

The Village Official



Summer 2023

From the Mayor - Rordan Hart, Mayor

Summer in the Finger Lakes is rivaled by very few places in its natural beauty. And with the sunshine and warm weather comes an increased appreciation for our walkable Village, thriving with events, people, organizations, and businesses.

I want to thank the volunteers of Takin' Care of Tburg and the Taughannock Garden Club for all their efforts in keeping Main Street and the Village Offices alive with plantings and flowers. In addition to these volunteers, Village staff work throughout the year to ensure our roads and sidewalks are cleared of snow and in good repair, our community is safe, our water is clean, and our properties are inspected and up to code. Thank you to everyone in the Clerk's Office, Code Enforcement and Inspection, DPW, EMS, the Fire Company, and the Police Department for your work day in and day out.

This Spring the Village received grants from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's ZEV Program and the Joint Utility Make-Ready Program totaling approximately \$150,000 for the installation of EV charging stations. These stations will be located in the Village Hall and Farmers' Market parking lots and will each include one level 3 fast charger and two level 2 chargers. Additional funding needed to complete the project is pending but I am hopeful that installation can begin by the end of the year. As we move towards an increasingly electrified future, these chargers will provide essential and accessible charging options for residents and visitors alike, and will provide and encourage access to downtown shops, amenities, and public open spaces.

Another project on the Village list is improving access for the residents of Compass Manufactured Home Community (formerly Auble's) to the Trumansburg Farmers' Market and the Village downtown by installing sidewalks along West Main Street. This project has been a priority for a couple of years and the Village will pursue grant applications again this year.

In last year's newsletter I wrote about the need for a new Fire & Emergency Medical Services building and that need has only increased. Our Fire Company volunteers and professional EMS staff are in ever-increasing demand and their shared building is struggling to accommodate their growth and technical needs. We will continue seeking grant funds for this project while simultaneously reaching out to our state and federal representatives for assistance.

Of course, the maintenance of all of these services costs money. The Village runs a precise and efficient budget process (with all meetings open to the public!), and our Department Heads do an exceptional job of running their operations as lean as possible. However, nothing ever gets any cheaper from one year to the next. So while increased property assessments have allowed the Village to absorb increased costs without increasing the tax rate in five years, the taxpayer is still shouldering those increasing costs.

Thus the "Math Problem" that I have discussed before - how to continue to pay for the services that people need, want, or demand, without Trumansburg turning into an expensive enclave where only the wealthy can afford to live. There are long-time, sometimes generational, community members who wish to age in place in their homes. Likewise, there are young families who would love to move into the Village and allow their children to walk to school. But with an extremely low housing supply, and a median home price on pace to exceed a half-million dollars by 2030, both of these groups are finding it increasingly difficult to achieve their previously straightforward goals.

Some have said that people who can't afford to live in Trumansburg should just find somewhere else to live. While this may be the economic reality for many, I refuse to accept it as the status quo that cannot be questioned. It would be far better to be able to maintain the services and quality of life that make Trumansburg so desirable, while also allowing for additional housing to accommodate more of the people who yearn to become a part of the community. As long as I am Mayor, the Village will continue to work to strike this balance, which is crucial to the long-term health of the community and the region. I invite you all to join me in these efforts.



EMS

- Joel Fey, EMS Administrator

Trumansburg EMS Department

As the Trumansburg EMS Department (TEMS) has continued to provide ambulance and emergency medical coverage for the Village, surrounding municipalities, and the region over the past year, we have also implemented several innovative programs and initiatives to better serve the needs of our patients and community. While rural EMS in NYS is under threat due to inadequate funding and support at the state level, staffing shortages, and a multitude of regulatory obstacles, TEMS has been able to maintain a forward-thinking and proactive approach through a focus on continuous improvement and dedication to excellence. For our success in this mission, we thank our dedicated staff, along with the Village and surrounding municipalities for your continuing commitment to the health and safety of our community.

One of the most significant milestones we reached this year is the launch of our Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) program, set to commence on June 1st. The implementation of RSI will greatly enhance our pre-hospital care capabilities by allowing us to administer advanced airway management techniques. Recognizing the importance of this program, TEMS has invested over 400 people-hours into training our staff members, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to execute RSI safely and effectively.

In our commitment to expanding our fleet's capabilities, TEMS is thrilled to introduce a new addition: a state-of-the-art rapid response vehicle. This vehicle is specifically designed to navigate through traffic quickly, reaching emergency scenes promptly and efficiently. Equipped with advanced medical equipment and four-wheel drive, this addition to our fleet will further enhance our ability to provide rapid and comprehensive care to our community, even in difficult-to-reach locations.

TEMS is proud to have achieved national recognition as a training center for vital life-saving skills. We now offer nationally certified courses in CPR, first aid, babysitting, and opiate overdose training.

By expanding our training programs, we aim to empower members of our community with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively in emergencies. Our highly qualified instructors provide comprehensive and hands-on training experiences, ensuring participants are well-prepared to handle various medical situations.

In our continuous efforts to enhance patient care, TEMS has made significant investments in medical equipment. We are thrilled to announce the implementation of ventilators and IV pumps, which will significantly improve our ability to provide life-saving interventions and critical care to patients in need. These additions to our arsenal of medical tools will enable our skilled paramedics to respond with the highest level of care and expertise.

Thanks to a generous grant, TEMS has been able to make crucial updates to our station, increasing efficiency and improving the overall work environment for our staff. We have upgraded our electrical systems and lighting, ensuring a safe and conducive workspace that allows our team to provide the highest standard of care to our patients.

We are so pleased that we won several awards this year from the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response. Paramedic Brian Snyder has been honored with the prestigious Tim Bangs Lifetime Achievement Award, and Paramedic Emily Dove, has been awarded the Tompkins County ALS Provider of the Year Award. TEMS has also been honored with the prestigious Agency of the Year Award! This recognition reflects the collective effort and dedication of our entire team. Together, we strive to provide the highest standard of care, compassion, and professionalism to those in need.

As we reflect on the past year, TEMS is proud of the progress we have made in advancing our services and bettering our community. We remain committed to our mission of delivering exceptional pre-hospital care and emergency medical services to the residents of Trumansburg. With a skilled team, innovative programs, and state-of-the-art equipment, we look forward to continuing our journey toward excellence in the years to come. Connect with us online at <https://trumansburg-ny.gov/departments/ems/> or on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram).



Trees

- Benjamin Carver,
Deputy Mayor

For the past several years, the Village Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) has conducted an annual inventory of dangerous trees in the Village's right of way, and after quantifying and prioritizing the risk of each tree, has encouraged the removal of the most dangerous ones with a financial subsidy and technical guidance. Over these years, the Village has leveraged approximately twelve thousand dollars in subsidies to achieve an effective impact of over thirty thousand dollars in risk mitigation work throughout the Village.

As the program has continuously resulted in fewer and fewer trees that pose an elevated risk to the public, the STAC has decided to re-orient the program for this year and will now be accepting applications from homeowners for subsidized, risk-mitigation-oriented, tree work within the Village right of way. Applications will be available in the Village office and website and must be submitted and approved before the work is started. If you are interested in this program, please contact the Village Office or STAC Chair Ben Carver at carver@trumansburg-ny.gov for details.

Spongy Moth

For the last two years, the spongy moth has caused substantial harm to our community forests. Last year, the STAC installed over 40 moth traps and provided guidance and equipment to private landowners throughout the Village to keep and maintain these traps. This year, the committee has identified high levels of two natural limits on the spongy moth population: NPV and *Entomophaga maimaiga*, a viral and bacterial contagion, respectively. These diseases act as natural limits on the moth population because during population outbreaks the rate of disease transmission increases exponentially until eventually the majority of the population is killed. These diseases are a far more effective weapon against the moth population than any artificial trap or other control, so now that the diseases are established and spreading within our area, our Committee will be pulling back on traps. However, we encourage all of those that are interested or concerned to buy and install traps of their own. For more information, please visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83118.html>.



Public Works

- Dustin VanDerzee,
Supervisor

The Village DPW crew can be found over the summer months working on a myriad of projects to help keep the village running. Besides all of the public areas that we mow, we also install or fix multiple areas of sidewalks, repair broken water main valves and other aspects of the water system that are in need of attention. Roadside drainage will be a priority this year as there are a few areas in the Village right-of-way that need attention.

We are hoping to continue painting the fire hydrants in the Village. As you may have noticed, most located on Main Street were cleaned last summer and we would like to continue this project to encompass all hydrants in the system.

The DPW has recently wrapped up our GPS mapping of the water and sewer systems in the Village. Blue paint or small marker flags in your yard over the last several months were placed to allow our engineers easy access to the shutoff valves. This will save our crew countless hours in the future when trying to do locates throughout the village and prevent them from aimlessly wandering around yards with metal detectors hoping to find the aforementioned valves. Please feel free to remove these markers on your own as they are no longer needed for locating purposes.

Remember, spring and summer are also prime months for mulch and compost which the Village has for sale. Orders can be placed at the Village offices, or online at <https://trumansburg-ny.gov/forms/mulch-and-compost-order/>. Compost is in limited supply this year and is going fast but we always have plenty of mulch on hand. Both can be delivered within the village limits, or picked up on-site.

Spring is also when we trim back any low-hanging trees or shrubs along the roadside, so please be mindful of our staff as they are only trying to help with visibility. Our crew will have work areas marked with signs and will be wearing high-visibility gear so as to be easily seen, but please remember to slow down for their safety as well as your own.



Volunteer Fire - Marcia Horn, Trustee

Our community is so fortunate to have an active, committed volunteer fire organization. In 2022 volunteers answered 319 calls and participated in 2,569 training hours.

As you can imagine, our terrain and access to the many local trails can make rescues challenging. Our volunteers not only train for interior and exterior fires but continually update procedures for gorge rescue and auto accidents.

The company initiated a tool fund drive this year, and thanks to the community raised \$7,500 for additional tool purchases. They express deep gratitude to community members who contributed to the drive.

Ninety percent of the membership completed the “Stop the Bleed” program tourniquet training.

As many of you know the company also spearheads the “Letters to Santa” program. This year they served more families than ever with Santa’s special stops on the fire truck throughout the village bringing cheer to our local children. Special recognition goes to Patty Dodge and her helpers for the countless volunteer hours they put into this program over the years.

Board approval to replace a new heavy rescue truck was initiated. The company also purchased three thermal cameras and will be applying for a regional grant partnering with Ithaca and Enfield.

Their unwavering and selfless volunteerism is truly appreciated.

The list of officers was announced at their annual organizational meeting:

- Chief- Matt Taylor
- Deputy Chief- Dan Scherer
- Asst. Chief- Matt Muraca
- Asst Chief- Justin Vann
- Lieutenant- Alix Gresov
- Lieutenant-Tony Elmore
- Lieutenant- Kevin Whittaker
- Company President- Tim Dodge



Trumansburg Fire Company Members
First row left to right: Patty Dodge, Kevin Whitaker, Terri Whitaker, Anthony Ouckama, Kris Romer, Laura Keefe, Tom Hurst, Jack Fulton
Second Row left to right: Matt Muraca, Tim Dodge, Kira Elmore
Third row left to right: Jason Fulton, Dan Scherer, Justin Vann, Tony Elmore, Matt Taylor, Mike Hagan, Will Fox, Auden Gruber-Hine, John Keefe

Police - Joe Nelson, Police Chief

The Trumansburg Police Department has been focusing on outreach to the community and, as always, community safety. We have emphasized speed control and safety measures based on feedback we received from the community. In early 2023, we hired a new crossing guard to cover the corner of Whig and South streets to assist our school-aged children on their trek to and from campus. We've also added more pedestrian crosswalk signs and will be purchasing new radar speed signs in hopes that these will calm traffic.

The officers can also be found out in the community, talking with villagers and working with the schools. Officer Mackenzie Covert was active in Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month by educating the community and raising awareness. Officer Dan Bechtold is often seen riding his bike around the village and speaking with people. His presence on the school campus has made him a popular and easily recognizable officer with the Tburg kids.

The Tburg Police Department is well-trained in de-escalation, and we include it as part of our regular professional training. In addition, we are skilled in handling those who are having a mental health crisis and also know when we need to contact other professionals who can counsel those in crisis.



Zoning, Water, Sewer - Ben Darfler, Trustee

Zoning Revision Update

Over the past 18+ months, the Village's comprehensive plan and zoning revision (CPZR) committee has been hard at work revising residential zoning requirements. More recently the committee has worked on establishing regulations for short-term rentals and, as an initial draft of those regulations nears completion, the committee is beginning its work on revising commercial zoning requirements. Each one of these topics is substantial in itself.

Revising Residential Zoning Requirements

The need to update and refine our residential zoning requirements was clearly articulated in community feedback gathered as part of the Village's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. The committee aimed to take that feedback and update our zoning to foster sustainable development, preserve the unique character of the village, and address important considerations such as setbacks, building height, and lot sizes. The current revision proposes the following changes:

- Reduce lot size for lots with 1-4 units to match what already exists in the village
- Allow 1 Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) per lot (e.g. garage apartment, "in-law cottage")
- Reduce parking requirements to 1 spot per unit to remove barriers for smaller units
- Prohibit > 20 units on a lot to promote small-scale and often local development
- Require infill homes to match surrounding front yard depth to maintain similar character
- Remove manufactured home park regulations which are now prohibited by NYS law
- Expand affordable housing incentives to include households in lower income brackets

This proposal is currently undergoing additional revision to incorporate continued community input and feedback.

Establishing Regulations for Short-Term Rentals

Acknowledging the increasing interest in regulating short-term rentals in our area, the committee has embarked on establishing regulations that balance the interests of property owners, the community, and the local economy. Recognizing the importance of responsible and considerate hosting, the regulations aim to minimize potential disruptions in our neighborhoods while enabling property owners to participate in the sharing economy. By establishing these guidelines, the committee aims to strike a fair balance that benefits everyone involved. An initial public draft of the short-term rental regulations is anticipated around the time of this publication.

Future Plans for Commercial Zoning Requirements

Looking ahead, the committee is actively preparing to revise our commercial zoning requirements. This important step will involve reviewing the goals and actions called out in the Comprehensive Plan, reviewing our current regulations alongside model regulations for mixed-use village districts, and including a representative of the Main Street business community on the committee. By revising our commercial zoning requirements, we aim to support local businesses, encourage sustainable economic growth, and maintain the unique charm of Trumansburg.

We encourage you to stay informed and participate in the committee's work. Residents can see all of the committee's documents at <https://tinyurl.com/TburgZoning> and can sign up for the Village email newsletter (information located on page six of this newsletter). Your input is vital in shaping the future of Trumansburg. We will continue to provide updates as the committee progresses in their important endeavors.



Water and Sewer Rate Updates

For more than half a century the Village of Trumansburg has been dedicated to providing essential water and sewer services to its residents, striving to maintain affordability while ensuring top-notch quality. However, the Village now faces rate adjustments to address increasing costs on a few fronts.

Rising Operational Costs

Over the past few years, our operational costs have experienced an increase due to the rising price of supplies, equipment repairs, and personnel wages. By adjusting the rates, we can ensure the continued reliability and efficiency of our services.

Infrastructure Improvements

Starting 10 years ago, in response to county, state, and federal requirements, the Village undertook large infrastructure improvement projects for both the water and sewer systems. These improvements were necessary to ensure a sustainable and modern water and sewer system that can support our residents for years to come. However, they come with a price tag. These projects are now complete and the Village has reevaluated rates to cover the loan repayment associated with these essential infrastructure projects.

Financial Sustainability

Maintaining the financial stability of our water and sewer services is of utmost importance. These services are required by law to be financially self-sufficient. By adjusting the rates, we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to cover operational expenses, ongoing maintenance, and future improvements. A financially sustainable system guarantees the long-term viability of our services, allowing us to continue delivering clean water and efficient sewer services that meet the needs of our growing community.

We understand the impact that rate adjustments can have on our residents. We want to assure you that this decision was not made lightly and is necessary to maintain the high standard of water and sewer services you deserve. We remain committed to transparency and will continue to find ways to minimize costs without compromising the quality of our services. If you or anyone you know is struggling to pay their water or sewer bill, New York State provides a Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. More information can be found at <https://otda.ny.gov/LIHWAP>.

To establish our new water and sewer rates the Village tasked our financial advisors to complete a comprehensive fiscal review of our water and sewer systems. As a result, starting with the July and August billing period (reflected in bills mailed out in September) the village is anticipating the following rates:

	Base Charge per EDU	Capital Charge per EDU	Usage Charge per 1kgal
Water (inside the Village)	\$37.50	\$23.00	\$7.00
Water (outside the Village)	\$56.25	\$23.00	\$10.50
Sewer	\$39.00	\$24.90	\$4.75

Village Weekly Newsletter Sign-Up

Sign up to receive the weekly newsletter sent out by the Village.



You can also sign up by visiting <http://eepurl.com/cZnckH>, calling 607-387-6501 x1003, or emailing deputyclerk@trumansburg-ny.gov.