The Castletonian

END OF YEAR WRAP UP

A few words of thanks as we wrap up the end of 2022. In no particular order we want to thank some of the people who help make our Village a special place:

Our employees — Village Hall (Padraic, Jan, Jayne) DPW (Danny, Jeff, Eric), Water (JP), Sewer (Kenny), Bldg Dep’t, (Gary) Code Enforcement (Jim). And amazing librarian — Melissa.

Fire Dep’t — our volunteers are the very best.


Castletonian delivery squad — hand delivered to your door.

COHMSA — our friends on the Main Street group always keeping us on our toes.

Comprehensive Plan Committee — this project required lots of volunteer hours.

Girl Scouts — help keeping Main Street planters tidy.

Local Businesses — they’re feeding us, keeping our vehicles running, being available for a tattoo when we need one, having clean washers and dryers for our laundry (and a place to wash our pets) and our friends at the boat club.

There are lots of others but just know the Village Board members appreciate all your help.

Thank You!

NY FORWARD
GRANT
APPLICATION

The Village, in partnership with COHMSA (Castleton on Hudson Main Street Association) completed an application for the NY Forward grant program. Our application was submitted and we’ve already had a site visit from grant sponsors. Here are some details about the grant:

Governor Hochul announced the creation of the NY Forward program to invigorate and enliven downtowns in New York’s smaller and rural communities — the type of downtowns found in villages, hamlets and other small, neighborhood-scale municipal centers. NY Forward builds on the success of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) by adopting the same “Plan-then-Act” strategy as the DRI.

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CASTLETON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

On Sunday September 23rd, The Castleton Cemetery Association dedicated a monument for “past and present Volunteers, Officers and Board Members” at Mountain View Cemetery in front of the Marie Pincher memorial Garden. The Cemetery Association would like to give a special thanks to Rockefeller Funeral Home in Rensselaer for donating the plaque.

Present at the dedication were Board Members (left to right), Vincent Brewer, Jenifer Pratico, Jerry Robinson, Bonnie Bauer, Frank Ball, Norman Wiley, Robert Schanck, Michael Wagner (Rockefeller Funeral Home), Barbara Maxam, and Jayne Robinson, Missing Board Members, Phillip Dorn, Ashley Dougherty, Bettsy Prohonic, Dawne and Steve Kelly.

TIDBITS

Land in front of Village Hall — we’re talking to landscaper architects about redoing the land in front of Village Hall so the space is more usable for both the library and Village residents.

Welcome Packet — we’re putting the finishing touches on a Welcome Packet we’ll hand out to new residents. If you’re new to the Village drop in at Village Hall (after Dec 1st) and we’ll have some available.
**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Our Comprehensive Planning Committee worked very hard this year meeting with experts and Village residents discussing ideas for an updated Comprehensive plan. The final plan will be a set of guidelines for the Village Board to use as a blueprint for the future of Castleton.

The committee took some proactive steps and voted to apply for a planning grant with Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC). The grant would pay for planning assistance for a project such as: more Village sidewalks, creating a bike/walking path connecting Main Street to Schodack Island State Park or something similar.

Planning documents are needed to apply for project grants to fund the actual project.

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**FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM — ACP**

The Federal Government has a new program for free or reduced internet cost that lots of folks may be eligible for and it’s worth taking a look:

**Affordable Connectivity Program:** This is reduced rate internet (but not reduce speed) or possibly free internet. To be eligible, a member of the household must qualify for one of the following:

- Medicaid
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
- Section 8 Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA) support
- Veterans and Survivor’s Pension benefit
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Meets the eligibility criteria for Spectrum’s low-income Lifeline program

For more info:
https://www.spectrum.com/cp/broadband-get-qualified

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**NY STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM — HEAP**

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that New Yorkers needing help paying their heating bills can begin applying for home heating assistance on Tuesday, November 1. The Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as HEAP, can provide up to $976 this winter to help low- and middle-income households and senior citizens keep their homes warm and help defray high energy costs.

Eligible homeowners and renters may receive up to $976 in heating assistance, depending on their income, household size, how they heat their home, and if the household contains a vulnerable member. A family of four may have a maximum gross monthly income of $5,485, or an annual gross income of $65,829, and still qualify for benefits.

Applications for assistance are accepted at Rensselaer dep’t of social services in person or by telephone, with funding provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Department of Social Services
Rensselaer County Department of Social Services
547 River Street Troy, NY 12180 Phone: (518) 266-7960
Days Open: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:30pm
Charles P. Sofia (89) - passed on August 5th. He worked as a groundskeeper for Stablegate and Pheasant Hollow Golf Course.

Dominick Centurioni (62) - passed on August 12th. He was a regional business director for Prudential Insurance, and a coin and antique dealer for over 35 years.

Charles J. Haberkern Jr. (62) - passed on August 13th. He attended Maple Hill Schools and was a life member of Schodack Landing Fire Department.

Maryanna Wolff (84) - passed on August 18th. Born in Detroit, she was the daughter of the late William and Evelyn MacGregor and sister of the late Hugh “Skip” MacGregor.

Marilyn Parslow (92) – passed on August 24th. She was a member of Home Bureau at the Schodack volunteer fire department.

Frederick S. Lawrence (66) - passed on Sept. 12th. He worked for the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance and was a videographer for the Albany Firebirds.

CASTLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firehouse Breakfasts are back !!! All You Can Eat.  8 – 11:30am

1st Sunday of every month during Winter and Spring.  Sun, Dec 4th is next.

Never Been? C’mon down and grab a couple seats at a communal table.

Menu includes: Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, and amazing home fries. There’s juice and plenty of coffee. It’s a great opportunity to meet some neighbors while enjoying a made to order delicious breakfast and donating to our volunteers. Plenty of parking. Take Out is available as well.

Everyone is welcome. From Main Street, turn onto Green Ave, one and a half blocks up on the left.

THANKS TO THE FIRE DEPT’ AND THE LIBRARY FOR ORGANIZING THE HALLOWEEN PARADE
WE SAID GOODBYE TO… PART 2

Thomas A. Stevens (67) – passed on September 21st. He attended Syracuse University, and retired from CSX and the Troy City School District.

Melba J. Tacy (84) – passed on October 10th. She graduated from the University at Albany and taught chemistry and physics at Christian Brothers Academy.

Jo Ann Bennison (69) - passed on Nov 16th. She was a nurse and worked for 19 years as Executive Director for the NYS Association of County Health Officials. Also a grandmother and volunteer at the Anchor Food Pantry.

Check out our New Purple Heart Community Signs at all entrances to the Village

Help us welcome new Water Supervisor: JP Mastan

JP is fully licensed for our water facilities and came to Castleton with lots of great experience. He lives nearby with his wife and 3 year old twins.

(pictured here with Mayor Keegan)

NY Forward Grant - con’ t from cover page

The State has allocated $100 million for the first round of NY Forward. Each of the State’s ten Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) will have the option of recommending two communities for $4.5 million NY Forward awards or three communities one of which will receive $4.5 million and two will be awarded $2.25 million.
We have a notary at Village hall.

There is no charge for this service to our residents.

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**IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP ...**

Thanksgiving — Nov 24, 25 — Office Closed

Leaf Pick Up ends — Fri, Dec 2nd

Holiday on the Hudson — Sun, Dec 4th — 3:30

Christmas Holiday — Mon, Dec 26 — Office Closed

New Years Holiday — Mon, Jan 2 — Office Closed

Holiday Tree Pickup — Mon, Jan 9th

MLK Birthday — Mon, Jan 16th — Office Closed

President’s Day — Mon, Feb 20th — Office Closed

Biodegradable bag pickup starts - April 3rd

Street Sweeping — every Friday. Main St. has parking signs for sweeping days and times.

Water, Sewer and Refuse bills are due by Dec 30th. Didn’t get a bill? Call Village clerk for another copy.

We accept **online** credit card payments. We cannot accept credit cards for in-person payments.

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**HOLIDAY COOKIE SWAP**

It’s back. Meet at the library Saturday, Dec 17th at 11am.

Bake: 4 doz of your favorite cookies

Bring: Keep all cookies in one container

Print: Copy of your recipe to share

Swap: Divide equally among bakers.

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**POT HOLE PATROL**

See a big pothole? Call Village Hall to report. We’re doing our best to fill ‘em when we see ‘em 518.732.2211 x 2

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**HOLIDAYS ON THE HUDSON**

Fun for kids and grownups. Meet at the Library on Sunday, Dec 4th at 3:30 for a tree lighting, some delicious beverages, maybe some firetrucks and maybe a guest appearance by Santa.

**CASTLETON LIBRARY** check out the exciting December list of events in the attached flyer. Downloaded a book or magazine online yet? If not, drop by the library and we’ll explain the steps. It’s easy !!!