



Village of Brockport



Winter 2022

www.brockportny.org

Issue 14

From the Mayor's Desk



I've been thinking a lot about bridges lately—beginning with researching the history of Brockport's lift bridges for two new Brockport Community Museum panels documenting each of our lift bridges. Then came the emergency repair of a critical bearing on the Park Avenue bridge leading me to nose into the innards of that bridge with my camera so we could engage the public with the repairs on our Facebook page. Central to all these bridge thoughts is the looming closure of the Main Street bridge for 18 months beginning in April. In the process, I've learned some basics of bridge engineering and gained a new appreciation for Brockport's iconic centenarian lift bridges. (See the back cover for update on the bridge closure).

The Market Street rehab is now complete. The last piece is a pollinator garden being developed in front of the old Fazools. Corbett Park upgrades are now 99% complete. In July we dedicated the new popular fitness court, funded by a NYS Parks and Recreation Grant and an MVP grant. On October 28 we held a ribbon cutting at the new tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts there. The pathway through the park has been broadened and resurfaced to be ADA compliant and both parking lots have been repaved. Remaining is an ADA compliant path from the park up to the canal path.

Construction of the pavilion at the Welcome Center can't be undertaken until we determine why the stamped concrete in front of the Welcome Center has sunk a few inches. It will be inspected by a Canal Corp engineer during the winter months when the canal is drained to determine the cause and remedy.

And finally, the anticipated ADA compliant canal embankment path from McCormick Place. A necessary piece of this was the access path from the street to the canal embankment. We identified such a path that ran along a village storm sewer easement. Unfortunately, it also ran next to the dining room window of a new McCormick resident. So, in collaboration with AJ Tellier, the McCormick Place homebuilder, we selected a new path. This one will be deeded from the developer's property at the western edge of McCormick Place closest to Meadow View Drive. Once the survey for that is complete, the permitting process can begin. We hope construction can start in the late spring/early summer of 2023.

Coming in the spring—Several public hearings related to changes in the village's codes as we complete the rewrite of our zoning laws and codes. In short, the village codes are too lengthy, too verbose, and portions of them outdated. My favorite, arcane noise ordinance: *"No person shall, upon Sunday or upon any other day, between the setting and the rising of the sun ... be guilty of any loud hallooing or yelling or of blowing any horn or trumpet, or of beating any fence, board, box, or building or rattling any sticks or bones."* (Chapter 35.8)

Many of the local codes have now been incorporated into the NYS Codes which we must follow anyway, so there is no need to duplicate those in a lengthy village document. Our new codes will be shorter, easier to understand, and more graphic.

Easing into the holiday season be sure to check out the outdoor Winter Market at the Morgan Manning House on the afternoon of December 4 followed by the annual Holiday of Lights Parade and fireworks. On the Canals Winter Excursions (see inside) offer free outdoor activities, and the popular Winter Serenades at St. Luke's takes place in February and March.

A joyous and healthy holiday season to all,

Margay Blackman, Mayor



The Many Hats of Carol McNees

Meet, if you haven't already, Village employee Carol McNees, who, in over 7 ½ years of employment, has proved to be a dynamo of smart efficiency with a ready sense of humor. Her work history with the Village of Brockport is both serendipitous and a tale of the evolving work force at Village Hall that reads like a game of chess.



On any weekday morning, you will find Carol at the DPW building on East Avenue, and, during the afternoon, at Village Hall. She became a part time Village employee in the winter of 2014 as the DPW clerk. In 2016 she was called to Village Hall to fill in when the codes clerk went out on maternity leave, though she continued to work mornings at DPW. Both the codes clerk and the code enforcement officer left in the spring of 2018 and Chad Fabry was hired as Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector. Barb Krizen (now Deputy Village Clerk-Treasurer) was hired as Codes Clerk and Carol trained her while also filling in at our understaffed Village office, handling water bills, cash receipts, and accounts payable. Throughout, her mornings were devoted to serving as the DPW clerk.

In the event that you are still following this ..., In March of 2021, Barb Krizen moved across the hall to be Deputy Clerk Treasurer, and months later Theresa Weed was hired as Codes Clerk. Conveniently, Carol's permanent desk at Village Hall sits barely four feet from Chad Fabry's so she couldn't help but absorb a steady diet of codes intelligence. Then came storm water management which falls in the laps of the two departments Carol works for, DPW and Codes. As the liaison between the two departments Carol took the lead in preparing the Village for Monroe County's storm water audit this past summer.

Carol's biggest skill leap was becoming Assistant Building Inspector this fall. At Chad Fabry's recommendation, Carol began the training which comprises 6 units that must be completed within 18 months. She completed all of them between June and September of this year, scoring a perfect 100 on one unit the morning she learned of her father's sudden death. "My Dad was always into building things," she mused. "I think he helped me." As a woman in a man's field, she added, "I felt more pressure to succeed on the exams."

Now a certified code enforcement officer/building inspector, Carol is picking up the hands-on experience she needs by shadowing Chad on his rounds. In September when Chad was out of state, she handled all the codes work. It was not that long ago that Brockport had two parttime code enforcement officers, plus a full timer, so Carol, with her multiple hats at the ready, fulfills a real need. As coordinator of DPW and assistant code enforcement officer/building inspector she is indispensable to both of her bosses. Dan Verace noted, "Having Carol as an office coordinator has directly impacted our success in the field. With Carol's full support and help, within one year DPW was able to complete the work on two grants."

Chad Fabry says, "From the first day I worked for Brockport, I knew that Carol was instrumental to the success of the Village Offices and the efficient execution of DPW services. Welcome to the world of Codes, Carol! Carol's potential as an effective Code Enforcement Officer is clear; she takes the responsibility seriously. Carol is the Swiss Army Knife of employees- with her multiple skills, she has every asset to handle any issues that may arise for our residents."



Brockport Police Department

“Together we are bigger than the sum of our parts.”

I hope you had a great summer and a wonderful fall. Ready or not, like it or not, winter is upon us. This also means the holiday season, a time to spend with family and friends, is right around the corner. The Brockport Police Department continues to strive to make our community safe while incorporating community involvement and community policing. Some of this community policing is accomplished through traffic enforcement.



Unfortunately our Village has recently seen a spike in motor vehicle accidents involving motorists driving while intoxicated or driving while ability impaired by drugs. Five of these crashes have occurred in a little more than five weeks. These statistics appear to be an anomaly for our Village, but they are one hundred percent avoidable. Please don't drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Along with traffic enforcement we continue to engage with our community in numerous ways, in addition to enforcing laws and handling calls for service. Regardless of the weather you will find our officers walking the downtown business district, engaging with children in one of our parks and even riding a bicycle on the canal. I am proud to say that our officers are truly members of the Brockport community. Our officers



and their Stetson Club union are more engaged in our community than ever.

We added a new member to our family with the hiring of local resident George Lazor as a crossing guard. Mr. Lazor takes his duties very seriously and is doing a great job. We have received several compliments about him from motorists and pedestrians alike.

We are still in search of a second crossing guard and a part-time clerk. If you are interested in joining our team please submit a resume and letter of interest to Village Hall.

The Stetson Club will once again sponsor the annual Holiday of Lights Parade on December 4th, and BPD will donate to families in the community through our annual Christmas “Shop with a Cop” event in December.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season! As always our door is open to meet and listen to any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Cuzzupoli, Chief of Police
Paul G. Wheat, Lieutenant

Let's Get This Parade Started!

REGISTER NOW FOR
Brockport's Holiday Light Spectacular & Parade

Sunday, December 4th at 5PM

Parade Hosts
Brockport Stetson Club

Fireworks Sponsored by SunKing

For details, email: Rachael.Blair@westsidenewsnyc.com
Look at Facebook: The Stetson Club

Sponsors - "Thank You!"

Renovations to DPW Building

The Village of Brockport allocated a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Department of Public Works in order to install a new roof and implement several updates to our building at 38 East Ave., all of which were sorely needed and will now better protect our building infrastructure and equipment.

We have converted our leaky flat roof to metal trusses and a metal roof over the main office area. This grant also funded a new roof over the garage as it was also found to be in great need to be replaced at the time we were working on the flat roof.

We have removed our wood stove and traded it for new ducts and installation of a gas furnace. We have also installed an ADA compliant bathroom, as required with a level II renovation.

Our Superintendent's and Coordinator's shared office is complete and we are currently finishing the training /conference room renovations for meetings, webinars and safety trainings that have moved to the now popular online format.

The DPW was able to do most of the renovations in house, allowing us to save money where possible. This of course meant we would be juggling between renovations and other weather sensitive projects, such as Market Street and Corbett Park.

Market Street Completed

With the help of the Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) were able to complete the Market Street project by the end of June.

Work included:

- Install new granite curbs
- Install new sidewalks w/ ADA detectible plates
- Repair existing sanitary sewer
- Upgrade storm sewers
- Upgrade water main
- Road grading upgrades

Thank you to all our DPW staff for the great work on this project!



New Employee Spotlight

Over the last year we have had changes to our DPW laborer staffing. We welcomed Josh Snyder and Jacob Christ in the fall of 2021. Both Josh and Jacob were with the DPW as summer laborers and hired full time. Both were trained in house for their CDL licensing.

“Out and About” with the DPW:

The Village of Brockport DPW continued our participation in the School of the Holy Childhood's “Out and About” program on, Wednesday, November 2nd. The 25 plus participants toured the facility and equipment at 38 East Ave. Volunteer DPW Staff provided a ride along with DPW employees, observing street sweeping, leaf collection and material handling.

Holy Childhood's mission is to prepare children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for maximum independence and integration in the communities.

Many thanks to Keith Marshall, Bruce Hovey, Christian Weiss and Jacob Christ for your time!



24 hour staffing begins December 1st, Monday - Friday and will continue through April 15th 2023.

New Grapple Truck –Spring 2023

We have some exciting news to bring to the residents for 2023. Beginning spring of 2023, brush pick up will occur on a routine basis. The standard spring and fall clean ups will remain unchanged, this will be in addition from **April -December**. The current plan is to collect brush during the last week of every month. There will be no more need for residents to call DPW and order trucks to load them. If you get it to the curb, we will pick it up.

Full schedule details will be available in the spring. We understand some residents prefer to have a truck dropped off due to having long driveways and brush located in the backyard. We will ensure you get a truck dropped off for your pile.



Benefits of the grapple truck:

Improves Safety

At the DPW we want to ensure every resident and employee remain safe while we are out doing our job. The brush truck will allow for a one-person operation from the side of the road vs. having loaders and dump trucks driving around the village backing into residents' driveways.

Improves Efficiency

Wind storm clean up- Every year it seems we get roughly two wind storms and have a large amount of brush to collect. This truck will expedite the cleanup process.

Trash- Allow for easy pick-up trash left at curb line when college students leave for the year.

Assist with tree work- Whether DPW is cutting a tree down or trimming a large tree this equipment will allow for safer pick up and removal of debris.

Offers Versatility

Potential revenue for the village via county work.

Vehicle that can safely transport large sewer and water main infrastructure to the job site.

FOR MONTHLY PICK-UPS, PLEASE HAVE ALL BRUSH READY FOR PICK UP ON THE SUNDAY EVENING PRECEDING THE LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH

All inquiries should be directed to the Department of Public Works at (585) 637-1060 Monday-Friday between 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. To ease the process please see information below:

- ◆ **No contractor generated waste is allowed**
- ◆ Keep limbs under 10ft in length
- ◆ No tires allowed
- ◆ Do not place brush on road, in gutters, or over storm drains
- ◆ No construction debris or building materials
- ◆ No furniture, TV's, fuel tanks
- ◆ Residents having items which are hazardous waste material should call Monroe County Hazardous Waste at 753-7600.

From the BI/CEO—Chad Fabry

I've been reading local law, zoning codes, and building codes for the last 13 years. Code isn't intended to capture your attention, but it shouldn't be confusing, contradictory, redundant, or permissive. It's never fun or entertaining, and usually, I can't wait to find an answer so I can stop reading.



When I say it shouldn't be permissive, I don't mean that it should prevent you from doing what you want; I mean the language should not be permissive. The best laws are clear and use words like *shall* or *must*. There's no place for words like, *should*, or *may*.

- The new construction codes we use come from the International Code Council's series of books comprised of the Building Code, which covers everything but one and two-family dwellings.
- The Residential Code covers one and two-family dwellings, Townhouses, and the accessory structures associated with these dwellings.
- The Existing Building Code is exactly what its name suggests; the rules for making changes to existing buildings.
- The Property Maintenance Code has all the rules associated with responsible property ownership.
- There is also the Fire Code, the National Electric Code, the Mechanical Code, the Plumbing Code, the Fuel Gas Code, and the Energy Code.

All of these are drafted by the International Code Council. Then, New York adopts them. The NY versions are almost exactly the same ICC version, but the State reserves the right to make changes. While not identical, they're very, very close.

- The local municipality promulgates Zoning Codes. We craft Zoning Codes to create standards for land use to ensure the best possible quality of life within a community. Zoning codes establish the municipality's residential, business, industrial, and mixed-use areas. Zoning codes are the road map for future development, and they consider the depth and breadth of business, walkability, recreation, parks, and public services. They provide areas for industry, and in so doing, they offer employment opportunities within the community. They provide dedicated residential areas so people can live peacefully without worrying that a trucking center will open next door. Zoning Codes create and maintain the community "feel."
- Finally, we create Local Codes as the needs arise. We use Local Codes for most neighbor conflicts and complaints. Examples include noise regulations, backyard chickens, local rental regulations, fence heights and placements, accessory structure (size, location, and quantity) regulations, etc.

It just so happens that Brockport is nearing the end of a two-year process that has produced a completely re-vamped Zoning Code and Local Code.



Our new code is shorter. In many cases, it's less restrictive. The language is crystal clear, and dozens of illustrations and charts make it easy to understand. An excellent code has no "grey" areas open for interpretation. We're excited to be close to a black-and-white version of our local laws.

Welcome Center



The Brockport Welcome Center was open 146 days this year, from May 21st to October 12th, coinciding with the Erie Canal Navigation Season. The operation of our facility would not be possible without the dedicated Brockport Ambassadors, volunteering over 800 hours of their time. Serving at our international port, Brockport Ambassadors have the pleasure of representing our community to travelers from around the world. We welcomed visitors from the Netherlands, UK, Ireland, Sweden (by sailboat), Finland (biking across the US), and many Canadians. Here is a little of the feedback we received from visitor surveys: What did you like best about Brockport? *“The people”*; What can we do better? *“You nailed it!”*; What did you like the least? *“Not enough time to explore... We will be back!”*.

Visitors from Canada borrowing bikes.

You might be surprised to know that 109 people tent camped overnight in Harvester Park by registering at the Welcome Center. Most tent campers arrived by bike but this year we had our first boater that also tent camped! Our “Borrow a Bike for Free” program has 11 adult bikes, 3 children’s bikes, and helmets that can be loaned whenever a volunteer is on duty. This year, over 500 people enjoyed the fun of cycling, which is free thanks to the generosity of our donors and Russ Church, owner of Bicycle Outfitters, as he donates free labor maintaining our bikes.

This year we had 23 Brockport Ambassadors, ranging in age from 14 to 85! Our volunteers are retired, work full/part time jobs, and/or go to school/college. Some volunteers serve with a partner, while others are on their own. All volunteers are fully supported, and training is provided. Shifts are in 2-hour or 3-hour blocks and can be scheduled on a weekly or bi-weekly rotation, with flexibility for summer plans. Several volunteers prefer to be substitutes only, which allows them to pick an open shift that fits into their schedule.

The Brockport Welcome Center is an exciting place, where people from all over the world and down the street meet along the Erie Canal. There are opportunities for you to become a Brockport Ambassador at the Welcome Center. Please feel free to contact me by email, welcomecenter@brockportny.org, or call the Brockport Welcome Center at 637-1000 and leave a message, as voicemail is checked regularly throughout the year. Follow us on Facebook to keep up with the latest events and news and coming soon we will have a new page on the Village of Brockport website.

In 2023, stop in and check out all there is to do and see at our facility. We would enjoy meeting you!

“you’ll always know your neighbor.... on the Erie Canal” -Susan Smith, Welcome Center Director

NYS Canal Conference



Mayor Margay Blackman and Welcome Center Director Susan Smith attended the NYS Canal Conference held in Rochester October 2-4. Sessions included dealing with invasive species, the earthen embankment integrity program (AKA tree removal which has already occurred in Brockport), fishing in Western Monroe, Orleans and Niagara counties, and the highly successful On the Canals recreation programs. At the conference the Village of Brockport received NY Parks and Trails Trail Tender Award. The Canalway Trail Tender Award was established in 1998 to honor the efforts of volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary and significant contributions to the maintenance, promotion, and enhancement of New York’s Canalway Trail. This year the award was given to the many individuals working collectively as the Village of Brockport on the Reimagine the Canal Pedestrian Bridge project, the On the Canals: Accessible Kayak & Cycle Excursions, the Brockport Welcome Center Brockport Ambassadors, and as the Pilot community for the Empire State Trail Town program.

Winter Events in Brockport

BROCKPORT WINTER MARKET

at The Morgan Manning House, 151 Main St., 10am -- 4pm

The Village of Brockport, in partnership with the Morgan Manning House is excited to present a new holiday experience! This outdoor winter market will take place on the grounds of the historic Morgan Manning House. Featuring a broad range of artists and crafters, the Brockport Winter Market continues the holiday shopping tradition established by The Morgan Man-

ning House's Candlelight Christmas, but with a festive outdoor setting. Holiday photo opportunities with Santa!

The village will be selling 10 beautiful wooden art objects created by Rochester artisan Kurt Caruso and made from the South Avenue beech tree that was taken down in October 2021. Each sculpture comes with a certificate of authenticity. We hope to also have commemorative coasters made from the beech tree, embossed with the village logo, available in time to purchase at the winter market. Look for those items to be advertised!



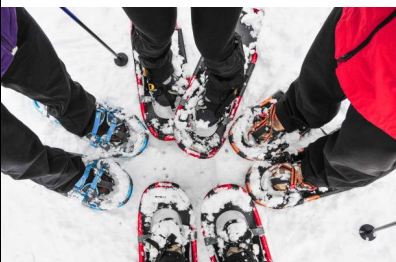
THE VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT
PRESENTS
Winter
Serenades 2022

WINTER SERENADES

After the most successful Summer Serenades series ever, we're inspired and proud to bring you an equally wonderful winter 2023 series. Sunday afternoons - good music and an time to gather with friends and musicians at a reception after – that's our goal. Free concerts, no tickets, "come as you are", 3pm to 4:30pm.

For this third winter series at St. Luke's Episcopal Church there will be four events – because we couldn't resist bringing all of these very special folks to you. We're fortunate to live in the Rochester area where so many excellent musicians reside, including some RPO members who will play for us. Additional information will be posted later at www.brockportny.org and the Brockport Facebook page.

Yes, it may be early to publicize events that won't take place until February and March – but we encourage you to save the dates. And to tell others about these fine performances – you're our best supporters – there's plenty of seating for everyone. If you're a Snowbird, or would rather not leave the comfort of your home, you can still join your friends via live stream, thanks to St. Luke's. How? Go to <https://stlukesbrockport.org> and look for the live stream link. Can't make the live performance? You can watch it later, as many times as you'd like!



On the CANALS—thanks to Canal Corporation Support

Plein air painting classes with local artist Sarah Hart will be offered each Saturday in February. Learn how to set up a French easel, use oils, and stay warm while composing your winter landscape. Begin and end the classes at Hart Gallery 27 at 27 Market Street.



Sign up for snowshoeing excursions, offered in January-March with volunteer leaders, including a First Day Hike on January 1st at 10am. Equipment is limited so sign-ups are required, you are welcome to join us if you have your own! All excursions will begin and end at the Welcome Center, 11 Water Street. **Sign ups for both events will be on Event Brite and advertised at www.brockportny.org and on Facebook. Events are free, spaces are limited.**

Accepting Applications Now—Visit brockportny.org for more details

The Monika Andrews Creative Leadership award is given annually to one or more citizens of Brockport, Sweden, or Clarkson "who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in volunteer work by undertaking important innovative activities or creating significant new ways to serve the greater Brockport community."

Community Celebrations : Arts Festival

The **2022 Brockport Arts Festival** was held on August 13 & 14 on Main Street. A partnership between BISCO and the Village of Brockport, brought over 120 vendors, community agencies, and non-profit organizations filling the Village with fine arts, hand made creations, festival food, and community resources.

The Morgan Manning House stage hosted entertainment all day Saturday and Sunday including local talent and musicians from the greater northeast. Saturday night brought “Arts Fest After Dark” featuring local favorite, *North of Forty* sponsored by Bonduelle. People of all ages gathered at the canal side stage for great music, dancing and even a drum solo by Police Officer Josh Sime. Good weather and large crowds contributed to a successful weekend for the vendors as well Brockport merchants. Many



Main Street businesses set up outdoor displays and sidewalk sales. Area restaurants reported running out of supplies and being busy all weekend. The finale of the Arts Festival, the Re-Max Titanium Duck Derby, raised over \$10,000 for BISCO to contribute to the installation of a sensory playground at Sagawa Park in 2023. Funds raised in total by non-profits and community organizations totaled over \$30,000 benefitting multiple populations throughout our community.

Mark your calendars for Brockport Arts Festival 2023 on August 12 & 13. Vendor applications are now being accepted on Zapplica-

tion.com, just search “Brockport”.

Children’s Halloween Parade & Walk to School Day

The annual Children’s Halloween parade on October 28 in downtown Brockport was a huge success with several hundred participants and their parents. New this year was the closure of Main Street downtown for 2 hours, and “Trunk or Treat” out of Our Village Optician’s parking lot. Thanks to the Brockport merchants for their organization of this annual event, to the Brockport police for their candy offerings and dedicated participation., and Walk Bike Brockport volunteers (with safety vests) to help direct parade goers!



Walk to School Day

Village mascots “Precious” the unicorn and “Joy” the T-Rex joined Dr. Jim Goetz, Walk Bike Brockport, and the Brockport Central School District in the annual Walk to School Day on October 5th. Students and families filled the sidewalks and enjoyed starting the day together with our community and benefiting from exercise. We look forward to joining you all again next year—the first Wednesday in October!



The Community as a Classroom—by Judge Christopher Martin



Students from Brockport Central's Kindergarten classes did walking tours in the Village during the first week in June. One of their stops was Brockport Village Court. The students learned about some court activities, spoke about fairness, and what that means to them, and to us as a Court. Some classes had a special visitor when K-9 Ellie brought her partner; Officer Thompson from SUNY Police Department to say hello. We were pleased to host the students during their visits and welcome them to our Court.



Two Classical Conversations Home School Association Teams converged in the Village of Brockport this summer when they held their Mock Trial Competition. Teams from Williamsville and Webster chose Brockport as the site where the two teams faced off in two different sequences trying a business owner for murder. The teams alternated roles between the prosecution and the defense. These eighth grade students were amazingly well prepared and presented in a true legal fashion in an actual courtroom setting.

In a surprising Court Order, one witness was ordered into custody by the student "bailiff" when she completed her testimony. She had stated under oath that her actions may have contributed to causing the death of another. None of the students or observers expected that. When the prosecution presented their closing statement in the second round, it rivaled some of those previously offered in criminal court. When the student attorney was asked by the Judge who wrote your closing for you, her matter of fact response was, "I did." The Village of Brockport is happy we can be a part of the learning process for these students and look forward to future opportunities to collaborate.

NYS Main Street Anchor Grant

The Village of Brockport recently received a state grant award from the Housing Trust Fund Corporation totaling \$108,525 to assist an anchor business with needed repairs—the Strand Theatre. The Strand will be able to initiate needed repairs to their chimney, roof, siding, and more with the assistance of this reimbursement grant. The grant provides 75% of state funding with a 25% match from the business owner; local governments are partners who ensure the contracting follows stage procedures and meet all building /code inspection requirements and that the job is completed as planned. We are proud to support the Strand's continued legacy in our community.

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING BY DOWNLOADING

My Brockport Village

FIND IT WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR APPS

Closures - Emergencies - Events - Bridge Updates

GET IT ON   

Prefer to receive email notifications? Sign up at:

<https://app.govoutreach.com/brockportvillageny/public/communications/subscribe>

The Water Corner



Do you need assistance paying for overdue water bills?

New York State renewed the LIHWAP for another year. Information and applications can be found at: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/>

Reminder: Water/sewer bills are due the last business day of the month. Please allow additional time for mail processing when scheduling your online bank payments.

If you have any questions about water/sewer accounts, please contact Barbara Krizen at bkkrizen@brockportny.org or (585) 637-5300 x111

On the Canals Excursions

Brockport enjoyed a second year of hosting kayaking and biking excursions along the Erie Canal, thanks to the financial support from NYPA and their popular “On the Canals” program which drew residents and visitors alike to experience the recreational benefits of the Erie Canal and the Erie Canalway Trail.



During weekends in August and September the Village of Brockport offered free guided kayaking and biking tours from our Welcome Center and adaptive kayak dock. Our offerings were enriched by partnering with Rochester Accessible Adventures and the Erie Canal Boat Company of Fairport which provided adaptive kayaks and bicycles. Most of our participants came from other communities, among them Webster, Scottsville, Rochester, Holley, Brighton, and Buffalo. Participants not only enjoyed the tour but many stayed on to explore the village, shop and dine in our downtown. In all, we hosted 201 kayakers and 47 cyclists. Our thanks to our tours organizer who also served as a tour leader, Marleen Cain, and tour leaders Coby Albone, Mathea Linden, Garrett Roe and Anastacia Maynard.

Following the conclusion of the summer On the Canals Excursions, we were happy to be able to loan our kayaks to SUNY Brockport for a staff event, and our bikes to Brockport Smiles for a team building day.

Manager’s Office Hosts Social Work Intern—Meet Andrea

My name is Andrea Barfi and I intern at the Village at Brockport. I am in my senior year at SUNY Brockport, majoring in Social Work with a minor in Women’s Studies. Caring for the mental health of others has always been a passion of mine, along with building community and making those connections. Interning at the village has expanded my knowledge of government and business as well as the dynamic of social work on a macro level. Forming a closer relationship to the Village of Brockport has helped improve my quality of life here, especially as a local college student. I’m looking forward to emerging myself into this community more and using my skills to bring a new perspective to the Village.

(Andrea learned to kayak with one of our on the canals excursion leaders!)



BRIDGING THE CLOSURE: MAIN STREET BRIDGE REPAIR



The Village's Bridging the Closure Committee continues to meet and plan for the upcoming closure and repair of the Main Street lift bridge.

Representatives from Albion, whose bridge closed on November 14, have joined our monthly meetings and we are learning from their experience of jumping quickly into a bridge closure and they are benefitting from our several months of

planning ours. Both villages are under the same contract with the same construction company (Crane Hogan). The NYSDOT has established a field office during the bridge rehabilitation at 40 Clinton Street which is serving both communities.

Our 18-month (480 days) bridge closure and repair should begin in April; we have scheduled a public meeting on Thursday February 9 at the Seymour Library for the DOT to explain the process and answer the public's questions.

We are working on several fronts related to the upcoming closure: signage to guide visitors to downtown businesses, a long list of events over the next year and a half that will bring visitors and residents to downtown Brockport. We are concerned about traffic through the village with our main bridge out of commission and we are working to make the flow of traffic smooth and safe for pedestrians and cyclists while minimally bothersome for residents whose homes are along the detour route.

A bridge closure for 18 months is a major inconvenience to a community, but we hope to turn it into an educational opportunity for residents of all ages with school visits to the construction site, possibilities for college interns interested in marketing, event planning, traffic issues, possible webcam coverage of bridge repairs, and weekly reports on the village website of construction progress. The rehabilitation is essentially total: from the pedestrian railings, bridge deck, to the counterweights, lifting frame and posts, the sheaves that wind the cables, to the electrical system, to the navigation lights and stairway to the control tower.

For the rehabilitation, the bridge will be removed from its moorings and placed on the grassy expanse on the northeast side of Main Street just beyond the canal. There it should be very viewable by the public.

Since the village owns the Smith Street bridge, one of two alternate north/south approaches to the village, the NYSDOT will not install a stoplight on the one lane bridge to control traffic. The village plans to rent one for the duration. It will be installed a month before the actual bridge closing so drivers can acclimate to it. Subsequently, after the Main Street bridge repair, the \$1.2 million Smith Street bridge project to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians will include stoplights.

The village website (currently being upgraded) will have a page devoted to the bridge closure, with a link on the homepage—just click the bridge icon.

