

## 2018 Year End Review

### Village of Menands:

Having lived in Menands the majority of my life it has always held a special place in my heart. There are so many opportunities in our Village for both residents and businesses and word continues to spread. In a **2018 Niche Report**, **Menands** was ranked **#1** in best places to live in the **Albany** area, **#7** in **Upstate New York** and **#48 state-wide**. With unique services, a great workforce and a wonderful school district, these numbers are not surprising to me.

### Condolences:

We were saddened by the news of the passing of former Village employee **Dan Moore** on **March 17, 2018**. **Dan** retired from the **Water Department** in **1984**. He was a member of the **American Legion**, **Life Member** of the **Menands Fire Co.** and **Marshal** of the **Menands St. Patrick's Club** in **1965**.

**December 4, 2018**, family and friends said good-bye to life-long Village resident **Diane Brunelle**. **Diane** was a former **Menands Police Dispatcher**, became a full-time active member of the **Menands Fire Co.** in **2006** and later served as **Menands Fire Police Lieutenant**. **Diane** was past **Secretary** of the **Menands Fire Company** and **Treasurer** of the **Menands Fire Co. Auxiliary**. She was also an **Honorary Marshal** of the **Menands St. Patrick's Club**.

### Public Safety:

The **Village of Menands** is very fortunate to maintain our own **Dept. of Public Works, Police and Fire Depts.** During my time as Mayor, I have relied heavily on the experience and hard work of our departments. The members of all of these departments have a unique working relationship and work very well together. They do not hesitate to offer their services to each other to ensure our safety. While the members of our public safety departments consider what they do as just part of their job, their dedication to our community is commendable and very much appreciated.

In **February, 2018**, the potential for local flooding became an issue, with particular concern in Menands at **Village One Apartments**. An emergency meeting was held where I joined **Town Supervisor, Paula Mahan, Colonie Police Dept., Town Fire Coordinator, Albany County Sheriff's Dept., NYS Homeland Security, American Red Cross, and Village officials and department heads**, to establish an emergency evacuation plan should it become necessary. A coordinated effort to notify the residents of **Village One** became a priority, with a letter and flyer regarding evacuations delivered by **Town and Village PD and FD**. Our **DPW** picked up sandbags from **Albany County** and delivered them to **Village One Apartments**. **Clerk Handerhan** coordinated with **NYS** for an **Aqua Dam** to be put in place if needed. Thankfully we were spared the flooding but relieved to have had plans in place to ensure the safety of the residents.

To further the effort to educate the residents of **Village One Apts.**, should an evacuation become necessary in the future, as it had in 2008, a "**Meet and Greet**" was organized and held in July near the main office at **Village One Apts.** Members of the **Albany County Sheriff's Dept., Colonie EMS, Menands FD and PD, Town of Colonie PD, Schuyler Heights FD, American Red Cross, and Village and Town officials** gathered to share information with the residents and provide emergency backpacks and other items to assist in an evacuation. Having these outside agencies working closely with our own public safety departments, is reassuring and very much appreciated.

### Dept. of Public Works: (DPW)

In addition to the numerous services performed regularly for the residents, such as trash, recycling, leaf pick-up, salting, snow removal, etc., the **DPW** had another busy year with other projects:

- **Repairing water main breaks as quickly as possible to ensure minimal disruption of service to the residents and businesses.**
- **Attend various training classes to enhance skills and knowledge.**
- **Continued maintenance of DPW equipment, buildings and property.**
- **Replaced water valves to expedite necessary shut downs.**
- **Maintenance of storm drains and trash racks.**
- **Assisted engineers with infrastructure projects.**
- **Responded to resident concerns of various issues, including grinder pump replacements.**
- **Assisted in site plan review applications for new building projects.**
- **Hanging baskets and banners along Broadway, as well as other holiday decorations around the Village.**
- **Field prep and maintenance of parks, including lawn grading and topsoil in the grove area of Ganser-Smith Park.**
- **Meter readings.**
- **New gate at Glenwood Road.**

- **New Equipment:**
  - **8 Road signs and stands for safety during emergency's**
  - **Portable light tower**

### **Menands Fire Dept.: (MFD)**

We are very grateful for the volunteer members of the **Menands Fire Dept.** for their dedication to ensure the safety of those who live and work in Menands. New members are always welcome.

- **2018/19** officers were sworn in and we thank them for their service and commitment.
- **Firefighter of the Year** was awarded to **Ben Lattanzio**.
- Welcomed new member **Nick DiCeres**.
- Continuous training and drills within the Dept. and with mutual aide departments.
- Hosted their **Annual Open House** in **October** for **Fire Prevention** week. Together with **MPD, MFC, Schuyler Heights FD and Colonie EMS**, at the **Schuyler Flatts**, the **police cars and firetrucks were on display and open for children to sit in, refreshments were provided, information on fire prevention was available, a bouncy bounce was set up and the Lifenet Helicopter was on site.**
- Participated in **Menands School Field Day**
- Escorted the kids to the park for **Opening Day of Baseball** and **Halloween**
- **Mutual Aide** response to assist other **Town of Colonie Fire Departments**
- Participated in **Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade, Watervliet and Maplewood Memorial Day Parades, Hudson Valley Volunteers Fireman Association Annual Convention and Parade and St. Baldrick's Parade with Westmere Fire Dept..**
- Worked with other Village Depts. to review site plan applications for new building projects.
- A surprise birthday party for Village resident, 5 yr old **Bryce Hill**, who has autism, was coordinated by the **ACSD Project Lifesaver** and joined forces with **MPD, Menands, Colonie Village, Shaker Road-Loudonville and Schuyler Heights** fire departments and others. **Bryce** was presented with special gifts from each agency and enjoyed his special day.
- Escorted **Santa** around the Village in **December** during a special **Santa Detail**.
- **New equipment:**
  - **One set of turnout gear**
  - **2 thermal imaging cameras**
  - **Learning Mgmt software**
  - **Extrication Equipment**

**Total calls – 239 (including but not limited to):**

- **Fire Alarms – 62**
- **Mutual Aide – 42**
- **EMS calls – 46**
- **Motor Vehicle Accidents – 23**
- **Structure Fires – 11**

For information on joining the Menands Fire Dept., contact Chief Steurer at [chief@menandsfire.com](mailto:chief@menandsfire.com).

### **Menands Fire Co.: (MFC)**

- In April the **2018/19 Officers** were sworn in. Congratulations to all.
- **President's Service Award** recipient was **John Stangle**
- Hosted dinner for **Seniors Annual Holiday Party**.
- **Annual Fish Fry Dinners** held.
- **Spaghetti dinner** in support of **MFC** and **ACS**.
- **Memorial Service** to honor deceased members of **MFC**.
- Annual picnic with **MFC Aux**.
- **Concerts in the Park** and **Annual Village Picnic**.
- Participated in the **MFD Annual Open House**
- Supported the **Annual Santa Detail**.

For information on joining the Menands Fire Co., contact President Mike Mackay at [mmackay23@yahoo.com](mailto:mmackay23@yahoo.com).

### **Menands Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary: (MFC Aux)**

The **MFC Auxiliary** purpose is to render assistance upon request by the **Menands Fire Co. (referred to as 711 calls)** and to promote good will and friendship among their neighbors.

- No **711** calls in **2018**.
- The **2018/19** officers were sworn in and we are grateful for the commitment of the **MFC Auxiliary** members to the **MFD** and our community.
- **Auxiliary Member of the Year** was awarded to **Megan Lawrence**
- Hosted **Annual Life Member and Past Presidents Brunch**, including a fashion show.

- Participated with other **Town Auxiliaries** in various events.
- **Annual Craft Fair.**
- **Election Day** bake sale
- Assisted **MFC** with **Senior Holiday Party.**
- Annual wrap-up meeting and picnic, joined by other **Town Auxiliaries.**
- **Annual picnic with MFC and Annual Village Picnic.**
- **New members are always welcome!**

For information on joining the Menands Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary, contact President Joyce Miller at [menandsauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:menandsauxiliary@gmail.com)

### Menands Police Dept.: (MPD)

**Menands Police Dept.** provides **24/7** coverage for the **Village of Menands**. They respond to all calls for service including EMS and fire. The **Police Dept.** is actively involved in all community activities including, but not limited to, **Menands School, Youth and Senior Citizen** events.

- **Chief Michael O'Brien** retired in **September, 2018** and we thank him for his years of service to the **Village** and **MPD**.
- **Sept. 5th Detective Sgt. Frank Lacosse** was sworn in as the new **Chief** of the **Menands Police Dept.**
- **Sgt Ryan St. Gelais** was promoted to **Detective Sgt.** and sworn in by **Chief Lacosse**, also on **September 5th.**
- **Chief Lacosse** was the guest speaker at the **Village Fall Business Breakfast**, sharing his vision for the future of the **MPD** and their involvement in the community. He also spoke at a **Senior** luncheon, sharing information on scams and things they should be cautious of.
- **Chief Lacosse** has also developed a close working relationship with **Menands School**. He sees the department becoming more involved with the seniors and the year-round programs and events for the youth.
- Two new members of the force were welcomed in **2018**:
  - **Officer Tim Hajec**, came from the **Schenectady County Sheriff's Department**. Tim has been recognized for his work in **traffic safety and DWI enforcement**. Since joining the **MPD** in July, he has made numerous **DWI** arrests.
  - **Officer Kevin Schwebke** came from **Ravena Coeymans Police Dept.** and comes with a background as a **School Resource Officer**. Kevin also has attended several training schools in areas including investigative and traffic enforcement. He also has been effective in arresting **DWI** offenders since joining **MPD**.
- **Officer Mike D'Ambro** was promoted to **Sgt.** in **October**.
- The **MPD**, along with the **PBA**, attended the **Menands School PTA** safety forum at school and Officers gave out bike safety equipment and also presented information on the new bike registration program in **Menands**.
- Officers follow the school buses to ensure that the students can get on board the buses and arrive to school safely. The Officers issued several tickets for motorist that passed the buses while they were stopped with their signs out and their flashers on. After following the buses, an Officer goes to the school and greets the children to let them interact with the police in a positive way.
- The **MPD** performed safety checks at local businesses, upon request, to ensure a proper safety plan was in place along with safety measures for the property and employees.
- **MPD** recognized **UPS** delivery driver, **John Creech**, at the **Town of Colonie Law Day Breakfast**, for his service as a **Neighborhood Watch** member in **Menands**. Having serviced the Village for **20 years**, **John** is familiar with the neighborhoods and has reported to the **MPD** when something is off. **John's** diligence has assisted the **MPD** in making arrests, recovering stolen property and closing investigations. **John** is a perfect example of "**If you see something, say something**".
- Assisted in site plan review applications for new building projects.
- **Officer PJ Stone** became **President of the Menands PBA** and **Officer John Murphy, Vice President**. The **PBA** contributes towards many events and charities throughout the year.
- Police patrol at various events, such as **Concerts in the Park** and **Village Picnic**.
- New in **2018**, the **MPD** created their own **Facebook** page, under **Menands Police Department** to keep residents informed of emergencies and public safety announcements. .
- **New equipment:**
  - **New Police car**
  - **Three new computers for the Police Cars**
  - **Three new patrol rifles**
  - **New locker room for the officers**
- **Calls for service and Patrol information:**
  - **Call for service 8,100**
  - **Property checks 14,451**

- Miles traveled 132,805
- Criminal arrests 246
- Traffic tickets 1149
- Motor vehicle accidents 176

#### Village Court:

- **Menands Village Court**, by volume, is one of the largest **Town and Village Courts** in **Albany County**, in part to our geographic location, particularly along **I787**.
- In **2018**, the **Village Court** heard **3,222** cases. These include **2,941 traffic cases** (including **114 DWI cases**), **255 penal cases** and **26 civil cases**.
- Court was held five times per month, not including hearings, arraignments or trials. On traffic court nights, upwards of **300** cases can be heard.
- **Village Justice, Chris Flint** and **Acting Village Justice, Robert Becher** attended mandatory **Judges School** and **Court Clerks Susan and Kim** also attended training sessions, staying up to date on policies and procedures in the **Unified Court System**.
- Welcomed **Deputy Court Clerk, Danielle Murphy**, replacing Kim.
- The Court received **\$4,694.95** in **JCAP** funding which was used to purchase security equipment.

#### Building Dept.:

- **63 building permits** were issued.
- **Code Enforcement** worked closely with developers on building projects in **Menands** to ensure all requirements were met and expedite projects.
- **Paul** and **Lyle** attended the **NYSBOC training conference** to maintain their required annual training.
- **Paul** attended the monthly sessions with the **Stormwater Coalition** as our **MS4 Officer** and the **CDTC Planning Committee** meetings on behalf of the Village.
- Available to assist homeowners, businesses and developers with projects to ensure safety and code compliance.

#### Village Initiatives:

- New windows installed at **Village Office**.
- Passed a **Local Law** amending Village code on abandoned street signs and graffiti.
- Purchased **ChromeBooks**, initiated by **Trustee Harris**, for Village officials, to reduce paper and costs, and improve efficiency.
- Following a two year process working with **CP Rail** for a **Quiet Zone** in Menands, our application was recently approved. This will eliminate train horns between the hours of **10 pm and 7 am**, while passing through the Village. There are upgrades that need to be made at the four crossings in **Menands** prior to implementation, which will begin later this year.
- Continued participation in **Albany County's Emergency Managers Program and Hazard Mitigation Plan**.
- Working with **Albany County Municipal Leaders** on **Shared Services** and other agendas.
- I coordinated with **Albany County** to cover Village streets should they need plowing while our trucks were equipped with the **leaf machine**. I am grateful to **County Executive Dan McCoy** for his partnership and support of **Menands**.

#### Grant Opportunities:

We continue to explore grant opportunities to help defray costs of projects. Some have been successful, while others have not, but we will continue to look at future applications.

- **NYS Archives Grant**
  - **\$15,000** awarded to consolidate records and improve records retention.
- **NYS Department of Health/NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation – Water Infrastructure Improvement Act**

The project submitted for the **Water Infrastructure Improvement Act** was the replacement of the water distribution piping on **Hendrick Avenue, Highland Street, Hampton Street, Pawling Street and Kingston Street**. The program funds **60%** of project costs in the form of grants. The Village was not successful in the **2018** round and will be re-submitting in **2019**.
- **NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation – Green Infrastructure Grant Program**
  - The project submitted for the **Green Infrastructure Grant Program** was for improvements to the site of the **Village Office at 280 Broadway**. The program funds **90%** of project costs in the form of grants. The Village was not successful in the **2018** round and will be re-submitting in **2019**.
- **CDTC Community and Transportation Linkage Program**
  - The project submitted for the **CTDC Linkage Program** was for a comprehensive update of the Village's land use regulations including zoning, subdivision, complete streets policy, and design guidelines. The Village was not successful in the **2018** round and will be re-submitting in **2019**.

- Leak detection performed to identify water losses within Village
- Sewer Lines cleaned
- Storm drainage improvements on Glenwood Road
- Tree Inventory throughout Village
- Tree plantings at Ganser-Smith Park

**Paving:**

Continued paving, with the following streets paved in **2018**:

- Glenwood Road (including storm drain repair)
- Pawling Street
- Kingston Street

With a yearly paving program, we have completed paving a majority of the Village streets and will continue with the program over the next few years to complete the process. Thereafter, we will establish a paving plan to keep our streets in good condition.

**Economic Development:**

The Village of Menands has taken a very proactive approach to encourage economic development in Menands. Our efforts have led to over **\$50 million** in new commercial investment along the **Broadway Corridor** in the last few years, with several new projects pending for **2019**. Being centrally located in the **Capital District**, we are seeing new projects, including businesses locating their facilities in Menands, redevelopment of parcels and existing businesses doing upgrades and improvements to their current locations. As part of our business friendly atmosphere, our departments work closely with developers to assist them with the **Site Plan Review Process** to expedite projects and make sure all requirements are met. Some business highlights from **2018** include:

- In July, **Moody's Annual Issuer Comment Report** was issued for Menands. **Our credit overview noted Menands credit position is high quality, and has an Aa3 rating.** The key credit factors include a very strong financial position, an affordable debt burden and mid-ranged pension liability. The credit position also reflects a strong wealth and income profile and a narrow tax base.
- **United Ordained Ministry Church of Christ, 281 Broadway:** This project resulted in the complete rehabilitation of a vacant commercial building on **Broadway**. The Village worked with the owners to ensure that all building code and fire safety regulations were complied with.
- **311 Broadway:** This building was purchased from the **Albany County Land Bank** and has been put back on the tax rolls after a substantial rehabilitation.
- **Kasselman Electric, 279 Broadway:** This building will be the new headquarters of **Kasselman Solar** and will provide warehouse and office space for the company.
- **U-Haul, 125 Broadway:** Work continues, at the former **Williams Press** building, to substantially remodel the building to accommodate vehicle storage, retail and vehicle leasing.
- **Nfranstructure, 431C Broadway:** All rehabilitation has been completed in the former **Grand Union/ Two Guys** building. The space is now fully occupied.
- **Business Breakfast** is held twice a year. This presents an opportunity for the Village to update the businesses on happenings in **Menands** and for the businesses to share thoughts and ideas with the **Village**. **May, 2018**, the **UAlbany Graduate Planning Studio** students presented their findings of the research performed in the **Village** to incorporate into a **Comprehensive Plan** in **2019**. In **October**, **Chief Frank Lacosse** spoke to the attendees about his vision for the future of the **MPD** and safeguards that are in place to protect businesses and residents in the Village.
- The **Finishing Trades Institute of New York**, located at **191 Broadway**, held their **Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony** on **August 18, 2018**. We are proud to have the **Finishing Trades Institute** located in **Menands** and congratulate the graduates.

**Future development:**

- The **Workers Comp.** building at **100 Broadway**, recently sold for **\$3.7 million**. The building will be renovated and used for commercial office space. On behalf of the Village, I sent a letter of support for the developer seeking assistance through the **Brownfield Redevelopment Assistance Program**.
- **Riverview Assets, LLC**, who purchased **Mid-City Shopping Center**, has begun renovations of the property and continues to seek tenants to fill the empty spaces.
- **Price Chopper Plaza** was purchased, by **Menands Realty, LLC**. While we continue to push for a grocery store, it is still unclear what the plans are for the property.
- **On behalf of the Village Board, Trustee Nicoll and I** are teaming up with **Albany County Legislator, Alison Lane, Albany County Executive, Dan McCoy, Assemblyman, Phil Steck**, and others to pool our resources in exploring options to bring a grocery store back to **Menands**.
- There is interest in the former **Tomra Site** but no movement yet.



- **315 Broadway** was owned by the **Albany County Land Bank** and sold to **Nick DiBiase** and **Larry Henderson**. They are remodeling the property, as they did to the house next door at 311 Broadway. We are grateful to **Nick** and **Larry** for investing in **Menands**.
- **Poppy's Place**, located at **327 Broadway** was recently sold by owners **Nick** and **Deb DiBiase**, who retired. Under the new name of **Kris' Mid City Tavern**, the pub is expected to open St. Patrick's weekend. We wish **Deb** a healthy and happy retirement and best of luck to **Kristine** on her new venture as business owner in Menands.
- **228 Broadway**, (former car wash) was sold and is being converted to a mixed use of retail and residential.

#### Beautification:

- **Village Gardener, Dianne MacFarland**, along with **DPW Foreman, Mike Hagmann** and his crew, planted and maintained the flower beds and hanging pots around the Village.
- With donations from **Michelle and Frank Esposito, Dianne** and the **DPW** created a beautiful fall display on the island.
- **Dianne** filled the stone pots with holiday greens and ribbons, completing **140 hours** of gardening in the **2018 growing seasons**.
- With help from the **DPW**, the gazebo was decorated for all four seasons.

#### Historian:

- **Village Historian, Kevin Franklin**, continues to amaze me with his unlimited knowledge of the **Town and Village**, the documents he has (which continue to expand with things donated to **Kevin** and his ongoing documentation of current events) and his willingness to share all that he knows to anyone interested.

#### Youth:

- The **2018 Summer Park Program** offered fun events at the park and exciting trips including; **Clifton Park Ice Skating, Sky Zone and Huck Finn Playland, Bronx Zoo, Colonie Town Pool, Wonderworks Movie and Billy Beez Zoom Flume**.
- **Director Brianna Coughlin** and her counselors hosted the annual **Easter and Halloween** parties.
- A tree lighting ceremony, with caroling and refreshments, was held at the **Menands Park**, and was coordinated with the **CP Rail Holiday Train** passing through **Menands**. **Brianna and I** are working with **CP Rail** for the train to stop in **Menands**, instead of just passing through in **2019**.
- **The Ski and Snowboard Club** was continued.
- **CYO Basketball** had another successful season.
- **Menands Youth Sports** hosted a fundraiser to support Village sports organizations.
- Following a down year for **Menands Jr. Baseball, Softball and T-ball League** in **2017**, **Steve Boulet and I** organized a meeting to try and renew interest in the league. With many new families in the Village and people willing to step up, the league was resurrected in the spring of **2018**. **President Paul Nylin**, the league Board, coaches and volunteers did an awesome job with the league and look forward to its continued growth and success in **2019** and beyond.

Information on the 2019 Summer Youth Park Program, and other youth organizations, can be found on the Village website at [Villageofmenands.com](http://Villageofmenands.com).

#### Seniors:

- The **Menands Seniors** celebrated **Nonagenarian Members** (over **90 years** young) with a special luncheon. With ages ranging from **90 – 104**, there were **12** members in attendance and **6** others celebrated. What an amazing group!
- The **Seniors** enjoyed several trips during **2018**, including a trolley ride in the **Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade** followed by dinner with the **Menands St. Patrick's Club. Chorus Line, Sister Act, and Anything Goes** at **Westchester Theatre, The King and Queens of Country Music** and **Lobster Fest** in **Holyoke, MA, Hildene** in **VT, Mystic Seaport** in **CT, Seafood Fest** in **NH, The Big E** in **MA, Lake George Dinner Theatre, Tour of Albany Rural Cemetery, Christmas Spectacular** in **NYC** and much more.
- Enjoyed their weekly gatherings on **Thursdays** at **Bethany Hall**, with guest speakers.
- Held their annual summer picnic and holiday party
- Supported local food pantries

New members, ages 55 and older, are always welcome, and can enjoy exciting trips planned for 2019. For more information contact Senior President Diane Leonard at

[diwewe@yahoo.com](mailto:diwewe@yahoo.com)

One of the special things about **Menands** is that there are always events to support local charities and bring the community together.

- **Community Garage Sale** was held in **September**. Organizer **Diane Foley** looks forward to making this an annual event.
- **Pay It Forward Together** continues to serve the **Menands** and **Watervliet** communities with events, such as **Back to School and Prom Closets**.
- **Shoppes at Bethany** offered crafts and home-made food items and a **Rummage/Plant Sale**.
- The **4th Annual Fuel for School** and **11th Annual Fill the Mayflower** food drives were great successes, collecting supplies to replenish the shelves of local food pantries.
- **Dollars for Derek Fundraiser** was held at **Ganser-Smith Park** and was a great success.
- **Menands School Drama Club** performed **Alice in Wonderland**.
- **St. Agnes Cemetery** offered painting classes and tours of the historic cemetery.
- **Bethany Church** hosted a **spaghetti dinner** to benefit **REACH** mission trip.
- **Menands School PTA** held their **mum sale** and **Brooks BBQ** to support the **Outdoor Education Fund**.
- **Menands School** held their annual **Spring Concert and Evening of the Arts** in **May**. Congratulations to **Art Teacher, Pat Testo** and **Music Teacher, Lauren Bergeron** on showcasing the talents of the students.
- **Menands St. Patrick's Club** held their **Pie Sale, Ziti Dinner, Sweetheart Breakfast** and **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**.
- **Menands School PTA** held a **Multicultural Celebration, Indoor Yard Sale, Arts N Education Hispanic Heritage Month and Spaghetti Dinner**. Local Author and Village business owner, **Eric Luper** presented on writing and creativity along with book signing, Safety forums to promote school safety with local law enforcement, and **Every Student Travels Safely** event with public safety officers from different agencies in our area were held.
- **Empower Ethiopia** had their **2nd Annual Summer Mingle** fundraiser to support **Let Us Change**, a home for street children in **Ethiopia**.
- The **Colonie Chamber of Commerce 2018 Community Beautification Award**, awarded the **Mohawk Hudson Humane Society** for the category of new construction. I was pleased to be in attendance to congratulate them as they are a great community partner.
- Annual **Father Daughter Valentines Dance** was held.
- **Menands Public Library** shares story time and movies, offers homework help and technical advice, and hosted an ice cream social.
- **Littles Lake** hosted **Arts & Crafts Day**, lectures on birding and lunch in the park.
- The annual **A\*Town Rumble** bike and moped ride was held to support **JDRF**.
- **MHHS** hosted **Animal Learning Lab Summer Camp** and **Meow Luau**.
- The **2018 Summer Concert Series** and **Annual Village Picnic** were well attended. With music by local bands and food and beverages offered by the **MFC** and other **Village organizations**, these summer events are a great time.
- **Biking for Bach Ride**, travelled through **Menands** to support the **Albany Symphony Orchestra**.
- A tree planting ceremony was held at **Ganser-Smith Park**, in conjunction with a tree inventory grant that the Village received from the **DEC**.
- **I was honored to have** received the **Citizen of the Year Award** by the **Hudson Shores Rotary Club**, alongside resident **Caroline Pustay** who was awarded the **Service Above Self Award**.

#### THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN 2019:

- There are new commercial development projects in the works for 2019 (see above under Future Development) and we look forward to working with the developers to ensure a smooth transition to Menands.
- We will continue to reach out to new and existing businesses while maintaining a business-friendly environment to further economic growth in our Village.
- We are continuing to work with our Village engineer on grant opportunities to continue with necessary infrastructure work and other projects.
- The work on the Comprehensive Plan continues and we look forward to the finished product by the end of the year.

With an aging fleet of vehicles and advances in technology, we continue to explore options to replace the old equipment with new to provide our departments with the tools necessary to do their jobs in a safe and effective manner. It can be challenging but we

are committed to continuing the services that are unique to Menands, while being mindful of the financial impact on our tax payers.

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**Community Awareness Notices** can be found on the **Village Website**, **Menands Activities**, **Village Notification System (Everbridge)** and **Village Facebook** page. To receive information on snow emergencies, water main breaks, community events and other Village related matters, I encourage all residents to sign on to **Everbridge** via our website at **VillageofMenands.com** or by contacting **Village Clerk Don Handerhan @ 518-434-2922**.

**Electronic copies of the Menands Activities are available by email and also posted on the Village website. Contact Clerk Handerhan for details.**

**While my *End of the Year Review* gets bigger each year, I am proud to be Mayor of our great village and feel it is important to highlight the accomplishments and events that have happened in Menands, acknowledge those that make it happen and share things to look forward to in the near future.**

Thank you to **Don Handerhan, Sheila Hyatt and Aileen Nicoll** for keeping us updated throughout the year with important notices. Thank you also to the **Village Office staff, Bill, Renie, Don, Cheryl, Paul and Lyle** for your dedication in providing administrative support and assistance to the people of **Menands**.

Without the support from our **Village Board** members; **Deputy Mayor Aileen Nicoll** and **Trustees Seth Harris, Steve Boulet and Diane Foley** and our **dedicated staff**, all that has been accomplished again this past year would not have been possible. I cannot extend enough thanks for the hard work of our **Village** employees and members of our departments, as well as the volunteers who make **Menands** a unique place to live.

**Until next time,**

**Mayor Meg**

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### 2019 Summer Concert Schedule

6:00 – 8:30

Ganser-Smith Memorial Park

(Menands Park)

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| July 9 <sup>th</sup>    | New York Players    |
| July 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Oldies Show         |
| July 23 <sup>rd</sup>   | Hotshot Hillbillies |
| July 30 <sup>th</sup>   | Hair of the Dog     |
| August 6 <sup>th</sup>  | The 317             |
| August 13 <sup>th</sup> | The All Paul Show   |

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### 2019 Annual Village Picnic

Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

(Rain date August 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Ganser-Smith Memorial Park

Beginning at 5:00

Music by Swing Docs

Entertainment for the whole family!