Welcome to our Fall Newsletter. To better coordinate with the busiest seasons for Village Hall staff, we’ve moved our twice yearly village newsletter to the fall and spring.

As the sun heads south for the winter, we’re investing in sun power. The village has just signed an agreement with Solar Liberty, a solar developer, to erect a solar farm to power our municipal buildings along with the fire district’s four fire stations, and the Seymour library. The installation will be built on the village landfill on Canal Road and owned and maintained by Solar Liberty for 25 years, at which time the village can purchase it outright, renegotiate the lease, or have the developer remove the panels at their expense. Solar Liberty [http://www.solarliberty.com](http://www.solarliberty.com) is one of the largest developers operating in New York State. They will be developing a project for the Village of Perry and are the approved developer for projects in Wyoming County.

The financial structuring of solar power for municipalities takes advantage of NSERDA grants for the project start up costs, with a fixed rate per kilowatt hour paid to the developer. That rate is predicted to be substantially less than the utility company’s for the period of the agreement. There is no capital investment for the village; the village’s costs are figured into the rate. For the first year the combined savings for the village, library and fire stations is estimated to be $30,500, growing to an annual savings of $95,500 by the 25 year end of the lease. These savings will be a boon not only to the Village but to our Clarkson and Sweden neighbors.

Brockport’s recent recognition as a Climate Smart Community will also allow us to issue permits for solar power to village businesses and residences. See inside for more information on that topic, along with news from our departments and a spotlight on local business, Precision Optical Transceivers.

Margay Blackman, Mayor
The Village of Brockport passed a resolution to adopt the Climate Smart Community pledge, becoming the 169th community in New York to join this state program. The program is a joint effort between 6 state agencies to foster a state-local partnership to meet the economic, social and environmental challenges of climate change. It is a free program that provides numerous educational resources, technical assistance, networking among peer climate smart communities, and notification of available grants and priority status when applying for related grants.

Being a Climate Smart Community means the village will actively take part in conversations around energy use, efficient management practices, and resiliency planning as well as inform and engage the public around the topic of climate change. Other Climate Smart Communities in our area include: City of Rochester, Town of Brighton, Town of Irondequiot, Town of Clarendon, Town and Village of Sodus, and the Town of Williamson.

In October, the village also adopted the New York State Unified Solar Permit. The solar permit is a streamlined permitting process for those interested in installing solar panels for their property, whether residential or commercial. The permit is available on our website at http://www.brockportny.org/departments-services/forms-and-applications.

Taking steps for more accessible alternative energy sources for both the village and for individual residents is a responsible and efficient way of doing business. It is also leading us towards a comprehensive plan.

**Working Towards a Village Comprehensive Plan**

In order to leverage financial assistance to help with the intensive process of developing a village-specific comprehensive plan and zoning re-writes, the village plans on applying for funding under the Cleaner, Greener Communities program. Several perquisite actions are required before we are eligible to apply; becoming a Climate Smart Community and Adopting the Unified Solar Permit are the first two actions along this path to achieving our goal. Next, we will be taking steps towards a permitting process for electric charging stations for vehicles, conducting a municipal energy inventory and adopting a vehicle fleet efficiency policy.

Through the Cleaner, Greener Communities program, the state offers monetary awards of $2,500 to those who have adopted the Unified Solar Permit and Alternative Fuel Supply Infrastructure (permitting for electric charging stations). These awards have no requirements attached; they are pure incentive. We plan to harness these funds, with the first request underway, and use them as our matching funds in applying for the grant to pay for a consultant for developing the comprehensive plan.

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**Out and About in the Village**

Jeremy Moyer with the water department truck, headed out to read meters.

Officer Catlin, one of Brockport’s newest police officers, out on foot patrol.
On Thursday July 16, 2015 the Brockport Police Department deployed the use of TASER Body Worn Cameras. These cameras will create better transparency between the police department and the community. The cameras will allow officers to capture video from their perspective, from the moment they get on scene, until the incident ends. Additionally, these cameras may also be used to film crime scenes, capture evidence that may be destroyed by inclement weather or other uncontrollable factors, and memorialize events that never would have been captured in the past.

In accordance with department policy, the cameras will be worn whenever a police officer is on duty and must be activated when officers are in a situation where a physical, or verbal confrontation is occurring or likely to occur. Additionally, nothing precludes officers from activating the camera at any time they believe it appropriate and beneficial to do so. Our policy was formulated with considerable thought. Some departments, inclusive of a recommendation by NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services, have decided to record every interaction police officers have with the community they serve. I believe this is an unwarranted and unnecessary invasion of privacy and in turn could be counterproductive to enhancing police/community relations.

The department tested cameras for about 3 months before deciding to purchase TASER Axon Cameras. By using an external hard drive to store the data recorded, the police department will avert the large storage fees that companies charge to store data, and will also have the ability to keep the data for years. Any evidence captured on the cameras will immediately be transferred to a compact disk and forwarded to appropriate agencies.

The total cost of all equipment, including the cameras, hard drives and ancillary hardware totaled $7,767 and was paid for through the Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds and a state grant secured by Senator Ortt.

Should anyone wish to review our General Order regarding this matter, or wish to discuss this newly evolving technology, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Lastly, all members of the Brockport Police Department would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday season. As always, thank you for allowing us the privilege of serving you.

Welcome to Stacy Burke, Judge Andrews’ new court clerk. We are excited to have Stacy join the court team. Her presence allows us to increase coverage of court clerk hours during the day; new hours are 9am to 4:30pm Monday-Friday. Please call Corey Stepanek or Stacy Burke with any ticket or court related questions at 637-1044.

Court Clerk Contact Information

villagecourt@brockportny.org

(585) 637-1044
The Magic Ratio: Salt Additive Goes the Distance

In the last few years, you may have noticed the Department of Public Works (DPW) spreading a brown substance on the roads during the winter months. It is not sand, but a de-icing product, an organic based performance enhancer (OBPE). This additive, derived from plant materials, coats the salt crystal, ultimately increasing its efficacy. Brockport purchases its OBPE from Millennium Roads out of Lyndonville, one of the first companies in the United States to supply such an additive, as created by owner Jeffrey Johnson, back in 1994.

The OBPE works at lower temperatures than salt alone. Typically at twenty degrees (F) there is no moisture in the air, which salt needs to activate and begin the melting process. By encapsulating the salt crystal in the OBPE, the OBPE provides the needed moisture and the salt can do its job. Superintendent Donahue has seen this de-icer work in temperatures as low as 0 degrees (F). Not only does the OBPE jump start the melting process but it creates a brine on the road surface, working longer than your average salt compound. This means when a fresh snowfall starts, the trucks may not have to plow or salt as quickly, because the surface is still experiencing melt.

A few years into banding our salt with an OBPE and we can clearly see a reduction in our salt usage. The DPW used to budget for 750 tons of salt per year, and now we budget for a 600 ton cache of salt. Although the additive has had a lot to do with this savings, it is also important to note that some of it comes from purchasing new controls for the trucks. Today’s controls are computerized, working with the travel speed of the truck and a sensor located on the transmission, allowing for a more even spread down the road and eliminating the manual control.

Interestingly, we use more salt in small snow falls than in a bigger one. The trucks keep plowing until the snow event is over and then salt, unless road conditions dictate otherwise, with special care taken near the school zone. Intersections, curbs and hills get regular salt treatment and under ice conditions the whole road surface is salted.

The OBPE product the village uses is less corrosive than additives using calcium chloride or other abrasives, thus better for the roads and infrastructure, the surrounding environment, and vehicle wear-and-tear.

To read more about the organic de-icer, The Democrat and Chronicle wrote a piece about Millennium Roads and has a short video explanation as they were mixing the Town of Ogden’s product last winter at: http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/local/2014/01/14/road-salt-recipes-like-playing-mad-scientist/4482017/

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Reminder: Sidewalks and Snow

Sidewalk clearing is the responsibility of the property owner, resident, or business owner. The DPW plows sidewalks as a courtesy to help make travel easier and safer for school children, the elderly, and mail carriers. Please be advised that we have a single sidewalk plow to clear 34 miles of sidewalks in the village, this takes a minimum of 4 hours. Typically, the sidewalk plow begins near the central schools at 4 am and works towards the outer limits of the village. Under snow conditions we all need to work together!
Leaf Collection began October 26th and will continue until December 4th. In the event of heavy snow before, the period of leaf collection will be shortened.

Do not bag leaves.

Do not place rocks, sticks or twigs into the piles; they will break our equipment.

Place in loose piles between the sidewalk and the street.

Do not rake your leaves into the street. Keep leaves out of storm drains.

Brush Pick-Up

Although at the time of publication our fall brush pick-up service has ended, a dump truck is still available to be dropped off at your home. You put the brush in the truck and we will haul it away. Call 637-1060 to schedule.

Snow Removal

As a reminder, all village parking regulations are in effect. This means no overnight parking, between the hours of 2am-6am on all village streets; cars on streets hinder snow removal. Violators will be towed at owner’s expense.

Please keep snow out of the streets; do not plow, blow or shovel snow into the street.

Snowmobiles are not permitted on the canal path within village limits or on streets or sidewalks. Fines up to $250 and 15 days in jail are possible with an additional $200 fine if the vehicle is not registered.

FIRE HYDRANTS

If you have a hydrant in front of your home or your neighbor’s, please keep it clear of snow. A 3-foot radius is recommended.

Attention Snow Birds

Please leave a forwarding address for your water/sewer bill or you are welcome to prepay. We also request a phone number or contact for a house sitter in case of emergency. Call Debbie at 637-5300 x11

We strongly recommend that you turn the water service off on the inside of your house if you are gone for an extended period of time.

Sewer Trouble?

As a reminder, the village has a sewer camera. We can televise your lines and determine what and where the problem is. This is a free service. If you have a plumber coming to assist you, the plumber can coordinate this service with the village.
Precision Optical Transceivers at 13 Water Street is a Start-Up NY business in the Village of Brockport. A fiber optic company, they manufacture optical transceivers, which transmit and receive data using optical fiber. The speed of transfer is the advantage of fiber optics (Think downloading high definition movies in just a few seconds). In the basement of 13 Water Street their mini factory programs, tests, and customizes transceivers. They are a part of the photonics industry, which will be opening a major research center in Rochester. Mayor Blackman paid a visit to the company to learn about its business and tour the facility with President Todd Davis.

Opening in 2014, Precision Optical Transceivers was the College at Brockport’s first Start-Up NY business. Start-Up NY offers tax-free operation to certain types of businesses for 10 years and works well for this small but growing company. Todd noted that their competition is in Texas, which has no state taxes. Precision Optical reinvests their savings from Start-Up NY tax exemptions in order to quickly grow their company. They hope to be able to expand to a second building in the village if the college’s amended Campus Start-Up NY Plan, which includes additional village properties, is approved by the State. Start-Up NY businesses within the village are not exempt from property taxes.

Most of Precision Optical’s employees are Brockport College graduates. The company is connected closely with the college, working with Dr. Lerong He, chair of the Department of Business Administration, and mentoring students in her course on international business. They have sponsored two full scholarships at the college and hope to find good employees through these efforts. As a business member of the Brockport community, they are also looking to be more involved with the community.

If you live in a residential area, and would like to run your small business from the comfort of your home, there are a few items that must be presented to the Village Zoning Board of Appeals before you can do so. Regulations regarding home occupations are outlined in Chapter 58, Section 9 of the Code of the Village of Brockport:

**Home occupations**

(A) An occupation may be conducted in a dwelling, provided that:

1. No person other than members of the family residing on the premises shall be engaged in such occupation.
2. Any and all home occupations shall be clearly incidental and subordinate to the area of the dwelling unit used for residential purposes by the residents thereof, and the total floor area of any and all home occupations shall not exceed 25% of the floor area of the dwelling unit.
3. There shall be no change in the outside appearance of the buildings or premises or other visible evidence of the conduct of such home occupation.
4. There shall be no exterior display or indication of the use other than a specifically permitted sign.
5. No home occupation shall be extended into an accessory building.
6. No traffic shall be generated by such home occupation in greater volumes than would normally be expected in a residential neighborhood, and any need for parking generated by the conduct of such home occupation shall be provided by an off-street area located other than in a required front yard.
7. No equipment or process shall be used in such home occupation, which equipment or process creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors or electrical interference detectable to the normal senses of persons off the lot if the occupation is conducted in a single-family residence or outside the dwelling unit if conducted in other than a single-family residence. In the case of electrical interference, no equipment or process shall be used which creates visual or audible interference with any radio or television receivers off the premises or causes fluctuation in the line voltage off the premises.
8. Any type of business or stage of manufacturing or repairing of any items whether or not the sale of same takes place in the home shall require a home occupancy permit.

(B) Any person desiring to carry on a home occupation must obtain a special conditional use permit. This permit may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

1. In order to grant any conditional use, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall find that the establishment, maintenance or operation of the use applied for will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety or general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of such proposed use or be injurious to the property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the Village.
2. The conditional use permit shall be void if the use shall cease for more than six months for any reason.
3. The Zoning Board of Appeals, on its own motion, may revoke any conditional use permit for noncompliance with conditions set forth above.
4. Information to be included on the permit shall be as follows:
   - [a] Name, address and telephone number.
   - [b] Location and size of use.
   - [c] Nature and intensity of the operations involved in or conducted in connection with it.
   - [d] Number of persons to be involved in occupation.
   - [e] Safety restrictions.

If you have any questions about a potential home occupation, please feel free to contact David Miller, Code Enforcement Officer, at 637-5300 x 14 or dmiller@brockportny.org.
Walk! Bike! Brockport, in cooperation with Mayor Blackman, has completed its Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for Walking and Biking in the greater Brockport area. The ATP was funded by a $50,000 grant from the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC). Tom Robinson of Barton & Loguidice served as Project Director. In addition to all the work undertaken by Robinson’s team, the project included bicycle and walking tours of the area, two Steering Committee meetings and two public meetings held at Village Hall.

The ATP, with help from future grants, will lead to new safety features for walkers and bikers, multi-use trails, improved pedestrian and biking street crossings and other infrastructure improvements both on and off streets. The goal is to maximize opportunities for people to get out and move under their own power.

The ATP has led Walk! Bike! Brockport! to launch a second project to convert the Main Street Railroad Bridge into a Victorian Gateway for Brockport. The gateway will feature a mural, designed by Stacey Kirby, on both sides of the bridge. Kirby created the mural now displayed on the Department of Public Works building wall on East Avenue.

To prepare for the upcoming mural, SUNY-College at Brockport students pitched in to clean up the tangle of weeds, small trees and brush on the right side of the bridge where automobiles, pedestrians and bikers pass beneath. Members of the College’s Pi Kappa Phi fraternity (a fraternity devoted to community service) used tools and a heavy-duty truck provided by Harry Donahue, Superintendent of Public Works, to remove brush and stack it in the truck.

Fraternity member Scott Meyers organized Pi Kappa Phi participation in the clean-up work. Meyers—a Department of Political Science and International Studies student—is an intern with Walk! Bike! Brockport! and the Mayor’s office. College-Community Cooperation is alive and well!

If you would like to support this project, two different methods are possible. One way is to click on the following website and make a donation: https://www.gofundme.com/xe557dj4. Or you may write a check. Make it out to Walk! Bike! Brockport! Mail the check to Walk! Bike! Brockport!, Village Hall, 49 State Street, Brockport, New York, 14420, Attn: Gateway Mural Project.

The village and the Greater Brockport Development Corporation received a $2,000 grant from the Arts Council for Greater Rochester for the mural work and will be applying to additional funding opportunities.

Find the Active Transportation Plan on our website at:

http://www.brockportny.org/community/clubs-organizations/walk-bike-brockport
Brockport Historic Moment — by William Andrews, Deputy Mayor/Trustee

An early problem in developing the electrical lighting industry was to generate and transmit electrical current to consumers in an entire town or city. This was first accomplished in Roselle, NJ, in 1883. Two years later, The Brockport Republic reported that, “A gentleman called at Brockport the other day to talk about lighting the streets with electricity. The cost would be only $9,000 per year, but it was concluded that we would get along with gas, kerosene, and moonlight awhile longer.”

Five years later, Brockport took the plunge. Mr. Hillbrook of the Thomson-Houston Electric Co. told The Brockport Republic in April that 250 subscribers would support an electricity generating plant and 28 lamps would “fully light the village streets at a cost of $2,000 per annum”. The businesses in the village were canvassed and 260 potential subscribers signed up to pay three cents per light per night. The generating plant could be built for $15,000.

By early June, 21 investors had pledged $12,600 and the remaining $2,400 would come from “outside parties”. The Brockport Electric Co. was organized with George D. Morgan, son of Dayton S. Morgan, president; Horatio N. Beach, publisher of The Brockport Republic, secretary; and George C. Gordon, son of Luther Gordon, lumber baron and president of the First National Bank, treasurer. Most of Brockport’s leading businessmen were subscribers.

By September a frame 40 by 70 foot generating plant with a tin roof had been built by L. Gordon & Sons for $1,787 on the south canal bank about mid-way between the Main Street and Smith Street bridges. About 200 poles had been placed in six-foot-deep holes for 12½ cents a hole.

The Brockport Republic of September 27 announced proudly that, “In advance of most villages of similar population electric lighting has been introduced into Brockport. This is a new manifestation of its spirit of enterprise, and brings it now new honor and fame.” Arc-light street lights had been placed at 33 sites, mainly at intersections and, “The people very generally appeared to be delighted.”

By early October, 60 stores, hotels, offices, barber shops, etc., were being illuminated with 300 “burners” from 5 to 8 am and 5 pm to 1 am. (No mention of the 200 other potential subscribers.) However, problems remained. The carbon filaments in the street lights survived only seven hours, requiring daily replacement. Also, “a gentleman sent here…to…adjust…the electric lighting apparatus, received a heavy shock”, was knocked senseless, and “appeared as though he were dead”. However, he recovered quickly. Moreover, homeowners were still in the dark with no word as to when they would be connected.

Finally, The Republic noted smugly that the contractor for an electrical system in Albion had defaulted and quoted The Holley Standard as saying that “Brockport is prouder than a boy with a new toy over its electric light, and with good reason. The new light gives our neighboring village quite a metropolitan air.”

SOLAR SAL
Navigating the Erie Canal

Pictured above is Solar Sal, the first boat to navigate the Erie Canal with 100% solar energy. She left Lockport on Sept. 29 and docked at her final destination, Mechanicville. Along the way, she stopped in Brockport where she was greeted by Welcome Center volunteers and members of our Board of Trustees. Solar Sal was a project of Professor David Borton and the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County and various commercial sponsors.
The Emily Knapp Museum & Library of Local History has had an exciting and productive season, with over 220 visitors from near and far, including Marion Seymour from New Mexico, the great-great granddaughter of Brockport’s co-founder, James Seymour.

On October 9th, the conference room of the Village Hall was packed for Dr. Alicia Kerfoot’s talk “The Era of the ‘Ultra’: Early Twentieth-Century Women’s Footwear in the Knapp Museum Collection” which discussed how Brockport’s Moore-Shafer Shoe Factory figured in the history of shoe manufacturing, marketing, and how the rise and fall of the industry impacted the Brockport community. Dr. Kerfoot will adapt her talk to an electronic format to share on our blog www.knappmuseum.wordpress.com for those residents who couldn’t attend.

The Adopt-a-Picture Program is alive and well at the museum, and we hope area residents will consider adopting an historic photo to preserve our precious collection for generations to come. As of now, the program has helped the museum preserve over fifty historic photographs! Please contact the museum for more information at: villagehistorian@brockportny.org.

In August, work with the College at Brockport’s Museum Studies interns began its fourth year. Some interesting student projects include organizing an historic story-telling walk through High Street Cemetery during the Halloween season and researching and exhibiting the Emily Knapp Museum’s Native American artifacts.

Recently, the museum received a TAG grant to conduct a feasibility study for handicapped accessibility, as its collections are housed on the second and third floors of Village Hall, an historic home. Bero Architecture will be providing consultation services for this effort. Additionally, a $1,000 grant through the Rochester Community Foundation was recently awarded for the preservation of historic photographs (Adopt-a-Picture Program).

Work will continue at the museum through the cold season, and it will be open to visitors by appointment only. Please email villagehistorian@brockportny.org to schedule an appointment.

Notice to Community Groups and Organizations

Please give 2016 event information to Village Clerk by March 1st.

Events eligible for village calendar publication must be open to the public and held within village limits.

Events Calendar to be published in April 2016.
Looking Ahead

Upcoming 2015 Events

**November 28  Small Business Saturday**, Main & Market Streets

**DECEMBER**

4 & 5 **Candlelight Christmas Sale**; Fri-Sat; 10a-9p; Morgan Manning House; sponsored by Western Monroe Historical Society

5 & 6 **Merchants Open House**; Sat-Sun; downtown commercial district; sponsored by Brockport Merchants Association

6 **Pictures with Santa**; Sun; 3-5p; Morgan Manning House; sponsored by Western Monroe Historical Society

6 **Holiday Lights Spectacular** parade & tree lighting; Sun; 5p; Main St/Sagawa Park; sponsored by the Village of Brockport and the Stetson Club

Village Board Elections to be held June 2016

Village Elections will be held Tuesday, June 21, 2016. Polls, located at Village Hall, will be open 12pm through 9pm. Two Trustee seats are up for election, positions currently held by Trustees Bill Andrews and John LaPierre. A legal notice will be published in February for those interested in running and a notice will be published again in late May or early June noting who is on the ballot and who is eligible to vote.

Muralist Rick Muto provides a sneek peak into the design for Sagawa Park mural set for installation spring 2016.

The theme of the mural is “Portraits of our Past” and will be 7 ft high and 35.5 ft. wide. It will feature canal and canal activity, Victorian architecture and will illustrate important people, events, and industries that were instrumental and unique in the development of Brockport.

This public art installation is funded through a $7,000 Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Grant and funds raised by Pro-Brockport, Walk Bike Brockport and BISCO.

It will be dedicated during the Low Bridge High Water Ceremonies set for May 12-14, 2016.

**SAVE THE DATE:** LOW BRIDGE HIGH WATER CELEBRATION 12-14 MAY 2016
VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT

49 State Street . Brockport, NY 14420

(585) 637-5300 phone

(585) 637-1045 fax

Website: www.brockportny.org

The Victorian Village on the Erie Canal
Preserve America Community
Listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places
Certified Local Government
Tree City USA Community
Climate Smart Community

Welcome Center at Harvest Park

11 Water Street
Brockport, NY 14420
Open seasonally May 1st-mid October

Officials:
Mayor—Margaret B. Blackman
Trustee/Deputy Mayor—William G. Andrews
Trustee Valerie Ciciotti
Trustee Katherine Kristiansen
Trustee John LaPierre

Village Clerk—Leslie Ann Morelli
Village Treasurer—Daniel P. Hendricks
Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer—David J. Miller, Jr.
Police Chief—Daniel P. Varrenti
DPW Superintendent—Harry G. Donahue