



# The Village Green

*Newsletter of the Village of Pomona*

*October 2003*

## **Village Board Attends to Routine Matters**

The summer has been a period for yard work, vacations and generally kicking back, but the Village Board and staff have continued their routine of attending to issues relating to building, development and residents having problems with the mundane matters of garbage collection, street cleaning, traffic and noise. These quality of life issues are always at the forefront of the Village Board's desire to make life in the Village of Pomona as pleasant as we all expect.

As part of this process, the Board has considered a revision of a section of the Village Code that will place a limit on the hours that deliveries of materials on large trucks can be made to construction sites within the village. The purpose of this local law revision is primarily one of safety since these trucks are operating at the same time school buses are making their morning pickups of children in the village. The law will require that a note be placed on every subdivision and site plan drawing, clearly defining the hours that deliveries can be made. A public hearing is scheduled for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, during which the Board will hear public comment, and will hold further discussions on this law.

The Board held public hearings on two other local law changes during the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board approved an amendment of the Village Code to officially establish the Office of Village Engineer. This amendment brought the village into full technical compliance with the requirements of New York State law concerning village officials. The Board also approved an amendment to define the residency requirements for appointed Village Officers to only those living in Rockland County. Again, this brings the village into compliance with the New York State village law. No-one from the public spoke at either public hearing, and the amendments passed unanimously after discussion.

Please see **Routine Matters**, on page 2

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

It seems that every time there is a village election someone tries to make open government and official corruption a campaign issue. "We don't know what they're hiding, but they're hiding something. After all they're politicians, and all politicians are crooks, right." Sound familiar? It should, because those sentiments in form or substance have been the common litany around which much of our recent election rhetoric has been centered. Now that our last village election is six months in the past and there won't be another one until 2005, it seems like a perfect time to try and set the record straight. So here goes.

Of the 1500 villages in New York State, most have fewer than 10,000 residents. In Rockland County, 12 of its 19 villages, including our own, have a population under 5,000, none of the villages has a professional manager or administrator, and, of the 95 elected village officials in the county only two, the Mayors of Haverstraw and Spring Valley, have salaries over \$30,000. Our village functions with an annual budget under \$1,000,000 of which almost 75% is set aside for road maintenance, garbage, and salaries. Let's face it, village government is small potatoes, and taking part in it is public service in its truest sense. We who have chosen to be involved are not the self server politicians we are sometimes made out to be, we are simply responsible citizens trying to do the best we can for our communities, and anyone claiming otherwise is simply not telling the truth.

Now about that secret government that we are so often accused of maintaining. Sorry folks, it just doesn't exist. One of the more perplexing aspects of functioning in local government is the extreme fish bowl atmosphere that surrounds everything that we do. Checks and balances are such an everyday part of village officialdom that anything other than openness would border on the ridiculous. Although home rule powers allow us to maintain our own village code, everything we do and every law we pass must fit into the very narrow set of guidelines passed down by the state legislature, and stand up to the rigid requirements of the State Controller's office. In case you haven't noticed, we are not alone. Big Brother and the Press are always there, scrutinizing everything that we do. Although I am sometimes less than thrilled with its cumbersome implementation, it certainly puts a big A at the beginning of the word accountability, and, guess what, the system works.

Please see **Mayor**, on page 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>October 2003</h1>						
			<b>1</b> Recycling - Paper 	<b>2</b> Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>3</b> 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>7</b> Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>8</b> Recycling - Commingled containers 	<b>9</b>  8.00 pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>10</b> 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up Squad	<b>13</b>  Columbus Day Village Hall Closed 7.30pm Village Hall Village Bd Workshop Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>14</b> Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>15</b> Recycling - paper 	<b>16</b> Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>17</b> 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>18</b>  Mask Making Workshop Cultural Center 3-5 pm
<b>19</b> 2.00 pm Village Hall Stream Team  Mask Making Workshop Cultural Center 3-5 pm	<b>20</b> Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>21</b> Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>22</b> Recycling - Commingled containers 	<b>23</b> Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>24</b> 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>25</b>  Mask Making Workshop Cultural Center 4.30 - 6.30 pm
<b>26</b>  Mask Making Workshop Cultural Center 4.30 - 6.30 pm	<b>27</b>  7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>28</b> Bulk trash/Garbage <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday - no recycling</b>	<b>30</b> Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Ramapo</b>	<b>31</b> 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage - <b>Haverstraw</b>	<b>Nov 1<sup>st</sup></b>  Halloween Parade and Party Village Hall 12 noon

### Routine Matters from page 1

Other business conducted at the August 18<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> meetings concerned the return of escrows held by the village, taking reports concerning the resolution of drainage problems, berm replacements and the activities of the various village committees. Please note that the agendas of all board meetings and the minutes of the Village Board of Trustees meetings are posted on the village website at [www.pomonavillage.com](http://www.pomonavillage.com).

A new addition to the website is an interactive version of the village calendar, similar to the one contained in the newsletter. We hope you will find it useful.

**Save the date !!**  
**Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Village Halloween Parade & Party**



# Cultural Center

## Autumn Exhibition

Opened on  
Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

Weekly hours  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
2.00 - 6.00 pm



***On Saturday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, the Pomona Cultural Center was caught up in the rhythm and excitement of Flamenco. Openings at the Cultural Center are always a lot of fun, but this evening was very special.***

***Maria Ben Jumeda, Ingrid Sera-Gillet and Barbara Martinez, accompanied by none other than Village Trustee Ian Banks on acoustic guitar, were on hand to entertain a full house of visitors enjoying the opening of the Pomona Cultural Center Autumn Exhibition.***

***The exhibit features work by artists Victor Edelstein, Gary Kravetsky, Muriel Merl, Artur Pietruch and Edward Walsh.***

**Please make a point to visit this wonderful display of photographs, fine art and sculpture.**



### Mayor - from page 1

Then there are the "Sunshine Law" and "FOIL", or the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Laws. Are you aware that it is illegal for any municipal entity to hold a meeting in which a quorum of voting members is present that is not open to the public? That's right, every meeting in which public business can be conducted with the exception of Judicial Proceeding and deliberations of political committees requires that the public be informed through formal posting, and that they be allowed to attend. In our village we take things a bit further. Not only do we advertise all meeting notices, as prescribed, in the Journal News, we also post all of our meeting agendas, minutes, and other critical information on our website for public review.

In addition to mandating that our meetings be open to

the public, except for documents relating to current litigation, ongoing police action, and confidential personnel matters, just about everything in village hall is available for public inspection. Although there are very specific rules for accessing information, if it relates to government, chances are you have a right to look it over. That's FOIL, the Freedom of Information Law.

The plain fact is that in Pomona Village Hall, there are no smoke filled back rooms, and the sun shines on everything that we do. Yes, official corruption and invisible government does exist, but our smallness is the safety net that says, "Not in Pomona". So the next time someone running for office starts the same old stuff, it might be good if we all got together and said enough, stick to the issues, it's time for the truth.

# Meet the Neighbors ... Muriel Merl

If you attended the Opening Exhibition of the Pomona Cultural Center on September 13<sup>th</sup>, you were privileged to see a photography display by some village residents (see story on page3). One of the residents, Mrs. Muriel Merl of Lochsley Lane, took up photography just 8 years ago, at the age of 70- but that's only half the story!

An accomplished runner, who finds a new interest every few years to keep her mind sharp, Mrs. Merl has run the Philadelphia half marathon (at age 65), coming in first, the New York City Marathon (twice), which she ran in 4 hours and 36 minutes on her sixty-seventh birthday in 1992, and is the recipient of the Female Runner of the Year Award in her age group from the New York Road Runners Club. *USA Track and Field* and *Running Times Magazine* named Muriel Merl "Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year". She also came in 1<sup>st</sup> in the Advil Mini Marathon against a



field of international runners.

Mrs. Merl took up running after having raised 3 children with her husband of 60 years, Julius, and after retiring from teaching home economics at Spring Valley High School. She simply wanted to get herself in shape for a hike in the Swiss Alps with her husband. Although Muriel was physically active, she was in her sixties when she began jogging, and discovered something interesting happening - she felt empowered and found herself running to win!

With all these accomplishments under her belt, the president of the New York Flyers running club gave Muriel's name to a representative of Nike who were looking for people to film a 30-second commercial. Muriel Merl landed the spot, and appeared in a "Just Do It" Nike TV commercial along with several other senior athletes in

various activities.

**Muriel, you are an inspiration to us all!**

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Trustee: Alan Lamer

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Clerk-Treasurer: Sue Glantz

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Editor: Leslie Sanderson

Production and

Web integration: Nick Sanderson

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