



The Village Green

Newsletter of the Village of Pomona

November 2003

Village Beautification on Board's Mind

The on-going project of Village Beautification continues with work on the cul-de-sacs and around village hall. There are about 20 cul-de-sacs in the village, most of which have center islands with plantings. These have always been a challenge to keep looking nice, and the village landscaper has been instructed to cut back branches and shrubs, and generally clean up in the islands. We also encourage neighbors to keep their cul-de-sacs clean, but if there is any damage, please call village hall to report it. Also as part of general beautification, a grant-funded project to replace the walkway and entrance to village hall is underway, with contractors bidding for the work.

In other business, and after a September 23rd public hearing at which noone from the public spoke, the Board unanimously approved a revised local law to place a time restriction on when heavy trucks can deliver materials to construction sites in the village. This has been both a safety and noise issue, and limiting the operation of these trucks on village roads to after 9.00am on weekdays, and not allowing them at all on weekends, will improve the quality of life in the village.

Also at the September 23rd board meeting, a public hearing was scheduled for the October 27th meeting to hear public input on the proposed revisions to the village code in reference to Fees charged by the village. The proposed changes are the result of hours of work by Village Attorney Doris Ulman, Village Engineer Joe Corless, and Mayor Marshall to simplify and better explain the fee schedules.

Message from Mayor Herbert Marshall ...

For those of us in the Haverstraw section of the village, I am pleased to be able to finally report that the noxious odors and environmental pollution coming from the infamous Quaker Rd. Mulch Plant are gone. After more than 3 years of legal action, major opposition by Town, Village, and County officials, help from our State Legislators, and the involvement of local residents, the great mounds of mulch have been removed, the noisy grinders are gone, and the truck traffic servicing the facility has moved on. Although there may be future battles to fight with the owners of the property, this round at least was won by the community.

For those in the Ramapo section, the Master Plan remains its single most critical issue, and is still unresolved. In spite of village officials and residents jointly working with the Supervisor and the Town to get things right, little of real significance has taken place. The master plan is important to our area, not only because of the proposed downzoning of the 200 acre Patrick Farm property on the corner of Rtes 202 and 306, but also because of the increased density proposed for the Route 59 and Route 306 corridors. Pressure on the Town led them to offer to compromise on the Patrick Farm downzoning to limit development to 117 single acre lots. Not as bad as the 4 or 5 times that number that was originally proposed, but still not wonderful.

We all know that driving on Route 306 in Ramapo is a nightmare caused by the traffic generated by substandard zoning in the area. Add 117 units from Patrick Farm, continued downzoning between Grandview Ave. and Blueberry Hill, and the multifamily housing south of that, and driving on Rte. 306 south of Pomona Rd will become almost impossible. How about Rte. 59? It's horrible right now, but what will it become if the town continues with its plans to allow almost 700 new homes in high density zoning on the Farber Cement and other benign properties along the Airmont-Chestnut Ridge corridor. Then there's the Torne Valley area. While the town has tried to compromise by designating the bulk of its acreage a Critical Environmental Area, they still provide for several hundred new high density units on the remaining portion.

The proposed Master Plan simply does not adequately consider our natural resources, quality of life, or our infrastructure. Ramapo, while meaning well, has backed all of us into an unnecessary corner that could very well change Rockland County forever. One of the plan's stated objectives is to "give due consideration to the needs of the region of which the community is a part". It doesn't, and the town must be reminded of that fact. It's time to insist that the present plan be scrapped, and a new one be developed which better expresses the needs of the community.

Make your voices heard. Write to Supervisor St. Lawrence, Town of Ramapo, 237 Rt. 59, Suffern, NY 10901. Attend meetings, and most of all express your views.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1>November 2003</h1>						
						1  Halloween Parade and Party Village Hall 12 noon
2	3 Bulk Trash/Garbage Ramapo	4 Bulk Trash/Garbage Haverstraw	5 Recycling - paper 	6 Bulk Trash/Garbage Ramapo	7 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk Trash/Garbage Haverstraw	8
9 2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up Squad	10  7.30 Village Hall Village Board Workshop Meeting Bulk Trash/Garbage Ramapo	11 Bulk Trash/Garbage Haverstraw	12 Recycling - commingled 	13  7.30 pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting Bulk Trash/Garbage Ramapo	14 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk Trash/Garbage Haverstraw	15 Cultural Center GRAND OPENING Holiday Exhibition 6-9pm
16 2.00 pm Village Hall Stream Team	17 Bulk Trash/Garbage Ramapo	18 Bulk Trash/Garbage Haverstraw	19 Recycling - paper 	20 Bulk Trash/Garbage Ramapo	21 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center Bulk Trash/Garbage Haverstraw	22
23	24  7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting Bulk Trash/Garbage Ramapo	25 Bulk Trash/Garbage Haverstraw	26  8.00 pm Village Hall ZBA meeting (scheduled) Recycling - commingled 	27  Thanksgiving Day Village Hall closed No Garbage pickup	28 No Yoga today Bulk Trash/Garbage RAMAPO SECTION	29 Bulk Trash/Garbage HAYERSTRAW SECTION
30						

A note about leaf pickup in the Village

Many residents don't realize that in the history of the Village of Pomona, we have not had leaf pickups. Generally, homeowners were encouraged to have their leaves blown or raked back into the woods behind or adjacent to their homes. This year we are encouraging people to do



the same. If you remember a leaf pickup from last year, you are not mistaken! We tried it on an experimental basis on the fifth Wednesday of a month when there was no recycling pickup. This did not work out well, and this year we are reverting to our previous policy of not picking up residents' leaves.



Your Editor, enjoying the beauty of Burgess Meredith Park, October 11th



A Hidden Treasure

I know that by the time this issue goes to press, it will be colder and there probably won't be many leaves left on the trees, but I was so taken by the magnificence of the Burgess Meredith Park, right here in our very own village, I had to share it with you.

I don't know how many of you have been there, or even know it exists. At the end of Brookside Drive (off Quaker Road), there is a small cul-de-sac, and in it, the entrance to the park.

The first thing you will see as you enter is a babbling brook on the left hand side and a basketball court on the right. A little further along, there is a wonderful "tot lot," a perfect size for toddlers and benches for the moms or other caretakers. This tot lot reminds me of the play equipment at Gene Levy Park,

only smaller of course. There is a little red "car" to play on as well.

Further along the path, you will come to a ball field (any coaches out there?), and around the perimeter of the ball field, you will find exercise stations for stretching and aerobic exercise.

The tot lot and field/exercise area is all out in a very open, spacious location. If you wish to continue walking through the woods, there is a foot path to a bridge over the babbling brook. The path continues for a short time to the other entrance to the park on Woodfield Road.

I think you will be very pleasantly surprised – go quickly before it gets cold!

Leslie Sanderson, Ed.



Meet the Neighbors ... Constantine Gletsos

Some of you may know this month's "Meet the Neighbors" subject. He is none other than Mr. Constantine Gletsos, the Chairperson of the Village of Pomona POCUS (Pomona Clean-up Squad) and Chairperson of the Village of Pomona "Stream Team Drain Project."

Constantine is an avid hiker, having hiked in Australia, Greece and Switzerland. He is the President of the Ramapo Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and hikes every weekend. He also jogs two miles every day. It was during one of his hikes in Cheesecote Park that he discovered and became outraged at the trash that had been dumped in the park. He found vandalized cars, refrigerators, washers, bikes, tires - it was just a mess. He decided to make a presentation before the Haverstraw Town Board to get help in cleaning up the neglected park. Constantine's volunteers, together with the Haverstraw Town Parks and Highway Department, began the clean-up of Cheesecote Park in early March 2002 and pulled out all the junk.

Constantine and wife Helen live on Halley Drive, having moved there in August 1996. He has a Masters and PhD in Organic Chemistry and was in Research and



Development in the pharmaceutical industry. It's a good thing Constantine is retired now because his environmental concerns keep him very busy. He feels strongly about keeping the earth clean and green to leave it in the best condition as possible for our children. (Three sons are out of the house now and their daughter is studying at SUNY New Paltz.)

Because of Constantine, Pomona is the first municipality in the county to organize a "Stream Team Drain Project" volunteer group. They meet the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 to go out and mark the storm drains in the 15 miles of streets in the village. You will see the marking on all the storm drains on the upper left hand corner. It is white and blue and warns about the dangers of dumping chemicals into the drains that feed into the county's water supply.

If you would like to join Constantine in any of these "cleanup" pursuits, you may either e-mail him at Cgletsos@aol.com or phone him at 354-0738. (POCUS meets for 1 hour on the 2nd Sunday of each month at village hall at 2:00). Although the groups remain small, he never gives up or becomes discouraged!

Thank you Constantine!

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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