

Village News

From The Mayor's Desk

– Rordan Hart, Mayor



For the fourth consecutive year the Village will maintain a tax rate of \$7.25 per \$1000 of assessed value. These taxes fund the essential services we use every day – DPW, Fire, Police, and EMS, as well as other required services including our front office staff, code enforcement, and the like. It remains a priority of mine, and of the entire Village Board, to ensure that the services that support the community and help make it such a desirable place to live are never threatened, while at the same time managing costs as efficiently as possible.

In particular, our EMS and Police Departments are experiencing the same pressures in the labor market as every other industry and profession. Maintaining adequate staffing is a challenge, and recently we have seen policy decisions at nearby agencies have significant ripple effects to neighboring agencies, including ours. I cannot overstate how fortunate we are to have a dedicated group of paid and volunteer first responders – EMTs and Paramedics, police officers and firefighters – who are committed to providing these critical services to our (and the surrounding) community.

Over the course of the next year, three major initiatives will be in focus. The effort to preserve the Camp Barton property in some form has already been successful in the speed with which a plan has come together. Thanks to the efforts of many people, and the willingness of NY State Parks to acquire the property, this next year will see the details of the State acquisition ironed out, the structure of the collaborative group of municipalities will be put in place, and the terms of the management of the property will be negotiated. Having another State Park within a couple of miles of the Village is a fantastic opportunity.

The need for a new Fire & EMS building remains a pressing concern. The number of calls and the large (and growing!) geographic area for which our Fire and EMS Departments are responsible have created a situation which demands that our Fire Company volunteers and professional EMS staff have modern facilities from which to deploy. I continue to work closely with our engineering firm to seek out grant funding from a variety of sources, in addition to looking for assistance for this project from our state and federal representatives.

The third project that the Village will be pushing for is the long overdue addition of sidewalk from the Farmers Market to Seneca Road along West Main St., to hopefully include portions of Seneca Road to Compass Manufactured Home Park, and possibly even the Legion, Trumansburg Family Medicine, and the First Baptist Church. Ever since the 2007 Tompkins County Walkability Study identified this section of the Village as needing sidewalks along Route 96, it has been on the Village's "to do" list, but other areas were able to receive grant funding first. With Federal infrastructure dollars coming available in the coming months and years, I am hopeful that this high traffic area will be able to be completed soon.

And finally, 2022 marks the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village, some 80 years after Abner Treman first began to settle the area. Since then, the Village has prospered through two world wars, two major global pandemics, and generational shifts in industry. Through it all, the bedrock on which this community has thrived has been its residents – all of you. Whether first generation or seventh, the people of "Tremendousburg" are what make it work, and I sincerely thank you for your commitment to this place we call home.

Water Rate Changes

– Ben Darfler, Trustee

Starting in the mid-1990s the Village was placed under a mandate from Tompkins County to secure a secondary water source. Attempts to address this mandate were unsuccessful until 2013, when a project was started, in collaboration with NY State Parks. As a result of that project, the Village now has a fully redundant water source located at Taughannock State Park that more than doubles the Village's previous water production capacity.

As a reminder, the Village sends out water bills every other month. Those bills are currently based on a flat fee of \$34.23 for each water account and a usage fee of \$4.82 per 1,000 gallons. The first 1,000 gallons are included in the flat fee.

At the start of the project, water fees were projected to double as a result of the cost. Yet, in the intervening nine years, the annual flat fee has increased only 10%, while the price per gallon of water has decreased.

The project is now complete, and debt repayment has begun. In keeping with original projections, the municipal water budget must now be adjusted. At the request of the Village, our fiscal advisors, Municipal Solutions, completed a comprehensive water fee study taking into account current billing, as well as operating costs, future maintenance costs, and debt service.

As anticipated at the start of the project, this study recommends an increase in fees to cover the operational costs and save for future maintenance costs. Additionally, the study recommends a new "capital charge" targeted at covering debt repayment.

To ease the burden of these changes the Village will adjust the fees only halfway this year and will adjust the fees to the full amount next year.

Starting with water bills in September 2022, a "capital charge" will be added at \$14 per dwelling. For commercial accounts, a calculation is performed to determine the account's "equivalent dwelling units" (EDU).

Starting with water bills in September 2023, the "capital charge" will rise to \$20. Additionally, the flat fee per billing

period will increase to \$41.00, and the fee per 1,000 gallons of water will increase to \$5.80. Customers outside the village will continue to pay 1.5x the flat and per gallon fee. However, the "capital charge" will remain the same for customers outside the village.

By the end of 2023, the fixed portion of the water bill will approach the cost increase that was originally anticipated. However, the cost per 1,000 gallons of water will only have increased by 10% since 2013. For customers with any questions or concerns, please contact the Village Office.

EMS Department

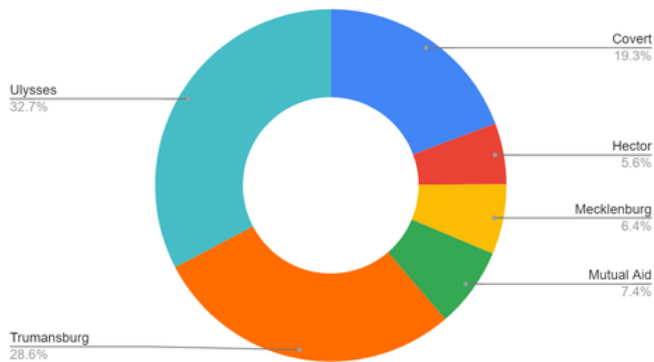
– Ben Carver, Deputy Mayor

Trumansburg's EMS Department is a Village operated ambulance service that provides the highest level of emergency health care and prehospital transport for a primary service area that encompasses Trumansburg, Ulysses, Covert, and parts of Hector. In addition, mutual aid agreements with surrounding EMS agencies enable resource sharing that ensures that residents of our primary coverage area have access to care even when our crew is out on another call. This system and the broader network of EMS agencies means that residents of the village and surrounding towns can be assured that an ambulance is always just a call away.

Like many industries and certainly all medical fields, the EMS industry has experienced new challenges brought on by the pandemic, but the Department has continued to fulfill its mission of patient centered and professional care and transport, answering over 940 calls in 2021. For one of those calls, two department members - Tony Whittaker and Joel Cadbury - will receive the American Redcross Hero Award in May in recognition of the exceptional life-saving care they provided. As EMS Chief Joel Fey explains, "we have a really exceptional group of providers here who have all stepped up to the challenge of providing care in this era. We are all accustomed to working in a high-pressure environment, but obviously the last couple of years have been especially hard on everyone, and I've been really proud of how everyone has been able to step up."

Over the last several years, Trumansburg EMS has also begun to take on a larger role regionally through increased response to mutual aid calls in surrounding districts. New York State

EMS Calls by Municipality, 2021



mandates the adoption of mutual aid contracts that ensure the effectiveness of the regional EMS network - if our ambulance is away on a call and a second-in crew is unable to respond, we can be assured that one of the surrounding agencies will be able to step in and respond quickly to any additional calls. This system provides a safety net that we both support and rely on, but it also makes us keenly aware of the pressures facing the EMS industry as a whole. EMS Administrator Joel Fey, EMT Ellen Woods, EMS Commissioner Ben Carver, Mayor Rordan Hart, and other members of our local EMS community have begun the work of actively engaging with State leadership over the deficiencies in state support and funding for local EMS. We encourage you to share with your county and state representatives how important the provision of EMS is for you and ask them to support legislation to help support the local EMS agencies that work so hard to make sure our community is safe.

Zoning Revision Update

– Ben Darfler, Trustee

In December, the Village adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan. Guided by that new Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Revision (CPZR) Committee is now taking a hard look at the Village's zoning. That process began in 2021, in parallel with the Comprehensive Plan adoption process, and will continue through at least 2024.

Traditionally, zoning revisions are done in one pass, resulting in a giant set of changes across the entire zoning law. However, that approach repeatedly fails to garner meaningful community input and feedback.

Massive changes are difficult to engage with, and it's unreasonable to expect the community to have the time and

patience necessary to review changes of that scale. This reduces the amount of feedback from the community and reduces the quality of the work.

To allow for more approachable changes to the zoning law, the CPZR Committee has broken the zoning revision process into three milestones. This summer, the CPZR Committee will release an initial draft of the first group of proposed changes primarily focused on residential zoning in the Village.

This approach intends to allow for easier and earlier feedback from the community. The draft will include extensive comments covering the committee's thought process behind the changes as well as a frequently asked questions document to provide additional context.

The CPZR Committee sincerely hopes that the community will engage with the process and provide feedback as early as possible. Issues raised at the 11th hour are difficult to address and are likely to wait for another round of revisions. Thankfully, the CPZR Committee anticipates working through this same process next year with changes focused on commercial and industrial zoning as well as short-term rentals.

Tburg Food Pantry

The Trumansburg Food Pantry is here to lend a hand by offering free food to people who are struggling to provide food for themselves or their families. The Pantry is prepared to serve residents within the Trumansburg Central School District, and there are no financial requirements. If you're hungry, we're here. Be sure to stop by our next Pantry!

Distribution is from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM and 5:15 - 6:00 PM at the Trumansburg United Methodist Church, 80 East Main Street on the following dates:

- June 6th and 20th
- July 11th and 25th
- August 8th and 22nd
- September 12th and 26th
- October 10th and 24th
- November 7th and 21st
- December 5th and 19th

Public Works

– **Dustin VanDerzee, Supervisor**

The Village of Trumansburg DPW crew consists of one supervisor and four employees who maintain all properties in the village as well as the entire water system. On any given day the guys can be seen out, mowing the village's properties, maintaining village roads, checking and maintaining parts of the water system, and any other general cleanup around the village. The water system consists of four wells, one on Frontenac Rd and three more down in Taughannock Falls State Park. Our water is pumped from those locations up to the elevated water storage tank on Halsey St. Our system pumps on average 160 thousand gallons per day to provide our village residents with safe, clean water. The DPW also provides mulch and compost that we make here in the village. All the brush that is picked up year-round is ground up in the spring to make mulch, and the leaves that we suck up in the fall are broken down into compost. Brush pickup is done every Monday all year, pending weather, and leaf pickup is from Columbus Day until Thanksgiving every year. Mulch and compost are always available, but we do offer a sale on the above-mentioned products from March until May every year, and you can contact the Village Office for pricing. We also offer a free service called Dial-a-truck, where we will bring our dump truck to your residence and leave it overnight for you to fill with any brush-related items that we will then come pick up the next day.

This year the Village DPW has a handful of projects they will be working on or helping with. First on that list is the walking bridge behind the Post Office, which has been barricaded off for the last few years due to safety issues. We also hope to have a cleanup day with the Trumansburg School District to help with some cleanup of the pond at the edge of their property. Multiple sections of the sidewalk have also been marked for repair/replacement which are on our list of plans for the upcoming months as well. To help create an easier process for our crew to be able to locate water utilities, we are hoping to incorporate a GIS mapping system for all water valves, hydrants, and shutoffs in the upcoming year as well. There are also many locations in the village that will be having work done on drainage issues to hopefully help combat the large amounts of rainfall we have been seeing the last few years.

Please remember our DPW crew is always working to help keep our wonderful little village an amazing place to live and visit as well. It is always good to be respectful and considerate when you see them out working, as their safety when working on utilities and roadsides can be potentially hazardous.



Events Calendar

June 1st - Village Tax Day

Village of Trumansburg 150th Anniversary Downtown Celebration - June 10th - 12th

June 10th, 7:00 PM - "Shades of 1872"

Encore Players Supported Historical Skits @ The Ulysses Historical Society

June 11th, Noon - 5:00 PM - Porchfest

Trumansburg Porchfest brings the community together through music!

June 11th, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM - Sim Redmond Band

Dance in the street on Union. Group photo @ 6 pm

June 12th, Noon - 2:00 PM - Lawn Games & Picnic

Bring your family, a blanket/chairs, and a picnic, and come play croquet, kuub, and cornhole! @ The Farmers' Market

August 13th - T-Burg Crit

Criterion bicycle races in the heart of the Village

December 3rd - Winterfest

A free celebration of light and community during the Holiday Season in downtown Trumansburg

Send community news to VillageETC@trumansburg-ny.gov