

Mayor's Message

As I begin to write this my thoughts are with DPW Foreman Tim Boyd. Tim is presently hospitalized for injuries sustained in a fall. Please keep Tim and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they make their way through this most difficult time.

Things have been very busy over the last few months especially with emergency preparedness agendas. There have been several meetings with local leaders to stay up to date on the issues related to the crude oil tankers. Meetings with NYS Assemblyman Phil Steck, Albany County Executive Dan McCoy, Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple, Albany County Emergency Management Team, CP Rail, CRX, representatives from FEMA, the Town of Colonie and other municipal leaders. Each plays an important role in the efforts for rail safety and with new legislation and working together we should see an increase in safety measures.

In an effort to coordinate response between our Village Police, Fire and Public Works Depts. as well as responders outside the Village, an Emergency Preparedness Plan was adopted by the Village Board. This plan was reviewed by each department, Albany County Critical Incident Emergency Mgmt. Unit and other local responders. The Emergency Preparedness Plan is a comprehensive plan that addresses all emergencies. I thank all those who assisted in creating this plan, especially past MFD Chief Don Handerhan, MPD Chief O'Brien, MFD Chief Franklin and DPW Foreman Tim Boyd.

The Police and Fire Depts. continue to attend training sessions and drills related to the crude oil tankers and other emergency response matters. Five members of the Menands Fire Dept. completed a three day session in Colorado, with field training on crude oil tankers. The members brought back a wealth of knowledge that will be shared with the other members, while continuing with additional local training. This was a wonderful opportunity and we are grateful to our fire department members for taking time out of their personal lives to attend this and other training events.

The Village Board recently approved an amendment to the Inter-municipal agreement with Menands School for use of the school path for ingress and egress purposes in emergency/urgent circumstances. We have also coordinated efforts for potential evacuations at either Menands Road or through the Sage Estates should the need arise. We appreciate the support that Menands School and the Sage Association have given to ensure the safety of our community. We will continue to work with school and engineers on additional access for emergency vehicles.

For the past several years there have been discussions related to purchasing a new fire truck. My role in these discussions began in October, 2012 when I met with then Chief Handerhan, as well as members from other departments. I also met with the mechanic who services our fleet, who explained, amongst other things, that with the age of our trucks some parts are no longer available and have to be retrofitted creating additional costs for repairs. In April of 2013 a new truck committee was formed to fully explore the purchase of a new truck. This has been a lengthy process with many meetings, demonstrations of trucks from other departments and manufacturers, including hands on operations. There was also a side by side comparison of two different trucks to determine what best meets the needs of the Menands Fire Dept., in both size and function. With the necessary information obtained, the specifications were carefully drawn to go out to bid. While this last round of discussions has been a two year process, the time was necessary to fully explore the needs of the Menands Fire Dept. to ensure their safety and that of the public. The Village Board approved the purchase of the new truck through a bond, as well as the sale of two of our older trucks. With the capabilities of the new truck being both a ladder and pumper this will reduce our current fleet from 3 trucks down to 2. I am grateful for the dedication of the committee members and the efforts made in this process. We look forward to the delivery of the new truck sometime around October 2015.

As I mentioned in a previous message, in March the new garbage truck was delivered, replacing the 1987 truck. We also purchased a new leaf machine which will work in conjunction with our other machine. Each works in a different manner but together will enhance the process of leaf pick-up. The DPW began picking up leaves on October 20th and will continue until December 1st, weather permitting. It takes approximately two weeks to go through the entire Village but they will get to everyone. We also had to replace our backhoe. We were able to purchase this equipment with funds from our equipment reserve account.

On an Economic front the following projects are in the works:

Harmony Lofts, LLC

We are working with the new owner of the former Albany International property to convert the site into 146 apartments and accompanying amenities. This \$24 million project will have a tremendous positive impact on the Village of Menands and will enhance the quality of life in the South end of the Village.

50 Simmons Lane

The Village Board has given approval for the construction of a 60,000 square foot warehouse at the end of Simmons Lane. The first tenant in the building will be the Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park. We anticipate an opening of the building later this year.

Family Dollar

The Family Dollar Corporation will be constructing a new 8,300 square foot store at 22 Broadway. Construction should be underway by early next year.

Dutch Village IV

Plans are underway for the construction of four new apartment buildings consisting of 48 new apartments, just to the east of the current Dutch Village Apartment Complex.

Painters, Glazers, and Finishers Union

The Union has purchased the property at 191 Broadway (formerly Tony's Tires) and will be renovating the building to allow office space and a training area.

Peak Performance

Dr. Eric Luper, a chiropractor, has purchased the property at 319 Broadway and will be relocating his practice from Albany to Menands. The building will be completely renovated both on the exterior as well as the interior.

Stakeholders' Meetings

On October 1st, the Village held the first in a series of meetings with commercial property owners, developers, and realtors to share ideas on enhancing the Broadway Corridor. The meeting was a roundtable discussion and featured input from those in attendance. We will be hosting these meetings from time to time to continue this dialogue. We also hosted our Fall Business Breakfast in October to give the businesses in Menands an opportunity to meet each other and get an update on things happening in Menands. The breakfast was well attended with many new faces. Following the breakfast one guest commented that there is a positive buzz in the business community in Menands right now. That was great to hear. Things are moving in a positive direction.

There were many community events that happened over the last few months. The Village celebrated its 90th Anniversary with the Annual Village Picnic. The Summer Concert Series was once again a great success with new and old bands and food served by the MFC. Our 2nd Annual Grow Menands Contest was held, with winners for both residential and business properties. The Senior and Youth Committees continue to provide wonderful events for our residents. Upcoming community events can be found in the Menands Activities and on the Village website. There are also community and emergency notices that go out via our First Call notification system. If you haven't signed up already you are encouraged to do so by going to the website and clicking on the First Call link. This is a great tool for staying informed.

Until next time, Mayor Meg