

The Kinderhook Times

Winter 2023-Spring 2024



Dear Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! As we look to the winter months and harsher weather, your first line of defense during an emergency is your family, friends, and neighbors. Please discuss how you would support one another during times when the power is out for an extended period.

The village government has a responsibility to assist residents most in need. If you are unable to leave your home without assistance or otherwise would like to request a phone call or door knock “check-in” from a village representative during an emergency situation, please contact the village at 518-758-9882 or okvillagehall@villageofkinderhook.org. If you would like to volunteer to check on a neighbor during an emergency or supervise a heating or cooling station to enable our volunteer firefighters to respond to emergency calls, please notify the village office at the number listed above.

Our volunteer firefighters are the heroes of our community. They must prioritize their efforts to 911 calls during emergency situations. We need YOU to help check-up on our most vulnerable neighbors during emergencies.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at mayor@villageofkinderhook.org. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mike Abrams, Mayor
Village of Kinderhook

P.S. For regular updates, please visit <https://mayorsblog.villageofkinderhook.org/>.

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Visit us at www.villageofkinderhook.org

For Your Information . . .

MONTHLY VILLAGE MEETINGS

- Board of Trustees**
2nd Wednesday – 7:00 PM

 - Climate Smart Community Task Force**
2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM (every other month)

 - Historic Preservation Commission**
3rd Thursday – 7:00 PM

 - Planning Board**
1st Thursday – 7:00 PM

 - Recreation Commission**
2nd Monday – 7:00 PM

 - Zoning Board of Appeals**
4th Monday – 7:00 PM
- All meetings are open to the public and you are invited to attend.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 5 Martin Van Buren Wreath Laying
- December 8 Candlelight Night
- December 25 Christmas Holiday
- January 1 New Year’s Holiday
- January 15 Martin Luther King Holiday
- February 14 Valentine’s Day
- February 19 Presidents’ Day Holiday
- March 9 Village Election Registration Day
- March 11-22 KISS Program – Town Hall
- March 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- March 19 Village Election
- March 31 Easter Sunday
- April 1 Water Bills Mailed
- April 30 Water Bills Due

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

- Mayor**
Mike Abrams 518-929-0519
mayor@villageofkinderhook.org

- Trustees**
Dorene Weir 518-758-1498
Susan Patterson 518-758-8727
Mark Browne 518-428-1967
Quinn Murphy 518-929-3347

- Village Justice**
David A. Dellehunt 518-758-8778 EXT. 303

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Trevor Bean
518-758-8778. Ext. 302
CEO@villageofkinderhook.org

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 7:30 am-10:30 am
Tuesday and Thursday 7am-10am
and by appointment.

Inspections are scheduled by appointment.

Kinderhook Receives Clean Energy Award

Our Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign has reached level one of NYSERDA's Clean Energy Community leadership program. As a result, the Village will receive a \$5,000 award to be used to support energy efficient and clean energy events and projects. We have proposed using the award to upgrade the interior lighting to energy efficient LED fixtures in the DPW building and the firehouse. The Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign is ongoing as we hope to reach level two and three status and be eligible to receive additional awards. If you have recently installed or are planning to install mini-splits or a geothermal system let us know by e-mailing: VOKcleanenergy@gmail.com.

For more information on heat pumps please go to: <https://heatsmartcapitalregion.com/>

The Climate Smart Community Task Force also initiated an Electric Vehicle campaign in 2023. A successful campaign will make the Village eligible for another \$5,000 award from NYSERDA. If you live in the 12106 zip code area and have purchased an electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid since August 4, 2023, or if you are considering the purchase of a new electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle please let us know by emailing us at : VOKcleanenergy@gmail.com. More information on electric vehicles and charging stations can be found at: <https://www.nyseda.ny.gov/Residents-and-Homeowners/At-Home/Electric-Vehicles-and-Charging-Stations>

For both of these campaigns, you only need to provide the date of installation or purchase, the type of heat pump or electronic vehicle purchased, the heat pump installer's or car dealer's name and a confirmation that you live in the 12106 zip code area. No personal information is required.

Help us make our Village a leader for clean energy in New York!

The Village Climate Smart Community Task Force (CSCTF) was established by the Village Board of Trustees in 2006 to consider initiatives that may be suitable for Kinderhook under the Climate Smart Community (CSC) program sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Protection. This Task Force is an advisory group of resident volunteers and Village Trustees. The program's purpose is to provide local governments with guidance on how to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, save tax dollars and advance community goals for health and safety, economic development energy independence and quality of life.

The Climate Smart Task Force meets regularly on the second Tuesday of every other month at 7PM. If you are interested in the Climate Smart Community program or joining the Task Force, please check the Village website's calendar for the dates, times and locations of future meetings or e-mail Bill Mancini at sammikit@hotmail.com.



HAVE YOU PURCHASED A NEW ELECTRIC OR PLUG-IN VEHICLE AFTER AUGUST 4, 2023?

If you have, or are thinking of doing so, you can help the Village of Kinderhook receive a \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA to use for its own green projects. You must be a resident of 12106.

Email the following information* to VOKcleanenergy@gmail.com:

- type of vehicle (make, model, year)
- date purchased
- dealership name and zip code

Learn more about NYS EV rebates



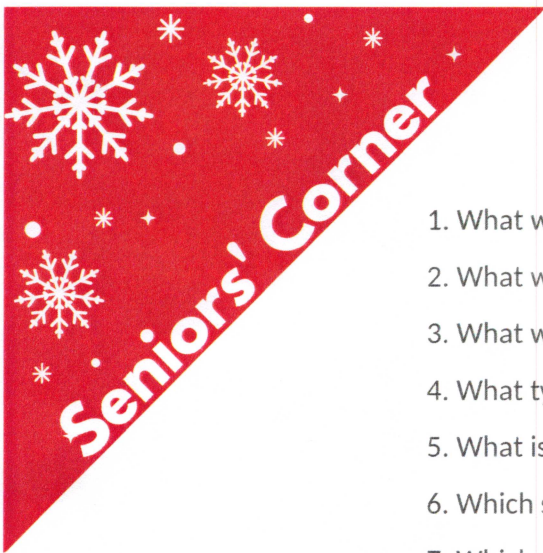
Learn more about EVs & charging stations



Learn more about IRS credits for new clean vehicles

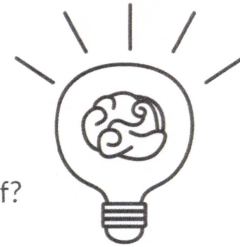


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Trivia Questions

1. What was Elvis Presley's middle name?
2. What was the Beatles' debut single in the UK?
3. What was the name of the first satellite launched into space?
4. What type of bird is the largest living species?
5. What is the world's largest mammal?
6. Which sport uses the term "double bogey"?
7. Which country is home to the Great Barrier Reef?
8. Who invented the telephone?



Five Tips to Help Keep Seniors Safe This Winter

1. **Limit how much you use space heater** - The allure of a space heater can be hard to resist. But these devices are the cause of the majority of fatal house fires, and people age 65 and over are 2.5 times more likely to die in a home fire.
2. **Wear safe shoes** - Broken hips are common among older adults and can lead to more serious health complications. Seniors should wear shoes with non-skid soles that offer the necessary amount of traction for winter conditions. Avoid going outside until snow and ice have been cleared from walkways and avoid going out after dark when re-freezing is more likely to occur.
3. **Keep your kitchen stocked** - A winter storm can make it hard to get to the grocery store, and it could even prevent meals from being delivered to your home. It's important to keep your kitchen stocked with at least one week's worth of food and water. There should also be an abundance of non-perishable food that does not require any cooking or refrigeration in case you lose power. It's also a good idea to keep your medicine cabinet full of cold medicine, and make sure you have an adequate supply of your prescriptions before a storm hits.
4. **Avoid the wintertime blues** - Winter is a time for seasonal depression, thanks to fewer daylight hours and decreased social interaction. Depression can cause malnutrition and affect your mental health. During winter, take advantage of caregiver services and adult day care, as social interaction has been shown to combat depression.
5. **Set up regular check-ins with your loved ones** - Many seniors live alone and far away from other family members. But that doesn't mean you can't stay connected to loved ones! Set up a daily check-in time with a friend or family member, or even consider some senior-friendly video calling technology.

Trivia Answers: Aaron, Love Me Do, Sputnik 1, Ostrich, Blue Whale, Golf, Australia, Alexander Graham Bell



Happy Holidays
 From The
Palmer Engine & Hose Co.
Kinderhook Fire Department



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Dave Bartlett, First Assistant Chief | Nick Eisen, 1 st Lieutenant | Tom Mueller, Captain |
| Keith Beebe | Larry Enoch | Quinn Murphy |
| Bruce Charbonneau | Chris Fitch | Stuart Peckner |
| Ben Cohn | Peter Hunter, Vice President | Andy Pelletieri |
| Dan Cohn | Robert Hunter | Mary Anne Perez |
| Dakota Cohn | Dennis Kinnicutt, President | Richie Phillips |
| Matt Cohn, Chief | Ray Lauster | Gordon Pratt |
| Frank Curran | Frank Masten | Chuck Rothermel |
| Eric De Kraai | Andy Monell | Francisco Santiago |
| Larry Eisen, 2 ND Assistant Chief | Mat Morgan | Erich Schmidt 2 ND Lieutenant |



Final Detailed Design Time for Albany Avenue
Moving ahead for Spring-Summer Construction

“What are the Next Steps”

By Mark Browne, Village Trustee

The draft preliminary design was submitted September 1st, 2023, to New York State (NYS) Department of Transportation (DOT). Thereafter, the Village of Kinderhook received a response from NYS DOT on October 6th, 2023, asking for clarifications on some issues and they requested additional technical information. Our professional design engineers at HVEA assisted us to prepare responses to these NYS DOT requests, and this information will be conveyed to DOT with the submission of the **executed final preliminary design**.

The Village Board discussed the status of the updated preliminary design at our November 8th, 2023, meeting that now includes the removal of the crosswalk towards the middle of the construction zone, identification of tree removals and replanting, traffic calming design around the AHET trail hump and design of the cross walks.

There remains a need for clarification and justifications covering lane width and parking within the preliminary design. After receiving advice from our Village lawyer, we conveyed to HVEA engineers that they need to present and clarify the reasoning behind their preferred design (s) that will adhere to current DOT standards.

As such, a decision was made to hold a dedicated workshop meeting November 15th, 2023, at 7 pm in the Village Hall Upstairs to cover the current preliminary design in total to include illustrations and prints for residents to review. These communications as well as meetings and discussions with residents should alleviate confusion and foster some additional acceptance of the Albany Avenue design. The designs presented included some new minor options and alternatives as well as a discussion on lane width throughout the corridor.

It is hoped that after the November 15th, 2023, meeting, compromises will be accepted, and a majority consensus can be reached relative to how to proceed with the **executed final preliminary design**. The Village Board did not vote at this workshop meeting. The information presented was made available at the Village Hall and on-line for a two (2) week period - so that residents who were unable to attend this workshop could review materials and provide their views if they deemed it necessary. The preliminary design encompasses eighty (80%) of what will constitute the Final Detailed Design. After this resident review and comment period, the Village Board will vote on submission of the **executed final preliminary design**. The completion of the final detailed design proceeds immediately thereafter - a draft version will be available for review in January 2024.

All presentation materials and minutes summaries can be found on the Village of Kinderhook website under the Albany Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement tab <https://www.villageofkinderhook.org/albanybike.html>
The Mayor’s Blog contains Albany Avenue updates as well at <https://mayorsblog.villageofkinderhok.org/>

OK – So what is next?

- **Submission of the Executed Final Preliminary Design**
- The results of the Final Detailed Design will first be shared with the Steering Committee and shortly thereafter with the residents at a Village Board Albany Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Public Hearing held in late January 2024. After approval of the Final Detailed Design the Bid Packages will go out in early 2024.
- Construction will start in the Winter of 2024 with the removal of Trees and in the Spring with Demolition of the Road and Sidewalks. Thereafter, the Watermain installation will start in earnest.



Happy Holidays from the Village of Kinderhook

Village Board

Mayor

Michael Abrams

Trustees

James Mark Browne - Deputy Mayor

Dorene M. Weir

Susan Patterson

Quinn Murphy

Clerk-Treasurer

Nicole H. Heeder

Deputy Clerk

Kristy Silvia

Recording Secretary

Susan Pulver

Department of Public Works

Superintendent

David Booth

Assistant Superintendent

Robert Meehan

Laborers

Nathaniel Becker

John Yezi

Water Commissioner

Dale Leiser

Planning Board

David Pesano - Chair

Kevin Monahan

Kristina Lang

Abram Van Alstyne

Andrew Pellettieri

Secretary

Melanie Brodowski

Recreation Commission

Amber van Moessner - Chair

David Dellehunt

Cammy Salazar

Mark Plakias

Peter Santamaria

Shannon Eigenbradt

Richard Byrne

Secretary

Melanie Brodowski

Economic Development

Renee Shur - Director

Climate Smart Committee

William Mancini

Warren Applegate

Aileen Leventon

Ann Birckmayer

Sandra Tolosa

Zoning Board

Kimberly Gray - Chair

David Sullivan

Gregory Seaman

Nolan Robinson

Terence Farrell

Secretary

Melanie Brodowski

Historic Preservation Commission

Timothy Husband - Chair

Kenneth Neilson - Vice Chair

Randal Dawkins

Sean Sawyer

Elizabeth Martin

Secretary

Jacqueline Bujanow

Village Court

Village Justice

David Dellehunt

Court Clerk

Susan Bauman

Deputy Court Clerk

Tina Puckett

Code Enforcement Officer

Trevor Bean



Belsnickel

BY GEOFF BENTON

While the Dutch children of Kinderhook spent early December waiting for the arrival of Sinterklaas and his presents and perhaps dreading his partner Zwarte Piet, Palatine children, their neighbors to the south were awaiting an entirely different entity. They were awaiting Belsnickel.

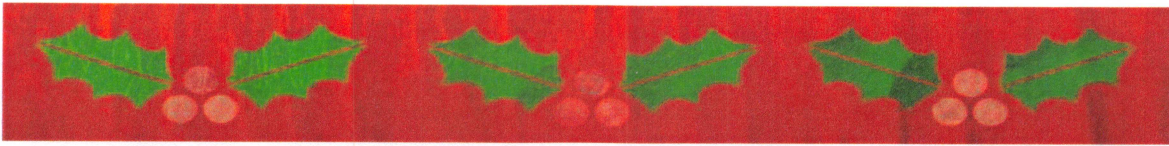
Belsnickel was the traditional visitor for the Palatine region. Belsnickel was a crotchety old man in dirty furs of some kind. Sometimes he wore animal hides, sometimes a cloak decorated with fur. Sometimes he wore a mask to disguise his face. Occasionally his hood or hat was decorated with antlers. He carried a sack of treats and a stick because Belsnickel was both the gift giver and the punisher as opposed to separating the roles as Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet did.

There are a few versions of what would happen upon Belsnickel's arrival. First, he would rap on a window or a door with his stick before bursting into the house. The children of the house would then be lined up. In some houses they were quizzed, asked to recite a verse from the bible, sing a song or tell him something learned in school. If they were able to answer the question they were given a treat. If they couldn't answer the question Belsnickel gave them a whack with his stick. This ensured that children were paying attention to their lessons. In another version of the legend, he would throw candy on the ground, if the children grabbed for the candy before he gave permission he would give them a whack or two with his stick, whatever it took for them to back away from the candy. This version of the legend taught the children not to be greedy. After the treats or discipline were delivered, Belsnickel would rush out the door and disappear as quickly as he had appeared.

The specifics of the origins of Belsnickel are hidden in the mist of time. Belsnickel probably dates back to at least the Middle Ages. Bels is probably a corruption of "Pelz" the German word for fur or pelts, "nickel" probably relates to St. Nicholas. As mentioned by before he sometimes wears horns which could indicate a pagan origin of the character.

The Belsnickel tradition continued in some families in the Hudson Valley into the twentieth century. In Pennsylvania Dutch country and in parts of Indiana the tradition is still going strong. Belsnickel has also seen a resurgence in pop culture in recent years.

So, this December if you hear a rapping on your window make sure to check the door, Belsnickel may be coming for a visit.



Business Notes from Around the Square

Saying Goodbye. This past fall, Kinderhook said goodbye to two businesses – **Bones Barbershop** and **El Toro Mexican Restaurant**. During his time in Kinderhook, Jordan Bonetsky, the owner, and creative inspiration for this popular barbershop, developed a loyal following and saw the rapid expansion of his business. During its time in Kinderhook, **El Toro Mexican Restaurant**, a friendly family-run restaurant, had become a staple of Kinderhook’s breakfast and lunch offerings and a favorite at the Kinderhook Farmers Market.

Welcoming New Businesses and Celebrating a Reopening. It’s been a long time coming but this winter Kinderhook will once again have its own independent bookstore. Offering new books for all ages—as well as bookish gifts and antiques—**Kinderhook Books** is set to unlock its doors this December at 10 Broad Street. Opening a bookstore and supporting the literary arts has been a lifelong dream of owner Mindy Kay Bricker, who has worked in media for nearly 25 years. “An independent bookshop is special, which is to say that it isn’t simply a place where goods are bought—it’s a place where experiences are had. At its core, it’s a place of community, a town square,” Mindy says. “Kinderhook has been such a welcoming and supportive village, and I hope that Kinderhook Books will be a destination that encapsulates that same spirit of our community.” The **Kinderhook Knitting Mill** continues its expansion with the recent opening of **STILL IIFE**. Tucked away in a charming nook at 8 Hudson Street, this gallery/store features collected arrangements of intriguing objects. **Super Stories**, at 2 Chatham Street, has now reopened and is offering the studio’s free, hands-on workshops and public art programs for budding artists of all ages. Watch for announcements for special workshops and activities.

Accolades, Awards, and Recognition. Kinderhook businesses continue to garner media attention, awards, and recognition from multiple sources from across the region. As an example of the overwhelmingly positive response to the vitality of Kinderhook’s expanding business scene, ten businesses and business owners were finalists in the 2023 Rural Intelligence Readers’ Choice Awards. Six won the distinction of being voted in as runners-up. Kinderhook’s winners were **Catherine Zack of Village Yoga, Julia Jayne Pilates, Old Dutch Inn, Samascott’s Garden Market, The Kinderhook Bottle Shop, and Village Yoga**. In yet more positive news, in the months since its reopening the **Old Dutch Inn** has earned “Proud Certified” status from Booking.com, “Best Local Inn for a Getaway” from the Times Union, the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association’s “Outstanding Small/Independent Property of the Year” award, and “Bike Friendly NY Certified Business” designation from Parks & Trails New York.

Not Just Local Anymore. A group of Kinderhook businesses were recently celebrated in a feature in the nationally acclaimed lifestyle magazine Lonny. “The Lonny Guide to Hudson (& Beyond)” included photos and information about the **Kinderhook Farmers Market, OK Pantry, 2 Note, Morningbird, Old Dutch Inn, The Aviary, The Kinderhook Bottle Shop, Saisonier, Village Yoga, September Gallery, Shaker Museum Pop Up, and the James Vanderpoel House**.

<https://www.lonny.com/editorial/hudsonguide>





Let it snow!

BLIZZARD
 COAT
 COLD
 DECEMBER
 EARMUFFS
 FEBRUARY
 FIREPLACE
 FLURRIES
 FROZEN
 GLOVES
 HOT CHOCOLATE
 ICE
 ICE SKATES
 ICICLE
 JANUARY
 MITTENS
 SCARF
 SHOVEL
 SLED
 SLUSH
 SNOWBALL
 SNOWFLAKE
 SNOWMAN
 SWEATER
 WINTER

