



The Village Green

Newsletter of the Village of Pomona

April 2002

Village Board Finalizes 2002-2003 Budget

In order to comply with New York State law which requires that Villages prepare and adopt their budget for the forthcoming year in a timely fashion, your Mayor and Board of trustees has been working on the budget since early January. Our deadline for adopting our fiscal year (June 1st 2002 - May 31st 2003) budget is May 1st, and this must come after a Public Hearing and formal adoption by the Board of Trustees.

The Public Hearing on the proposed budget was scheduled for the board's regular meeting on March 25th. For village residents who wished to review the budget before the meeting, it was made available at Village Hall, and also on the village website at

www.pomonavillage.com

Once again, your Mayor and Board of Trustees are pleased to be able to announce a reduction in the Village tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year.

This is largely a result of holding the line on expenses where possible through conservative fiscal policy, and the increase in the Village tax base which is a result of new development within the village. Where expenses have risen, your Village has been able to meet these increased costs with the higher revenue associated with the development activity. At the same time, care has been taken to ensure that maintenance of village facilities and systems have not been neglected, and village services are not curtailed or diminished in any way.

Message from Mayor Herbert Marshall ...

We have a problem. After four years of low rainfall, we are in the midst of the worst drought in our history, the county has placed us on Level 3 water emergency status, and it could get worse. If we don't see enough of those proverbial "April Showers" and have the warm summer that's predicted, the emergency could go to a Level 4, which would transform our current water use restrictions into water use prohibitions. In effect Level 4 status would shut down all outdoor watering, end all new planting, and prohibit any public activity in which water use is involved.

Why are we in this fix? Is it just because of lower precipitation levels and shifting climatic conditions? I don't think so. Although more rain would obviously help, normal weather cycles produce an ever changing series of precipitation patterns. In other words the weather isn't our problem, we are our problem. Rockland county is a natural storage basin for water, but unchecked growth has caused our demand to outstrip our supply. Over the past 15 years while our water requirements doubled, we ignored the warning signs and did nothing to improve our supply. So now we have a problem.

What can be done about it? Lots, but we can't wait too much longer to get serious. Rockland County's water comes from two principal sources: the reservoir system which includes Lake de Forest, and the aquifer feeding the well field in the Ramapo River Basin and tapped directly by our private wells. The county is currently working with state and federal officials on a number of promising proposals to improve and protect these vital resources as well as looking for new sources of water. Included in discussions on the subject have been expanding the capacity and output of the reservoirs, shifting excess storm water into the aquifer using reverse wells, and probably most exciting, active water reuse to recharge both the Hackensack River drainage basin and the Ramapo Aquifer. Another important area under very close scrutiny is United Water and the county's relationship with our New Jersey neighbors. United Water services approximately 260,000 customers in Rockland and 800,000 in New Jersey's Bergen and Hudson Counties, and almost all of the water comes from Rockland County sources. In the past we have had a number of problems with evenhandedness relating to each state's method of handling of emergency restrictions, and United Water's perceived bias toward its New Jersey customers. Although New Jersey has begun to cooperate, recent action by United Water regarding Ramapo's Potake Lake and Haverstraw's Letchworth Reservoirs has resulted in a forceful push by Supervisors St. Lawrence and Phillips, which I strongly support, to establish a Critical Water Use District moving the control of local water resources into the hands of local officials.

Our water problem will eventually be solved, but each of us must actively contribute to that solution through personal conservation and the reduction of water which we actually use.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">April 2002</h1>						
	1  7.30 Village Hall Village Board Re-organization Meeting & Workshop	2 Garbage - All Village	3 Recycling - paper 	4	5 (No Yoga today) Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	6
7	8	9 Garbage - All Village	10 Recycling - commingled 	11	12 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	13 6.00 pm Cultural Center Grand Opening Spring Exhibition
14 2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up Squad	15	16 Garbage - All Village	17  7.30 pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting Recycling - paper 	18	19 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	20
21	22  7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting	23 Garbage - All Village	24  8.00 Village Hall ZBA Scheduled Meeting Recycling - commingled 	25	26 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	27
28	29	30 Garbage - All Village				

Cultural Center Agenda

2002 Spring Exhibition Grand Opening

Paintings - Stained Glass Sculpture
"Collage" series of Fused Glass

April 13th 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Please join us for Music
and culinary excitement

Another one of our long-time village residents, Mel Cook, has recently retired from serving on the village planning board after 12 years of service. For half of those years, Mel served as chairman of the planning board, a volunteer position. Having moved to Pomona in 1968 from Monsey, Mel and his wife Blossom raised 3 daughters in the village, all of whom graduated from Ramapo High School. Mel is a writer of books and plays, and is currently spending time doing a lot of research for his third book, a consumer reference book. His first two books discussed starting a home-based business. Mel also does a considerable amount of traveling to unusual places and just returned from a trip to Timbuktu! He also has Mongolia and Tibet on his itinerary and has visited approximately 30 countries so far. Mel says he is very happy he moved to the village in 1968, that Pomona is a fantastic place to live, and that we have some of the most breathtaking views in the region – right here in the Village of Pomona. Good Luck Mel!

County-wide Water Emergency

The seriousness of the water emergency caused by the drought that has plagued the county for nearly four years cannot be over-emphasized. During the last six months including last fall and all winter so far, we have had about half the normal amount of rain or snow.

The Dept of Health has declared three stages of water emergency far, each one with more stringent water saving measures than the previous. We are presently in a Stage III condition, and the following table shows its requirements:

Stage 3 Water Restrictions	
<p>Watering of lawns is not allowed</p> <p>Only mulched gardens, trees, shrubs, outdoor plants and other landscaped areas can be watered by hand between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. or by low flow irrigation systems 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. on odd or even days based on address</p> <p>Plant nurseries can only water between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.</p> <p>Golf courses can only water between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. and hand water greens once per day</p> <p>Public athletic fields can only water from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m.</p> <p>Water may not be used to wash any paved surfaces (streets, tennis courts, sidewalks, driveways, patios or parking areas)</p> <p>With the exception of emergency vehicles, only commercial car washes that recycle water can clean automobiles, trucks and trailers</p>	<p>The non-commercial use of water or steam to clean buildings or decks is not allowed</p> <p>In addition, the following previously imposed restrictions continue:</p> <p>Water cannot be served in restaurants unless the patron requests it</p> <p>The use of flow-through (non-recycled) fountains, artificial waterfalls and reflecting pools is not allowed</p> <p>Hand-washing of vehicles is not allowed</p> <p>Water cannot be used for flushing sewers or hydrants except for emergencies</p>
<p>Residents or businesses that violate the restrictions will be issued violation notices and repeat offenders would be fined. To report a violation, call the Health Department at 364-2608.</p>	

The average Rocklander uses about 61 gallons of water every day. We MUST start using less. Most of us don't even realize how much water we are using - a first step is to see where we are wasting.

Do you know that ...

- A faucet runs at the rate of 3 to 5 gallons a minute
- Normal shower heads run at 5 to 10 gallons a minute
- A five minute shower uses 25 to 50 gallons of water
- A bathtub filled half full takes 50 gallons of water
- One toilet flushing requires 5 to 7 gallons of water
- A dishwasher load uses at least 15 gallons of water
- Each load of laundry normally requires about 50 gallons or more of water

Fairly Pond at Secor Park



The water level is 6ft down and falling

You can reduce your water usage by taking simple steps

- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth
- Never use your toilet as a wastebasket
- Use a partially filled sink to rinse your razor
- Take shorter showers
- Install water saving shower heads
- Take a shallow bath instead of a shower
- Chill tap water in the refrigerator for drinking
- Run the washing machine and the dishwasher only when full

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GARBAGE IN THE VILLAGE BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK !

Please have all garbage, recyclables and bulk trash out by 6:00 a.m. on pickup day

Garbage is picked up on Tuesdays and Fridays

Recyclables are picked up on Wednesdays

Papers on the first and third Wednesday

Containers on the second and fourth Wednesday

If there is a fifth Wednesday in the month, there is NO pickup on that day

Bulk Trash is picked up every Friday

(if you have bulk trash questions - call Village Hall)

Papers includes newspaper, white envelopes, office paper (white and colored ledger), brown grocery bags, notebook paper, construction paper, soft covered workbooks, telephone and paperback books, magazines and catalogs, junk mail (envelopes and coupons), computer printout and fax paper, corrugated containers, cereal boxes.

Containers includes glass bottles (green, clear, brown), aluminum cans, tin and bi-metallic containers, plastic containers, milk cartons, juice boxes, aluminum foil and pie plates, bleached white frozen refrigerated food containers.

For household hazardous waste and electronics collection, please call the hotline at 364-2444 (Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority). March 8 is the first date for 2002 that you may bring your items. Call for other dates.

Attention: All Residents age 18 or under!

Would you like to have your poem published in The Village Green? If so, please send it to: The Editor, Village of Pomona, 309 Old Route 202B, Pomona, NY 10970 or by e-mail to: pomona@pomonavillage.com

www.pomonavillage.com

Web integration: Nick Sanderson

Production and

Editor: Leslie Sanderson

NEWSLETTER

Clerk: Sue Glantz

Trustee: Nick Sanderson

Trustee: Alma Sanders Roman

Trustee: Ian Banks

Deputy Mayor: Alvin Appel

Mayor: Herbert Marshall

845-354-0545

Pomona NY 10970

Old Rt 202 & Camp Hill Rd



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