



# The Village Green

*Newsletter of the Village of Pomona*

**February 2003**

## **Village Board works on 2003-2004 Budget**

The Village Board started work on the village budget for the fiscal year 2003-2004 during the January workshop. State law requires villages to have their budget adopted on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Unlike many municipalities, the Pomona village board has managed to adopt a budget on time for at least the last 17 years, and Mayor Herb Marshall intends that this year's filing shall be on time also. To that end the following schedule was presented at the workshop meeting. February 8<sup>th</sup> - notification to department heads to prepare budget estimates, on a March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. March 20<sup>th</sup>, submission of a tentative budget to Village Clerk. March 31<sup>st</sup>, presentation of budget to village board. April 15<sup>th</sup>, Public Hearing on proposed budget; this may be postponed day-to-day until, but not beyond April 20<sup>th</sup>. May 1<sup>st</sup> adoption of final budget.

The village board posts its budgets on the village website to make it easier for all residents to review. This year will be no exception, and the public are encouraged to come out to the board meetings to ask questions. It will also be available for review at Village Hall.

About half of the roughly \$850,000 revenue that the village needs to balance expenditures is in the form of taxation, the rest coming from departmental revenue, county and state aid. With a combination of frugality, efficiency and an increased tax base, the village board has been successful in reducing village real estate taxes for the last 12 years, and the board work hard so that the 2003-2004 budget will continue this tradition.

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

In our January 2002 Newsletter, I wrote "What's the big stink on Quaker Road?" So I guess you could say that this article can be called "The Big Stink Re-visited," because the "Big Stink" is still there. For those of you who are among the unfortunate village residents regularly subjected to the olfactory terrorism provided by those "hard working folks" at the URBAN FOREST PRODUCTS mulch facility on Quaker Road, you know exactly what I mean. But take heart, it looks like the good guys are about to win.

A great deal has happened since my last report on the situation, and much of it seems to be moving in our direction. For those of you who are not familiar with the details, in the late 1990's, claiming rights established by a previously approved non-conforming use, URBAN FOREST PRODUCTS established an extensive mulching operation on the Town of Haverstraw side of Quaker Road along the Minisceongo Creek in the middle of an existing residential area. Their operation was noisy, produced huge unsightly mounds of stored mulch, created extensive local truck traffic on village roads, and through improprieties relating to the Minisceongo Creek caused widespread polluting of the creek's waters. Perhaps the most significant result of this misplaced facility is the bad smell produced by its operation. This has degraded the quality of life and affected the health of those unfortunate enough to live in the general vicinity. As you might have guessed, URBAN FOREST PRODUCTS were simply not good neighbors.

So where are we now?

On September 12, 2001 the Haverstraw Zoning Board ruled to uphold an earlier decision by the town's Building Inspector that URBAN FOREST PRODUCTS' mulch operation was an illegal use of the property. This decision was immediately appealed to the New York Supreme Court where Urban Products asked that the Zoning Board's decision be vacated. On January 18, 2001, Judge Andrew O'Rourke of the Supreme Court, in a very strong opinion, ruled that the Zoning Board had acted properly and that the facility should be shut down. This decision was also appealed, this time to the Appellate Division. Although the appellate action was put on a "fast track", it was not heard until November 15, 2002. While all of this legal

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">February 2003</h2>						
						1
<b>2</b> <b>Music for Children</b> Workshop 1-3 pm Cultural Center	<b>3</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>4</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>5</b> Recycling - paper 	<b>6</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>7</b> 9.30am <b>Yoga class</b> at the Cultural Center Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>8</b> 3 pm - 5pm Village Hall <b>Valentine's Day Crafts</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Music for Children</b> Workshop 1-3 pm Cultural Center 2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up Squad	<b>10</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>11</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>12</b> Recycling - commingled 	 <b>13</b> 8.00 pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>14</b> 9.30am <b>Yoga class</b> at the Cultural Center Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Music for Children</b> Workshop 1-3 pm Cultural Center 2.00 pm Village Hall Stream Team Weather permitting	<b>17</b> President's Day Village Hall closed Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	 <b>18</b> 6.00 Village Hall Grievance Day & Workshop Meeting Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>19</b> Recycling - paper 	<b>20</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>21</b> 9.30am <b>Yoga class</b> at the Cultural Center Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Music for Children</b> Workshop 1-3 pm Cultural Center	 <b>24</b> 7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>25</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	 <b>26</b> 8.00 pm Village Hall ZBA meeting (scheduled) Recycling - commingled 	<b>27</b> Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>28</b> 9.30am <b>Yoga class</b> at the Cultural Center Bulk Trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	

## Cultural Center Agenda

The Winter Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture features work by local artists  
sculptor **Carl Rattner** and painter **Win Zibeon**

The exhibition runs through March 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will visit and enjoy this great exhibit.

Both the Pomona Cultural Center and its director Tjok Gde Arsa Artha are among 34 individuals and organizations that have been nominated for Arts Awards by the County Executive. The awards ceremony will take place at the Cultural Arts Theater at R.C.C. on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm

Good Luck Gde !!

Cultural Center hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

## Gardening with Deer

*The following is an article of interest to many of us in the village. For further information on this topic, please join us for a free workshop to be held in March 2003 at the Pomona Cultural Center, led by Rebecca Green, Horticulturist and Founder of My Deer Garden (further info to come).*

Deer are just about everywhere. As the human population has moved into wooded areas, problems with the native deer eating your garden are becoming more and more prevalent.

If you are an animal lover who is striving to have a garden and live harmoniously with nature, do not despair. There are numerous humane methods and organic products available to protect landscape plants from deer browsing (i.e., deer eating your plants). The most effective methods are described below.

**Design Deer Resistance Into Your Landscaping.** The most effective means of managing a deer problem is to use plants deer dislike. While it may seem like deer will eat just about anything, this really isn't true. Deer have strong likes and dislikes. They also seem to know which plants are poisonous to them.

Unfortunately, many of the plants deer like to eat have become some of the most common landscape plants. However, there are dozens of readily available plants that deer will almost never eat, many of which are more beautiful

and interesting than the more widely used staples that deer find to be so tasty.

**Add Natural Deterrents.** If you have some mature plants that are all of a sudden being devoured by deer, or if you long for one or two specimens of a plant deer think of as candy, deer deterrents are possibly just what you need. While they may not be practical to use on every plant in your garden, they are very effective and relatively easy to use on a few select specimens.

Deer will almost always stay away from plants that offend two or more of their senses. As such, if a plant not only tastes bad, but smells bad too, deer will stay away from it, and the general area it is planted in. The deer resistant gardener can use this to his or her advantage.

Some of the most effective and natural deer deterrents are: hot pepper wax, garlic oil, predator urine and fragrant soaps. Hot pepper wax is possibly the most effective deterrent available that works on the sense of taste. Deer hate spicy foods! Combined with a deterrent that offends the sense of smell, hot pepper wax will render your plants almost deer proof.

Garlic oil, predator urine and fragrant soaps are all highly effective companions to hot pepper wax. When deer smell the urine of their natural predator, the coyote, they literally run for their lives. If a brave deer decides he or she needs

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maneuvering plays itself out, Judge O'Rourke has taken very positive steps to move the entire process to a more rapid conclusion by supporting a temporary restraining order.

Right now the piles are still there and the decaying mulch continues to convey noxious

odors into our neighborhoods and our homes, but no additional mulch is now being produced and it seems that an end is in sight. Urban Products is facing \$100,000 in fines for polluting the Minisceongo Creek, and its owners are currently under indictment for trying to bribe Stony Point

Supervisor Steve Hurley in their efforts to find a replacement site for their Haverstraw facility.

With any luck, when the snow melts and flowers bloom, we will all be able to smell the roses instead of the decaying mulch, and the creek will be restored to its previous pure condition.

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a quick bite to eat before they start running they will think again once they bite into a plant covered in hot pepper wax. A deer would have to be on the verge of starvation to eat a plant covered in hot pepper wax, when the scent of his or her enemy is nearby and the food smells like soap or garlic. It just doesn't get worse than this for deer.

Add A Physical Barrier. Deer netting can be used in combination with sturdy wooden stakes to create a fence around large

plantings or can be wrapped around individual plants. In addition, deer hate to walk on netting. As such, it may be secured to the ground to deter deer from entering garden beds.

Please remember if deer are starving they will take extraordinary efforts to get to and eat your plants. As such, during extremely bad conditions, such as drought and/or a severe winter, the effectiveness of any deer deterrent or barrier will be less than optimal.

**Reminder! Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Village Hall - 3 - 5 pm**  
a special workshop of Valentine's Day Crafts - Gifts for your favorite Valentine!  
organized by the Village Recreation Committee

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### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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