



**To All Villagers from the Board of Trustees
Deer Management Update**

We would like to update you on the current status of the Village of Cayuga Heights' deer management program and ask for your continued support. We currently have 125 deer per square mile in our 1.84 square mile Village, or approximately 225 deer total, according to a January 2013 population estimate based on movement of the known deer. Last year we requested permission from current landowners to grant access to their property for culling purposes. Because of the geographic distribution of those who did not consent to the use of their property, we implemented a sterilization only program. This program surgically sterilized 137 female adult deer, approximately 95% of the females in the herd. Deer management must be ongoing to be effective. We are therefore currently planning our program for this year.

A sterilization only program will reduce the herd size gradually over several years. We will continue to have approximately 225 deer in the short term, which will present the same issues of health and safety we have faced for the past several years. We now request your permission to use your property, as outlined below, if needed in the coming year. Depending on your response we will either continue with the sterilization only program, seeking to maintain a high percentage of sterile female deer, or we could add a limited culling program, which we have permission from the State of New York to conduct. A combined sterilization and culling program would lead to a more immediate reduction in herd size.

This is your opportunity to grant permission to use your land for our deer management program. You do not have to participate in the program. There are several participation options: to use your property as a bait site for sterilization and/or culling, as a culling site, or as a property near or adjacent to a culling site. We must have permission of the landowners within a 500 foot radius from the site of a firearm discharge.

Any deer meat harvested through culling will be donated to the Southern Tier Food Bank. The Food Bank has indicated its need of and willingness to distribute this meat. Please see the Village website for further details of the history of the deer management program, the plans for meat donation, the public hearings held over the last several years, and the NYS DEC permits and licenses.

We need your response by October 15, 2013. We will keep all responses to the Landowner request confidential. Please return the enclosed form via mail, in person, or by fax to:

James Steinmetz, Chief of Police,
Village of Cayuga Heights
836 Hanshaw Road
Ithaca NY 14850
Fax: 607-257-4910
Tel: 607-257-1011
JSteinmetz@cayuga-heights.ny.us

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact Chief Steinmetz or Mayor Supron if you have any questions, KSupron@cayuga-heights.ny.us or by phone at 257-1238.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kate Supron and the Board of Trustees

