



# The Village Green

*Newsletter of the Village of Pomona*

*January 2004*

## **Village Board Meetings Not Well Attended by Public**

As the year draws to a close, the last couple of board meetings have been very quiet, and in spite of advertised public hearings and advertised bid openings, no-one from the public has attended a board meeting for three months. While the board would like to think that this is because the village is running so smoothly with little or no controversy, we are still concerned about the apparent lack of interest. All village meetings are open to the public, and advertised in accordance with state laws. Most importantly, the regular monthly meeting begins with an open period during which members of the public are invited to speak on any subject. This is a good moment to air your concerns, voice your opinion or ask questions of the board on any matter affecting the village. Even the last Cultural Center opening on November 15<sup>th</sup> garnered a crowd much smaller than usual, and it leaves one to wonder whether we are getting the message out effectively. The new year will see a revamp of our publicity methods with a view to drawing more attention to village events.

During the November board meeting, a revision to the Village Code was passed requiring tree mapping on all lots being developed. This will control "clear cutting" and preserve the trees that Pomona is well known for. In the early part of the new year, the board will also consider revising and consolidating the other village laws that regulate the cutting of trees by developers and homeowners. The board has worked on this revision for some months, and has reviewed local laws from many other communities in Rockland and Westchester to gather information that will result in a new law that will be logical and unambiguous, will preserve citizens rights and be environmentally sound. Public hearings will be held early in the year to gather residents' input. We look forward to seeing you at Village Hall.

### *Message from Mayor Herbert Marshall ...*

With 2003 happily passing into history and 2004 moving into prominence with its promise of renewal, I thought that it would be a good time for a bit of reflection and retrospectiveness.

In our little corner of the world, 2003 was a truly difficult year filled with uncomfortable paradox, misinformation, and change. We have a new Deputy Mayor, Village Attorney, and Code Enforcement Officer, and have changed gender in the leadership of both the ZBA and Planning Board. The year began with the end of an extended period of severe drought, and ended with complex water and drainage problems resulting from the wettest summer in the history of our village. We entered 2003 basking in the recognition of an independent census analysis published in the Journal News calling Pomona the most positively integrated community in Rockland County, only to face an ugly election campaign characterizing Pomona as the Montgomery, Alabama of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also entered the year knowing that we lived in a pleasant rustic and somewhat idyllic little island of a community, only to have our village the subject of a distorted exposé on Channel 7 News, and our local criminal activity (which pretty much doesn't even exist) compared to that of Hillcrest by a reporter who probably had never been to our village. 2003 was a troubling year in which those who were not a part of our community tried to influence our election process, add divisiveness where none existed, and alter the tranquility that has long been a part of life in Pomona. 2003 was a troubling year, but beyond all reasoning we have prevailed, and Pomona remains the best place I can think of to live and raise a family. A place where the only requirement for membership is an ongoing commitment to be a good neighbor.

2004... that's easy. The good guys will win. The lies and accusations will be put to rest, and the community we really are will once again surface.

I would like to wish you and your family a happy and prosperous 2004, and hope the new year sees only good things as part of your life.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>January 2004</h1>						
				<b>1</b> <b>New Years Day</b> <b>Village Hall Closed</b>  <b>NO GARBAGE PICKUP</b>	<b>2</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>3</b>   Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>6</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>7</b>  Recycling - paper 	<b>8</b>   8.00pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular meeting  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>9</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Poetry Reading</b> Cultural Center 2.00pm
<b>11</b>  2.00 pm Village Hall Pomona Clean-up Squad	<b>12</b>   7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Workshop Meeting  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>13</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>14</b>  Recycling - commingled 	<b>15</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>16</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>20</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>21</b>  Recycling - paper 	<b>22</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>23</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>24</b> <b>GRAND OPENING</b> <b>Winter Exhibition</b> Cultural Center 6.00 - 9.00 pm
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>   7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>27</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>28</b>   8.00pm Village Hall ZBA Scheduled Meeting  Recycling - commingled 	<b>29</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>30</b>  Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>31</b>



## GARBAGE INFO FOR JANUARY

**There will be no pickup on New Years day in the Ramapo section. Pickup for Ramapo will be re-scheduled for Saturday January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

ANOTHER NOTE ABOUT GARBAGE COLLECTION. Waste Management has asked that when there is a lot of ice on your driveway, please try to place your garbage on the curb. In certain instances, they cannot maneuver on your driveway to get the garbage, and it is certainly an issue of safety as well.

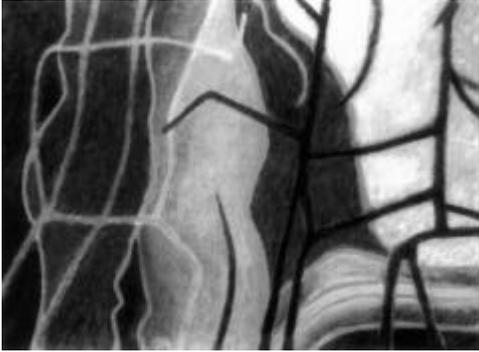
## IMPORTANT NOTICE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/HOME SECURITY MEETING

**will take place at Village Hall on February 2, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Village of Pomona established itself as a Neighborhood Watch community ten years ago, and fortunately things have been relatively quiet around our fair village. However, the events of September 11, 2001 have strengthened our resolve to be even more vigilant and continue to work to protect our communities. Neighborhood watch groups have reduced fear and sparked civic energy and spirit.

Join us for discussions on the above topics with police departments from the towns of Haverstraw and Ramapo and a representative from the Attorney General's office.

# Cultural Center Agenda



Francesca Greene's paintings show the influence and inspiration of ancient imagery that can be seen in the four corners area of southwest USA, where mysterious symbols, figures of animals, birds and people have been scratched or painted on the sandstone by ancient people who long ago disappeared.



The Cultural Center is pleased to announce  
**The Grand Opening**  
of the Winter 2004 Exhibition  
featuring artists

**Ruth Geneslaw and Francesca Greene**

**Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Reception from 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm**

**Please come and meet the artists**  
**and enjoy music by Brooke Smokelin**

**Refreshments will be served**



Ruth Geneslaw constructs carved wood vignettes that lend new meaning to "Social Satire". These most interesting pieces are conceived as visual puns that examine our use of language. To the casual observer, the works appear quirky and humorous; yet there is always an underlying comment on some aspect of the human condition.



# Meet our Code Enforcement Officer ... Jay Helfgott

This month's *Meet the Neighbor* column is proud to feature our new Code Enforcement Officer, Jay Helfgott. A resident of Pomona since 1999, Jay and his wife, Susan, live in the Ramapo section of the village. They have one son and one granddaughter.

Jay came to settle in Pomona from Brooklyn to escape the frenetic pace of the city and to live in a more tranquil setting. He had visited Rockland County for many years and always enjoyed it here.

A Biology Major at Brooklyn College, Jay was born in Brooklyn 59 years ago. He is a New York State certified paramedic, a member of the National Ski Patrol, versed in CPR and First Aid Instruction, as well as a hunting safety instructor.

As the owner of an electrical shop in NYC and

New Jersey, Jay instructs in electrical training courses and is a (visiting) Associate Professor at CCNY in building electrical systems. Jay has 5 Master Electrical Licenses in electrical construction.

He has been involved in Law Enforcement in NYC for 28 years as a detective in the Child Abuse Unit. He is our new, part time Code Enforcement Officer here in Pomona, making sure that all codes (laws) are adhered to.

His hobbies are camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, working in his wood shop, and classical (Baroque) opera. He enjoys scuba, skiing, shooting and soccer.

Jay likes the "diversity of Pomona and its ever-changing demographics" as well as the pristineness that exists in Pomona, and he says that he hopes it stays that way.



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**JANUARY NEWSLETTER**

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