

# *Village of Ballston Spa*

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March 11, 2022

The Voice, Volume 3

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** – Do not forget to vote! There will be a special election on **Tuesday, March 15th** to choose a Mayor and a Trustee. Polls are open 11 am to 9 pm. North of the Creek, vote at Union Firehouse, South of the Creek, vote at Eagle Matt Lee Firehouse.

**Referendum:** Voters will also decide on election day whether to change the voting calendar to align with the County Board of Elections ((BOE) so that Village elections will be in November rather than March, and the BOE can run the village elections in the future. This change will save the Village money and staff time and will increase voter turnout. To be enacted, village residents must vote “Yes” on this referendum.

**Village Budget Calendar:** It is budget time in the village. Budget workshops have just been completed. They were open to the public and held on March 1, 8 and 10. On **April 11** there will be a public hearing to allow input from the public on the proposed budget. The proposed budget will be available to the public on the website in advance of the public hearing. Check the website for this posting.

**Upcoming Presentations at Board Meetings:** The Board is bringing new voices to the board meetings, to give you a more complete understanding of what is happening in the village. Presentations at upcoming board meetings include: (subject to change)

**March 14** - Ballston Area Recreation Center (BARC) and Wellness Express; **March 28** – Ballston Area Community Center (BACC) and Ballston Area Senior Citizens.

**April 11**- Brookside Museum and National Bottle Museum; **April 25** - Friends of the Kayaderosseras.

**Presentation: Women of the Civil Rights Movement** by Dr. Winston Grady-Willis, Professor and Director of the Skidmore College Black Studies Program will be held at the **Ballston Spa Public Library** (21 Milton Ave.) on **Thursday, March 31** at 6:30 p.m.

## Updates

**Water improvement project moving forward:** The next step in improving our water, sewer and stormwater system has been completed. The Board received and reviewed three proposals to develop a plan, which includes the ability to apply for grants to fund improvement and hopes to approve a contract this month. The goal is to apply for multiple grants in 2022. The income study that was completed last year will greatly increase our chances for major grant dollars. For comparison, the Village of Corinth received over \$31 million in grants and zero-interest loans over a seven-year period.

**Department Annual Reports now available:** As part of our efforts to improve government transparency, village departments presented to the public at Board of Trustee meetings in early 2022. You can watch these year-in-review presentations by clicking on the Village Board meeting videos on the village web site for the following meeting dates: Jan. 10 – Police and Library; Jan 14 – Public Works; Jan. 24 – Building Dept.; Feb. 14 – Treasurer; Feb. 28 – Village Clerk and Village Administrator. Their written reports are also on the web site on their department's pages.

**Rickett's Property Cleanup** The car wash portion of the property has been removed and Jackson Demolition is working on the dry cleaning/laundry part of the property. The cleanup began in February and is expected to continue for two months. It is being conducted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in consultation with the NYS Department of Health. There is a printed fact sheet on the project available at Village Hall and the Library, and on the website.

**Arts Committee** – The Committee is working on a Planting Arts Fundraiser, which will kick off in late April. Its new website is up – please check it out - [www.bsapaarts.com](http://www.bsapaarts.com). Planning has also started for the Sounds of Summer concerts at the Brookside Museum.

**Park and Tree Committee** – The Committee has been using the tree inventory to assist DPW and citizens in determining which Village trees should be removed first. The Urban Forestry Inventory and Management Plan, which was funded by a 100% grant, should be completed this spring.

**Community Emergency Corps of Ballston Spa** - Along with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office, District 7190, and Ballston Spa and Schenectady Rotary Clubs, donated a decommissioned ambulance to the citizens of Haiti in January. The ambulance was provided to Haiti to help their Emergency Medical Services deal with natural disasters.

*We wish you a Happy Spring!*

*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.** in the Village Library, and via Zoom. Login and password are on the website calendar.

Anyone interested in receiving this newsletter should contact Jennifer Moskowitz at [villageadmin@villageofballstonspa.org](mailto:villageadmin@villageofballstonspa.org)