



The Village Green

Newsletter of the Village of Pomona

January 2003

Village Board hears residents on proposed Group Home

In November 2002, the Village was notified that ARC of Rockland had proposed a new group home for five developmentally disabled persons at 1 Tulip Lane in the village. A public hearing was established for the December board meeting, and notices were sent to all village residents in the area. The meeting was attended by representatives of ARC and several village residents who live in the immediate area. Concerns about property values and traffic were discussed, as well as the ever growing number of these type of residences that the village is hosting (one such residence is only four doors away from the proposed site). The ARC representatives did their best to allay the fears of both property values and traffic, and presented historical evidence that these homes do not adversely affect property values. In fact they pointed out that these homes are frequently kept up better than the home was before it became a group home.

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Message from Mayor Herbert Marshall ...

With 2002 quickly turning into memory, I thought it would be a good time for a bit of a retrospective on where we have been and where we might be headed. For we in village government 2002 was certainly an interesting year. It was a year of new challenges, changing emphasis, and larger issues displacing smaller ones. It was a time with great successes and equally great frustration. 2002 by all standards was not a vintage year, but it certainly was interesting.

Now, some of the Good News

Larger global issues such as opposition to Indian Point, Revenue Sharing, Torne Valley, and the drought, have replaced much of the time I had to spend in dealing with smaller local issues. Unfortunately, the smaller local issues still had to be addressed, and, with the help of our excellent Board of Trustees, they were. We continued to successfully protect the village against misdeeds by developers, contracted to put curbs on many of our village roads where their installation was delayed by construction, and helped win the Torne Valley battle. The drought emergency is ended, we successfully campaigned for new Sales Tax Revenue Sharing which has already added more than \$36,000 to the village general fund, and finally, although Indian Point is still operating, it is now doing so under much greater scrutiny.

More good news

We were once again able to say "Read our lips, no new village taxes" for the 12th consecutive year. Our Halloween Parade and Party were great, our Recreation Committee did a fantastic job, and this year I got to walk in front of the horses in the parade. Constantine Gletsos and his Stream Team made Pomona the first municipality in Rockland County to institute a proactive project to protect our local streams and waterways, we renamed Old Route 202 Ladentown Road as a tribute to our area's rich history, and, although I'm not quite sure this qualifies as good news, I was appointed by the legislature as one of the two Mayors to sit on the county Solid Waste Management Authority.

Some of the tougher stuff

Our local police and park security had to deal with an unfortunate increase in vandalism in our parks, and arrests were made. The Town of Ramapo presented a draft of its new Master Plan which included a major

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>January 2003</h1>						
			1 New Years Day Village Hall Closed No Recycling	2 Bulk trash/Garbage - Ramapo	3 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - Haverstraw	4
5	6 Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	7 Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	8 Recycling - Commingled containers 	9  8.00 pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting Bulk trash/Garbage - Ramapo	10 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - Haverstraw	11
12 Last day of Holiday Exhibition at Cultural Center 2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up Squad	13  7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Workshop Bulk trash/Garbage	14 Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	15 Recycling - paper 	16 Bulk trash/Garbage - Ramapo	17 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - Haverstraw	18
19 2.00 pm Village Hall Stream Team	20 Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	21 Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	22 Recycling - Commingled containers 	23 Bulk trash/Garbage - Ramapo	24 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - Haverstraw	25 Cultural Center Winter 2003 Opening Reception 6 p.m.
26	27  7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	28 Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	29 5 th Wednesday- no recycling	30 Bulk trash/Garbage - Ramapo	31 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - Haverstraw	

Our garbage carter asks that during the winter months, we please make it a little bit easier on the guys by making sure that if there is ice and snow on our driveways, we either remove it, sand it sufficiently, bring the garbage to the curb, or clear a pathway to the garbage so they don't slip and fall during collections. After the recent snow storms, a few people called to say their garbage was not picked up, and we discovered that it was because there was ice on the driveways.

On the subject of garbage, just a few reminders. Bulk collections are now picked up twice a week—the same day



Garbage/Recycling Notes

as your garbage collection—but must be brought to the curb. Most things can be put out for bulk, but if you are in doubt, check the website or call Village Hall at 354-0545. On Wednesdays, recycling is alternated with papers and cans/bottles. However, if there is a 5th Wednesday in the month, which happens two or three times a year, there is no pickup.

Last but not least, if your garbage is not picked up for some reason, please call Village Hall to report it as soon as you realize. You deserve the service, and we will do everything we can to help figure out why it wasn't picked up. Again, the number to call is 354-0545.

Cultural Center Agenda

The current exhibition, Holiday 2002 - Ceramics and Painting, has been extended until January 12, 2003 - please visit

The upcoming exhibition, Winter 2003 - Painting and Sculpture, will open January 25, with an opening reception from 6 - 9 p.m. Local artists will include sculptor Carl Rattner and painter Win Zibeon. There will be live music and refreshments at the opening.

Special Event

The Live Music and Poetry Reading featuring the Ramapough Poet's Society has been rescheduled to Feb. 1, 2003 at 3 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.



The new flag and signage at the Cultural Center made possible by a grant from N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation

Workshops/Classes

Yoga classes

Fridays at 9.30 am

Music for children

Jan 12th 19th & 26th at 1 pm
Pre-registration required

Creative Album Making

taught by Rhonda Klass offered in February by pre-registration only and scheduled by request.

Mayor, from page 1

downzoning of the "Patrick Farm" property bordering Pomona, and we have joined together with the other villages in a unified effort to prevent their action. Our fight to get rid of the Quaker Rd. mulch plant has finally begun to yield results and it should soon be gone.

Congressional redistricting took its toll on our area and Pomona lost a great man of the people, Congressman Ben Gilman, as its representative in Washington.

Finally, just stuff.

Two highly qualified residents, Ken Cruickshank and Rita Louie, joined our Planning Board. We continued to have the best village website in the county, www.pomonavillage.com We successfully networked our village computer system and added a new building department software package to help our office run more efficiently. A major cable rebuild is just being

completed in the village and we can now get internet broadband service like most of the rest of the civilized world.

Maser Engineering joined our own Village Engineer, Joe Corless, to add a new layer of safeguards during the current high level of activity in new construction.

A couple more bears and a coyote were sighted in the village, our wild turkey population seems to be increasing, and the blue heron is still a regular visitor to Secor Park.

We have a great village and there's lots more to report, but our newsletter's editors have put a strict word limit on what I can include, so I have to wrap it up. But I would like to close with my personal wishes to each of you for a happy, prosperous, and healthy 2003.

Board - from page 1

They also advised that since many of the residents in these homes are not ambulatory, traffic is limited to their supervisors and visitors, no more than a normal single family home would generate. They also pointed out that the only construction envisaged will be inside, and limited to creating wheelchair accessibility.

In comments toward the end of the hearing, Mayor Marshall pointed out that there are seven such residences already operating in the village, and that any complaints by residents have been few and far between. The public hearing ended with the ARC representative commending the residents on their demeanor during the meeting, and he expressed his gratitude that their comments were limited to their specific concerns of traffic, property values and how they purchased the property, rather than against the concept of group homes in general.

In other work during the December meeting,

a local law amending the sections of the Village Code that govern phased construction was passed unanimously after a continuation of the Public Hearing that was started during the previous meeting. This revision gives the Planning Board more authority in requiring phased construction on certain sites, and more clearly defines the phases that may be required.

Various other business was conducted, including the new board ratification of Village investments, as required by the recent recommendations by the NYS Comptroller's Office.

Trustee Nick Sanderson offered his congratulations to cultural center director Gde Arsa Arthe and trustee Ian Banks on their completion of grant funded external improvements at the village Cultural Center, including the magnificent, fully illuminated, flag that now flies there night and day.

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