

VILLAGE OF PHOENIX

NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE BOARD & ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Brian Borchik

Trustees

Paul Griser, *Deputy Mayor*

Jeffrey Koegel

David Pendergast

Sally Woolson

Village Administrator

Jim Lynch

Village Clerk/Treasurer

Roxanne Demo

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Laura Gonzalez

Village Attorney

Jeffrey Schiano

DPW Crew Leader

John Kerfien

Police Chief

Martin Nerber

Historian

Barbara Dix

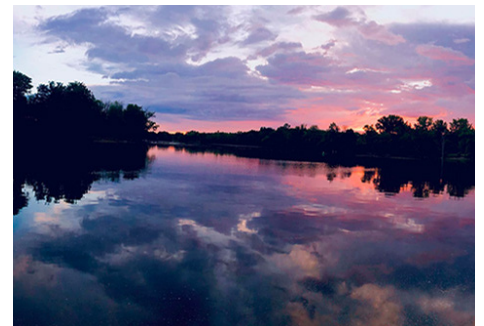
KEY DATES

Sept. 11 - 9/11 Vigil

Sept. 30 - Locktoberfest

Message From Mayor Borchik

Hello neighbors and residents. I would like to say thank you to the voters who came out and supported me in my campaign to become Mayor. It has been a very busy first few months in the position as well as a very exciting period with the grants the village has been awarded.



For those of you who do not know me let me tell you a few things that I swore to everyone when I ran. First and foremost, residents come first. When I was knocking on doors someone asked me "What are you going to fix if you become Mayor?" My answer to that person was "Isn't your job to tell me what I need to fix?" Neither I or any of your elected officials know what you want unless you tell us. My office is open to all who wish to speak to me. You are welcome to reach out to me anytime. The best way to contact me is via email at bborchik@villageofphoenix-ny.gov and we can set up a call or meeting. I am happy to sit down with anyone to discuss whatever might be on your mind, or you can just get to know who I am.

I would like to give some recognition to every single other elected, appointed and hired position within our village. No one single person can make this a great place to live, no one single person has all the right answers, no one single person can fix anything that is broken, and often no one single person will have the answer you are looking for. However, as a team, we will all work for what is best for this village. It is your job as residents to tell us what you think is best. I encourage participation from all residents. Nothing makes me happier than seeing a full audience at a Village Board Meeting or getting a message from someone saying they want to get involved and volunteer at an event.

Let's have a wonderful 2023 and enjoy all our community has to offer.

Enjoy the village and be kind!

Mayor Brian Borchik



FALL 2023

Village Police Department News and Updates

We as a department try to keep in touch with our community offering several programs such as our CHOOSE program interacting with our Seniors.

Officers Bullard and Fortino have been busy visiting with our members often bringing them sweet treats to enjoy. This program is such a part of who we are here in the village and I thank the officers for their dedication to make it successful.

We listen to our residents and for some time we have been receiving complaints of motorists not yielding to pedestrians in our crosswalks. To address this we utilized some aggressive enforcement measures yielding results that indicated we do have a problem with pedestrian safety. We did receive criticism and resistance in the disposition stages, however we do feel this is very important and we will continue to take these violations seriously. I would urge everyone to please pay attention to pedestrians in crosswalks.

We have a few new members and if you see them out and about feel free to say hello. Our officers are all professionals that come from larger full time departments to serve our village best. Keep an eye out for our monthly spot light on our Facebook page. Each month we like to introduce you to one of our officers by providing a short bio about them.

Keeping with our community trend, we had two Coffee With A Cop events at Henley Park, and enjoyed spending time with the community and chatting about all things Phoenix! Be on the look out for more of these events moving forward.



Chief Marty Nerber



A Message From Trustee Griser

Hello community!

I hope this message finds you well. As a proud Trustee of our beloved village, I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you all. This year marks a significant milestone in our history as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the village!

Our village has a rich and vibrant history that has been shaped by the hard work, determination, and unity of its residents throughout the years. From its humble beginnings to the thriving community we are today, every step of our journey has been filled with stories of resilience, innovation, and community spirit.

As we approach this momentous occasion, I am filled with gratitude for all those who have played a part in shaping Phoenix into the wonderful place it is today. It is because of the contributions and dedication of each and every one of you that our village has flourished.

To commemorate this remarkable milestone, we are excited to announce a series of events and festivities throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available! We'll post often regarding our 175th celebrations on social media. In the meantime, enjoy a few pages dedicated to this celebration within this newsletter!

Trustee Paul Griser



FALL 2023

NY Forward Update - Moving The Village Forward

Have you heard? The Village of Phoenix is one of three communities in the Central New York region selected for the first round of the State's NY Forward program.

We received a \$4.5 million award to help identify and complete transformative and/or catalytic projects in and near our Canal Waterfront District downtown. The NY Forward program also provides robust technical assistance and capacity-building directly to communities throughout each phase of the program. Phoenix is paired with a consultant team that is providing this assistance and guiding our community through the planning process.

How can you get involved?

- Participate in our next public meeting, scheduled for September 12 starting at 5pm at White Pines Commons. Stay tuned for more information. We hosted our first public meeting in late June and the meeting presentation is available online for review.
- Attend a Local Planning Committee (LPC) meeting. These working committee meetings are open to the public to observe, with a public comment period at the end. Our next LPC is scheduled for September 28, starting at 5pm at White Pines Commons.
- Review previous meeting presentations and other

documents on our website: [Project Documents](#) | [Village of Phoenix](#) (villageofphoenix-ny.gov)

The NY Forward planning process started in May and will continue through Fall 2023 with the completion of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). The SIP will include a list of projects recommended for NY Forward funding by the LPC. A subset of the projects submitted in the SIP will be awarded funding by the State, with awards likely to be announced in early 2024.



Introducing the Village Court

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jason Godkin, and I am the new Village of Phoenix Justice. This is an exciting time for us in the village with the formation of the new court. I am honored to have been elected by the residents of the village. The Mayor and Village Board have put together a great team to serve the residents of the village.

Adam Muldering has been appointed Associate Justice and Amie Hart is our Court Clerk. We feel that the new Village court will allow village matters to be addressed quickly, efficiently and in a manner that benefits our residents and village.



Court will be held in the auditorium of the Sweet Memorial building every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month beginning at 6pm. The Court Clerk's office is located on the main floor of the Sweet Memorial building just inside of the front doors on the left.

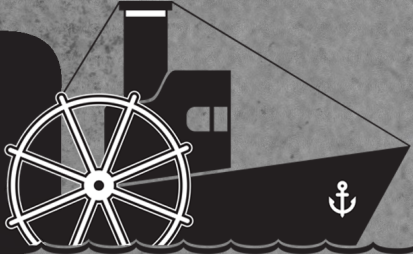
On behalf of myself, Adam, and Amie we look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Judge Jason Godkin

175th

◆ 1848 - 2023 ◆



Village of Phoenix



The Village of Phoenix is a canal community rich with 19th century history and character. It is located within the Town of Schroepfel in southern Oswego County, New York and covers 1.145 square miles. Lock 1 of the Oswego Canal, on the Oswego River, is located within the Village limits.

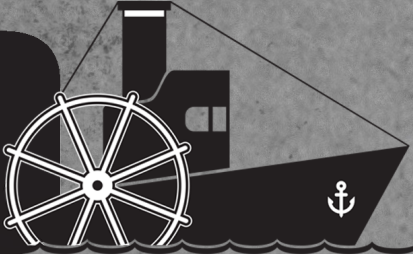
From 1750 to 1763, critical events in the French and Indian War can be linked to the Oswego River and surrounding waterways. British troops erected a small fort to protect ammunition and other supplies at the junction of the Oneida, Seneca, and Oswego Rivers, which is known as Three Rivers Point and is south of Phoenix. Eventually, the troops traveled along the Oswego River and past what is now the Village of Phoenix as they made their way to Fort Ontario.

The Oswego River system was then canalized and locks and dams were constructed to allow commercial shipping from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes via the New York State Canal System. With the marked success of the canal system, Hamlets and Villages were created alongside the canal. In 1846, the Village of Phoenix was incorporated. It was primarily an industrial hub, focused on the manufacturing of goods and services to be shipped along the canal to westernmost locations.

By the late 1800's, the Village of Phoenix had developed into a community rich in opportunity and cultural experience. In the late 19th century, several major fires reshaped the character and appearance of the Village. The Great Fire in 1916 was the most devastating, destroying 80 buildings. Most of the existing buildings along the Canal Waterfront District were built between 1917 and 1929. Beginning in the early 1920's, most of the industry left the Village and thus began the trend towards becoming the "bedroom community" that it is today.

175

◆ 1848 - 2023 ◆



Village of Phoenix



Welcome to the Village of Phoenix, where the Oswego River flows through the center of the village providing a unique avenue for travel, recreation and a connection with our past. Whether you are a life-long resident, new to our village, or just passing through, we invite you to become a part of our extended family.

Our community boasts an ever growing business district along the Oswego Canal at Lock One, beautiful residential homes, fine schools, parks, library and our very own Bridgehouse Brats. The services provided by our government departments are unsurpassed. Public safety needs are provided through the Phoenix Police Department and the Enterprise Fire Company with skill and professionalism. Residents can take pride in the personal service and quality work provided by the Office of the Village Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer, Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Department of Public Works.

The Village of Phoenix is pleased to announce it was recently awarded \$4.5 million through the NY Forward Grant. After three years of applying, the village's hard work paid off as New York Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez presented the village with the award. Stay tuned as we move forward with the implementation of plans that are sure to enhance the quality of life within our village!

Our Board of Trustees and our Mayor take great pride in our public service to this community and they strive to promote Phoenix and to work hard for the betterment of people who live and work here. Perhaps Phoenix's greatest asset is its people. There is a true sense of community in our Village. Although we are a relatively small village, don't be fooled by our size. We are a village based on strong core values, hard-work, and a staunch commitment to serving our community. These are the ethics that make Phoenix truly amazing!

Message From Village Administrator

As I sit down to write this article, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude and pride for the privilege of serving as your village administrator for the past nine years. Together, we have embarked on a remarkable journey, and it fills me with joy to express my gratitude to the amazing team I have had the honor to work with.

First and foremost, I must extend my heartfelt appreciation to the list of Mayors and dedicated Board Members over the years. Your unwavering commitment to the betterment of our village has been the driving force behind our accomplishments. Your support, vision, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in shaping the path of progress.

The collaborative spirit of our clerks cannot be understated. Their dedication to efficiency, organization, and community service has been the bedrock of our administrative operations. Thanks to their hard work, our village office has been transformed into a hub of support for residents.

Our Department of Public Works (DPW) and Police Department deserve commendation for their invaluable contributions. The dedication of our DPW team has ensured that our village's infrastructure is well-maintained, safe and up-to-date. They have made substantial upgrades to all aspects of our roads, parks and buildings, enhancing the overall appeal and functionality of our village.

The Police Department has worked diligently to keep our community safe, and their commitment to protecting and serving our residents is commendable. With their assistance, we have successfully implemented numerous safety initiatives, a Village court and various upgrades that have contributed to our village's secure environment.

I must also acknowledge the exceptional skills of our grant writer. Her efforts have been pivotal in securing funds for vital projects that have positively impacted our village's growth and development.

The success in obtaining grants and fostering development is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our longtime grant writer Kristy LaManche.

Our village's progress would not have been possible without the collective effort of every individual and department. Together, we have accomplished substantial upgrades to our infrastructure, sidewalks, commercial spaces, parks, pond, and docking spaces. Additionally, we have introduced new programs, modernized the clerk's office and police department, and maintained a new fleet of equipment and vehicles for the DPW and the police force.



Moreover, the success of our annual family events and the ever-popular Locktoberfest is a testament to the vibrancy and unity of our community. It is heartwarming to witness the enthusiasm and joy these events bring to all our residents. We look forward to more community events and opportunities to bring us all together to meet our neighbors and make new friends.

Throughout our journey, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to the long-term comprehensive plan for our village's growth and prosperity. We have strived to balance progress with preservation, ensuring that our community's values and heritage remain intact.

None of this progress would have been possible without the unwavering support and cooperation of our incredible community. The trust you place in us, your valuable feedback, and your active participation have been the driving force behind our achievements. Your belief in our shared vision has inspired us to go above and beyond.

As I reflect on these nine years, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve you and our wonderful village. Together, we have transformed challenges into opportunities and vision into reality.

The strength of our village lies in the unity of its people, and I am thankful every day to be a part of this thriving community.

Let us continue to move forward hand in hand, as we shape a brighter future for generations to come.

With sincere appreciation,

Administrator Jim Lynch



Message From The DPW

It's been a beautiful summer this year!

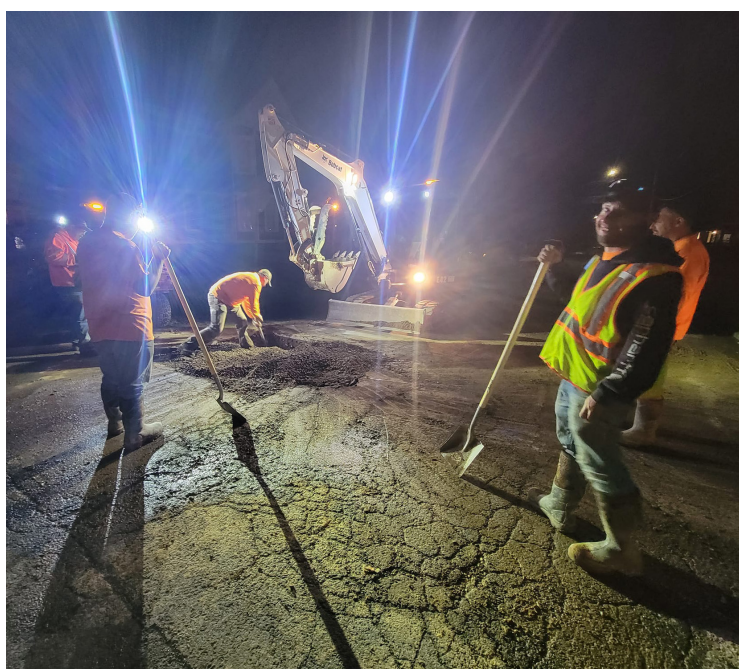
The DPW crew has been out doing numerous tasks throughout the Village. Aside from collecting yard waste, chipping brush, mowing and doing what ever is needed to keep the Village looking great they have also been working on various water and sewer issues. Trying to keep our water and sewer infrastructures working properly and efficiently are one of our main goals daily. We have spent quite a bit of time maintaining our water and waste water plants this year as well as locating any leaks and water loss in our distribution system and get them repaired. Moving forward this summer we are planning on getting some paving done on a couple streets which is done by the County DPW after our DPW gets our manholes and water main valves.

Please be mindful of our crews working on the roads and children walking to school once school starts back up. Summer seems to be going fast and we will be preparing our equipment for the approaching winter season.

Brush chipping normally ends November 1st because trucks are equipped with snow moving equipment. We try to get around and pick up bagged waste as weather permits.

Thank you to our residents for always supporting our department. Hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather as much as we are.

Grew Leader John Kerfien



MEMORIAL BRICKS NOW ON SALE

The First Responders Memorial has been a great additional to our community in honoring those whom have served and continue to serve. This memorial has been a long time coming and we are thrilled to be putting in the first bricks (at a date to be announced soon). Bricks may be purchased at anytime through the year. The form can be found on the village website and can be brought to the village office to be paid for.

SEEKING COMMUNITY INPUT FOR VILLAGE FLAG

The Village of Phoenix is thrilled to announce we will be adopting an official village flag! But we cannot do this without the support and input of our community! Stay tuned on our website and Facebook page for more information!



Building a Caring Community: A Fresh Perspective on Code Enforcement

Dear Residents,

In our small but strong village, nestled along the canal and rich with history, we have always cherished the sense of togetherness and community spirit. As we embrace progress, it is essential to adopt a unique and forward approach to code enforcement—one that recognizes the challenges faced by our residents and the importance of maintaining a high quality of life for all.

Code enforcement plays a pivotal role in preserving the character of our village, ensuring safety, and enhancing the overall living experience. We acknowledge that life can be demanding, and residents may not always have the time, resources, or finances to address certain code violations immediately. That's why we believe in working together, fostering understanding, and building a caring community.

Rather than merely imposing penalties, we are committed to collaborating with our residents to find innovative solutions to code violations. Our goal is to create a cooperative environment where we all play a role in upholding our local laws while being considerate of each other's circumstances.

1. Empathy-Driven Approach:

We understand that unexpected situations can arise, making it challenging for some residents to promptly address code violations. We encourage open communication and urge those facing difficulties to reach out to our Code Enforcement office. Together, we can explore feasible options and develop a timeline that respects both the resident's needs and the village's interests.

2. Education and Resources:

We firmly believe in empowering our residents with knowledge and resources. Our Code Enforcement office will conduct provide helpful materials to ensure everyone understands our village's regulations. We'll also collaborate with local organizations to offer assistance to those who may need support in rectifying code issues.

3. Community Assistance Programs:

To assist residents facing financial constraints, we are exploring the implementation of community assistance programs. These initiatives will pool resources from willing community members, businesses, and grants to aid fellow residents in resolving code violations. Together, we can alleviate the burden and strengthen our community bonds.

4. Village Court:

In line with our progressive outlook, we are excited to introduce our new Village Court. This court will focus on restorative justice and community healing, rather than solely punitive measures.

Our aim is to foster understanding, create learning opportunities, and encourage active participation in shaping a better community.

5. Celebrating Compliance:

In addition to addressing code violations, we believe in acknowledging and celebrating compliance. We will continue to highlight exemplary efforts made by residents to maintain their properties, encouraging others to follow suit. A Nice Neighbor Award will showcase those who go above and beyond in upholding our village's values.

As we move forward, let us remember that code enforcement is not just about regulations; it's about fostering a sense of responsibility and pride in our village. Together, we can preserve the essence of our community and ensure that every resident enjoys the quality of life they deserve.

We invite you all to be an active part of this transformative journey. Share your ideas, concerns, and aspirations with us, for it is through collaboration that we can truly build a caring and prosperous community.

Thank you for being the heart of our village.

Warm regards,

Jim Lynch



Village of Phoenix
455 Main Street
Phoenix, New York 13135

Local Postal Customer

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail