

Mayor's Message for October 2107

Fall has arrived and once again, as I watch the change of the seasons, I am reminded how lucky we are to live in Rhinebeck.

Here comes Halloween and the creative decorations have begun to appear.

The walkers and runners are out in force taking advantage of the cooler weather. In fact, we have several local residents who have left their desks behind and are conducting business while walking around the village. It's nice to see the traditional brick and mortar being replaced by sidewalks, trees and flowers without any loss of productivity.

This is a good time to talk about our sidewalks and public safety. Maintaining the village sidewalks is a responsibility for all residents who own property with a public sidewalk in front of their house. The village has gotten a lot of complaints from people, and even some lawsuits, about the condition of some of our sidewalks. So in hopes of keeping everyone safe, we have launched a new "Sidewalk Campaign" to improve the condition of our sidewalks and the safety of all the people who use them. If you have any questions about your sidewalk, or have been recently contacted by the village, please call us so that we can provide advice on known remedies that we have learned in dealing with trees, etc.

Trustee Lewit reminds us that October is the start of the fall brush pick-up. Our Highway Department trucks will be out picking up leaves that are left at the curb. This year, the leaf pick-up will be continuous until December 1st. You can help the crews by keeping the leaves separate from the brush when you put them out in the street. Thanks in advance for that, and we hope that this schedule will get those leaves off the streets quickly and efficiently.

Sidewalks, trees, and streets are critical to our village "Streetscape". This summer the Dutchess County Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC), completed the second phase of a county-wide pavement scoring program for all local roads in Dutchess County. The purpose is to give municipality's objective data about how our paved roads measure up. The ratings are based on accepted guidelines and methodologies developed by the Cornell Local Roads Program (CLRP). This fall and winter we will be using this data along with our own evaluations to develop a multi-year plan to improve our village roads. I look forward to sharing the results with you in the future.

Trustee Rossi is now leading a new grant subcommittee which will bolster our efforts to save taxpayer dollars by applying for grants to fund projects which benefit the village. The group will be reviewing grant applications and responses so that we will have ongoing reporting and coordination of all Village grants. This will help us in our pursuit of State and Federal funds as a source of revenue. We are seeking volunteers to work with the committee.. Please contact Trustee Rossi if you are interested at TrusteeRossi@VillageofRhinebeckny.gov.

Trustees Neuneker and Traudt want to make sure that all senior citizens in the village are aware that we give them a discount for water and wastewater services. If you are a senior and have not yet taken advantage of this savings opportunity, please stop by Village Hall to apply.

Bryan Alix, our Chief Water Plant Operator, and Trustee Neuneker recently joined me at the joint meeting of the “Hudson River Communities Source Water Protection Initiative”. The Village of Rhinebeck is one of seven municipalities joining Riverkeeper in the campaign to protect the Hudson River. At this meeting, we focused on the use of the “Riverkeeper Drinking Source Water Protection Scorecard”. It helps communities keep score of how they are implementing rules, regulations and best practices as regards our drinking water. This is part of the ongoing work to maintain the quality of the village water supply.

Earlier this month I joined with Rhinebeck Town Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia in supporting Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro and other local leaders to keep the pressure on the EPA. We are calling on the EPA to take further action in cleaning up the PCB contamination in the Hudson.

You have undoubtedly seen political signs appearing in many yards. There is an upcoming election for the Town for Rhinebeck and Dutchess County on November 7. All village residents can vote in Town elections, and I encourage you to do so. Absentee ballots will be available at the Dutchess County Board of elections <http://www.dutchesselections.com/>

As always, please feel free to reach out to me. I can always be reached at MayorBassett@VillageofRhinebeckny.gov or come to see me during open hours from 1pm to 2pm daily.

Sincerely,
Gary Bassett
Mayor, Village of Rhinebeck