

Cooperstown makes OCCA recycling initiative its own

On April 16, Village of Cooperstown Department of Public Works employees Dave Clapper, Mitchell Hotaling and Joe Pesola placed recently purchased bins on Main Street. The Cooperstown DPW will now maintain and service these bins, taking over an initiative begun by the Otsego County Conservation Association in 2004, when OCCA volunteers Martha Clarvoe and Sue Labudde designed and built bins for the container collection and recycling. A total of 14 bins were provided by OCCA for Main Street and other village locations. The bins were maintained by Cooperstown until 2007.

“OCCA had picked up where the local Cooperstown Boy Scouts left off a number of years ago. The Scouts were the first to attempt container recycling on village streets, and we learned from their experience,” said Clarvoe, OCCA president.

During the four-year period, volunteers Dick and Sandy deRosa, Fred Kerr, Stacey Michael and Lenny DiFranza collected bottles and cans while Sue Labudde sorted and delivered them to the MOSA Northern Transfer Station and the Oneonta Redemption Center.

“It’s very gratifying to have planted the seeds of a program and then to see it become institutionalized by the village. Cooperstown is one of only a few villages in New York State leading the way in promoting recycling,” Clarvoe said.

The new containers offer three separate collections --trash, cans and bottles, and mixed paper.

“Experience shows that these containers will be used properly by both locals and tourists,” Clarvoe said.

The bins previously provided to the village have themselves been "recycled" to the City of Oneonta and the Village of Milford.

"We're delighted that the bins are being put to use elsewhere and that municipal recycling has thereby been expanded through our initial efforts," Clarvoe said.