

# VILLAGE OF CASTALIA

FALL 2023

## ROAD ANNOUNCEMENT

This year has been a big year for the Village in regards to road work, and it should be the first of many. First ODOT resurfaced North Washington Street from the Main Street traffic light north to the Village limit. Then the Village completed the Adams/Lester Street neighborhood. Lastly, re-surfacing Spring and Swan Streets.

In the spring, we announced our intention to finish the remainder of Lucas Street. That did not happen, but for good reason. We are coordinating with Margaretta Township, and applying for an OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) grant to resurface the rest of Lucas Street to the Village limit and Bardwell Road to the Village limit. Margaretta Township is planning Bardwell Road to Maple Avenue and by applying together the odds of receiving a grant are increased. If awarded, the grant would cover 50% of the estimated project cost. This is the same kind of grant the Village received for the Adams and Lester neighborhood. The decision to change resurfacing to Spring and Swan Streets in 2023 was to make the best use of Village's funds and the greatest positive impact for residents.

Overall, we are very happy with the Adams/Lester/Oak/Walnut Street project. Our goal was long lasting design and a smooth road; we got it. The project was not your typical road resurfacing, instead taking it down and building it back up from the base. In early August the council completed a walkthrough with the project engineer. He was satisfied the project was completed to specification, with a few issues to be corrected. Which by the time you're reading this may have already been corrected. During the walkthrough we identified several areas of concern, some brought to us by residents, but with guidance from the engineer, in most cases, we are going to wait until the spring to reassess those areas and make necessary repairs. We understand this may not be what some may want to hear, but we feel it will yield the best product. Any "cosmetic" repairs will be completed at the cost of the Village, but as part of our contract there is a one-year period where Gerken Paving will fix road failures.

Next year our road goal is to complete the repaving of Lucas and Bardwell Road, then budget dependent, continue with Jefferson Street, Market Street, and Harrison Court, completing that neighborhood. In 2025 ODOT will resurface State Route 101 through town, which was why South Washington Street was not resurfaced during the State Route 269 project this year.

## VILLAGE ROAD DRAINAGE AND STORM SEWERS

As road work continues to be a priority, we are moving some of our focus to storm sewers to ensure roads are draining to them and the storm sewers are draining properly. Over the past two years we have cleaned, repaired, and/or replaced most of the catch basins in the Village, including jet cleaning many of the storm sewer lines. This will be an ongoing project, identifying problem areas, assessing, then fixing them. During and after heavy rains this summer we have not been happy with how some storm drains are working, or water isn't draining to them. The late August storm is an exception. No storm sewer system is set up to handle over 5 inches of rain in less than 7 hours. Please be patient, and if you see a problem area during or after a heavy rain, please take pictures and send them to the Mayor via email at [jjcastaliamayor@gmail.com](mailto:jjcastaliamayor@gmail.com).

## FALL LEAF PICK UP

Monday November 6, 2023 will be the start of Fall Leaf Pick up in the Village. It will continue every Monday. Monday December 4, 2023 will be the last pick up. **ALL LEAVES MUST BE IN PAPER BAGS** at curbside by 7A on Monday morning. If possible place at curbside Sunday evening.

## E-newsletter sign up on the website

In an effort to get you information faster and at less cost to the Village, beginning Spring 2024 you'll have the option to receive the newsletter electronically. Currently, the newsletter comes with a cost of approximately \$600 to produce and mail to all the residents. While electronic newsletters won't be for everyone, we appreciate those who choose the e-version. On the Village homepage, [www.villageofcastalia.com](http://www.villageofcastalia.com) you will find an announcement to sign up for the newsletter. There are just a few questions asking your name, address, and email address, which is how we'll generate the email list. This will be active immediately and ongoing through the end of 2023. Please make sure to input an email address that works and one you check. There can be more than one per household. Thank you.

## 2023 Village Council

Mayor: Jim Johnson

Council Pres Pro Tem: Barb Weyer

Council Vice Pres: Silas Nicholson

Georgia Artrip

Jacob Smith

Cindy Crawford

***Village Council Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:00PM in the village hall. The public is welcome to attend.***

**MAYOR: Jim Johnson**

419-271-5815

[jjcastaliamayor@gmail.com](mailto:jjcastaliamayor@gmail.com)



**Police levy:** Castalia residents will see a Police Renewal Levy on the November 7th ballot. You may ask yourself why is there a police levy, when the Village no longer has a police force. The money provides additional funding for a contract with the sheriff's office which is used, primarily, on payroll for additional patrols and Village events, like Cold Creek. The expiring levy is for 2.0 mils and generated \$31,743 for 2022. The renewal will be for five (5) years. If the levy is not renewed (does not pass), the Sheriff has assured us continued coverage. The brief summary is information, we do not advocate for one side over the other.

**Natural Gas Aggregation on November 7th Ballot:** Castalia residents will be presented with an Opt-out Natural Gas Aggregation. If passed, the aggregation of Natural Gas will provide the Village residents an opportunity to receive lower negotiated rates as part of the Erie County natural gas aggregation effective in 2025. Palmer Energy Representative will answer resident's questions at a public meeting on October 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall.

**Electric Aggregation Renewal:** Starting in January 2024 the Village will be part of the Erie County electric aggregation which will automatically provide a lower negotiated rate. This too is an opt-out aggregation, meaning Village electric customers are automatically in the aggregation unless a household chooses to opt-out.

**Village of Castalia Planning Commission Update:** Planning Commission has reviewed and will soon complete the updates to our zoning regulations. Be on the look out for a public meeting announcement to occur later this Fall to update residents of Castalia on the various changes which will be presented to the Village Council for their review and to adopt as an Ordinance. The meeting will be advertised in the Sandusky Register and on the Village of Castalia Website home page in the announcements. The new Ordinance, Regulations, Fee schedule and additional information or forms will be downloaded on the website.

**A BIG SHOUT OUT AND THANK YOU to Alan Strause and ABJ Equipment for donating and installing the railings to finish the uptown steps project! Council is very appreciative of your support and donation to help improve resident safety.**

**VILLAGE OF CASTALIA  
PO BOX 451  
CASTALIA, OHIO 44824**

**POSTAL PATRON**