



TOWN OF CORTLAND

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

THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS



Volume 29 No. 2

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Hello Friends and Neighbors,

As I write this letter, the Town Board of Trustees, our Accountants, and Department Heads, are reviewing the proposed FY16 Annual Budget. I expect this budget to be finalized and passed before the end of this month. Our budgets have always been "tight" to say the least. However, through the financial diligence of our Department Heads, I intend to continue moving our town forward. It is difficult to predict what negative impact will be felt by our town as our elected officials in Springfield attempt to right the State's financial wrongs. We will continue to prioritize our public works projects and adjust our budget when necessary. Public Safety and Community Services will remain priorities.

As soon as weather permits, site improvements will begin at our Water/Wastewater Office Building, Wastewater Reclamation Facility, and Police Station and Garage.

Construction of the Town of Cortland Veterans Memorial at Suppeland Park and improvements to the tot playground located in that park will begin soon.

I have budgeted for a shelter to be built this summer in McPhillips Park and construction of a small shelter and tot playground located at Winterberry Avenue and Bluebell Avenue in the Nature's Crossing neighborhood. A public sidewalk will be completed at that site as part of this project.

The Town of Cortland signs located on Somonauk Road south of Barber Greene Road and Route 38 west of Loves Road are being rehabilitated, and two additional signs will be added later this year at other entry points to our community. These signs will boldly reflect the Year 1865 as the year of incorporation of our Town.

Work will begin on sidewalk repair and replacement throughout Town. An effort has been made to identify those in most need. Those repairs or replacements will take place until the money allotted in the FY16 Budget is exhausted.

I have met with our Town Engineers and Public Works Director to prioritize this year's road and storm sewer repair needs. All municipalities have been notified by the State of Illinois that portions of their anticipated Motor Fuel Tax monies are being retained by the State in an effort to balance the State's budget. At this time we do not yet know to what extent this will affect us. Tentatively, Aspen Drive between Linda Avenue and Ellen Avenue, including the cul-de-sac, will be repaved and storm sewer work will be performed that will improve storm water drainage in the area of Somonauk Road and Chestnut Avenue.

An owner and Court Ordered Receiver have come forward to claim responsibility for 2 properties in the Chestnut Grove neighborhood. Our Code Enforcement/Building Inspectors and our Attorneys are working with the Court Ordered Receiver of those properties to bring them into compliance and abate all property-related nuisances as soon as possible. This comes shortly before the property at 473 S. Hampstead Street was to become subject to condemnation and demolition.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April

27 Town Board Meeting

May

10 Mother's Day
11 Town Board meeting
25 Memorial Day
(Town Hall closed)

June

8 Town Board meeting
21 Father's Day
22 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.



Here is your opportunity to be a part of CORTLAND'S BOOK
REMEMBERING THE PAST - EMBRACING THE FUTURE
SEEKING STORIES & PHOTOS

150 YEARS OF HISTORY
Yesterday was day one

Original / Historical photographs - BLACK /WHITE, Color/Digital

MEMORABILIA
Oral / written STORIES about life in Cortland
Stories (hand-written or typed)
Family / Businesses / School / Church
Celebrations / Festivals / Hobbies
Clubs / Volunteer projects
Public & Community projects / Tragedies / Events

**** Photos / memorabilia will be digitally scanned.
ALL ITEMS will be returned to you, unharmed.****

Contact **Cindy Hardy**, Project Manager 815/858-5005
Stories can be emailed: designersinkmarketing@gmail.com
Materials can be dropped-off at Cortland Town Hall

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
MAY 3, 2015**

ELECTION RESULTS

**ELECTION RESULTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.
COUNTY ELECTION CERTIFICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON APRIL 23.**

RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AT THAT TIME.

**NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL BE SWORN IN AT THE APRIL 27, 2015
TOWN BOARD MEETING.**

SPRING IS HERE

BE ALERT FOR VIOLENT WEATHER

A TORNADO WATCH is issued by the National Weather Service to alert people that Weather conditions in their area are favorable for tornadoes to form. People should be alert to weather conditions and announcements. Weather information is available from local television stations and local radio stations. Watch the sky and listen for the tornado siren.

DO NOT CALL THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO OBTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION.

The National Weather Service issues a TORNADO WARNING when a tornado has actually been sighted or is indicated by radar.
TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!

*On-duty Cortland Police Officers activate the Tornado Siren when the National Weather Service announces a TORNADO WARNING for the DeKalb County area or there has been a confirmed report of rotating clouds in the area.
No "All Clear" siren is sounded.*

The Town of Cortland does not have a community shelter.

Pre-plan with your family where you will go and what you will do in the event of a Tornado Warning!

TORNADO SAFETY.

IF A WARNING IS ISSUED OR IF THREATENING WEATHER APPROACHES:

Move quickly indoors to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement in a structurally sound building. If shelter underground is not available, move to an interior room or hallway of a structurally sound building and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows. Do not use a vehicle for shelter. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your vehicle. Mobile homes, even tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Remain alert for signs of an approaching tornado. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most deaths and injuries.

For more information on Tornadoes and how you can create a Family Disaster Plan, contact the NOAA's National Weather Services at www.nws.noaa.gov.

SPRING CLEAN

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 **Monday, May 4, until Monday, May 11**. These dumpsters may NOT be used for the disposal of yard waste, large appliances, or tires, paint or other hazardous materials.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Visit the Town’s website for details)

Garage Sales May 1 & 2

Registration forms may be found on the Town’s website at www.cortlandil.org or contact Donna at 815-756-851

Spring Clean

May 4 through May 11 (see above article for details)

Hydrant Flushing

May 11-15

Cortland Summer Fest

The 2015 Cortland Summer Fest will be held August 14, 6:00 p.m. until midnight, and August 15, 12:00 p.m. until midnight. Local bands, food vendors, and more surprises all weekend!

Parade and Festival

The 34th Annual Parade and Festival will be held on October 11 at 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful event that is fun and affordable for the whole family.

Sesquicentennial events will be held throughout the summer. Please watch the Town’s website for planned events.

Building Permit Requirements

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

Streets & Maintenance

When mowing your yard, make certain that you do not blow grass clippings into the street. When mowing, make the first few passes with the lawnmower blowing the grass clippings into the lawn, NOT the street. If there are grass clippings on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or leaf blower to blow them back into the lawn. Do not use a hose to wash them into the street or storm drains. Grass clippings that are blown into the street eventually enter the street storm drain and may form blockages in the storm sewers and increase maintenance costs to the Town.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Water/Wastewater Superintendent Joel Summerhill and staff for receiving the Illinois Department of Public Health along with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency awards for maintaining state mandated fluoride levels every month in 2014. This is the 7th consecutive year the Town has received this award.

**CORTLAND COMMUNITY
LIBRARY NEWS**

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-9

Friday & Saturday 9-5

website: www.cortlandlibrary.com

Take a spring stroll to Cortland Library. Enjoy the weather and check out new things.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS THIS SPRING INCLUDE

Crochet Class on Monday at 6:30, Story Time on Tuesday at 7, Pre-School Story Times at 10 on Wednesday & Thursday mornings, School Age Story & Craft at 4:30 on Wednesday, 6th Grade & Up Group on Thursday at 5:30, Pokemon Club Thursday evenings at 6:30, Monthly Book Club on Friday evenings after 7.

In May we will begin a reading challenge to families; “**1,000 Books Before Kindergarten**”.

In June, **Summer Reading begins**. Come join the fun!

READING IS A TREASURE PIRATE PARTY TO BENEFIT THE CORTLAND LIBRARY!

Join us for a fun filled afternoon including a book fair, story time with a pirate, crafts and more!

The event is free but donations are appreciated and proceeds will go to benefit our local library.

Date and time: Saturday, June 13, 2015, 2-4 p. m. Location: Cortland Lion's Den

If you would like more information or would be interested in volunteering please e-mail Kimberly at kimberlysbookbrigade@gmail.com.

Mayor's letter continued from Pg. 1

The property at 85 S. Somonauk Road has recently been condemned, and the court has ordered demolition of the house which has been vacant and in a state of disrepair since 2007. Demolition is expected to take place in May.

Condemnation and demolition of the house at 86 N. Somonauk Road is still being pursued by the Town.

I thank everyone who responded to the Residential Trash Pickup Survey. The Town Board of Trustees will be taking up this issue in June 2015. This postponement will allow newly elected Trustees to become acclimated to their new position and familiarize themselves with this and other town matters that are at hand.

The Sesquicentennial Town Hall Open House was well attended. Many people visited the Town Hall on Saturdays during the month of March to view historic photos, records, and artifacts relating the town's very interesting past. Photos and artifacts will remain available for viewing by guests during regular business hours. Many residents have been interviewed and vintage photos discovered that will be part of the Town of Cortland Sesquicentennial History Book. The book will be completed and on sale on or before the Annual Cortland Fest which will take place on Friday evening, August 14, 2015, and Saturday, August 15, 2015.

Please take note of the many events that are being planned for this summer and fall by the Cortland Parade & Festival Committee and the Cortland Lions Club. These events are made possible through the time and hard work of community volunteers. I encourage everyone to get involved in our community. You can help to create events that reflect positively on our town and foster community spirit and pride.

If you are interested in being part of the Parade & Festival Committee please contact Trustee Brad Stone or volunteer Trustee Chuck Lanning. For information on the Cortland Lions Club please contact any Lions Club Member.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

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



Cortland Officer Receives Commendation

Cortland Police Officer Peggy Hopkins received recognition along with several women officers from DeKalb County Law Enforcement Agencies at the Northern Illinois Convocation Center on March 25. The event, "Women of the Shield: Honoring the Women in Law Enforcement of DeKalb County" was an opportunity to recognize the contributions women have made to this community. More than 70 officers and community members attended the event. Peggy Hopkins has been a police officer with the Cortland Police Department for more than 10 years.

DOG WALKING REMINDERS

If you walk your dog, please remember that dogs and cats must be leashed when they're not in their yard, and you have to clean up after your dog.



Mayor Russell Stokes and the girls from Daisy Girl Scout Troop 777 in Cortland break ground for their Wildlife Habitat Project in Cortland Community Park. Left to right: (front row) McKenzie Kotlarchik, Gretta Oziah, Mathilda Peckys, Peyton Madsen and Teagan Woolbright.

This year, the Daisy Girl Scouts from Cortland Troop 777, spent their time completing a journey called "3 Cheers for Animals" . During their journey, they learned how to care for animals and in turn, how to care for themselves. In keeping with what they learned, the girls elected to use some of their profits from this year's cookie sales to create a wildlife habitat for birds, bees and butterflies.

When Mayor Stokes heard of the girls' plans, he and the Town of Cortland graciously offered up a plot of land for the habitat as well as offering some much appreciated assistance in getting the plot ready for the Daisy scouts to plant.

The wildlife habitat will follow specific requirements set out by the National Wildlife Federation to provide the essential components for wildlife to survive, such as plants for food, cover and nesting, as well as providing water sources. The National Wildlife Federation also certifies areas that meet these requirements. Areas where birds, bees and butterflies used to thrive are being threatened due to the destruction of the native plants that were found in our prairies and along roadsides. These birds and insects are not only beautiful to see, but are an integral part of our environment as they pollinate not only wild flowers, but garden plants and agriculture fields.

Islands or pockets of wildlife gardens are needed to help these communities of wildlife to thrive.

Individuals can also become a part of providing an island oasis for birds, bees and butterflies in their own yards! If you are interested in creating a wildlife habitat in your space, please visit the National Wildlife Federation's website at: www.nwff&rg/gardenfor:wildlife.