



MENANDS MONTHLY

Published by the Village of Menands

Village of Menands
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Mayor Brian Marsh

Editor Sheila Hyatt

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Welcome to the third edition of Menands Monthly. This publication has replaced Menands Activities. If you did not previously receive Menands Activities and would like to subscribe to Menands Monthly, please scan the QR code and complete the form to be added to the mailing list. If you don't have internet access, you may call the Village Office at (518) 434-2922.

After this mailing, you must sign up to continue receiving this publication.



VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Mark your calendars! A Village of Menands election is set for Tuesday, June 17, 2025, from 12 noon to 9 p.m. Voters will elect 2 Village Trustee positions. If you want to run for office, please visit the Village website (MenandsNY.gov) and check the "Running for Office" forms.

MAYOR'S CORNER

- I'm pleased to announce that four bids were submitted for the South End Water and Sewer Infrastructure Project. The bids were highly favorable, and we are confident the Village of Menands can complete the entire project with the funding we received, rather than in phases. Work is expected to begin in late May or early June. This \$12 million project will upgrade Menands' South End's water, sewer, and roadway infrastructure.
- I'm part of a working group comprising several municipalities and transportation organizations, focused on reimagining and improving the vital New York State Route 32 (Broadway) corridor. A draft plan is currently being finalized, reflecting nearly a year's worth of collaborative work. A formal presentation will be shared soon, and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed improvements along the Broadway corridor.
- The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the 2025–2026 Village Budget on April 7, 2025. This year's tax rate increase is 2.64%, which remains below the 10-year average of 2.69%. While the rate increased slightly, the tax levy declined under the New York State Comptroller's formula, meaning the budget stays within the state-mandated tax cap (NYS GML §97-3-c). We are also proud to share that we were able to add \$230,000 to the Village's reserve fund—our financial "rainy day" savings—to help maintain long-term fiscal stability.
- In mid-April, we began site work at 250 Broadway to expand the parking areas and add additional spaces at the rear of the building for our police department. This will help ensure that the front of the building has adequate parking available for the public when needed, including ADA-accessible spaces for those who require them. This project is being funded through a New York State SAM grant provided by Assemblyman Phil Steck's office.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER PJ STONE

Ask any student at Menands School who gives the best high-fives or plays the most recess games, and you will likely hear one name: Officer Stone, our outstanding School Resource Officer (SRO). Officer Stone joined the Menands Police Department in 2014 after serving as a Deputy Sheriff with Albany County. But his heart was always with kids—he initially considered becoming a gym teacher—and that passion eventually led him to Menands School. “This is hands-down the best position I’ve ever had,” he says. “I get to be a positive presence and build lasting relationships.” What began with coaching Little League and waving to kids from his patrol car grew into daily school visits and an official SRO role. Since then, he has made a lasting impact—whether organizing field trips, dressing as the Grinch during the holidays, or helping at Field Day. “I want students to see me as someone they can approach,” he says. “I think of all these kids as my own.” Officer Stone also teaches the L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence) curriculum to nearly 90 students across three grades. The 10-week program focuses on healthy choices, self-confidence, and resisting peer pressure, ending with a pizza party supported by Tuscan Oven and the Village Board. This year, he was honored as L.E.A.D. NYS Instructor of the Year. “It’s humbling,” he says. “To have the community see how positive this program is for our kids, really means more to me than receiving any award.” Outside of school, Officer Stone enjoys time with his wife, Brittany, and daughter Josie, who keeps him busy with sports like Taekwondo and gymnastics. He also tends to his perfectly manicured lawn (a hobby-turned-side business) and is learning to play guitar. Whether handing out bouncy balls or being someone kids can trust, Officer Stone has become a beloved part of Menands School and the wider community. As he puts it: “It takes a Village to raise our young people—and I’m grateful to be a part of that Village.” Congratulations, Officer Stone, and thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Menands School and the Village of Menands.



MENANDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Village of Menands extends congratulations to the newly elected officials. This dedicated team includes Chief David Ognan, 1st Assistant Chief Mike Steurer, 2nd Assistant Chief Jonathan Dudley, Captains TJ Robertson, Antonio Lipari, and Lieutenants Nicholas Gingeresky, Matthew Jaskula, and Michael Rezey. We also acknowledge **Menands Fire Company**: President Paul DeDominicis, Vice President Sherri Archambault, Secretary Nick Kalogridis, Treasurer John Stangle, Sergeant-at-arms Colin Schanz, Financial Secretary Mike Mackay, and 3-Year Board Members George Smith and Tony Lipari.

Menands Fire Company Auxiliary: President Joyce McGovern-Miller, Vice President Kerry Wroblewski, Secretary Valecia Parker, Treasurer Lisa Neuman, Sergeant at Arms Kevin Schwebke, Chaplain Susan Handerhan, Trustee 3 Year Kerry Franklin, Trustee 2 Year Mary Miles, Trustee 1 Year Lisa Proskin Pierce.

Their installation is set for May 3, 2025, at Wolferts’ Roost Club.

TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION NOTICE

Please remember: Residents must have all trash and recycling at the curb by 7:00 AM on their scheduled collection day. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will not return for pick-up if your garbage or recycling is set out after 7:00 AM and the crew has already completed their route. All trash and recycling must be placed in closed containers, such as bins, barrels, or cans. Plastic bags are prohibited because they can be torn open by animals, resulting in litter and debris. We appreciate your cooperation!

VDO GAMING AND E-SPORTS IS NOW OPEN IN MENANDS AT 100 BROADWAY

VDO Gaming and Esports, owned by John Crossman and operated by his twin sons, Michael and Tony, is a new gaming lounge in Menands where visitors can play, connect, and explore careers in the gaming industry. The Grand Opening was held on April 27, 2025, at Mid-City Plaza, 100 Broadway, Suite 6, in Menands. Esports—competitive multiplayer gaming—has seen rapid growth in recent years. UAlbany launched its esports team in 2019, competing in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference. Since then, the Rensselaer City School District has supported esports. In 2023, Guilderland High School received a \$25,000 grant, and Shenendehowa announced a \$50,000 investment for the 2024–2025. Esports is also set to be featured in the next Olympics.

Hours of Operation:
Mon–Fri: 5 PM – 10 PM
Sat: 12 PM – 12 AM
Sun: Closed for private events
Contact:
Phone: (518) 720-2380
Website: vdogaming.com
Email: johncrossman@vdogaming.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police, Fire, and EMS	911
Menands Police Non- Emergency	518 463-1681
Menands Court	518 434-3992
Menands Fire Department	518 463-9494
Menands DPW	518 434-2922
Menands Village Office	518 434-2922
Menands Building/Code Enforcement	518 434-2922
Menands School	518 465-4561
Menands Public Library	518 463-4035
Town of Colonie	518 783-2700
Colonie Supervisor	518 783-2778
Colonie Town Clerk	518 783-2734
Colonie Assessor	518 783-2701
Colonie Community Development	518 783-2718
Colonie Senior Resources	518 459-5051
Colonie Historian	518 782-2601
Colonie Police, Fire, and EMS	518 783-2711
Colonie Animal Control	518 783-2711
Colonie Landfill	518 783-2827
Colonie Tax Department	518 783-2730
Albany County	518 447-7000
Albany County Board of Elections	518 487-5060
Albany County Clerk	518 487-5100
National Grid	800 642-4272
Spectrum Cable/Internet	518 869-5500
Poison control	800 222-1222
St Peters ER	518-525-1324
Albany Med ER	518 262-3131
Memorial ER	518 471-3221
Samaritan ER	518 271-3300



CONGRATULATIONS, MENANDS STUDENT ATHLETES

Colonie High School's Ryan Buskey has claimed state and national championships in the High Jump. A big shoutout to Shaker High School students Melvin Brown, Marcelin Mukendi, and Kwane Boakye for securing the New York State Varsity Basketball Championship. Melvin Brown and Marcelin Mukendi have also been recognized as All-Stars in the Suburban Council.

**SCHOOL
CALENDAR**



SOLDIER ON

Welcome to Menands, home to the new residents of Soldier On, located at 35 Broadway in the Village of Menands, NY. Over fifty percent of the apartments in this 67-unit building are designated for military veterans who have experienced homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. This newly built facility offers affordable and sustainable permanent housing and on-site supportive services tailored explicitly for veteran residents.

MENANDS POLICE

The Menands Police Department has been alerted to several complaints from residents concerning mail theft. The culprits target outgoing mail containing payments, stealing checks, and fraudulently modifying them to cash them. It is strongly suggested that outgoing mail be placed in official USPS collection boxes. To find a collection box, visit: <https://tools.usps.com/locations/>



*Receive the monthly
newsletter as an email!*



MAY 2025

MENANDS ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				01 RECYCLING 9am Seniors 3pm Traffic Court	02 LEAF/BRUSH PTA Middle School Fun Night	03 FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE 4-6PM 10am Farmers Market
04	05 REGULAR TRASH 6pm Village Board Meeting 7pm Fire Dept Drill Night	06 REGULAR TRASH Teacher Appreciation Day 7pm Fire Company Meeting	07 SPECIAL PICK UP 6:30pm School Budget Hearing	8 RECYCLING 9am Seniors	9 LEAF / BRUSH 6pm PTA Multicultural Celebration	10 10am Farmers Market
11 MOTHER'S DAY	12 REGULAR TRASH 7pm Fire Dept Drill Night	13 REGULAR TRASH Seniors Trip Culinary Institute 3pm DA Court Night	14 SPECIAL PICK UP 6:30pm Auxiliary Meeting	15 RECYCLING 9am Seniors 6pm Literacy Night & PTA Book Fair	16 LEAF / BRUSH	17 GOLDSTEIN PET ADOPTION DAY 10am Farmers Market
18	19 REGULAR TRASH 6pm Village Board Meeting 7pm Fire Dept Drill Night	20 REGULAR TRASH 12pm Annual School District & Library Budget Vote 6pm Evening of the Arts	21 SPECIAL PICK UP 3pm Traffic Court	22 RECYCLING 9am Seniors	23 LEAF / BRUSH	24 10am Farmers Market
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOL/ VILLAGE CLOSED 7pm Fire Dept Drill Night	27 REGULAR TRASH 3pm DA Court Night	28 REGULAR TRASH	29 RECYCLING 9am Seniors	30 LEAF / BRUSH	31 2025 GALA FOR ANIMALS 10am Farmers Market PTA Pancake Breakfast