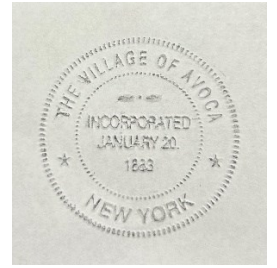


**Edition #5  
Winter of  
2024**

# **Village of Avoca Newsletter**

**County of Steuben State of New York**  
**3 Chase Street Avoca, NY, 14809**  
**(607) 566-8511**



## **Village of Avoca News and Events**

*Look the Village of Avoca up on Facebook or **villageofavoca.org***

### **Village Office Hours:**

**Monday** 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
**Tuesday** 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Wednesday** 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
**Thursday** 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Friday** 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
**Second Saturday Morning**  
**Fourth Wednesday Evening**

### **Contact Information:**

**Mayor** Eric Tyner  
(607) 281-8617  
[mayor@villageofavoca.org](mailto:mayor@villageofavoca.org)  
**Clerk/Treasurer** Christine Haar  
(607) 566-8511  
[clerk@villageofavoca.org](mailto:clerk@villageofavoca.org)  
**Street and Water Supervisor:**  
Tony Comstock (607) 566-2475  
[streets@villageofavoca.org](mailto:streets@villageofavoca.org)  
**Trustees:**  
Marcia Rowe Smalt  
Donald Rodbourn  
Lannie James Gay  
Andrew Hubbard

### **Zoning Officer:**

Beth Peck (607) 368-3571

### **Dog Control Officer:**

Gary Hadsell (607) 382-4785

### **Assessor:**

Laura Snow (607) 566-8511  
Thursdays 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Website:** [villageofavoca.org](http://villageofavoca.org)

### **Village News:**

Please join us for our  
Village Board Meetings on  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the  
month at 7:00 PM at the  
Town/Village Hall.

### **NOTICES:**

#### ***Village Water Bills***

For those properties that  
have not changed over to the  
new meters, the penalty will  
be in effect until the meter  
has been changed.

#### ***Cemetery Fee Changes***

On November 14, 2024, the  
Village Board of Trustees  
passed the new policy and  
fee schedule for Valley  
View and Highland  
Cemeteries. The new fee  
schedule and policy will  
take effect of January 1,  
2025 and be available at the  
Village Hall. The new  
policy and fee schedule will  
also be posted on the new  
Village of Avoca website at  
[villageofavoca.org](http://villageofavoca.org)  
You can also drop into the  
village office for  
information.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Saturday, December 7th**

- Christmas in the Park  
Parade at 2:00 PM Games, Santa and  
Tree Lighting at 5:00 PM

#### **Saturday, December 14**

Wreaths Across America at the Bath  
VA at noon sharp

#### **Thursday, December 12**

- Village Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

#### **Wed. Dec. 25th thru Fri. Dec. 27th**

- Christmas Celebration- office will  
be closed.

#### **Wednesday, January 1**

- New Year Day - office closed

#### **Friday, February 14th**

- Valentine's Day

Follow the Village of Avoca and other  
local Facebook pages for more events  
schedule.

**If you have messages for our  
electronic sign, please email the  
office at**

**[clerk@villageofavoca.org](mailto:clerk@villageofavoca.org)**

The sign should be used for  
milestones or announcements for the  
Avoca area. Any information for the  
newsletter can also be sent to the  
village clerk.

## **Avoca History Corner** **Avoca's 1889 Water Reservoir Project**

The question of a Village water system was called to by Fred Atwood and George Hammond to borrow \$18,000 on January 27, 1889. The proposal was for a 20-year bond at 3.5% interest. 88 votes were cast for the water project, 66 in favor and 22 against, and on April 18, 1889 the Water Board of Commissioners purchased the right-of-way from the Thomas Cotton farm for \$900 from the reservoir to the village, along with right-of-way through the farms of S.E. Haskins, W. Allen and Lyman Shults.

The contract to build the water system was awarded to Charles Brown of Mohawk for \$17,075 and work began immediately thereafter. All of the digging for the water system was done by hand with pick and shovel, primarily by Italian workers. During construction, some legal hassles arose, such as right-of-way issues, but the project was completed by the end of 1889 for a total cost of \$19,148.64. The Village Board voted to purchase the pipes and hydrants separate for the project. The first customer for the water system were the Avoca Hotel proprietors, as Mrs. M.E. Harvey was charged \$20 a year for the use for the hotel, sprinklers, etc. Residential families were then charged \$3 a year for the pure spring water, which required no pumps as the water system was gravity feed.

In those days, railroad conductors and personnel often filled jugs at the Avoca stop as it was known to be the best fresh water on the railroad run. Most homes in the beginning only had on central faucet, but it wasn't long before bathrooms began to be installed in houses at the turn of the century.



*The Avoca Hotel, the first customer for the 1889 Avoca Water Project*

## **Message from the Mayor**

*As fall ends and winter comes upon us, our municipal projects continue throughout the Village. Projects that continue at this time include:*

1. *East Avenue Culvert Replacement Grant continues and is still on schedule for the replacement date in the summer of 2025.*
2. *A Playground Grant for a new playset at Hees Park for this year was at 50/50 shared Grant, so this Grant will be reapplied for in the Spring of 2025.*
3. *The Clean Energy Grant is being closed out with the purchase of (8) new Maple trees for Memorial and Hees Park, as well as along two street locations. The trees will be planted in the near future in designated locations.*

*The Village is also beginning a grant for an engineering study and potential \$1.5 million grant for upgrades to the Village water system, to include one new or update well. This is just in the planning stage, so more information will be available in the following months.*

*If any resident of the community has suggestions, please feel free to contact me at the Village Hall or call me at 607-281-8617.*

*Mayor Eric R. Tyner*

Please check with your assessor, Laura Snow, to be sure that you are receiving all the exemptions you're entitled to by calling (607) 566-2152 or stop in during office hours Thursdays 9AM-3PM.

The first permanent schoolhouse was built in 1819 where the American legion Parking lot is now. Two large rooms opened into one. Education to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade was available although most pupils stopped after they learned the bare rudiments of reading and writing. The school averaged 20 pupils. Sarah Schults said the floor of the school contained several large cracks. The male students soon learned to take advantage of this. On the Charlesworth farm (corner of Chase and N. Maple) there were several geese. When the boys wanted the day off of school, they would get corn, go to the farm and make a trail to the school with corn. They would then throw corn under the school building. In no time the geese would follow the trail of corn and end up under the school. There they would make a great racket and the noise would come up through the cracks in the floor. The school would have to be canceled for the day.

### **Avoca Historical Society**

Hours by appointment and  
open on Saturdays  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

### **Avoca Library**

(607)566-9279  
Monday to Friday 10:00 AM 6:00 PM  
Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
**CLOSED WEDNESDAYS**



### **REMINDER:**

**NO PARKING ON THE VILLAGE  
STREETS FROM NOVEMBER 1-  
APRIL 1 1am to 6:30am**