

ISSUE

05

# Chenoa Junction

December 18, 2023



## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

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It is important that when recycling, you ensure your recyclables are **Empty, Clean & Dry!**

#### Paper Recycling –

- Paper makes up 30% of waste each year.
- Shredded paper should be put into a paper bag.

#### Cardboard Recycling –

- Greasy pizza boxes are **NOT** recyclable.

#### Plastic Recycling –

- #1 through #7 are recyclable plastics

#### Metal Recycling –

- steel, tin, bi-metal and aluminium can be recycled.
- Recycling 1 ton of aluminium cans conserves more than 1,024 gallons of gasoline.

#### Glass Recycling –

- clear and colored glass can be recycled.

#### Items that **cannot** be recycled:

- Appliances
- Batteries
- Bubble Wrap
- Christmas Lights
- Coat Hangers
- Diapers
- Electrical Cords
- Food Waste
- Food Wrap
- Garden Hoses
- Plastic Bags
- Polystyrene
- Rubber Bands
- Sports Equipment
- Stuffed Animals
- Syringes/Razor Blades
- Tires
- Waxed Cartons
- Wood/Yard Waste

Link to 2024 Republic Trash & Recycle Schedule:

<https://www.chenoail.org/health/pages/2024-city-chenoa-trash-recycle-schedule>

*Schedule is also attached in this Issue.*



It's the end of the year so I wanted to send out Holidays Greetings.

Thank you to new residents for becoming a resident of the City of Chenoa. Thank you to the residents that have lived years in Chenoa for making this a great place to live. Thank you to the Police and Firefighters for protecting the residents. Thank you to the businesses that are here and growing. Thank you to the organizations that keep Chenoa busy and alive with activities. Thank you to City Council and other City Committee's that lead Chenoa to be in a position to thrive.

I am excited for new beginnings in 2024!

Call or text anytime: (309) 825-2396.

*Mayor Dave Shane*

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## Commissioner Corner

### Shall We?

**By Jay Myers, Finance Commissioner**

As a person who is experienced and interested in the topic of Business Redevelopment (I admit I'm a nerd about it) I often enjoy a good read about Success Stories that have occurred elsewhere in our country. I get particularly interested in stories about small towns and cities like Chenoa, and how those leaders and business people pulled together to reinvent business locally.

I recently dug into a report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about "How Small Towns and Cities Can Rebuild Their Economies" that gave me some encouragement that yes, Chenoa CAN rebuild it's Business district, if we can just follow the lead of towns like Mount Morris, New York.

Mount Morris, located in Western New York state, is a little larger than Chenoa, with a population of about 2,900 people at present, but their history is very similar to our story here. They started as a farming community before the Civil War, experienced the changes that the railroads brought to them, had periods of flourishing, and then periods of population and Business shrinkage, and the blight that comes with those changes.

Mount Morris had a downtown area a lot like ours in 2007 after the new interstate highway bypassed them. The main business district streets had many boarded up, vacant, or dilapidated commercial buildings and plenty of vacant lots after buildings were surrendered and torn down.

A small contingent of community promoters and elected officials nevertheless kept striving to get Mount Morris turned around and back to business. They had plenty of opposition from those who felt Mount Morris' case was pretty hopeless. Many residents, building owners, and elected officials didn't believe there was really any way to make change happen. It was going to cost too much and there were no guarantees.

I imagine that's probably how folks down in Lexington, in our backyard, felt too. It was not so many years ago that Lexington's downtown area also looked a little worse for wear.

Remember? And now, today, when you drive through the Business district of Lexington, it's almost amazing what Mayor Johansen and all the good folk of Lexington have done! Over the past decade or so, Lexington has been on a progressive quest to reinvent their downtown and that hard work (and very carefully invested funds) has paid off.

Can we do that too, Chenoa?

Continued on Extra Page 1

# Resident Ave

## Chenoa Dog Park on Route 66 – The Vision

**By: Carmen Hernandez & Michelle Ramseyer**

It is so exciting to be part of a community that is supportive of a dog park. Unfortunately, Chenoa did not win the PetSafe Unleashed contest. However, we made it into the top 5 with a total of 5,154 votes! What an outstanding show of effort and support from the community. Words cannot express our gratitude! We are waiting for word from other funding sources that may help us make the dog park vision a reality. We hope to be able to share good financial news soon.

The proposed dog park location will be behind the Chenoa Pool. This location will allow easy access for residents as well as catch the eye of tourist pet parents who are traveling along Old Route 66.

The main reason for the dog park is of course for the dogs. We also want to use the park as a way to show what Chenoa has to offer! We'd like to add Chenoa to the Route 66 tourist attraction list by providing a pet friendly environment for travelers and their fur babies. Most of the businesses in Chenoa are on 24 so the Route 66 travelers might not know what we have to offer. Signs promoting businesses and other attractions in the City of Chenoa at the proposed dog park will provide them with this information.

The overall phases for the Chenoa Dog Park on Route 66 are:

- Ø Project Conception – Phase 1: safety, rules, maintenance, insurance, cost to begin and maintain; Phase 2: funding options – grants, contests, fund raising, sponsorships, donations, etc.
- Ø Project Definition & Planning – location -search for ample parking & easy access, size of park, park theme, lighting, getting quotes for fencing, etc
- Ø Project Execution – Begin with fencing, seating, signage & pavilion
- Ø Project Maintenance/Upkeep – mowing, waste pick up, general maintenance
- Ø Project Expansion/Upgrade – add more seating, dog friendly human restrooms, agility equipment

Our Facebook page is where we will post updates! The link is below. Please like and follow our page.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552755370017>

- We plan to take suggestions and have a contest for the public opinion of the naming of the park. Details will be announced once funding is secured.
- If you want to volunteer and you have a special skill/trade that would be advantageous to a particular phase, please let us know! If you just want to volunteer for anything, everything – let us know that also. We have a contact email: [chenoadogpark@gmail.com](mailto:chenoadogpark@gmail.com)
- Please reach out with any dog park ideas also.

# Chenoa Club Crossing

## Chenoa Parent Teacher Organization

Chenoa is home to Prairie Central Primary West where preschool, kindergarten and first graders from Chenoa and Fairbury attend. We have a strong PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) that meets over zoom. Our main role is to show support and encouragement to staff and students.

I encourage everyone in Chenoa to support our school by participating in the Box Tops program. Gone are the days of clipping and saving the little rectangle pieces and sending them off. Now we can download the app and scan our receipts. Immediately our school gets what they need to continue to fund activities. Please participate! See Flyer on next page!

Rachel Kridner, PCPW PTO President

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## Chenoa Business Boulevard

### Mary Solon, Certified Kitchen Designer

I am excited to be living and now working in Chenoa! My name is Mary Solon and I've been a kitchen designer for over 37 years. I moved here in November 2022 and started my home based business, "Kitchen Lady" this past June. My two children are grown and I have four grandchildren. I've enjoyed being a member of the Chenoa Women's Club and look forward to speaking to our group in March about what I encounter as a kitchen designer. I was recently given a Wood Harbor cabinetry dealership. I sell this brand of cabinets out of Mason City Iowa, along with quartz, Solid surface tops (like Corian) and laminate tops. My favorite part of this job is problem solving for my customers and transforming their kitchen, bath, office or laundry room, into a space that looks and functions better.

My website is [www.kitchenladydesigns.com](http://www.kitchenladydesigns.com) and I'm on Facebook as KitchenLady. These sources will give an idea of how my process works as well as examples of projects I have completed. I offer personal design service and come to the home for consultations and to measure. 815-822-0801.

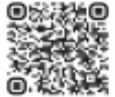
Thank you.  
Mary Solon,CKD  
Certified Kitchen Designer.



# Help the Chenoa Parent Teacher Organization with Box Tops



DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:



## UPDATE

### DECEMBER MONTHLY TIPS

- New referrals earn \$5 for PCPW by using promo code NPNA54JL and scanning ANY receipt! Pro tip: have your spouse download the Box Tops app too!
- Making snack mix this holiday season? Chex cereal, Chex Mix, Gardetto's and Bugles are all Box Tops products!
- Christmas baking products: Gold Medal flour, Betty Crocker baking mixes, Betty Crocker frosting, Pillsbury cookie dough, Pillsbury pie crust, and more!
- Shopping for any furry friends this Christmas season? Blue Buffalo dog and cat treats are Box Tops products!
- Sick kids? Airborne and some Lysol products have Box Tops.
- Remember to scan receipts into the app within 14 days of purchase.

WE ARE GOING TO START A MONTHLY BOX TOPS COMPETITION BEGINNING JANUARY 8TH! BOX TOPS ARE NOW SCANNED INTO THE APP FROM RECEIPTS INSTEAD OF CLIPPING OFF PRODUCTS.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE BOX TOPS APP AND USE CODE NPNA54JL THEN ONCE YOU SCAN YOUR RECEIPT YOU CAN CHOOSE A TEACHER TO GIVE CREDIT TO. AT THE END OF THE MONTH THE TEACHER WITH THE MOST POINTS WILL WIN A SPECIAL PRIZE! YOU CAN HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS JOIN TOO, THE MORE PEOPLE SCANNING THE BETTER.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



In the case of Mount Morris, New York, a wealthy (and maybe a little crazy) developer who fell in love with the town literally bought up all the downtown real estate that was vacant, in one fell swoop, and restored it. Mount Morris, today, still can't believe their luck in that respect. One millionaire came in and gave the town the shot in the arm that it needed and the rest of the community got on the bandwagon too.

Lexington has made their "miracle" happen at a much slower pace, granted, and has relied on a combination of money sources and "key players." But they too are achieving their miracle. And I believe, if Chenoa wants to do the same—we can. There are terrific grants available at the Federal and State level for this kind of Redevelopment, grants which I believe Chenoa can qualify for. But we also need to do our part to help get the whole show organized, including considering new ordinances and setting new expectations for commercial buildings so we are all on the same page, getting current business owners involved, and recruiting volunteers to work on programs and events that bring Life back to a struggling downtown.

I believe we have the same brains and creativity that a Lexington or a Mount Morris have. We just have to Get Back to Business and focus on doing the hard work these other communities invested. After all, what is the alternative? There are some smaller towns and cities in McLean County who did not get busy reinventing their dwindling downtown area, and the results are evident. And sad. Their downtowns are essentially gone.

When I read about the history of Chenoa, about fellows like businessman Fred Brumm, for example, I'm encouraged that there is something in Chenoa as a community that eventually squares up to adversity and gets it done. Brumm accidentally chopped a couple of his fingers off in a shop accident and still he kept going. He literally moved a building from one side of town to another because that is what made sense to him, as a businessman and a community leader. Whatever it took, Brumm got it done.

Any time I'm downtown Chenoa now, I look at the building on the corner of Green and Owsley that bears Brumm's name on that beautiful cupola and I think: "Somebody ought to restore that historic building and put it back to work as a Business location."

Somebody. Or all of us Somebodies.

Shall we?



BRUMM BUILDING. 2023. PHOTO BY JE MYERS.

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### *Special Notes from Chenoa Women's Club*

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January 8, 2024 Meeting

Food Pantry Items: soups, coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix

Program: TBD

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The proceeds of the can recycling for the months of January, February and March will be donated to Community Beautification projects for the Chenoa downtown area.

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# 2024 Republic Services Recycling and Trash Collection Calendar

■ Holidays   
 ■ Recycling   
 ■ Trash

**JANUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**FEBRUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3					4	5
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

**MARCH**

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**APRIL**

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28	29	30				

**MAY**

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28	29	30	31			

**JUNE**

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30						

**JULY**

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28	29	30	31			

**AUGUST**

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**SEPTEMBER**

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**OCTOBER**

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**NOVEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**DECEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Please contact Republic Services in Republic Services at **815.723.3200** or visit [RepublicServices.com](http://RepublicServices.com) for more information.

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Items that can always be placed in your recycling cart include:



Items that can never be placed in your recycling cart include:



Paper



Flattened Cardboard



Metal Cans



Plastic Bottles & Jugs



Glass



Plastic Bags & Wrappers



Soiled Paper



Polystyrene Foam



Clothing & Shoes



Greasy Pizza Boxes



Food



Tools



Toys



Scrap Metal



Diapers



Yard Waste



Medical Waste



Construction Waste



Electronics & Batteries

### How to prepare your recyclables:



#### Empty. Clean. Dry.

Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid.



#### Don't bag it.

Never put recyclables in containers or bags.

Visit [RepublicServices.com](https://www.RepublicServices.com) for more information on recyclables.

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Sustainability in Action



# December / January

2023/ 2024

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
December / January	17-Dec	18 Trash Day EDC Meeting 6 pm	19 Water Shut Off Day	20	21	22	23
	24 Christmas Eve	25 City Hall Closed - Holiday Christmas	26 Trash & Recycle Day City Hall Closed - Holiday	27 Water Bill Due Date	28	29	30
	31 New Year's Eve	1-Jan City Hall Closed - Holiday New Year's Day	2 Trash Day	3	4	5	6
	7	8 Trash & Recycle Day	9 City Council Mtg 6:30 pm	10	11	12	13
	14	15 MLK Day Trash Day	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22 Trash & Recycle Day	23 City Council Mtg 6:30 pm	January 25, 2024 - Water Bill Due Date			