Garage Sales - May 5 and 6** Registration forms may be found on the Town’s website at [www.cortlandil.org](http://www.cortlandil.org) or contact Cherie Kavanaugh at 815-756-1234 or [dckavanaugh@yahoo.com](mailto:dckavanaugh@yahoo.com).

**Spring Clean - May 7 through May 14** (see above article for details.)

**Hydrant Flushing - April 24-28; June 26-30; September 25-29; November 6-9**

**Cortland Summer Fest - August 11 and 12** The 2017 Cortland Summer Fest will be held August 11, 6:00 p.m. until midnight, and August 12, 12:00 p.m. until midnight. Local bands, food vendors, and more surprises all weekend!

**Parade and Festival - October 8** The 36th Annual Parade and Festival will be held on October 8 at 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful event that is fun and affordable for the whole family.

### WATER RATE INCREASE

The 3rd 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 February.



#### STREETS DEPARTMENT

The Streets Department has taken possession of a new 2017 Freightliner plow. This plow replaced the 2005 International. Director Kocher is planning on having a leaf pick-up day for residents in early spring. Please watch the Town’s website ([cortlandil.org](http://cortlandil.org)) for more information.



**LIONS CLUB  
BREAKFAST WITH THE  
EASTER BUNNY!  
Lions Den  
Sunday, April 9  
9:00-noon  
\$20.00 per family.  
Get \$5.00 off for  
donation of can goods.**

Please call 815-756-9041 to determine if your project requires a permit.  
Permit Applications are available at the Town Hall.

**Please see Town’s website for weather alert information.**

We must continue to be very vigilant of this situation as to not create any additional financial burdens on our community that could have and should have been averted. I have been around "awhile" and, if nothing else, I've learned from the mistakes of others. As someone entrusted to be, among other things, a risk manager for our community, I'm sure my slow and calculated response to furthering residential development is respected by our taxpaying residents.

On a much happier note, but still concerning our Water/Wastewater Department, the Town received a commendation from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for maintaining perfect compliance in 2016, for 12 consecutive months, in maintaining the correct levels of fluoride in our drinking water. This is the ninth year in a row our Water/Wastewater operators have been commended by IDPH.

Also on a happy note, Chief Dargis reports receiving positive responses from residents seeing Cortland Police Officers on patrol in their neighborhoods at all hours. The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office also appreciates their tour of duty.

The Town Board is presently working with staff to approve the FY18 Budget and our Public Works Department is working with our Engineers to identify this summer's MFT road projects.

I am working with the Richland Trails Homeowners to bring much needed improvements to their neighborhood nature preserve/park area. The money for that project is available through the settlement previously reached with Cambridge Homes and the bond companies that brought the other much needed improvement to that neighborhood.

We will continue to move our Town forward! There will be more on other public improvement projects, and commercial development, in the next Town Newsletter.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 4!  
EVERY VOTE IS IMPORTANT!**

As always, it's a pleasure to serve.

Russ Stokes  
Mayor

**Resident of  
Cortland, IL 60112**

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Standard U.S.  
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60112  
Permit No.1

Town of Cortland  
59 S. Somonauk Rd.  
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