



Village of Brockport



Fall/Winter 2023

www.brockportny.org

Issue 16

From the Mayor's Desk



We want you to avoid popping tires! Mind the barrel and use the yellow dotted line to guide you onto the Park Ave. bridge.

By time this newsletter goes to print, most of the fall's leaves will have been swallowed up, air conditioners covered, patio furniture stored until spring, and snowplow contracts signed. A waiting time for the white flakes of winter, and time to report what is happening in village government.

We've come off a summer of Serenades at the canalfront, Dinners on Main, the Arts Festival and Sidewalk Sale, Shakespeare on the lawn at the Morgan Manning, kayak excursions, and more. It was a wonderful Brockport summer.

Grants are often at the top of our list, right now being no exception. We decided in late July to apply for a \$4.5 million NY Forward grant, a Department of State downtown (and canalfront) revitalization grant open to NYS villages. We had been eyeing this grant for some time, but wanted to make sure we had a good case to make before preparing an application. You may remember the Question of the Week from our Farmers Market this summer, inviting residents and non-residents alike to let us know what they'd like to see in Brockport that isn't here, what we could do to improve our canalfront and our downtown, and how we

could capitalize on our relationship with SUNY Brockport. Our tagline for our application became, "It's all in Brockport" and your answers to our questions shaped our application. We do believe "It's all in Brockport"—home, a destination, a canal village rich with promise. Our application made it to round two of the process, the interview with the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council. That interview went very well, so we're back to waiting for the announcement of winners after the first of the year.

And we do have a grant award to announce—the Village received a \$150,000 grant from the Canal Corporation to complete the very long-in-the-works boathouse and bring rowing to Brockport. Clearing the land for the construction will start in late winter.

On other fronts, we have completed our code revisions, including zoning, and held the appropriate public hearings re same. Our village attorney and code enforcement officer are now doing a final review of the chapters. The document should be ready for village board approval early in the new year, after a final public hearing. Meantime, this fall we voted to combine the zoning and planning boards as 8 of the 10 villages in Monroe County have already done with improved results. This should particularly streamline the process for anyone having to appear before the zoning board followed by the planning board. Since the boards will be a single entity, the right hand should always know what the left hand is doing.

Going into the holiday season some downtown businesses continue to struggle with the bridge closure, their sales notably down compared to the same time last year. Please remember to shop locally for your holiday gift giving and check out the winter market on December 9th on Main Street, in the shops, and at the Welcome Center.

Read on for what's happening with our bridges, Department news, and upcoming events.

A Joyous Holiday Season to All,

Margay Blackman, Mayor





Brockport Police Department

The Brockport Police Department continues to engage with the community, with the goal of ensuring residents and all those who visit feel safe and secure. Officers were on duty and also a friendly face at Dinners on Main Street, the Arts Festival, various concerts, and Brockstock. The Midnight Madness Halloween Celebration has grown enormously, and is one of our favorite events to participate in. We hope you will join us on December 3rd for the Holiday of Lights Parade as it rolls down Main Street, Brockport for all to enjoy.

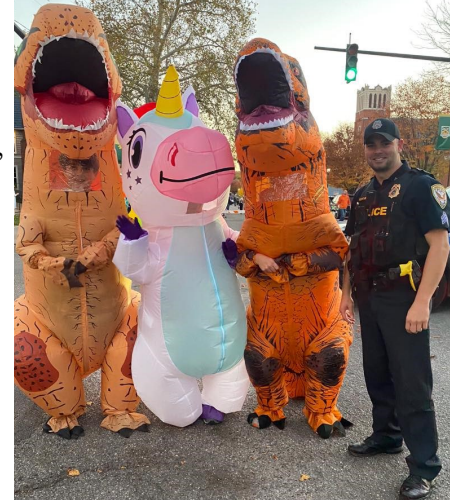
In September, our police officers saved the lives of three people in two different incidents from drowning in the canal. Officers Evan Blodgett, Joshua Sime, and John Vadas received Life Saving Awards for their courageous actions in the rescue and treatment of these individuals. The first incident involved two good Samaritans, Melanie Schwab and Clarence Carithers, who assisted the police rescue, and who were awarded with "Citizen Commendations" from the Brockport Police Department. We are grateful everyone is well.

We continue to respond to a high number of domestic incidents and mental health crisis calls. We work together with a dedicated group of social workers identified as FIT (Forensic Intervention Team) who will respond after we ensure the scene is safe. FIT is an excellent resource that works directly with the person in crisis; FIT attempts to provide all the necessary resources for the individuals road to recovery. Due to privacy concerns, you will not read about these domestic incidents or mental health emergencies in our weekly blotter.

Recently, the Brockport Police Department received a \$3,000 check from the Rochester Crime Stoppers K-9 Initiative. I am proud to report that K-9 Officer Joshua Sime, and Brock continue to play an important role in not only tracking & protection skills, but also as a key component of our community engagement efforts. We receive many requests for the duo to visit local community groups, schools and other civic organizations.

If you need police assistance we will respond and help however we can. Please call 911. The situation does not have to be an emergency, dialing 911 is the best way to talk with a police officer for any reason. We will ensure prompt assistance and often we can help immediately.

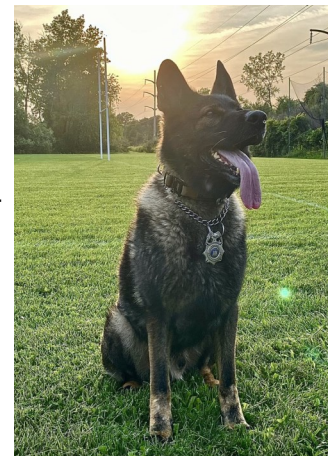
We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!
Chief Cuzzupoli



Officer Caitlan at Midnight Madness



Officers Vadas, Sime, Blodgett, Citizen Carithers, Citizen Schwab, Chief Cuzzupoli, Sergeant Korn, Officer Kelly



K-9 Brock

Clark St. Redesign Coming in 2024

- Widening the road from Main St. to Smith St.
- Drainage and sewer upgrades
- New concrete curbs from Main St. to Smith St.

Preparing for Snow & Ice



The salt barn is fully stocked and treated. We treat the salt with a product that comes from the US Forestry Service and has a mixture of wood sugars and microscopic cellulose. Once this material has been applied, it requires fewer trips out with our salter. To see a video of the process please go to the Public Works page at: www.brockportny.org

Winter Hours:

*24 hour staffing begins November 27th, Monday - Friday and will continue through April 2024.
(Weather dependent)*



DPW staff installing new 5 ft. wide sidewalks on Clark St.

Village wide brush pickup is complete for 2023 and will start again April 2024. To help alleviate any confusion we created a schedule below that you can clip and save for 2024. (Last full week of the month.)

2024 Brush Pickup Calendar

PLEASE HAVE ALL BRUSH READY FOR PICKUP ON THE SUNDAY EVENING PRECEDING THE LAST FULL WEEK OF THE MONTH.

- Pickup Starts April 21st
- Pickup Starts May 27th
- Pickup Starts June 23rd
- Pickup Starts July 21st
- Pickup Starts August 25th
- Pickup Starts September 22nd
- Pickup Starts October 20th

*Please note:
Keep limbs under 10ft in length.
Do not place between poles or signs.
Do not place brush in road.*

(CLIP AND SAVE)



CLOTHES DRYER VENTING HAZARDS

Most houses I inspect have an intentionally installed fire hazard. Before your eyes glaze over and you roll up the newsletter for kindling, take a minute to read over the following statistics and the simple solutions to mitigate the risks. In 2010 (Government surveys are seldom current or timely), there were 16,800 dryer fires; in the same year, there were 51 deaths and 380 injuries caused by dryer fires; the resulting damage cost property owners nearly a quarter billion (billion with a B) dollars.

Dryer fires are seldom caused by equipment failure and are almost always caused by a failure of the installer to follow directions. Most dryer fires start in the dryer ductwork- that part of the system that acts as a conduit for the warm moist air to get outside. Dryer ductwork is supposed to be a “smooth metallic” material joined with a listed and rated metallic tape. Ironically, duct tape is not something you should use. Tape is the prescribed joining method because screws stick through the duct's inner wall and catch lint. Flexible metallic ductwork is allowed only to connect the dryer to the rigid metallic ductwork.

The big box stores all carry and sell a metallic-looking duct that happens to be the same size as dryer ducting; there are a lot of dryer installations that currently employ this product. This product is actually a layer of aluminum that is just atoms thick bonded to a combustible Mylar or similar plastic film. It's an appropriate choice for bath fans but since it burns about as fast as gasoline-soaked Styrofoam, it is a really, really bad choice for dryer ducting. Not every house that has this stuff installed will catch fire, but in almost all the houses that burn from dryer fires, this product was inappropriately used as dryer ducting. How can you tell if you have this product? Poke it. The allowed flexible metallic product will feel rigid and if you poke it hard enough, you can dent it. The combustible shiny plastic product will readily yield to pressure, like poking a baggie, but it won't dent.

The next leading cause of dryer fires is dirty, lint-filled dryer ducting. As the duct gets filled or partially filled with lint, the lint reduces the airflow through the duct. As the air flow is reduced, the temperatures rise until one day, the temperature inside the duct is hot enough to set your cache of lint on fire.



To best avoid dryer fires:

- Make sure you do NOT have plastic (it can be white but is usually shiny silver) ducting.
- Clean your dryer ducts annually. There are companies that provide this service, but seriously, if you're clever enough to fix a sandwich, you can probably fix your dryer duct issues as well.

The Water Corner—Surprised by a Large Water Bill? Fix That Leak!



Leaks inside your toilet can waste about 200 gallons a day. That's 18250 gallons a quarter! Imagine flushing your toilet 50 times a day for no reason. A simple at home dye test can assist in detecting some toilet leaks. Remove the tank lid, place about 5 to 10 drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. Dark colors work best such as red or blue. DO NOT FLUSH. After 15 minutes, if the colored water appears in the bowl, you may have a leak and repairs that need immediate attention.



Bridging Brockport x 4

There's lots of bridge news, so we've put it all in one place.

Starting at the west end of the village with the newest bridge and, the only pedestrian one, we have the "Reimagine the Canals bridge," part of a large scale project inaugurated by former governor Andrew Cuomo and paid for by The New York Power Authority (NYPA). The bridge will span the canal from Commissary Park on the SUNY campus to the Empire State Trail on the north side of the canal. It will undoubtedly be the handsomest bridge on the Erie Canal, worth a trek to walk its curvilinear black locust planked wooden deck and stand at its center to imagine viewing a rowing regatta on a long westward stretching ribbon of the Erie Canal. Crane-Hogan, which is also responsible for the Main Street bridge rehab, secured the contract for this bridge. Preliminary work has begun with several concrete pedestal supports for the sweeping ADA compliant bridge already in place, including one in the canal. Completion date—2025.

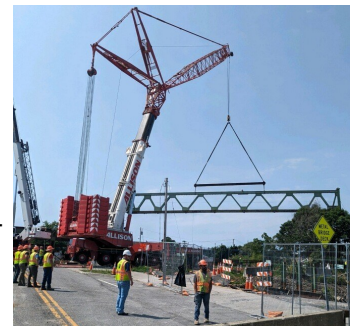


This bridge is the anchor for the Brockport Loop, an elliptical path that will run from the Smith Street bridge along the north side of the canal to the pedestrian bridge, looping back to the Smith Street bridge along the south canal bank and leading into downtown. Plans call for a stone dust path along the south side of the canal and a public art installation made of salvaged Main Street bridge parts. Once complete, daily maintenance of the bridge will be shared by the Village and SUNY Brockport.

Moving eastward, the Smith Street bridge is operating efficiently with its two traffic lights which allow, in rotation, safe passage of the now much heavier traffic across the one lane bridge. The 1 minute 30 second delay after the light turns red is worth the wait to avoid a standoff mid-bridge with oncoming traffic. Rehabilitation of the bridge wall, new pedestrian stairs, sidewalks, and improvements for bicycle safety will take place under the \$1.2 million Transportation Alternatives Program grant to enhance the safety of this bridge and make it more accessible. Design work is underway by Fisher & Associates; visible work will begin in 2024, after completion of the Main Street bridge upgrade.



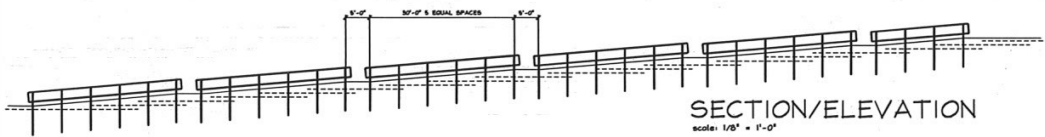
Rehab of the Main Street bridge began with the closure of the bridge to traffic on May 15, 2023. The North Main Street business, CHPC, has kindly provided a webcam directed from a location on the Custom House building to the south end of the bridge allowing the public to follow the work being conducted. The mayor meets every couple of weeks with the engineer in charge to discuss progress and alert the public as to the work being conducted. Updates are posted on the Bridging Brockport webpage (<https://brockportny.org/bridge/>) and the village Facebook page. Mayor Blackman sits in on the biweekly NYSDOT bridge meetings which include the NYSDOT, Crane Hogan, Canal Corp representatives, and subcontractors. The focus, in engineer speak, is on RFIs (Requests for Information) and Submittals but the meetings also provide an opportunity for the two communities under the contract, Albion and Brockport, to weigh in with municipal issues and concerns. The latest addition to the bridge rehab is the giant tent covering the trusses and other bridge parts at 7 North Main. Inside the tent Erie Painting of Buffalo is sandblasting the lead paint from the bridge components. Work on the Main Street Bridge is currently on schedule.



Bridge #4, at Park Avenue, bears the brunt of through traffic in the village now that the Main Street bridge is closed. Approaching the bridge on Park Avenue requires swinging slightly to the left before entering the bridge deck. Motorists are guided by the hatched yellow centerline striping painted by our DPW. NYSDOT replaced a crumbling concrete curb on the SE corner of the bridge with steel curbing like the other three corners have. After several motorists hit the curbing and blew tires (both before and after the steel curbing), NYSDOT placed a striped warning barrel before the curbing (see photo on page 1). **Drivers who follow the yellow striping and mind the barrel will avoid hitting the curb.** DPW and NYSDOT are working together on further solutions, with the arrival of winter snow and the loss of road markers in mind. Please note the roadway of the bridge is the property and responsibility of NYSDOT. We advise if you are uncomfortable with how tight the bridge feels with oncoming traffic to use the Smith Street bridge.



What's Happened to the Access Path to the Canal at McCormick Place?



Architectural renderings by Architect David Strabel for the original path—the new path will be incorporated into the final phase of design for McCormick Place.

In 2021 we received a grant from the canal corporation to create an ADA compliant access path to the canalway trail from the McCormick Place development. The path would serve McCormick Place and the Cloverwood/Havenwood

neighborhoods. The path was to run diagonally up the embankment west to east and access from McCormick Place was to be at the west end of the development adjacent to a home on the east end of Meadow Lane. The easement for the path to the embankment would come from the farthest east, as yet unsold, lot on McCormick Place.

Although the developers initially agreed, the choice was problematic, taking a 6 ft. easement off an already very small lot to create a path to the embankment. Additionally, a large electrical utilities box for the development stood smack in the middle of the entryway to the path.

A sanitary sewer easement farther east owned by the village presented a second possibility for an access path, but it ran just feet away from a new home's dining room window. Additionally, our village attorney advised that sanitary sewer easements did not permit public access. We could, he said, take the path by eminent domain (at great cost to the village), but now a second house, already sold, was going up on the other side of the sanitary sewer easement.



East end of McCormick Place

So, back to the table this fall with Chromium Developers to come up with a solution amenable to all of us. Here's what we came up with:

1. Chromium supports the access path in the McCormick Place Development to the canal embankment.
2. They will incorporate it into the final phase of the development and it will be built into the design of that phase.
3. They will work with the village to create a mutually beneficial design to be included in their building plans for the lots on the east side of their land, which abuts the Empire State Trail, and they will provide fill materials for the creation of the path. The path up the embankment will now run east to west.

The downside of this amended plan is the delay in the completion of the project until 2025. The canalway grant the village received for creating the access to the Empire State Trail has been extended to 2025 and we believe the end result will be much improved over the original plan.

In the meantime, the McCormick Place cyclists will have to continue to patiently ride their bikes through their development and the Havenwood/Cloverwood neighborhood until 2025.



Sundays, 3PM, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, at the corner of Main and State Streets—LIVE MUSIC, FREE!

January 21 - Michael Lasser, Alan Jones and Jessica Ann Best return by popular demand. This year they will focus on songs of *George and Ira Gershwin*.

February 4 - The *Laura Dubin Trio* a popular Rochester group that plays great jazz and much more.

February 18 - another Lasser presentation, with two Rochester singers new to us: Connie Fredericks-Malone and Reuben J. Tapp, celebrating the *Harlem Renaissance*.

March 3 - Another returning favorite, by popular demand – *Chris Wilson* concludes the winter series.

Thank you to the Serenades Committee for organizing, planning, fundraising, and hosting these wonderful community events, in Summer and Winter. Thank you to the generous donations from the greater community, who make this concert series possible.

Total Solar Eclipse: April 8, 2024—Brockport at the Center of it All!



Totality: 3:20-3:23pm (3 minutes 44 seconds) - Eye Protection is Critical - The Village will have approximately 4,000 pairs to give out to village residents, 2 per household until gone. Students enrolled in Brockport Central Schools will be provided glasses from the school district.

- Sunglasses do **NOT** work
- Never look directly at the sun
- You **MUST** wear solar viewing glasses
- Eclipse glasses should be ISO 12312-2:2015 Certified
- If you purchase glasses, be aware of counterfeits

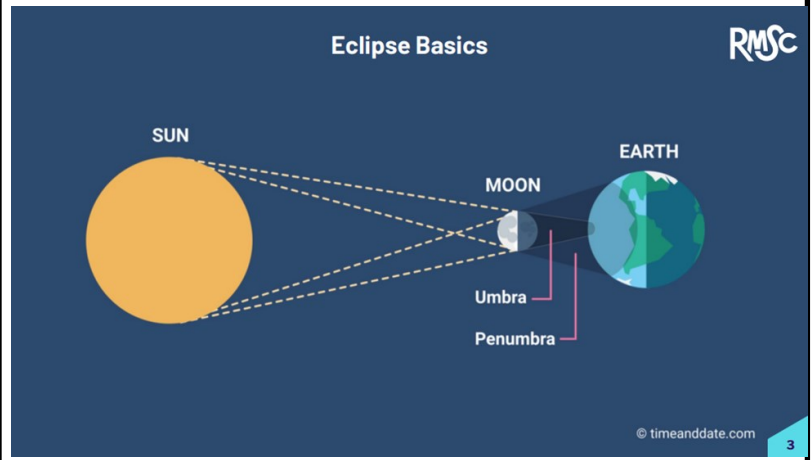
Did you know?

The last Total Solar Eclipse in the Rochester area was: January 24, 1925
The next Total Solar Eclipse in the Rochester area is: April 8, 2024
The future Total Solar Eclipse in the Rochester area is: October 26, 2144

The Village of Brockport will be holding a workshop on **January 22 at 7pm**, at 49 State St., to discuss the eclipse and its possible impacts on our community. We invite anyone interested to attend in person or via zoom (link on the meeting agenda in advance, at www.brockportny.org.)

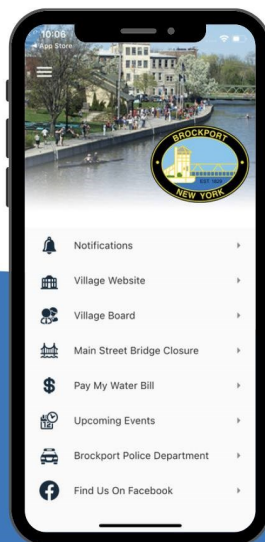
We especially encourage local businesses to join us! We will have representation from SUNY at the meeting as well.

Look for a section on the village webpage about the eclipse after the new year!



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Prefer to receive email notifications? Sign up at:

<https://app.govoutreach.com/brockportvillageny/public/communications/subscribe>

Winter Events & Community Partnerships

Brockport's Annual Holiday Light Spectacular & Parade

Sunday, December 3rd at 5PM

Hosted by the Brockport Stetson Club
Fireworks Sponsored by Sunnking

Red Arrows = Parade Route
Green Arrows = Exit for Larger Floats



DECEMBER 9



11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

BROCKPORT WINTER MARKET

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
BROCKPORT

25 VENDORS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
SANTA AT THE WELCOME CENTER
MUSIC IN THE STREETS



BRIDGING BROCKPORT
ON Main

Social Hosting Program for International Students at SUNY Brockport

SUNY Brockport is seeing a rise in new students, including several international students from all over the globe. In the last couple of years, a “Social Host” program has been established where families serve as a point-of-contact for students (who all live on campus) wishing to have a local contact in our community. Currently 20 students are paired up with 10 families who host occasional dinners with the students; take them on trips to stores and appointments; visit regional landmarks; etc. It is a true win-win program for both the students and the families. If you have interest in hosting a student or two in the spring semester or next fall, contact Maddie Petherick mpetherick@brockport.edu or 395.5962 or Mike Andriatch mandriat@brockport.edu or 395.5809 at SUNY Brockport for more information.

Free Snowshoeing On the Canals — Registration will open mid-December, check www.brockportny.org for a link or Event-Brite and search for Brockport events.

Thank you to NYPA and the Canal Corporation for their continued support and to our On the Canals Organizer, Marleen Cain (pictured here, with granddaughter and snow shoeing extraordinaire, Evelyn).

Snow or no snow, we'll teach you how to use snow shoes, take a hike, and warm up by a fire pit at the Welcome Center with a hot drink! We will offer a First Day Hike on January 1, and several weekend options January-February.

