



# The News of MENANDS ACTIVITIES

Published by the Village of Menands



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### VILLAGE OFFICE

Due to the increasing cases of COVID-19, effective Wednesday, December 2, 2020, the Village of Menands Offices will be closed to the public. If you should require anything from the Village Office you are encouraged to please email Clerk Handerhan at ([handerhand@villageofmenands.com](mailto:handerhand@villageofmenands.com)) or phone the office (518-434-2922) instead of appearing in person. If there is a need to come into the Office it will be by Appointment Only. To make an appointment please call (518) 434-2922. This is for the safety of our staff and the public. If you should need to drop anything off to the Village Office please use the Dropbox to the left of the door. Please stay safe.

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Village office, court and D.P.W. will be closed on **Monday, January 18, 2021** due to the Martin Luther King Holiday. Monday's trash on January 18, will be on **Tuesday, January 19**. Tuesday's trash will be on **Wednesday, January 20**. **There will be no special pick-up on Wednesday, January 20**. Recycling will be the regular Thursday schedule on this week.

### VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

The next Village Board Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 4, 2021**. The meeting will be held virtual google meet starting at **6:00 p.m.** The Governor may extend it again. This will be posted on the Village Website. If you have any questions or would like to submit a question or statement ahead of time to be read into the record at the meeting, please email Clerk Don Handerhan no later than **January 4, 2021, noon** at [handerhand@villageofmenands.com](mailto:handerhand@villageofmenands.com)

### VILLAGE DPW & SNOW REMOVAL

To provide you with the best service possible, the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to remind everyone that your cooperation is needed during the winter months for proper plowing, salting and snow removal. If you have a driveway or an off street parking space, please use it during the winter months and especially during a snow or ice storm as vehicles parked on the street hinder plowing operations. Please do not put snow in the streets once the plows have gone through. Additionally, anything that you might have in the Village's right-of-way, such as a basketball hoop, should be moved and stored for the winter. The Village will not be responsible for damage to any items left in the Village's right-of-way. In the event that a snow emergency is declared, details will be provided to local news stations, on the Village website and through our emergency alert system.

### MENANDS SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The next virtual meeting of the Menands School Board of Educ. will be held, **Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

### THANK YOU

As we have all navigated through this difficult year, the one constant that sustained us was the hard work and dedication of our Village employees. The DPW, MPD, MFD, MFC, Auxiliary, Court, Village Clerk, Treasurer, Office Staff, Bldg. Dept., MS4, Youth, Seniors, ZBA, Gardener, Historian, Activities, Attorney and Board of Trustees, all continued to adapt and do their jobs regardless of the circumstances they were working under. I have always been, and continue to be, so grateful for our staff, who are the backbone of our Village. I wish each of them and their families, and all of the residents of Menands, a healthy, happy and safe 2021.  
Mayor Meg

### HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

I want to thank Rabbi Mordechai, his wife Chana and daughter Mushka, for the invitation to join them at the Menands Park to light a menorah on the 7th night of Hanukkah. Together with Chief Frank Lacosse, Dr. Maureen Long, Trustee Seth Harris and Village residents Susan Harris, Lisa Proskin Pierce, Rachel Pierce and Marc Kaplan, we exchanged gifts and enjoyed Chanukah Blessings and songs. Hanukkah (also Chanukah) is the Jewish Festival of Lights. The word Hanukkah means rededication. Every year, the celebration honors the hard-fought victory of those trying to keep their faith despite a powerful enemy. As Rabbi Mordechai stated, the celebration is especially meaningful this year for everyone. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the future.  
Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!  
Mayor Meg

### MENANDS FIRE CO. #1, INC.

The next meeting of the Menands Fire Co.#1, Inc will be held on **January 5, 2021** in person at the firehouse (not virtually). Social Distancing Protocols will be in place. Meeting time is 8:00 p.m.

### **Be a Hydrant Hero!**

Help us Help you and adopt a hydrant! If you see a hydrant covered in snow, and you are able to clear it out, it would be much appreciated! Your 10 minutes today will save us precious minutes during an emergency!

### MENANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Menands Public Library resumed regular operating hours, but Covid-19 protocols will still be enforced. Patrons over the age of two will be required to wear a mask, maintain social distancing and allowed to use our computers for one hour. Only ten patrons at a time will be allowed in the library. The library hours are: Monday and Wednesday 12 noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 12 noon to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Sunday.

More on the other side.....

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

As we near the end of what has been, for many of us, one of the most challenging years of our lives, we as a community remain strong and here for each other. Despite the difficulties the pandemic has brought to our day-to-day lives, Menands residents have continued to support each other and those in need, as we saw most recently with the Toys for Tots campaign. Our village is special and we strive to connect with all of our residents. Not just in times of need, but always.

Both the Village and Menands School communities have become more diverse in recent years. This is something in which we take great pride. Events over the past year have made us reflect on our understanding and appreciation for the various groups that collectively make up our community.

School and village leaders had the opportunity this past summer to engage in meaningful conversations with members of our community. We talked about the pandemic and the effects it is having around the world, particularly amongst persons of color. We discussed systemic racism, highlighted by the death of George Floyd. Considering the diverse cultural makeup of our community, there is much to talk about.

We heard clearly that our response, or lack thereof, to the protests of systemic racism taking place across our country was inadequate and even hurtful to members of our own community. For that, we are sorry. Though we might wish to think such issues do not impact our small village, this is not the reality.

Our conversations were enlightening and, at times, emotional. Our neighbors spoke earnestly about the real challenges faced by African-American members of the community. Our police officers discussed challenges they face as part of their job. There was a better understanding of what each other goes through on a daily basis. We hope these ongoing conversations will help lay the groundwork for more genuine, empathetic relationships in the future. While difficult at times, the dialog was much needed to foster relationships with those who comprise the many nationalities and ethnicities that make up our community, and to understand that we do not have to choose sides – we can acknowledge and work toward fixing systemic issues while still supporting our police.

Our work to date has merely scratched the surface. We do not have all the answers, but we are dedicated to continuing these discussions and exploring ways to create meaningful change in our community. We are embarking on a journey to do our part to promote inclusivity and diversity, and we welcome others to join us in this effort. We hope to resume our conversations early next year.

Though we cannot change the past, we are committed to doing better moving forward, to make all residents of our village feel welcomed and appreciated – to feel they are truly valued members of our community.

The new year brings new opportunities and renewed hope for transparency, diversity and a peaceful world. **It Takes A Village** and that is where we begin.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a safe and healthy new year!

Dr. Maureen Long

Superintendent, Menands School

Chief Frank Lacosse

Menands Police

Mayor Megan Grenier

Village of Menands

Items to be included in the next edition of the Menands Activities dated January 15, 2021 **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THE VILLAGE OFFICE AFTER 9 A.M. MONDAY, January 11, 2021.** Please indicate item is for the Menands Activities.