

# VILLAGE OF PHOENIX

# NEWSLETTER

## A Message From Trustee Maxam

My name is Jennifer Maxam. I am one of the newly Elected Trustees for the Village. I am the liaison to the parks, pond and library.

My family moved to the village in 1984. I was in EJD, Jr High School at the time. I remember a run down village with a great many empty store fronts, no places for kids to play. I recall parks that were undeveloped, a pond that had been fenced in and inaccessible. It was a nice village but not a lot to offer and not a very fun place to live.

I graduated from John C. Birdleough in 1990, my husband Marc also graduated from JCB in 1987. He too is a lifelong resident of Phoenix. We have many memories growing up here together. I have since then watched my children graduate from JCB, purchased my own home in the village, and proudly experienced the village come back to life.

The businesses that have come in over the years have filled our small downtown area with energy that calls people into their establishments. From foods, to salons, to flower shops etc., and now we are working on a newly expanded ice cream shop with the plans to open a Dollar General Market. The village is doing more than ever to help bring in revenue to keep our taxes lower and grow our community. It makes me very proud to be a part of it all.

I am encouraged by all the feedback from people within the village on Facebook expressing concerns and suggestions to bring to the table. Now if we could only get more of these faces to come to the village board meetings so you can hear more of what's going on. Village involvement will only help us make better educated decisions on behalf of the people living within the village.

If you have never been to one I encourage you to come and be a part of our meetings. Some get pretty exciting. We would love more feedback in person and would also love for you to get to know your trustees and let us get to know you.

I am grateful for being chosen by my peers to serve on the board and am available to hear concerns you may want to share or ideas you may have to make Phoenix a better place to love and live!

## Message From Mayor Borchik

Hello Village residents. Another summer season is upon us and I am sure we are all ready for nicer weather.

We are excited to see a lot of building and construction activity related to new businesses coming into the village, as well as some blighted and run-down properties starting to get some attention.



On May 22nd, the Governor's office announced the approved project list for our \$4.5 million NY Forward grant. This funding is an important part of over \$21 million worth of projects, both public and private, that will benefit everyone in the village and the surrounding communities. As part of this, there will be a major renovation of North Island; making it a destination for residents, fishermen, and tourists by adding dockage, walking trails, an event pavilion and a dog park. Multiple businesses will be renovating and expanding, which offers more amenities to the Village residents and visitors, along bringing new jobs to the village.

I encourage all residents to attend board meetings that are generally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. They are the best place to learn about what is going on within our village as well as ask questions. If you can not make the meetings, please feel free to reach out to me or anyone within our Village offices with comments, questions or concerns you may have. We will always do our best to give you an answer, or get you an answer. I personally make myself available for meetings with residents on a regular basis and everyone should have no hesitation in reaching out. You can also visit our website at [www.villageofphoenix-ny.gov](http://www.villageofphoenix-ny.gov) or our Facebook page titled Village of Phoenix, NY for any information you might need as well as the latest important news updates as we have them.

Enjoy the village and be kind!

Mayor Brian Borchik



# Village Police Department News and Updates

Summer is here which means we will be launching our boat soon as people start to enjoy our waterways. We would like to remind everyone that boating safety is all of our responsibility and that the laws are in effect to keep us safe and alive. Should anyone need any literature on navigation laws or safety please stop by and we will provide them to you.

Another reminder that is overlooked by most is crosswalk safety within our village and around the State. A motorist must stop and yield to a pedestrian attempting to cross at a designated crosswalk. Many may have noticed that our crosswalks are well marked and some lit up. We will be actively enforcing those laws as we generally see an uptick in pedestrian traffic as the weather gets nicer. So please don't say we didn't warn you, keeping our citizens safe is a top priority.

This past winter we hosted one of the largest Shop with a Hero events to date. We were able to partner with some amazing people to bring a joyful Christmas to dozens of children. We thank Officer Fortino for his tireless work on events like this. A little-known fact, Officer Fortino starts working and organizing these events soon after they end. Officer Jenni Bullard still makes her rounds visiting with our senior citizens enrolled in our C.H.O.O.S.E. program.

I would also like to remind everyone that it is crucial to

follow a 9 pm routine in your household. This means that every night at 9 pm you get into a routine by making sure your vehicles are locked, garage, and house with all valuables removed from the vehicle. It helps us help you by not being an easy victim. Thieves like easy, if they didn't, they would be gainfully employed. So, let's not leave our hard-earned possessions out to be stolen by these non-productive members of society. Furthermore, if you see something that doesn't seem right dial 911 and report it. If you don't call us, we often don't know what is occurring. Working together we can make a difference to make our village the best it can be.

Calling 911 is often seen as not necessary or only used in extreme emergencies. We don't typically man our office so calling a local number isn't always efficient especially when time is of the essence. 911 is the only number you should be calling if you NEED an officer for any reason whatsoever. We are dispatched through the 911 center and by calling 911 they will dispatch to our officers.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer. Let's please remember to be kind and respectful to our neighbors.

Chief Marty Nerber

---

## A Message From Trustee McBurnie

My name is Steve McBurnie, I'm a 20-year resident of the Phoenix area. My fiancé and I purchased our current home in the village in 2017. I grew up in the Liverpool area before enlisting in the military in 1991. I served 20 years in the United States Army and New York Army National Guard. I served a 1-year tour in Iraq, in addition to multiple overseas activations in Germany, Korea, Italy and Sri Lanka. I currently serve as Senior Vice Commander of our local VFW post 5540 here in the village.

After serving several years on active duty I started my career with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department working as a Deputy Sheriff in the jail for 10 years and then moved to the transport division where I worked for 13 years before retiring in December of 2023. I am currently working as a Constable for the Town of Clay court systems.

As a proud Firebird parent of 4 students in the Phoenix district, I was honored to be asked by several village members to run for a trustee position with the village board and to become a more active member of our community. While I am very new to this side of the political world, I am very excited to see the improvements and opportunities coming to our village in the future. I believe the village is trending in the right direction and look forward to any opportunities to be able to help make our village a better place. I take great pride in living in an area that is so amazing for raising a family. With its community support of small businesses, events and organizations, it's easy to take pride in our village.

# A Message from Administrator Jim Lynch

Dear Villagers,

As the warmth of summer smells and sights envelops our village, it is exciting to welcome you to another season of fun, community, and togetherness in the village. This summer is particularly special as we carry forward the legacy of a cherished member of our community, Cathy Lee who recently passed away. As we all know she was a pillar of strength and a beacon of kindness, especially active with our youth programs, the Bridge House Brats, and our boating community. Her spirit will live on through our continued efforts and dedication to the youth, our parks, and the vibrant programs she cherished.

We have an exciting lineup for you this season! Our annual Concert in the Park Music Series will light up Henley Park downtown every Monday and Friday evening during the months of July and August. Come join us for an evening of music, laughter, and community spirit. Mark your calendars for June 28th when we will celebrate with our annual Fireworks Display and the St. Stephen's Strawberry Festival. It promises to be a night filled with delicious treats and spectacular sights!

As we enjoy the summer, let's remember to stay safe. Please be cautious while walking the streets and using the crosswalks. We encourage everyone to visit and support our local shops,

businesses, parks, our First Responders Memorial, Henley Park dockside, the canalside courts, take a walk around or drop a line in the village pond on Lock Street or visit North Island which offers wonderful spots for boat launching and fishing. You can also find our tiny house located in Henley Park where you can enjoy some Kayak rentals which are available for those looking to explore our beautiful waterways.

Safety is our priority. If you see something that doesn't seem right, don't hesitate to report it. Visit our police station or the clerks office if you need assistance. Your vigilance helps keep our village secure and pleasant for everyone.

A reminder to all residents that you can find our First Responders Memorial brick project and our Sweet memorial brick project order forms either online on our village website or in the clerks office. This is a nice way to pay a small tribute to family, friends and loved ones here in your hometown.

Let's make this summer memorable! Enjoy the concerts and all the wonderful activities our village has to offer. Have fun, stay safe, and let's continue to make Phoenix a fantastic place to live and visit.

Have a great summer, Phoenix!

## A Message From Trustee Hartner

Hello Residents,

I hope you're ready for Summer. As we approach the start of summer, please remember the activities around the village. The village parks will be a great place to relax and unwind from work and responsibilities.

Our village has received a great revitalization with the NY Forward Grant. There will be lots of updates around the village to new and existing businesses. Residents and the village will have to work together to see these updates come to fruition. I look forward to seeing the changes to come.

As a firefighter for the village, I enjoy seeing the First Responder Memorial filling up with names of people that have served. This memorial is a great opportunity for community members to share the names of people from around the village that have served in some way. One day this might be filled with all the village names who served. I came to this village back in November 2019. During that time, I have seen a community come together and work through some tough times. I look forward to seeing this community grow with the new opportunities on the horizon.

I look forward to meeting more people this summer at events.

## News From The Bridge House

### *Village of Phoenix Appoints New Director for the Bridge House Brats Summer Program.*

Hello Phoenix residents, Bridge House Brats and Families, I would like to take a second to introduce myself. My name is Megan Swidowski and I am the new director of the Bridge House Brats program. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to carry on Cathy Lee's legacy and help the village keep this program running. We're excited for the 2024 summer season and preparations are already underway! We will be open Monday- Thursday from 7:30am-2:00pm, Friday from 7:30am- 8:00pm and Saturday mornings from 7:30am-11:00am. We welcome all children from the ages of 8 to 18 to come join us. We will be holding an information meeting for any youth interested in participating in the program this summer.

In addition, we welcome all residents and non-residents to join us for Music in the Park every Friday evening from 6:00pm- 8:00pm. Hope to see you there!

# Message From The DPW

Hello everyone. I hope you all had a safe and warm winter season. It was nice to have a lighter than normal snow fall and now we are looking forward to prepare for some work this summer. The DPW crew has been out cleaning up road sides from plowing and getting all village parks and properties cleaned up to be utilized for the summer season.

Same as in the past, we will be driving around to collect bagged yard waste multiple times each week. Yard waste including grass clippings, leaves, weeds and such need to be bagged in biodegradable paper bags. All heavier yard waste like dirt, rocks and such must be in separate piles in the right of way to be collected. Brush chipping is done on Friday's, weather permitting. Please make sure brush is stacked with cut ends facing in one direction.

Hydrant flushing is done each year at the end of August. You may experience some lower water pressure or some slightly discolored water. If you have any issues out of the ordinary, please call the clerks office.

We are planning on doing multiple tasks around the village this year. Sidewalk replacement work and general road repair work and paving of certain streets is some of the worked that is planned to take place this summer. Please be careful when driving through work areas.

Thank you for being patient with our crew working around the village each and every day. I hope everyone has a safe and joyful summer!

Grew Leader John Kerfien

# A Message From Trustee Koegel

Hello, I'm Trustee Koegel, I've been on the village board for more than a year. I'm looking forward to continue to service the village residents and helping the village to grow. I'm the liaison for Phoenix Central Schools, The Village Court and the Village DPW.

I would like to encourage village residents to attend the monthly board meetings to learn what's going on in the village and to address any concerns that you may have. If you need to contact me directly, I can be reached at jkoegel@villageofphoenix-ny.gov or 315-243-2498.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 28: Food & Music at the Bridge House – Mystyk Groove Machine – 6:00-9:00pm
- June 28: Annual Fireworks Display at Dusk
- June 28: St. Stephens Church – Summer Strawberry Festival – 4:00-8:00pm
- July 1: Music in The Park – Double Chase – 6:00-8:00pm
- July 5: Music in The Park – Vote for Pete – 6:00-8:00pm
- July 8: Music in The Park – Phoenix Community Band – 6:30-8:30pm
- July 12: Kid's Fishing Derby – Lock Island – 9:30-11:30am
- July 12: Music in The Park – Ryan Hendry & Keith Renfrew – 6:00-8:00pm
- July 15: Music in The Park – The Monterays – 6:00-8:00pm
- July 19: Music in The Park – Rock Shadows – 6:00-8:00pm
- July 22: Music in The Park – The Strangers – 6:00-8:00pm
- July 26: Music in The Park – Mystyk Groove Machine – 6:00-8:00pm
- July 29: Music in The Park – TJ Sacco Band – 6:00-8:00pm
- August 2: Music in The Park – Double Chase – 6:00-8:00pm
- August 3: Village Wide Garage Sale Day
- August 3: Family Fun Day – Town of Schroepel Park (Farley Park)
- August 5: Music in The Park – Rhythm n' Shoes – 6:00-8:00pm
- August 9: Music in The Park – Mike Farrar & the House Rockers – 6:00-8:00pm
- August 12: Music in The Park – Terry & Joe Acoustic Show – 5:30-7:30pm
- August 16: Music in The Park – Superhero – 6:00-8:00pm
- August 19: Music in The Park – The Party Nuts – 5:30-7:30pm
- August 23: Music in The Park – Ryan Hendry & Keith Renfrew – 5:30-7:30pm
- August 30: Music in The Park – The Shake – 5:30-7:30pm
- September 11: Annual Community Vigil – 6:30pm Henley Park – Please bring a candle with you
- September 28: Locktoberfest – All day event

**Village of Phoenix**  
**455 Main Street**  
**Phoenix, New York 13135**

**Local Postal Customer**

PRSR STD  
 ECRWSS  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 EDDM Retail