

Village of Ballston Spa

Saratoga County Seat
66 FRONT STREET

Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Phone: 518-885-5711
Fax: 518-885-0512

www.VillageofBallstonSpa.org
www.facebook.com/VillageofBallstonSpa

November, 2022

The Voice, Volume 4

Dear Ballston Spa Neighbor,

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

Pedestrian safety continues to be a top priority for the Village Board. You might have noticed all the freshly repainted crosswalks, thanks to our Department of Public Works. The Board has purchased 7 crosswalk warning signs, with more to come in the spring. The village has also ordered 91 new street signs to replace missing and faded signs. Many thanks to Saratoga County for providing the \$15,000 in host-benefit funds for these signs.

The village recently submitted an application to develop a plan for pedestrian infrastructure improvements. The project will assess the condition of all sidewalks, street crossings, bus stops, pedestrian signals, and multi-use paths. The data will help us to improve accessibility and safety.

The village submitted a **NY Forward Grant** application in September with the potential for up to \$4.5 million to revitalize downtown. The grant would include funds to renovate the Village Hall Office, the Library and Wiswall Park, increase parking, provide funding for building improvements in the business district, and funding for the arts, downtown wifi, and streetscape improvements. Thank you to all those who provided input!

Village gets a new playground – Many thanks to Ray Otten, the Community Emergency Corps., Ballston Spa Rotary, Lions Clubs, and over 30 community members for funding and installing a new playground for young children at Kelley Park, next to the pavilion. Volunteers get it done!

Focus on Infrastructure – The village water towers were recently inspected and were found to have no major deficiencies, though the John Street tower is due for a coat of paint. We are discussing whether we should paint or replace the tower.

DPW is getting new vehicles - The village will take out a low-interest USDA loan of \$1.1 million to purchase five very specialized, and therefore expensive, vehicles. In addition, the village has received a no-match USDA grant of \$136,000 for these purchases. The need for equipment upgrades has been identified and planned for some time. This investment will greatly improve DPW efficiency and increase staff safety.

The Library has completed its master plan and will be fundraising to implement major renovations that will greatly improve services. Phase One includes a new reading room and accessibility improvements. Stay tuned for more information on social media and library website bspl.sals.edu.

(over)

The Park and Tree Board is seeking new members! Contact village hall if interested. The Board recently completed a 100% grant-funded **Urban Forestry Inventory and Management Plan**, which will help the village to efficiently manage the trees in our parks and along our roads. **Friends of Wiswall**, a new community group working to improve Wiswall Park, is also seeking members.

The Committee on the Arts continues to offer large planters for sale and decoration. Visit their website for a planter application, and to see the 12020 Artist Directory - **ballstonspaarts.com**.

A holiday gift from the Town of Milton – We had more ice than snow last year. To help remove the ice, Milton welcomes all village residents to take a free sand/salt mixture, limited to a five-gallon bucket, from their Highway Department on Geyser Rd. Thank you, Milton!

Many thanks to Julia Smith, Treasurer, and **Denise Bardino**, Senior Account Clerk, for their years of excellent service to the village. Good luck with your new positions!

Upcoming Events

Holiday Banner Project – The Arts and Sciences Creating Community (ASCC) non-profit, with village support and private donations, is creating ornaments and banners painted by community members, with “PEACE” as the theme this year. The decorations will be installed around Thanksgiving and will be a beautiful addition to the holiday season.

The BSPA Annual Holiday Parade will take place on **12/2/22** starting at 6:30 p.m. See you there!

Want to Get Involved?

Join a village committee! The village is often in need of new committee members to provide guidance to village government. If you are interested, we have an application form on our web site (villageofballstonspa.org). Tell us your interests, and we'll keep your name on file for when there is a relevant opening. **Many thanks to our current board and committee members who play a pivotal role in all aspects of village business.**

Volunteer for Wellness Express – If you are 60+ and need a ride to the doctor, you are eligible for the village-sponsored Wellness Express program. The program is looking for volunteers to provide transportation and chore support for seniors. Contact Terra, Senior Services Program Manager at **518-399-3262**.

We Wish You a Happy and Healthy Fall!

Mayor Frank Rossi II, Trustees Shawn Raymond, Liz Kormos, Ben Baskin, Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez 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, or email updates, should contact Jennifer Moskowitz at villageadmin@villageofballstonspa.org.