

What's Happening in the Village?

Angola's year in review.

This past year has truly been a year to remember for the Village of Angola. The Village Board and employees have been hard at work to try to make the Village a better place for us to live.

The village of Angola is continuously applying for state and county grant funding. In October 2022, the village was excited to hear that Mayor Tom Whelan and Village Clerk- Treasurer Nicole Milk's efforts were successful when awarded funding from Senator Ryan's office to install electricity along with a pickleball court at 83 N. Main St. The money also went towards desperate repairs at Fire Station #2 on South Main St. The village received the NYMSTA (New York Main St. Technical Assistance) grant which covers the cost for the village to hire an architectural firm to come up with designs to help village businesses envision upgrades to their Main St. buildings.

In May, the Village Board was overjoyed to announce that we were the recipients of the Restore Ny Grant. This grant awarded the Village with \$1.27 million dollars to our Main St. revitalization project. That money went to rehabilitate the Angola Theater and turn 42 N. Main St. (the old town hall) into much needed apartments. The village also adopted the NYS Climate Smart Pledge which is our promise to be more climate conscience on our day-to-day operations. In keeping with our pledge, the village held our annual tire recycling and an e-waste event. We were also excited to learn that we were rewarded a \$5000 art grant to have a mural painted at 167 N. Main St. (Angola's China Kitchen). This past summer we were awarded the Erie County Municipal Planning Grant which will help update the 1970's Zoning Codes. The Village has applied for the Sidewalk Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 2023 Ny Forward Grant and the EFC (Green innovation) Water Grant. We also must note that The Angola Fire Department was awarded the 2022 Fire Assistance to Firefighters Grant which went towards the purchase of a new stretcher and loading system.

The Village hosted many events during the holidays. We had our annual Main St. tree lighting along with caroling at the William G. Houston Gazebo with the Lake Shore Central Band. Refreshments at the First Congregational Church is always a welcoming place to keep warm during this celebration. The Friends of the Village had their annual Christmas in the Village celebration in businesses throughout Main St. The Village of Angola along with Colvin Cleaners and an anonymous donor had a winter clothing drive where we delivered over 200 coats to schools, churches, and local residents. The Village DPW decorated the village by hanging the yearly snowflake lights, the Friends of the Village and Phil VanKoughnet hung soldiers and snowmen, Jimmy Fessel

decorated the smaller trees and light posts on Main St. and Cierra Hoffman decorated Commercial St. with pops of color. The village is truly beautiful this time of year.

After 2 unprecedented winter storms where our DPW crew, Fire Department, and Police Department worked around the clock, we were able to get things cleaned up in order to move forward with our normal schedule. One person who was essential in helping us clean out was Joseph Mesi. Joe went above and beyond for not only the village but for some residents that were in desperate need to be cleaned out. His dedication to the village and its residents made it easy for the village to name January 21st, 2023, Joseph Mesi Day. On February 15th, 2023, the village was able to recognize another outstanding resident, Paul Woods. Mr. Woods celebrated his 100th birthday at a black-tie gala where our mayor Tom Whelan was able to present his proclamation. Truly a special event.

Spring weather started to creep in, and we were happy to see action starting up again on our village streets. J.T. Waugh had a Shamrock Run and the Village of Angola sponsored their 1st annual St. Patrick's Day parade. The Taste of the Midway held their annual Easter Egg Hunt in the old K&L lot as well as on our pickleball court. As the days started to get warmer, our Village Clerk- Treasurer along with Veteran Neno LaRusso started to plan the Memorial Day parade and ceremony. This has been a village tradition for the last 150 years. The village DPW started to hang Veteran's banners throughout our village along with banners announcing the celebration of the Village of Angola's 150th birthday.

This year, the Village of Angola celebrated its Sesquicentennial, 150th Birthday. The village celebration was a 3-day event that included a parade, historic slideshow (presented by: Gifford Swyers), outdoor movie at the gazebo, EverHaunt DJ and Characters, Craft Show, Basket Raffle, Guided tours of Main St. (presented by: Renee Stonitsch) reptile show, owl show, magician, food, rides, rock wall, beer tent, EverHaunt carnival games, bands; Black Leather Jacket and Hair Nation. The Village board presented the key to the village to Evans resident Patrick "Patchy" Mix in recognition of him becoming the MMA Bellator Bantamweight World Champion. The Evans Historical Society also put on a wonderful presentation called Meet Angola's Oldest Residents, where various people dressed up as well-known Village residents in the past and spoke about their lives and accomplishments. It was the perfect ending to a remarkable weekend.

The village is unique with its many volunteer groups and businesses that hold events that help bring people onto our Main. St. The village board issued permits for the following events-The Class of 2023 Lake Shore Central Senior Parade, BTR Brews 2nd annual Kick off to Summer, First Congregational United Church of Christ's 51st annual

Strawberry Social, Village Wide Yard Sale, The Friends of the Village- 2nd annual Cornhole tournament, Garden Walk, Craft Show, 8th annual Main St. Cruise, Fall Fest, and Christmas in the Village. Angola Sesquicentennial parade, Angola Sesquicentennial 150th celebration, The 2023 Angola Music Fest, and The Lion's Club annual Halloween parade. Along with the many events that were held the Village was also grateful to have the Peaceful Soul Farmer's Market sponsored by Azalia's and the well-loved 2023 Summer Lawn Chair concert series (sponsored by the Angola Parks & Gazebo Committee) held at the William G. Houston Gazebo.

In October 2022, the Village Board put forth a resolution to lift the open container law that was put in place in the 1980's. After weeks of discussion with businesses and residents the village board voted 4-1 to lift the open container law and allow alcohol to be consumed on our streets and in our parks. This made a lot of residents excited to be able to enjoy a cold alcoholic beverage during one of the many events that are held throughout the village as well as the annual gazebo concerts held at the William G. Houston Centennial Park. During October, we also began replacing water meters throughout the village as well as the retail district with a new Neptune radio read style meter that was purchased with ARPA Federal funds.

With so many things going on in the village, it's no surprise that we gained attention from business owners. In the last year the village has welcomed 2 new businesses. Lake Shore Aesthetics, and Rick's Record. The former Loretto glass building has been newly renovated and two large buildings have been purchased on Commercial St. with the new owners renovating both to bring more business in the future. There is constant interest in the village, and we hope to keep the momentum up. Hard work, dedication, and love of community is what has driven us to keep moving Angola forward!

