

MAYOR'S MESSAGE
2014 YEAR END REVIEW

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. 2014 was a very busy and productive year in Menands. It also brought with it some unexpected changes.

As of this writing, Tim Boyd is still in Atlanta. Tim is working very hard in therapy, and although he has not regained use of his hands or legs, he has gained much strength in his arms and back, which helps him in doing everyday tasks. With the seriousness of Tim's injuries, any strength or motion is a big step for him. Tim is expected to be released on March 4th and returning home soon after. Many have asked what they can do to help. Right now, there are fund drives set up to help Tim including a *pancake breakfast scheduled for Sunday, February 22nd from 8 - 12 at the Watervliet Elks*. There is also an account set up in Tim's name at CapCom FCU. Tim and Melinda are so appreciative of the outpouring of love and kindness that they have received during this difficult time.

Public Safety:

I would like to give special thanks to our Village departments for their continued hard work, especially this winter. To the DPW for working around the clock to keep our streets cleared while still maintaining our services, the Menands Police for their assistance during the snow emergencies and the Fire Department for clearing out hydrants around the Village, while both continue to provide 24/7 protection. It is the dedication of the members of these departments that makes Menands a safe and special place to live. In addition to the above services provided by each dept. they also performed the following:

DPW:

- In 2014 the DPW received three new pieces of equipment; a new garbage truck, leaf machine and backhoe.
- Replaced 100 ft of 2 " water pipe on Pawling Street.
- Re-tapped a section of water line from the 2" to the 6 " line on Hendrick Ave.
- Together with the Town of Colonie and St. Agnes Cemetery, began clean up of the creek on Cemetery Ave.
- Cleared brush on the school path to allow better access for vehicles for emergency purposes.

Menands Fire Dept.:

- The Village Board approved the purchase of a new fire truck, which will replace two older trucks.
- Welcomed two new active members to the Dept.
- Brendan Murphy recently became a certified EMT, joining Ben Lattanzio and Don Handerhan from the Dept.
- In addition to ongoing training, five members of the MFD went to Colorado for field training on crude oil tankers
- Assisted in the safe recovery of a missing elderly man.
- An evacuation drill was coordinated by Chief Franklin and others for the residents on the west side of the tracks.

Total Calls - 303

Fire Alarms - 118

Mutual Aid - 18

EMS Calls - 91

MVA - 26

Structure Fires - 16

Menands Fire Dept. Auxiliary:

The main purpose of the Auxiliary is to render assistance upon request of the Menands Fire Co. #1, Inc.

- The number of assists for 2014 was 1

Menands Police Dept.:

- Officer Ryan St. Gelais was promoted to Sgt.
- Chief O'Brien, Sgt. St. Gelais and I participated in Albany County's Emergency Managers Program
- Assisted in the safe recovery of a missing elderly man
- Assisted in the evacuation drill for the residents on the west side of the tracks

Calls for service 7601
 Property Checks 7658
 Miles traveled 146,019
 Criminal Arrests 188
 Traffic Tickets 888
 Motor Vehicle Accidents 179

Village Efforts Regarding Public Safety

With the increase in rail traffic there have been many efforts by the Village in this regard:

- There were several meetings that I attended, with our Village Chiefs, local leaders, CSX, CP Rail, FEMA, Homeland Security, Albany County and the Town of Colonie to discuss rail and other safety matters.
- Participation in Albany Counties Emergency Management Program.
- Installation of a camera to monitor the trains traveling through Menands.
- The Village Board adopted an Emergency Management Plan for Menands as presented by our depts.
- An inter-municipal agreement was amended with Menands School for use of the path for emergencies.
- Shelter training was conducted and provided by the Albany County Sheriff's Dept. and the American Red Cross.
- Coordinated efforts for emergency access or evacuations at Menands Road or through the Sage Estates.

Infrastructure

- In addition to the work performed by the DPW, storm drains were replaced on Scott Drive, followed by paving.
- In May the Board accepted the road improvements for the Canal Road South Extension. Extending Canal Road South enhanced development efforts on Simmons Lane by providing alternate and emergency access east of the tracks. It has already proved to be an asset for those traveling to Sky Zone Trampoline Park.
- Engineering work was completed on several infrastructure projects with work expected to begin in the Spring.
- Continued paving projects will also resume in the Spring.

Economic Development

On the Economic Development front, Menands saw another productive year. The increase in activity may be from a combination of an improving economy, our increased economic development efforts and our business friendly approach. We continued to invite and give marketing tours of Menands to major developers, investors and State and Local Economic Development professionals.

- The Manufacturing sector lead by **Simmons Machine Tool Corp.** and **Blasch Precision Ceramics** continue to see sales on the rise.
- Our Technology Sector is continuing to grow and prosper.
- **Ideal Food Market** had their official Grand Opening in March.
- **C&C Unlimited, Inc.** moved to 6 Simmons Lane.
- **CDTA** announced that the next BusPlus Route will be the River Corridor (Cohoes to Downtown Albany) which will introduce express service to Menands.
- The **Family Dollar Corporation** announced that it will be constructing an 8,200 square foot store at 22-28 Broadway.
- **Fusco Realty LLC**, constructed a 65,000 square foot warehouse and business facility at 50 Simmons Lane. **Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park** became the first tenant, opening for business in November, and has become one of the most popular places in the Village.
- **Ruthen Limited**, the owner of the **Mid City Shopping Center**, has replaced the roofs in most of the complex as an incentive to draw new tenants.
- The owners of 120 Broadway completed a makeover of the second floor of the building to provide updated space for their existing and future tenants.
- I initiated a series of stakeholder meetings with business owners, realtors, and investors to develop a strategy for the continued growth of the Broadway Corridor.
- Our semiannual Business Breakfast continued, seeing an increase in participation from our business community.

- **The Coffee Time Café** opened as a new restaurant in the **Riverview Center** providing another amenity for the tenants.
- **The Painters, Glazers and Related Trades Union** purchased 191 Broadway, to develop a training center for trade apprentices. The building will undergo a \$300,000 renovation.
- The Village Board granted Final Site Plan approval for the **Dutch Village IV** project which will construct four new apartment buildings containing 48 units.
- Final approvals were also granted for the **Harmony Primalofts** project including a Special Use Permit to authorize a multi-family occupancy at the site, which will include 145 new apartments at the former Albany International Bldg.
- **Peak Performance Chiropractor** began renovating 319 Broadway for their new office and plan to open in the Spring.
- **Broadway Auto** went solar with the installation of roof-mounted panels to conserve energy and save cost.
- I joined other local leaders in attending **Albany County Executive Dan McCoy's** quarterly meetings for government officials. These meetings have been a great resource for discussing the Governors tax cap and shared services initiative, ways that each community deals with issues and how we can work together.

Beautification

- Village Gardener, Dianne MacFarland, once again did a wonderful job with beautification efforts around the Village. Dianne, with help from the DPW, maintains and waters the flower beds and hanging pots, created a beautiful fall display on the island with help from Bill Giering and donations from Michelle Esposito, filled the stone pots with holiday greens and red ribbons. Putting in 254 hours last year, Dianne noted that the 2014 gardening season was a gardener's dream weather wise. Hopefully 2015 provides the same.
- The second annual **Grow Menands** contest was another great success. With many beautiful areas to choose from, St. Agnes Cemetery won for the business community and Dorothy Mastor for the residents. We look forward to more beautiful gardens in 2015.
- In honor of the Village 90th Anniversary new banners were designed and hung by the DPW along Broadway to celebrate 90 years and recognize the departments and organizations that make up Menands.

Community

- In 2014 the Village celebrated its 90th Anniversary. Our annual Village Picnic was a great time for past and present residents to reminisce and enjoy a fun filled family day at the park.
- In June I had a wonderful opportunity to participate in the **MDA Lock-up**. With the generous support of family and friends I raised over \$1400 in "bail money" for **MDA**. It was a lot of fun for a great cause.
- Trustee Nicoll, Eco Dev Director Bill Giering and I had the pleasure of attending the **Turkish Cultural Center Friendship Dinner**, with an emphasize on youth education.
- The Summer Concert series was well attended, providing awesome music and great food offered by the Menands Fire Co. Being at the park during events and seeing the entire park being utilized is one of my favorite things. I look forward to the 2015 season.
- The Village honored resident Mildred Howarth on her 100th birthday.
- The first annual **Monster Mile** was held in conjunction with the Village picnic. It was a great success, well organized and a lot of fun.
- **Fill The Mayflower** food drive brought in a record number of donations that were delivered to local food pantries, as well as pet supplies to assist the **Mohawk Hudson Humane Society**.
- **Pay It Forward - Together** hosted their kick off celebration in November and have already helped out many in the Menands/Watervliet communities

Historian

Village Historian Kevin Franklin continues to share his wealth of knowledge about the Village to anyone interested. Kevin serves as the official photographer of the Village and can be seen at every event capturing the history.

Youth

- The Menands Jr. Baseball and Softball league, Ski Program, Youth Soccer and CYO Basketball programs all enjoyed another successful season.
- The Summer Youth Program had great trips and entertaining activities for the kids at the Park Program.
- Youth Director Brianna Coughlin and her counselors planned fun events for the Village Easter, Halloween and Holiday Parties.
- The Menands Fire Dept. worked a Santa detail by escorting Santa around the Village on the fire truck. With music and candy canes it is an event that kids of all ages look forward to each year.

Seniors

The Menands Seniors enjoyed amazing new trips in 2014. Their meetings are held on Thursday's from 10 – 2, with guest speakers, games and luncheons. They have a lot of fun on their trips, at parties, etc. and new members are always welcome. President Diane Leonard has exciting events planned for 2015 that are sure to please all.

Menands School

- I am grateful for the support and working relationship with Superintendent Maureen Long and the Menands School Board of Education. With a common goal of the safety of the school and village communities we are working together on initiatives to further this endeavor.
- The PTA continues to host several family events including movie nights, bingo night, pancake and spaghetti dinners and dances. They also have their annual mum sale.

Menands Public Library

The Library continues to provide learning experiences for all age groups:

- Guest Speakers
- Children's Story time
- Homework help and study group
- Book signing by local authors
- Book club
- Movie festivals
- Ice Cream Socials

Upcoming events in 2015:

- I look forward to continuing to meet with members of the business community. With the anticipated opening of new businesses in 2015, it will be a pleasure to welcome them to Menands.
- The development of **Harmony Lofts** and expansion of **Dutch Village IV** are both on track to continue in 2015. Once completed, will bring new residents to the Village to enjoy all that Menands has to offer.
- There are several infrastructure and paving projects in the works that are expected to begin in the spring. Realizing the financial hardships many face, the Village Board makes every effort to support these projects with the least impact on our residents and businesses.

Without the hard work and dedication of the Village employees, all that has been accomplished would not have been possible. I thank each and every one for their commitment to the Menands community.

I look forward to continued progress in 2015.

Until next time.

Mayor Meg