



The Village Green

Newsletter of the Village of Pomona

November 2002

Board deals with routine matters

The September 23rd and October 7th Village board meetings were largely devoted to the handling of routine village business matters. Installation of curbs and berms in the older sections of the Mountain of Pomona development that were not installed by the various developers and builders due to insolvencies were discussed at length, and the village is receiving bids on different types of curbs. Repairs to the Cultural Center sign and parking lot, an agreement with Haverstraw concerning road maintenance, village committee reports, building department reports, etc were all on the agenda for the meetings. A public hearing regarding the revision of the section of Local Law Chapter 40 concerning fines related to animal control was held with no public choosing to speak for or against. The revision to the local law was passed unanimously.

The Mayor advised the board that regretfully two members of the planning board, Joy Shulman and Wendell Watford, have resigned citing personal reasons. The Mayor has accepted these resignations,

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Message from Mayor Herbert Marshall ...

The "Patrick Farm". Sound familiar? In case the name doesn't ring a bell, the "Patrick Farm" refers to the 200 acre parcel of woodland on the corner of Routes 202 and 306. Fifty years ago the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, John Patrick (World of Suzie Wong and Tea House of the August Moon) put together several smaller farms to create his Rockland home which he called "Hasty Hills". There within walking distance of historic Ladentown he enjoyed a life of leisure, raising Black Angus cattle and riding horses around this lovely bucolic property which has become an archetypical representation of what we envision our community to be.

Unfortunately, the most recent history of this extremely important open land parcel has been a bit shaky, and it seems to be getting worse. Remember all the discussion and turmoil over the past several years concerning Clarkstown's attempt to build a municipal golf course in the county? Guess what? The property owned by Clarkstown which was the center of that controversy was, that's right, John Patrick's "Hasty Hills". Last year, after too much political ado, "Hasty Hills", which lies solely within the borders of the unincorporated Town of Ramapo, was sold to Scenic Properties of Brooklyn, and Scenic Properties doesn't seem particularly intent on putting a golf course or any other environmentally sound development on the property.

Around the same time, as negotiations were taking place for Scenic Properties to buy "Hasty Hills", the Town of Ramapo began working in earnest on a general revision of their Comprehensive Master Plan. While the plan specifically addresses itself to the many factors affecting the quality of life and general welfare of the community at large and the region of which the community is a part, plan drafters seem to have overlooked those considerations when referring to the Patrick Farm. Their current draft has the Hasty Hills portion of the unincorporated town slated for rezoning with a "Planned Residential Development" designation. If adopted, the "Planned Residential Development" designation being proposed would totally ignore the property's existing zone density allowing 100 residential units to be developed on the 200 acre site, and, under the guise of providing protection for environmentally sensitive areas, open the door to the abuses of unrestricted high density development common in other parts of the town.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>November 2002</h1>						
					1 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	2
3	4 Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	5 ELECTION DAY Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	6 Recycling - paper 	7 Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	8 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	9
10 2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up Squad	11 Veterans Day Village Hall Closed Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	 12 7.30 Village Hall Village Board Workshop Meeting Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	13 Recycling - commingled 	 14 7.30 pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	15 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	16 Grand Opening Cultural Center Winter Exhibition 6.00pm - 9.00pm
17 2.00 pm Village Hall STREAM TEAM	18 Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	19 Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	20 Recycling - paper 	21 Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	22 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	23 Gift-Making Family workshop Cultural Center 3.00pm - 5.00pm
24 Gift-Making Family workshop Cultural Center 3.00pm - 5.00pm	 25 7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting Bulk trash/Garbage Ramapo	26 Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	 27 8.00 pm Village Hall ZBA meeting (scheduled) Recycling - commingled 	 28 Thanksgiving Day Village Hall closed No garbage pickup Ramapo	29 Village Hall closed Bulk trash/Garbage Haverstraw	30

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offering the Board's gratitude for their service. Replacements for the two vacant seats will be appointed at a subsequent board meeting.

As this issue goes to press, the plans for the Village's 2nd Annual Halloween Parade and Party have been finalized and we hope that this event, scheduled for October 26th was as successful as last year. Look for photos in the next edition of Village Green.

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Make no mistake, the prospect of re-zoning in accordance with this current draft of the town's New Master Plan would forever spell the end of the rural quality of life which is the very character of our community. We cannot let this happen. Those of us in village government will continue to pursue every avenue available to put the matter to rest, but we cannot do it alone. You must make your voice heard. Watch the newspapers, look in on our website, find out when there are meetings and hearings scheduled on the subject, and be there to voice your opinion. Write letters, make phone calls, let those involved in the decision making process know that we will not stand idly by and let this misrepresentation of what is right go unchallenged.

Cultural Center Agenda

The Cultural Center's holiday exhibition - Winter 2002
will open November 16th featuring ceramic art and paintings.
The opening reception, with music and refreshments, will be at the Center
on Saturday November 16th from 6.00pm to 9.00 pm.

Yoga classes continue on Friday mornings (9.30am - 11.00am)
taught by **Prabha Bansal**.

Holiday Gift-Making Family Workshops will take place
Saturday Nov 23rd and Sunday Nov 24th at the Center
Bring the whole family but call the Center (3623-8062) first
to find out what supplies to bring

Creative Memories Scrapbooking Photo Workshop, taught by **Rhonda Klass**
is forming - Please call Gde at 362-8062 if you are interested
Classes will be scheduled depending on interest

Drought Update

Even after the rains that finally came in the middle of October, the drought is not over, according to the county Dept of Health. Stage 3 restrictions are still in effect, and we urge all village residents to continue with their conservation measures until this water crisis is over.

The rains did help the pond at Secor Park, however, as the photo taken October 19th shows. The inset photo from April shows the pond about 6 ft

below normal level. This went down during the summer to about 9 ft below full. Fortunately the October rains brought the level back up to only about a foot below normal. The fish, ducks, turtles, and the pond's resident heron are all very appreciative !



Cablevision Re-Build Project Update

By now you will have seen Cablevision and their contractor trucks working on the cable system upgrade project that Cablevision has well underway in the village.

The construction part of the project is still scheduled to be completed around the end of November, with system testing and any necessary customer hookups presently scheduled for completion during December.

When the project is finished, village residents will finally be able to get high-speed internet connections via Cablevision's Optimum Online, as well as future digital cable offerings that will be available next year. This will be particularly



useful to village residents who have wanted a better connection to the internet, but have been unable to get DSL connections from Verizon due to the distance between their homes and the Verizon "Central Office".

Information about which village streets Cablevision is working on, the nature of the work, and any unavoidable service interruptions

caused by this work, is contained on the village website -

go to www.pomonavillage.com,
and follow the link on the home page

If you have any specific questions, you may contact Geraldine Badstein at Cablevision's Nanuet office at 845- 624-3096.

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