

VILLAGE OF PHOENIX

NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE BOARD & ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Caleb Sweet

Trustees

Brian Borchik

Danny Dunn

Paul Griser

David Pendergast

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



Message From The Mayor

Hello neighbors!

Well, spring has come and gone and the village has been spruced up, flowers are popping and new construction is in the works. We toasted the beginning of summer with our annual fireworks display, which was spectacular as always.

On another note, we've been tossing around a community idea... we all know someone in the village that has trouble getting around or doesn't have the household manpower to do tasks around their yard. I'm hoping we could form a group of interested individuals that can band together to lend a helping hand for a weekend or two, to make quick work for these neighbors of ours. We'll do so all while having fun and bringing a smile to the faces of our neighbors in need. If interested, we'll hold a meeting in the Sweet Memorial Building on Aug. 25 at 7PM. It will be a fun community effort for everyone!

With that, here's wishing you a fulfilled rest of your summer. Please watch for playing children in the streets, and enjoy some Music in the Park!

Sincerely,

Mayor Caleb Sweet



Police Department News

School is out and our kids are taking in the summer heat, please give an extra look when driving. I would also like to commend our amazing Bridge House Brats for another summer season underway. Our "Brats" often make runs for boaters and diners on our waterfront and they utilize our crosswalks. I have personally seen and addressed these issues of motorists not stopping or yielding to pedestrians at the crosswalks - I urge you all to familiarize yourself with the laws and take caution. Our children and pedestrians deserve the courtesy and safety a motorists provides by stopping. Our Village has recognized this as a problem also and has taken some steps in ordering crosswalk signs that light up and other safety tools through grants. The law is listed below for your information.

§ 1151. Pedestrians; right of way in crosswalks.

(a) When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk on the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, except that any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overpass has been provided shall yield the right of way to all vehicles.

(b) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impractical for the driver to yield.

(c) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

I would also like to Thank the NYS Parks and Recreation for upgrading our old vessel to a new "used" vessel to provide waterway safety for our residents. This is provided at no cost to our village including the training needed to operate it.

We do incur minimal costs which include fuel and maintenance. Two of our local businessmen, Dave Dingman (Medicine Place) and Nick Duskee (Duskees) have donated \$600 each to help operate this crucial program for our waterfront community. I commend them and their generosity, involvement, and commitment to our Village.

The last couple of years have been tough for everyone and the police department has not been immune to the times, I would personally like to extend my gratitude to our citizens for the support they have given the police department. It is unprecedented if you make comparisons around the country. Thanks for having our backs and we certainly will continue having yours.



Chief Marty Nerber 

Message From Trustee Griser

Hello Phoenix! I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every village employee for the tremendous efforts they display every day for the betterment of our village. Our DPW crew work tirelessly in extreme conditions throughout the year to make sure our roads are safe, our infrastructure is secure, and our village maintains and enhances its beauty (see Lock Street Pond as an example). Our Police Department works hard to secure safety for our residents, all while continuing to increase community relations (see photo above as an example). And of course, we wouldn't be in a position to continually improve our community without the outstanding efforts of our village office (including our Village Administrator, Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk).

These individuals play an integral role in so many of the positive developments throughout the village. We all know the old adage, "It takes a village," which holds true for our little community. While they may all work in different departments and have different roles to play within the community, I would like to revise that old adage to say, "One village, one team," because that's the culture we have developed here in Phoenix.

Paul Griser, Trustee 

Village Administrator Update

No matter how much we deny it, humans are judgmental beings!

Myself, The Mayor and The Board of Trustees have expectations for every project, grant application, purchase and tough decisions we make, and when someone challenges these expectations, we're left shocked... Well not really but sometimes we just listen to the criticism and move on knowing we feel we have done our best with the community and resident's health, safety and best interest in mind.

Sometimes our expectations are changed or skewed based on how things evolve. Whether it be a supply chain issue, remnants of a 2 year pandemic, limited or loss revenue, increased government mandates or simply just manpower and time constraints I strongly believe we as a Village are continuing to move in a positive direction.

As our Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk continue to keep the office running within budget, our Department of Public Works crew continues to work in the public's eye and behind the scenes as they perform their daily waste water, water, mechanical, landscaping and emergency tasks. Our Police

Department and Code Enforcement continue to look out for the health and safety of all of our residents, properties, businesses, parks and roads. There are many other things happening at the same time.

Here are just a few of the "happenings" going on now.

*The Village has received a \$500,000.00 grant from New York State DOT for funding the Village of Phoenix Pedestrian Improvements Project which will consist of new crosswalks, crosswalk signage, portions of sidewalks and an entire mapping plan for safe routes to schools for our students and all residents within our Village.

*A \$1,000.00 seed grant has been awarded from New York State Urban Forestry Council to assist us with our newly formed "Village of Phoenix Tree Advisory Committee". This grant will allow us to develop a plan for tree maintenance and planting as well as guide us with our community garden and Lock Street pond improvements in the future.

*A grant was awarded to The Village of Phoenix from the Shineman foundation for \$30,000.00 to develop and install a volleyball and basketball court area on State Street which we feel addressed a high priority need within our Village. The project has increased the safety of our youth by providing a free, easily accessible area for people of all ages and abilities to interact with their peers.

*CNY Arts has awarded the Village a \$2,500.00 grant for an artwork project for the Canalside Court fencing to be consistent with the pocket park next to the old Larkin's restaurant.

*The Village has received a \$15,000.00 Streetscape Grant as a component of our New York Main Street Grant for our First

Responders Memorial which will be built at the end of Bridge Street and State Street.

*Our Music in The Park Concert Series is underway and is self-sustaining due to the generous donations each week from our boaters and visitors to the park. Music in the Park is every Monday and Friday during the months of July and August.

*A collaboration between the Village, The Phoenix Central School District and their art program along with Dean Ripley, the owner of 81 State Street has been formed to create and install a building mural. The entire cost of the mural is donated by Mr. Ripley. Exciting news for sure and it is always nice to be able to work with our youth in the area for something for all to enjoy.

As you can read, along with the daily tasks of running a local municipality, our Village has been very involved in researching as well as receiving various grants to increase safety and quality of life components that all municipalities strive for. We are always open to input and suggestions from our residents so please reach out if you have something you would like to say or if you would like to volunteer your time or resources with the various committees and projects that we currently have in place.

Our Village board meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in the auditorium or boardroom of the Sweet Memorial Building and my direct line is 315-695-1307.

So I leave you with this... Just like in a regular brick and mortar establishment, running a Village is like running a business, getting things done and making great strides is never done by one person, it is done by a team of dedicated individuals working together to make a difference. Our team here at the Village works very well together, we are always welcome to additional input, ideas, help and constructive criticism from all of you.

Thank you and I am hopeful you are still reading my article!

Administrator Jim Lynch



REMAINING SUMMER SCHEDULE

Aug. 12 – Music in The Park – Ryan Hendry & Keith Renfrew, 6-8PM

Aug. 13 – Family Fun Day at Town of Schroepel Park

Aug. 15 – Music in The Park – Rhythm n' Shoes, 5:30-7:30PM

Aug. 19 – Music in The Park – Rock Shadows Band, 5:30-7:30PM

Aug. 22 – Music in The Park – Terry & Joe Acoustic Show, 5:30-7:30PM

Aug. 26 – Music in The Park – Nite Life Band, 5:30-7:30PM

Aug. 29 – Music in The Park – Caleb & Jason Acoustic Duo, 5:30-7:30PM

Sept. 11 – Annual Community Vigil in Memory of Those Who Lost Their Lives - 6:30PM Henley Park – Please bring a candle with you

Oct. 1 – Annual Locktoberfest – All Day Event including Music, Food, Vendors and Activities

Message From Trustee Borchik

As the newest member of our Village Board, elected as a Trustee this past election, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, share a quick story about how I got here and tell you a bit about my vision for the future of our community. I have been a resident for 6 years now and have felt right at home since moving here. All of my neighbors were inviting, informative and kind. I instantly felt like I moved right into the middle of such a historically significant area, and it turns out that feeling was correct.

Every day I would pass this one vacant run down house on Main St. The weeds had overtaken the yard, the garbage was piled high and the house was in severe disrepair. After seeing that house go up for sale I purchased it. I learned it was affectionately known as "The Williams House" after the original builder. With some quick research I learned of the historical significance of the house to the early days of the village. So I made it my mission to bring the house back to a historic look and not modernize it. And in the process of this work I met a lot of new people in the village. I became acquainted with a few members of the DPW, Village Board and even some of our police officers. I quickly felt what it was like to build new relationships and be part of a close knit community. Partly due to my restoration of this house and the people I met, in February 2021 I was asked to join our Village Planning Board. After just a year on the Planning Board, and being involved in a few projects at that level, I decided that running for a position as Village Trustee would be of interest to me. And thanks to our village residents I was elected.

As part of my duties as Trustee I am the board liason to our Village Police Department as well as liason to Henley Park. I enjoy being involved in working toward making the village a better place to live than it is already. I've been working with the police department on issues that all departments nationwide are experiencing and I feel like we are making headway. We have some really nice additions coming this summer to the park area that will be hard to miss including a First Responders Memorial and a beautiful new Phoenix mural planned that will be placed on the side of the Northwestern Mutual Building.

The saying "It Takes a Community" is alive and well within our Village. And I'd like to see it thrive while maintaining that small town feel that Phoenix has always been about. I feel that everyone should know who their elected leaders are and we should always be available when needed. You can find me at every village event or several times a week walking my Husky down to Henley Park and speaking with boaters. Our Board meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month and the public is encouraged to attend. I highly encourage participation from all residents. We are always looking for volunteers to get involved in our events or help out with community initiatives. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Mayor Sweet, Jim Lynch, Chief Nerber, our Amazing clerks Roxanne and Laura, the village attorney Jeff Schiano and last but not least the other Trustees Paul Griser, David Pendergast and Dan Dunn for guiding me and helping me when needed.

Please remember to check the library website at www.phoenixnylibrary.org, Facebook page, or call 315-695-4355 for details.

Brian Borchik, Trustee 

Free-Waste Recycling

Do you, your business, company, or organization have unwanted computers, laptops, servers, IT equipment, tablets, phones or other technology equipment?

Free-Waste Recycling will pick these items up free of charge! Call or text 315-289-7020 to schedule your pick up!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY FORUMS

Join us August 25 to meet with Village representatives and learn more about what's happening in Phoenix!

Community Forum
Q&A Session: 6-7PM

Mayor Sweet's Neighbors
Helping Neighbors
Meeting: 7PM

DPW Update

Hello everyone! It's already been a very hot start to summer. I hope everyone is doing their best to stay hydrated.

The DPW crew has been trying to take advantage of the dry weather to get a lot of work taken care of. We have plans to do some paving and street repairs as well as some more sidewalk work and drainage work.

Like in the past we are picking up yard waste multiple times per week and do most brush chipping on Fridays. Please make sure loose yard waste is bagged in biodegradable paper bags. Please no dirt, rocks, concrete or building materiel. Heavy waste can be piled neatly on the shoulder of the street for pick up. Please stack all brush to be chipped with the cut ends toward the curb.

Hydrant flushing is normally scheduled for the last week of August. Most people don't experience any change in water pressure or color but there always is a chance to see this during that time.

If you experience any water or sewer issues please call the clerks office to have someone stop by. It's always good to have us check your issue before calling a plumber. We always do what we can for our residents and try to steer them in the right direction for repairs if need be.

Thank you and have a safe and wonderful summer!

John Kerfien, Senior Crew Leader



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