



# Village of Cayuga Heights

**MARCHAM HALL  
836 HANSHAW ROAD  
ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850**

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The Village is seeking someone to take on the editorship of our seasonal newsletter The Courier. Without a December issue, news is shared below about the new fencing law which passed on November 14, along with a heads up looking forward to the March 2012 Village election.

## **The Fencing Law**

The new fencing law passed by the Board of Trustees on November 14 is intended to provide for the protection of properties from deer. What follows summarizes major provisions of the law. Please reference the full text, as Law "I" 2011, on the Village web site at <http://www.cayuga-heights.ny.us>.

- Fencing up to four feet in height is allowed anywhere on a property and may be constructed of any material. No permit is required for fences 4 feet in height and under.
- Fencing over four feet in height is allowed on side and back yard property lines and must be constructed of material that is 90% see through, similar in color and not brightly colored. All fences over 4 feet require a permit from the Village.
- Front yard fencing, as well as side or back yard fencing facing a roadway, must be set back from the property line 25 feet.
- Enclosure fencing is allowed around single trees or groups of shrubs or plants within the 25 foot set back area that does not exceed 75% of the total linear property line.
- Enclosure fencing over four feet in height must also be at least 90% open and all materials similar in color and not brightly colored.
- All fences over four feet in height, regardless of location, shall require a permit excepting seasonal enclosure fencing erected from November 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Applications for permits are available at the office of Superintendent of Public Works Brent Cross at the Village Hall.
- Residents with fencing that does not comply with the law may appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a zoning variance. Applications for a zoning variance are available also at the office of Superintendent Cross who can answer questions about the appeals process.

## **The Deer Management Program**

Having received the permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC Permit 2558, also posted in full on the Village web site), the Village is able to move ahead with the program of sterilizing a core population of females and with culling the excess deer population.

## **Safety First**

- All sterilization and culling operations will be implemented by outside contractors under the supervision of the Cayuga Heights Police Chief Tom Boyce.

- Chief Boyce or his designee will inspect all the bait sites for safety and will have to approve each site for safety before the contractor commences all operations.
- The Cayuga Heights Police Department's inspection process will be in addition to any safety protocol that the contractor applies while working in the Village of Cayuga Heights.
- In the event of a safety concern, Cayuga Heights Police officers would stop all operations immediately, and the concern would address before resuming the operation.

### Resident Permission for Firearm Discharge in the Village

- New York State Law requires the written permission from every occupied dwelling within 500 feet of a weapon discharge site. This law gives assurance to residents who do not want culling to take place on or near their properties that no discharge of weapons can take place within 500 feet of their dwelling without their specific written consent.
- Suitable sites in the Village are being sought. Residents who are interested in seeing the program move forward should consider whether their property and neighboring properties might be suitable for culling.
- If you are interested in making your property available for either sterilization or culling, please be in touch with Police Chief Tom Boyce directly at 257-1011.
- Mayor Supron will gladly answer your questions regarding the deer management program going forward and can be reached via email at [ksupron@cayuga-heights.ny.us](mailto:ksupron@cayuga-heights.ny.us)

### The 2012 Village Election

The Village election will choose the Mayor and three members of the Board of Trustees on March 20. It's time to consider running for office or actively supporting the candidates of your choice. Petitions are available from the Board of Elections with filing early in February. Additional information is available at the Board of Elections web site: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/boe/>. Voting will be at Kendal once again.

### The Courier Editorship and our Web Site

The Courier has been a great asset to the Village. If you would like to volunteer as editor, please be in touch with Mayor Supron at [ksupron@cayuga-heights.ny.us](mailto:ksupron@cayuga-heights.ny.us) or with Trustee Diana Riesman at [Driesman@cayuga-heights.ny.us](mailto:Driesman@cayuga-heights.ny.us). We need someone to help us keep informed of Cayuga Heights happenings.

And, do stay in touch through the Village website, "VCH e-news", where you can sign up for email flashes sending current announcements.

As the year draws to a close, the Mayor and the Board of Trustees extend sincere appreciation to everyone who has given the Village a fine year of service in 2011:

- the Village staff in the Clerks' office, the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments
- the members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of appeals
- and each volunteer who represent us on various community boards and commissions

Wishing you a fine new year!

Don't forget to Subscribe to VCH eNEWS – visit our website at [www.cayuga-heights.ny.us](http://www.cayuga-heights.ny.us) for any information you might need about the Village of Cayuga Heights.