

# The Village Green

*Newsletter of the Village of Pomona*

**February 2004**

## **Village Hosts Community Meeting on Safety & Neighborhood Watch**

On Monday February 2nd, the Mayor and Trustees hosted a community meeting at village hall to discuss home and personal safety issues and the village Neighborhood Watch program. The meeting was well attended with more than fifty village residents. It was especially gratifying that Ramapo Supervisor Chris St. Lawrence also attended with a large representation from the Ramapo Police force, including Captain Quinn, Lts. Cokely & Holmes, Sgt. Emma, Crime Prevention Officer Ryan and Community Police Officer Whalan. Also attending was Thomas Hoffay, Assistant Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs with the Attorney General's office, and Jeremy Tomasulo from Assemblyman Gromack's office.

Mayor Herb Marshall opened the meeting by explaining that even though crime in the village is low, the Neighborhood Watch program that was introduced 12 years ago, is still important. Mr. Hoffay underscored this and told the meeting that a Neighborhood Watch program provides six important benefits to village residents. The Neighborhood Watch signs deter criminal activity, and the sense of security that is the result of such a program reduces the fear of a crime. The program builds bonds with neighbors and provides positive benefits in quality of life issues. The program reduces the chances of becoming a victim of a crime, and provides instruction on how to observe what is going on in the neighborhood. The Attorney General's office provides literature (now available at Village Hall) on setting up and coordinating a Neighborhood Watch program, and also has information on its website, now available through a link on the village website.

cont'd. **Safety**, page 2

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

Time for an update. On January 26th, in an effort to add better clarity and create a fuller understanding of the our growing concern for the environment and the many quality of life issues affecting residents in all parts of our community, the Village Board adopted the following resolution.

**WHEREAS**, *the protection of our environment requires that careful planning and development must be exercised by all municipalities,*

**BE IT RESOLVED** *that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pomona has not and will not condone nor support any construction projects, comprehensive planning efforts, or rezoning within the general area of which the village is a part that does not specifically address mitigation of any potential adverse impact on traffic, infrastructure, or general environmental issues affecting the quality of life and general well-being of its residents which could result directly or indirectly from these projects, plans or zone changes before they are considered for approval.*

**FURTHER** *that the Board of Trustees opposes in the strongest possible terms any public officials who abdicate their responsibilities of office by placing the politics of special interest groups and individual developers ahead of the best interests of the people they are committed to serve.*

Two days later the Town of Ramapo rushed through the approval of a sweeping new Master Plan ignoring the outcry of significant numbers of town and village residents affected by its content. That's not the way the system is supposed to work. While it is the right of each municipality to do what it feels is best for its residents, the time has come for us to stand together and demand that a new level of regional responsibility be made part of each community's planning. Our main roads are becoming unmanageable, our water and sewers are approaching unacceptable levels of utility, and the service infrastructure in our general community is beginning to show signs of strain. Our message is clear, deal with the solutions before adding to the problems. Our Pomona Resolution is only the first step. Please add your voice to that message by taking every opportunity to express your concerns about this great place in which we live. All of us care, it's just that some of us seem to have gotten their priorities a little mixed up.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>February 2004</h1>						
<b>1</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm	<b>2</b> <b>Community meeting            Neighborhood Watch</b> <b>All interested            residents are invited            Village Hall 7.30 pm</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>3</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Recycling -            Commingled &amp; paper</b> 	<b>5</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>6</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>7</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm
<b>8</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm	<b>9</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>10</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>11</b>  Recycling - commingled 	<b>12</b>  8.00pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>13</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>14</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm
<b>15</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm	<b>16</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>17</b>  6.00pm Village Hall Grievance Day & Workshop Meeting  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>18</b>  Recycling - paper 	<b>19</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>20</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>21</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm
<b>22</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm  2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up squad	<b>23</b>  7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>24</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>25</b>  8.00 pm Village Hall ZBA Scheduled meeting  Recycling - commingled 	<b>26</b>  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>27</b> Cultural Center Open 2-6pm  Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>28</b> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Cultural            Center            Open 2-6pm            Sat and Sun</b> </div>
						<b>29</b>

## Residents discuss Safety Issues in Community Meeting

**Safety**, from page 1

The police officers gave presentations on security in the home and community policing. Officer Ryan told the audience that the Ramapo Police will come out to a resident's home to review security issues and give advice. Officer Whalan explained that his job as Community Police Officer is to focus on community issues, reach out to various community groups, including Neighborhood Watch groups, and even make sure that the homes of residents away on vacation are patrolled. Both officers invited residents to call the Ramapo Police when they need any of the services provided by these departments.

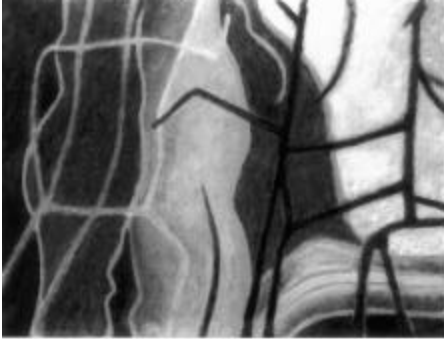
Questions from residents covered such subjects as speeding in the village, house alarms, rooming house

laws, garbage and the quantity and type of crimes that occur in the village. The police officers, Supervisor St. Lawrence and Mayor Marshall responded and stressed community involvement as a means of prevention, and that residents should call the appropriate agency, Village Hall or the Police whenever they have a question or have something to report.

Getting to know your neighbors, and getting involved in community activities goes a long way towards achieving the harmonious environment that we all expected when we took up residence in the village. The Village Board thanks all of the attendees and feels that there is enough interest to plan another meeting for residents. Please watch for information on our next workshop, Personal Identity Theft, scheduled tentatively for May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have any suggestions for a topic in the future, please email Leslie at [leslie.sanderson@pomonavillage.com](mailto:leslie.sanderson@pomonavillage.com).

# Cultural Center

The Current Exhibit  
features works by  
Ruth Geneslaw & Francesca Greene



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.



Ruth Geneslaw, left, 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.



The Opening Reception for  
the Winter Exhibit took  
place on January 24<sup>th</sup>  
and featured the music of  
Brooke Smokelin

Here she is introduced by  
Tjok Gde Arsa Arthe

Cultural Center Director

Gallery hours are Friday - Sunday  
2.00 - 6.00 pm



**Since this is an election year, the following may serve as a guide for those of you who are new to the area and need to register to vote.**

If you moved from the address from which you are registered, you will need to complete a new registration form and send it to the proper county board. If you are registered and move within the same county, you may go to your new polling site on election day, update your record and vote by affidavit ballot. The updated information will be entered into the system, and be ready for you the next time you vote. Please don't wait until the last day to get the information to the county board of elections. They need time to process your registration so you will be eligible to vote.

**Facts About Voter Registration**

A person may register to vote who is:

- \* A citizen of the United States
- \* Eighteen years of age or older by the day following the next general election

- \* A Resident of the State, County, City or Village for thirty days preceding election

A qualified person may register to vote at any time prior to the twenty-fifth day before any election. All registration forms postmarked on the twenty-fifth day preceding the election will be accepted. Voters whose registrations are received after the filing deadline, will be eligible to vote in the next election.

You can pick up a Voter Registration Form in Village Hall or you may register in person at the Rockland County Board of Elections, Monday - Friday during office hours. Their number is 638-5172. A citizen may also register to vote at Motor Vehicle Agencies and all Social Service Agencies.

*Reminder - For registered Democrats and Independents, the New York Democratic Primary is on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Call the Board of Elections at 638-5172 if you need information on where to vote.*

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Clerk-Treasurer: Sue Glantz

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

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