

Village of Ballston Spa

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The Voice, Volume 2

Dear Ballston Spa Neighbor,

Welcome to the Board of Trustees' newsletter, *The Voice*. We hope you will enjoy reading about upcoming events, and updates on village business.

Upcoming Events

March 15 Special Election – Mark your calendars! There will be a special election on **Tuesday, March 15th** to choose a Mayor and a Trustee. In November 2021, the Board of Trustees appointed **Christine M. Fitzpatrick** Mayor after the former Mayor's resignation. Her appointment created a Trustee vacancy. Successful candidates will serve until April 3, 2023.

Drug Awareness Program – On Feb. 9 at 7pm at Christ Episcopal Church, our Police Dept., the Saratoga County Sheriff's Dept., Healing Springs Recovery Community Outreach Center with sponsorship from the Rotary will host a public service information session on drug awareness. Check website for details.

Annual Reports from Village Departments – As part of our efforts to improve government transparency, village departments will present to the public at Board of Trustee meetings in early 2022. Tune in and get the inside scoop on village operations. See the website for schedule.

Snow Removal – This winter please remember to clear your sidewalk the same day, or next day if it snows at night. If there is a complaint, DPW will post a notice requiring removal within 24 hours. Failure to comply within 24 hours will result in DPW removing snow and charging the property owner four times the cost of the removal. Please also remove portable basketball hoops.

Progress Update

Great News! Village Awarded a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Grant - Ballston Spa has been awarded a \$153,000 grant from the NYS BOA Program. It will fund development planning for a 176-acre area including most of downtown. The total grant is \$170,000 with Ballston Spa providing a \$17,000 match. Brownfields are properties with environmental contamination, making them difficult to develop. When the BOA study is complete, developers could receive a significant tax credit to redevelop the sites.

In the last two years the Village has been awarded over **\$425,000** in grant funding for our Economic Development Study, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, Urban Forestry Inventory and Management Plan, Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant, and

BOA study. The Village's total match amount has been \$32,000 or 7% of the \$480,560 total value. Planning studies are necessary to obtain implementation funding. We will continue to seek grant funding to make improvements to our infrastructure and government buildings.

New Attorneys – The Board has chosen Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes PC of Glens Falls as the attorneys for the Village. BPS&R offers a deep bench in legal expertise. Ms. Karla Buettner, who has extensive experience in municipal law, will serve as lead attorney and is joined by Stephanie Bitner who brings additional expertise in zoning.

New Collective Bargaining Agreement – The Village and Teamsters Local 294, representing DPW, have reached an agreement for the period June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2024. The agreement includes an increase in base wages, an across-the-board increase in staff salaries, and health insurance savings; such savings will contribute to our long-term financial stability.

Firefighter Grant – Fire Chief Kevin Krogh submitted a grant to the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program for \$168,000 to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Thank you, Chief Krogh for keeping our firefighters safe and prepared.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee is continuing its identification of the challenges and opportunities the Village will face over the next five to ten years. The committee has created a Request for Proposals (RFP) for planning firms to assist with the Comprehensive Plan.

Wellfield Evaluation – Our Village engineering firm Chazen (new name LaBella Associates) has completed a Wellfield Safe Yield Evaluation Interim Report. The report provides the Village with recommendations for improvements to increase the yield of our current wells.

RFP for Water Study – On Jan. 11, the Village sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a water system study that will address, among other issues, the John Street water tower and provide the basis to seek funding for improvements from Federal and State grants.

Keep up to date on our Village's progress - Sign up for this newsletter by emailing villageadmin@villageofballstonspa.org

We wish you a healthy and happy New Year

Mayor Christine M. Fitzpatrick, Trustees Shawn Raymond, Liz Kormos, Ben Baskin, and Village Staff

Trustee Board meetings are the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. Currently, these meetings are held via Zoom. Login and password are on the website calendar.