



# TOWN OF CORTLAND

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

**THIRD LARGEST TOWN IN ILLINOIS**

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

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOWN OF CORTLAND WE ARE 150 YEARS OLD**

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I hope everyone experienced a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. We are roughly half way through our winter season. By last year's standard, it has not been as tough, but surely presents its challenges.

Please pay attention to the various articles in this Newsletter as most of them affect all of us.

February 16, 2015 the Town of Cortland will have been incorporated 150 years. We are planning numerous events to take place this year commemorating our Sesquicentennial. Most of those events will take place this summer and fall in conjunction with our Summer Fest and Annual Parade. I will be working with the Cortland Parade and Festival Committee, and the Cortland Lions Club, in the planning of these events. Those will include the dedication of the new Town of Cortland Veterans Memorial; the interment of the Town of Cortland Time Capsule; and an Open House of all our community buildings to include the Cortland Town Hall, Cortland Police Department, Cortland Fire Department, Cortland Public Works Facility, Cortland Water Tower, Cortland Wastewater Reclamation Facility, and the Cortland Water/Wastewater Office Building. More information on those events will be forthcoming in our next Newsletter. We are in the process of creating a booklet to commemorate our Sesquicentennial.

Beginning on Saturday, March 7, 2015, the Cortland Town Hall will be open for guests from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM to view historic photos of the Town of Cortland and learn of its colorful history. It is my sincere hope, that learning of the Town's past, and seeing how it has evolved into what we are today, will instill a sense of pride in our community. It will be that community pride which will inspire residents to become more actively involved in forging a positive future for our community. We are a diverse, family-oriented community with residents of various backgrounds, levels of education, experience, and interests. I am attempting to inspire our residents to get involved in our community and be part of moving the Town of Cortland forward. I would love to see the Time Capsule opened in Year 2065 and for those residents present to say, "Wow...look what the town was like back then and how much better it is today!" I encourage residents to get involved now and be part of its future.

I have met with our Town Engineer and Public Works Director concerning this year's Motor Fuel Tax Projects. There are many streets that are in need of repair. We are in the process of prioritizing those projects. We are also prioritizing sidewalk replacements and have identified the potential need to replace a length of storm sewer in the area of Somonauk Road and Chestnut Avenue. I will have more information on this in the next Newsletter.

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We are presently researching and preparing to convert our current street lights to LED. It will take years to complete this conversion. However, LED lighting would provide a significant savings to the town over time, given the reduced use of electricity and the costs associated with replacing bulbs and ballasts. The first "test" lights will soon be installed at the entrance to Nature's Crossing at Somonauk Road and Tallgrass Parkway and on Somonauk Road near Chestnut Avenue.

Our Town Attorneys are still negotiating with Cambridge Homes and Wells Fargo in an attempt to finish the needed improvements in Richland Trails. This has been a long and tedious process due to the intricacies of this residential development and how it was negatively affected by the economy.

Our Town Attorneys are still actively working on the rehabilitation or condemnation and demolition of properties at 36 N. Somonauk Road, 86 S. Somonauk Road and 473 S. Hampstead Street. I will have more to report in the next Newsletter. At the time of this Newsletter I expect some demolition may begin this spring.

Since the last Newsletter, parking areas at the Town of Cortland Public Works Facility and Police Department have been paved. The parking areas will be striped and parking bumpers installed this spring. The former Public Works Garage is being utilized by the Police Department. A broken waterline in the building has been repaired; a rotted service door has been replaced; and new gutters and downspouts are being installed as part of needed restoration of the building. I view our public buildings as "community assets." They represent our community and must be maintained.

As we begin to prepare for next year's fiscal budget, I am preparing to bring additional improvements to our parks. The Town has submitted an amended grant proposal to the State of Illinois that would allow for some much needed improvements to the water detention area immediately east of Cortland Community Park. If approved, the detention area will be dredged and planted with wild flower vegetation. A walking path with workout stations will be constructed to attach that area with the existing park.

Plans are also being made to construct a shelter facility at McPhillips Park. That shelter will be similar to the shelters that were constructed last year at Hetchler Park and Suppeland Park. Recently, the Town Board paved the way for residents to reserve the use of those shelters for approved private events.

As your Mayor, I will continue to make every effort to keep you informed as to what is occurring in our community through this Newsletter and the town's Website.

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

Russ Stokes

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**February**

- 16 President's Day  
(Town Hall closed)
- 23 Town Board meeting

**March**

- 9 Town Board meeting
- 23 Town Board meeting

Please check Town website for changes to meeting dates.

**"SAVE THE DATE"  
PARADE & FESTIVAL COMMITTEE  
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2015!**

- April 25 Magic Matt's Family Fun Show
- August 14 & 15 Summer Fest
- October 11 Parade and Festival

Watch the Town website for details

**2015 Hydrant Flushing**

- Dates**
- May 11-15
  - Aug 10-14
  - Oct 26-30

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

CORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
APRIL 12, 2015  
8 AM—12 PM

**2015 CORTLAND SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

The 150 year anniversary of Cortland's incorporation as a Town!



Original photographs - Historical **BLACK & WHITE**  
Photographs - Color original or 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

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

*Gather up*  
**PHOTOGRAPHS & PICTURES**  
**STORIES & MEMORABILIA**  
to be used in part of the 2015 Sesquicentennial Celebration



**\*\* Photos / memorability will be digitally scanned. ALL ITEMS will be returned to you, unharmed.\*\***  
Contact **Cheryl "Cookie"**, Cortland Town Clerk **815-756-3030** to make arrangements to drop-off items.

**Town Board Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Meetings start at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Agendas for all meetings are available 48 hours before the meeting. To view agendas go to [www.cortlandil.org](http://www.cortlandil.org).**

### RESIDENTIAL TRASH PICK UP

Recently the Town Board was approached on the idea of contracting with one residential waste hauler to serve our community. This became an issue when it was learned that there are now 3 such companies providing service in our community and the concern for what impact the multiple trucks may have on our residential streets.

It was a consensus of the Town Board that our residents be polled to see what interest they may have in contracting with one company to reduce the amount of trucks on our streets and potentially negotiate the pick-up of recyclables and landscape waste.

**THIS IS ONLY A SURVEY TO DETERMINE INTEREST BY OUR RESIDENTS  
PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN TO THE TOWN HALL**

Would you like the Town Board to explore the idea of contracting  
with one residential waste hauler?

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

Please return this survey to the Town Hall or by mail to P.O. Box 519, Cortland, IL 60112-0519  
To the attention of Cortland Trustee Mike Siewierski



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

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**Resident of  
Cortland, IL 60112**

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SNOW PLOWING and WATER RATE INCREASES

The Town of Cortland is responsible for snow plowing and salting of approximately 63 miles of streets and alleys, parking lots associated with our community parks and buildings, and sidewalks along Somonauk Road between Route 38 and North Avenue. This responsibility is tasked to Public Works Director John Kocher and the 2 full-time Public Works employees under his supervision. They are being assisted this year, as last year, by Mayor Stokes, and at times one or both of our full-time Water/Wastewater Department employees.

Not all streets within the Town of Cortland municipal boundaries are under the Town of Cortland's maintenance jurisdiction. The Town does not maintain State Route 38; it is under the maintenance jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The Town does not maintain Somonauk Road from North Avenue to Barber Greene Road and Barber Greene Road from Loves Road to Somonauk Road; those roads are under the maintenance jurisdiction of the DeKalb County Highway Department. Rural roadways in the area of the Town of Cortland are maintained by Cortland Township Road Commissioner.

The Town of Cortland has three 5-ton dump trucks equipped with front-mounted snow plows and an additional plow mounted on the right side of the truck that is referred to as a "wing plow." These trucks are capable of clearing snow from more than a single lane of traffic in one pass and push snow back from curbs and roadway shoulders to deter possible road closure that is caused by drifting snow. Two  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton trucks, both equipped with front-mounted "V" type plows, are used to plow alleys, parking spaces along Somonauk Road, and the parking lots associated with our community parks and public buildings. The "V" type plows allow the driver to scoop the snow, allowing it to be pushed to designated areas more quickly and easily.

Almost every snow event is different. The manner in which it is addressed by the Public Works Department depends on a number of factors. Some of those factors are the intensity of the storm, the weight of the snow, wind, the time the snow event begins and when it is anticipated to end. While the objective is to provide for safe driving conditions on the roadways, times of the day that experience the heaviest of vehicular traffic and school zones are always taken into consideration. While there is no set time that plowing begins or ends, priority is first given to main arterial roadways, followed by residential streets, then alleys, cul-de-sacs, and parks and municipal parking lots. Sidewalks are then addressed by the same snowplow drivers utilizing different snow removal equipment. Salt is not always effective in dealing with icing conditions in extreme cold and is being used frugally by many municipalities due to its cost; Cortland is no exception. Sand is not used to supplement salt due to the extensive cleanup of our streets and storm sewers that would be required in the spring.

Snowplowing and salting operations are ideally completed in 5-6 hours depending on the aforementioned factors.

As of the recent 17-inch snowfall we experienced, our Public Works Department has applied 150 tons of salt on our roadways. At the present time we are paying \$57.00 a ton. There is a concern, should salt supplies diminish the price of salt will increase.

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**You can help the efforts of our Public Works Department  
by doing these simple things:**

- Be aware of existing and predicted winter weather conditions. Do not leave your vehicle unattended in the roadway during snow events. If your vehicle is obstructing snowplowing operations it will be ticketed by Cortland Police Officers.
- If your vehicle is ticketed for obstructing snow plowing operations remove it from the roadway as soon as possible so that the area can be cleared of snow. The vehicle may be ticketed again in 24 hours. If the vehicle is not moved within 72 hours it will be towed at your expense.
- Please remove snow from your driveway without putting it in the street. This adds to the hazardous road conditions that the Town is trying to mitigate and makes additional work for the Public Works Department. We suggest that snow along the roadway in the path of the snowplow, just prior to your driveway, be shoveled on to the parkway to lessen the amount of snow left in front of your driveway by the snowplow.
- Please clear your sidewalks of snow so pedestrians are encouraged to use it instead of walking in the street.
- Please slow down and drive with extra care, especially when driving through our residential neighborhoods.
- Feel free to report any extraordinary road hazard to our Public Works Department by leaving a message at (815) 756-6469.

**Water Rate Increase Notice**

The Cortland Town Board has determined that after maintaining the water system without increases for water usage or base fees for over 10 years it is necessary to increase rates. As you may be aware, the Water/Wastewater Department operation is a self-supporting department and it must raise sufficient revenue to cover all costs associated with providing services. The Town Board has found it necessary to increase rates to reverse the trend of operating with a deficit. By adjusting the water base rate and water usage rate on a gradual schedule, over a period of time, the Town will be able to reduce the operating deficit. Having a deficit does not mean the Town is unable to pay its bills; we have had the foresight to insure that there are reserve funds. Beginning with the effective date of May 1, 2015, the 3-year schedule of gradual increases are: FY16 (May 1, 2015) monthly base rate will increase from \$7.00 per month to \$7.50 per month with usage per gallon increasing from \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons. FY17 and FY18 will have increases in each year of the same amounts.

The next bill you receive will be at the current rate for the months of December, January, and February and will be due March 31. You will then receive a two month bill at the current rate for March and April, due May 31. The first bill you receive at the increased rate will cover the months of May, June, and July and will be due in August. Always watch for the due date printed on the bill card as this date could change.