

COME JOIN THE FUN!

**MONTEBELLO DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH FROM
NOON UNTIL 4 PM**

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage PAID
Monsey, NY 10952
Permit No. 1371

Village of Montebello
One Montebello Road
Montebello, NY 10901



Village of montebello review

Jeff Oppenheim, Mayor, Lance Millman, Deputy Mayor, Marc Citrin, Stacy Caridi, Steven A. Sorrillo, Trustees



Greetings from the Mayor



I am pleased to report to you several significant accomplishments in the Village of Montebello this summer. These include the passage of several critical pieces of legislation and the advancement of new programs and ideas.

First, we established the most comprehensive Tree Preservation Law in Rockland County. Tree cutters in Montebello must now be licensed by our Village and failure to follow our laws can result in fines against them. In order to make certain that these contractors are aware of our new law we mailed out more than 400 copies of the law to every contractor licensed by the County. I encourage every citizen to become familiar with this new law by visiting the website: generalcode.com. Click on the on-line library, then click on New York, and then find and click on Montebello. Chapter 176 describes our Tree Preservation law. Our Village Hall staff is available to answer any of your questions.

Second, we passed a law that allows the Village to have a say in the naming of new roads. In the past a developer could choose almost any name. This freedom led to such names as "Bruce Court" and "Margaret Ann Lane". From now on, the selection of a road's name will be made in consultation with our Village Historian in order to reflect the history, geography, fauna or flora of the area. This law has already had an impact. The developer of the homes next to the Fant Farm wanted his new road to be named after his family. However, the Village Historian and the Planning Board favor the name "Fant Farm Lane". We believe that a road's name affects the ambiance of the community and, ultimately, has an impact upon property values.

Third, the Village Board realized that it is not fair that the taxpayers should pay for a road to be repaved only to watch it quickly become scarred by road openings that could have been done prior to the repaving. Therefore, we created a new local law that requires utilities to repave the entire width of any road that they dig up when that road had been repaved in the last 5 years. Winter road patches are the least reliable, so we are also going to prohibit road openings in the winter, unless an emergency exists. Each of these new laws are the first of their kind (to our knowledge) in the State of New York.

Fourth, Montebello is officially the first municipality in all of Rockland County to become a "Certified Local Government" with the NY State Department of Historic Preservation. This extraordinary accomplishment enables Montebello to receive a range of services from the NY State Department of Historic Preservation. We have already applied for a \$10,000 grant (available only to CLGs) to perform an inventory of our Village's historic buildings.

Fifth, Montebello is vigorously preserving our Conservation Easements (CEs). Last winter we performed the first survey of more

than 120 conservation easements in the Village. We sent letters to more than 40 homeowners who we identified as having likely structural intrusions into our CEs. We asked them to correct the problem or identify if we made a mistake. More than half the homeowners responded and most of these cases were resolved. Those who did not respond were sent a second letter (each letter was sent certified and regular mail). There remain a small number of homeowners who are being re-inspected. If we are going to have Conservation Easements in Montebello then the Village has a duty to enforce their preservation. Our commitment is based on a desire to keep Montebello green and beautiful.

Sixth, we are continuing to reach out for additional funds to help us achieve our goals. We recently applied for a small Arbor Day grant to help us pay for new trees. We accepted a grant from Assemblywoman Rabbitt to help put up new flagpoles at our community center and at our 9/11 Memorial. Two new flagpoles in front of Village Hall will also serve as the supports from which we will suspend future signs announcing upcoming Village events. As mentioned above, we are applying for a \$10,000 CLG grant to help us perform an inventory of historic structures in Montebello. Finally, we have rented extra space at our Montebello Community Center in order to offset part of the cost of that facility.

Seventh, we are the first Village in Rockland to enact an Adopt-A-Road program. Our program will begin with a "test-run" on just 2 proposed streets: Dunnigan and Executive. The reason that we will begin this experiment on these roads is that they are among the most littered as a result of the high volume of non-resident traffic. In addition, because these are commercial roads an adopt-a-road sign would be less offensive. However, the Board will not permit such signs on residential streets.

Finally, we are setting an active agenda for the rest of the year. As 5 years have passed since we created our first Montebello Comprehensive Plan, it is time to establish a Review Committee to re-examine that document in order to identify areas for improvement. The final phase of construction for the Montebello Community Center has begun and we hope to open the doors in a few months. We are supporting an Eagle Scout project to label the location of fire hydrants with logos painted on the street. These logos, which are desired by our fire departments, help to better identify hydrants in bad weather.

Montebello is the best place to live in Rockland because we are keeping our Village clean, green, and lean. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts, questions, comments and complaints.

Jeffrey S. Oppenheim
Mayor



ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER GREAT MONTEBELLO DAY IS COMING

By Lance N. Millman, Deputy Mayor

With the great success of last year's Montebello Day, the Village once again proudly presents Montebello Day!

Montebello Day will be on **Saturday, October 18, 2008 from Noon until 4:00 pm.** The rain date will be Sunday, October 19, 2008 at the same time.

We hope to continue last year's theme about keeping our Village clean and green. We look forward to having multiple booths regarding this theme.

We are open to all suggestions and ideas and you can contact me through Village Hall.

We are looking for individuals or groups to put on special presentations relating to our Village and/or theme. This can be through art or sculpture or PowerPoint presentation or lecture. If you have someone you would like me to contact or are interested, please contact me through Village Hall.

Of course, we will have our normal rock wall climbing, obstacle course and jumping booths. Representatives from D.A.R.E, the Tallman Fire department and local ambulance services.

After last year's incredible feast of cookies, we are pleased to have our **SECOND ANNUAL "COOKIE BAKE CONTEST"**. We are inviting all **adult/children** or **adult's** to enter our contest which will be judged by three Village residents and ribbons and prizes will be given for the top three winners. **WE WELCOME ALL RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE AND ASK THAT YOU EMAIL OR NOTIFY THE VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE IF YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN OUR BAKE OFF.** Our winners will be listed in our Village records and our residents will get to enjoy the spoils as dessert after the contest.

The three bands that volunteered their services last year help make our music presentation a tremendous success. We would like to continue this tradition and once again present two Montebello bands to play this year. Come one and all - **BANDS THAT HAVE AT LEAST ONE MONTEBELLO RESIDENT** and wish to **donate** their time to play during Montebello Day. Please leave a message for Lance Millman by contacting the Village clerk's office at Village Hall. A demo of some kind will greatly help us select the bands or individuals to play.

We are contacting local food establishments in our area and hope to announce that we have the same great restaurants donating meals as well as a few new ones. Any establishment that wishes to participate can contact the Village Clerk's office at Village Hall.



We are always in need of volunteers at Montebello Day, please come join us and help make a wonderful day even greater! Please contact our Village Clerk's office at Village Hall if you can help out.

Montebello Day has always been a great day and we hope to continue our celebration tradition with everybody's help and support.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at Montebello Day!



SAFE MOTORING

By Trustee Marc D. Citrin

The intersection of Viola Road (County Road 74) and Spook Rock Road (County Road 85) is one of the most complicated intersections in our village. It is an "offset" convergence with the western section of Viola Road meeting Spook Rock Road some one hundred feet north of the eastern section. This type of intersection provides challenges to motorists as well as bicycle riders and the occasional pedestrian.

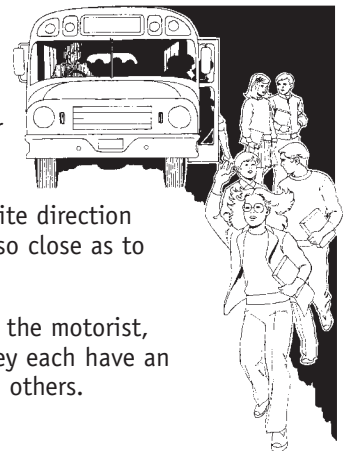
The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law defines the duties and obligations of motorists, bicycle riders and pedestrians who find themselves "meeting" by chance at this intersection as well as on all public roadways within the State.

Section 110 of the law places a "crosswalk" at every intersection whether the crosswalk is marked OR unmarked. Section 1151 provides pedestrians with the right-of-way at all crosswalks and the driver of a motor vehicle must either slow down or stop completely to allow the pedestrian to cross safely. At the offset intersection of Viola Road and Spook Rock Road, there are six (6) unmarked crosswalks, four across Spook Rock Road and two across Viola Road. Drivers entering the intersection should exercise caution and be prepared to yield to any bi-peds in the vicinity.

Traffic traveling eastbound on Viola Road is subject to a "stop sign" at the intersection. Sections 1142 and 1172 require that every motorist approaching a stop sign must stop either at a marked stop line, or before a marked crosswalk or if neither, at a point nearest to the intersecting roadway (Spook Rock Road) where the driver has a view of approaching traffic. The driver must then yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching so closely on Spook Rock Road, as to constitute an immediate hazard.

Traffic traveling westbound on Viola Road is subject to a "yield sign" at the intersection. The same sections of the law require that every motorist approaching a yield sign must either slow down to a reasonable speed or stop, to yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian or to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching the intersection so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

Traffic traveling north and south on Spook Rock Road has the right-of-way through the intersection but, Section 1141 provides that any driver turning left within the intersection must yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within the intersection or so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.



Finally, regardless of which roadway the motorist, bicycle rider or pedestrian is on, they each have an obligation to keep a lookout for the others.

School's open, drive safely ! ■

October 2008	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i>	3	4
	5	6	7 <i>Planning Board Workshop 7:00 P.M.</i>	8	9	10	11
	12	13 <i>Columbus Day CLOSED</i>	14 <i>Planning Board 7:15 P.M.</i>	15 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i>	16 <i>Zoning Board of Appeals 7:45 P.M.</i>	17	18 <i>Montebello Day Noon 'till 4 pm</i>
	19 <i>Rain Date for Montebello Day</i>	20	21	22 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 7:00 P.M.</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	November 2008
						1	
2	3 <i>Planning Board 7:15 P.M.</i>	4 <i>Election Day</i>	5	6 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i>	7	8	
9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day CLOSED</i>	12 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i>	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 7:00 P.M.</i>	20 <i>Zoning Board of Appeals 7:45 P.M.</i>	21	22	
23 30	24	25 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>	26	27 <i>Thanksgiving CLOSED</i>	28 <i>CLOSED</i>	29	

December 2008	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <i>Planning Board Workshop 7:00 P.M.</i>	3	4 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i>	5	6
	7	8	9 <i>Planning Board 7:15 P.M.</i>	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i>	18 <i>Zoning Board of Appeals 7:45 P.M.</i>	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas CLOSED</i>	26 <i>CLOSED</i>	27
28	29	30 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>	31				



Montebello's flag was raised in front of Village Hall atop new poles designed by the Parks Commission to simultaneously serve as supports for sign banners. Funding for this project was generously provided by Assemblywoman Annie Rabbitt.



AARON BURR COTTAGE

Aaron Burr was a revolutionary War hero and Vice-President under Thomas Jefferson. Burr is also infamous for killing Alexander Hamilton in a pistol duel in Wechawken, New Jersey. This cottage was owned by Burr's wife, Theodosa Provost, and Burr was believed to have stayed there. The cottage, which previously stood just to the west of Village Hall on Montebello Road, burned down in 1985.

Kurt Scherwatzky has been appointed as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Kurt has been an active member of the Montebello Civic Association and has served as President of that organization. In his free time Kurt plays bass with Renfield's Roadhouse. We welcome him to the ZBA.



MONTEBELLO FAMILY CAMP-OUT 2008

It was our first year that Rain dampened the overnight camp-out however we managed to hold most of the Events until the 2nd round of heavy rains made us call quits at 9:00pm. Considering the forecast news that day the success of past camp outs did not hold everyone back, we had about a 60% turnout – that's not bad! Many of us obviously enjoy this time with our families and being Father's Day weekend, I know many of appreciate the time with our kids in an outdoor environment such as The Montebello Family Campout. This year we added some additional and new events such as, a local Band "Ten Fingers" who performed even under the rain and they were GREAT and Jump Rope making and Tie Dye Shirts making as well. We want to recognize and thank volunteers CJ Gerald and Jordyn Rickard from Suffern High School for working hard with the kids that day making tie dye shirts and others from the Village as well who came out to who help the Parks Commission this year manage the additional events. We look forward to your continued support. We hope to see many of you next year.

We installed (5) new Flag Poles in the Village; (3) in front of Village Hall, (1) at the 9/11 Memorial Garden on Village Hall Grounds and (1) at the Montebello Community Center.

Our Summer Concert Series seems to have regained popularity therefore we will continue next year with 2 or possibly 3 concerts. Thank you to "Reflections (Big Band) and Day Tripper (Beatles Cover Band) for outstanding performances this Summer.

As the Summer approaches to a close and kids go back to school, please drive safely and observe our speed limits on our roads since we have many schools in our Village.

Please work with us in keeping our Village and environment Clean.

Bob Congioni
Village of Montebello
Parks Commission



PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Weinberger Subdivision - Public Hearing Continued Final Subdivision

Application of George Weinberger, 1757 East 23rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11229 for an approval of a Final Plat for a subdivision entitled "Weinberger Subdivision" consisting of 84.25 acres of which approximately 17.62 are wetlands. The subject property is located on the south side of Grandview Avenue approximately 900 feet east of Spook Rock Road and west of Martha Road and is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 41.13 Block 2, Lots 5 and 6 and Section 41.17, Block 1, Lots 5 and 6 in a RR-50 Zone

The applicant is still waiting for a permit from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Empire Executive IX - Public Hearing Continued Revised Site Plan

Application of Executive Enterprises GP, 4 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, Suffern, New York 10901 for approval of a revised site plan and ARB review entitled Empire Executive IX Village of Montebello consisting of 5.59 acres +/- located on the south side of Executive Boulevard approximately 1,500 feet west of North Airmont Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 55.07 Block 1, Lot 9 in a LO Zone.

The applicant received ZBA approval for the required variances and are back before the Planning Board for revised Site Plan.

Rio Vista Montebello, Inc. - Public Hearing Reinstatement of Final Subdivision - Reinstatement of Site Plan

Application of Rio Vista of Montebello, 212 Orange Avenue, PO Box 267, Suffern, New York for reinstatement of final subdivision approval of 20 homes on a 22 lot subdivision and reinstatement of final site plan entitled Rio Vista Montebello, Inc., consisting of 17.467 +/- acres located on the northerly side of Montebello Road approximately 50 feet north of Hemion Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.18, Block 2, Lot 1 in a LO-C (EP) Zone.

The applicant is back before the Planning Board to reinstate their final subdivision and site plan approval. They ran out of time to file their map because they were waiting for the Rockland County Drainage Agency to issue a permit.

Stonehedge Farms - Public Hearing Continued Preliminary Subdivision

Application of Joon Management, 130 East Route 59, Spring Valley, New York 10977 for approval of a Preliminary Plat entitled "Stonehedge Farm" consisting of 11 lots from 16.68 +/- acres located on the east side of Spook Rock Road approximately 500 feet south of Topaz Court in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo tax Map as Section 49.13 Block 1 Lot 13 in an ER-80 Zone (Rural Preservation Overlay District)

The applicant submitted their EAF Part III for review.

Valley National Bank - Public Hearing Continued Site Plan - ARB

Application of Valley National Bank, 1720 Route 23, Wayne, New Jersey 07470 for approval of a Site Plan entitled Valley National Bank - Montebello consisting of 1.56 acres located on the west side of Hemion Road approximately 500 feet north of Route 59 in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as

Section 55.10, Block 1, Lot 5.2 in a VC Zone.

The proposal is for a 3,697 +/- square foot bank building with a drive-thru facilities. ■

FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE ATTORNEY

by Warren E. Berbit

I don't know about you, but someplace between the Olympics and the Presidential Conventions, I lost track of the summer. Thus, I was surprised, and a bit saddened (or at least caused a touch of melancholy), upon noting leaves already turning orange. Roll back the clock - I am not ready for the summer to end!!

Like Nature's resolute marching through the seasons, your Legal Department has been in the midst of evolutionary (in some instances there are those who might suggest revolutionary) changes over the past quarter.

Starting the march, three Local Laws are worthy of note. The first, amending Chapter 160 of the Village Code, is an evolutionary, tightening up of provisions with respect to road openings. Newly reconstructed roads are better protected. More of the onus is placed upon utilities and developers to fully restore our roads, and the public is better protected by avoiding openings or ill-finished, temporary patching during the winter months.

The second Law, amending Chapter 163, is also evolutionary. This Law requires that new road names be based upon geologic, biologic or historic aspects of the Village.

The "Tree Law", actually the Tree Preservation and Landscape Maintenance Law, amending Chapter 176, can be argued as both evolutionary and revolutionary. This Law has been discussed before in this Column and other places in the newsletter. Suffice it to say, if you contemplate removal of a tree or trees 4" or more in caliper (diameter) measured 4 feet from the ground, whether they be dead or alive, come in and get a permit and a copy of the law. For example, one interesting change is that, besides dead or imminently dead trees, the permissible removal quota as of right has become a fraction of lot size (1 per 10,000 square feet), but not to exceed 6 in any 2 year period or 8 in any 6 year period. Please read the Law, and all the details in the permit application instructions. In addition, for your protection persons or entities in the business of tree cutting must be licensed by the Village. Upon request the Village will supply a list of the current licensees.

You may have driven past the Montebello Community Center on Route 202 (Haverstraw Road), noting new signs, a better maintained property, repaved driveway parking area, a cleaned and newly sided building, new doors, replacement windows and trim, etc. This only hints at all the work which has gone on inside, all of which requires involvement by my department (e.g., requests for proposals, review of same, award of same, contracts, and ongoing associated issues; assisting with drafting of bid specifications, review of bids, award of same, contracts, and ongoing associated issues; change orders and revisions to proposal contracts and bid contracts as new issues are discovered; all legal work necessary to effectuate the leasing of the farm house portion of the premises; etc.). "Miraculously" (perhaps because of the lingering essence of the facilities' former service as a place of worship?), the tenant of the farm house portion of the building, Grammercy Pain Management, got in on time (August 1st). The Community Center is, perhaps, two months from

fully operational, and the entire project is more or less on budget!

While on the above subject, the community ought to be made aware of another aspect of the legal environment in which we must function. Many of you may have heard of the "Wicks Law", but I suspect most would have only had a vague grasp of the impact of same. In a nutshell, public works jobs exceeding \$20,000 are subject to a formal bidding process under the General Municipal Law. The "Wicks Law" required that General Construction, Electrical, Plumbing and HVAC be separately bid, irrespective how large or small the job. Besides the complication, I have seen various estimates that this alone added 20% to the cost of such work.

Well, "blessed relief" came in the form of Chapter 7 of the laws of 2008 enacted to become effective July 1, 2008. Simplifying, projects under \$500,000 were relieved of the separate bidding requirement. Unfortunately, a couple wrinkles were added in the infinite wisdom of our legislature (or at the urging of the construction trades lobbyists?).

Another concept: It has been the law that all public works jobs must pay workers according to "prevailing wages" for the region. These wage schedules parallel union scale, and might surprise the unfamiliar with the hourly rates involved. The theory is that paying those scales will gain better work performed by highly skilled workers, and this may be true. Bidders must agree to pay such rates, and contractors who don't are zealously prosecuted.

Okay, back to one of the wrinkles. If the lowest bidder is 10% or more lower than the second lowest bidder, it is presumed that the lowest bidder will violate the prevailing wage law, and therefore, that its bid is invalid. To defeat this presumption, the low bidder's principals must submit an affidavit agreeing, amongst other things, to be personally liable if their company or a subcontractor fails to meet the wage or benefit requirement of the law, agreeing to be personally liable for the costs of investigation, court costs and attorneys fees if the prosecution prevails, and they must lay out in detail all labor and material costs proving that the bid represents prevailing wages!

In such an environment, why would anyone bid, or at least bid with a sharpened pencil? In essence, it seems to me, this will drive up costs and reward the high bidders. For example, I have witnessed situations where there are two bidders; one who is serious and one who throws in a high bid just to be seen as an active player. That arbitrary, high bid, would create the presumption that the low bid is invalid, and the bidder intended to violate the law.

Hypothetical? A scenario similar to that envisioned currently impacts the Village with respect to bids to make the bathrooms handicapped accessible and improve the entrance and kitchen area at the Montebello Community Center. Don't skilled workers deserve good pay? Absolutely, yes. So, why get into such an esoteric issue? Because we as taxpayers are all impacted when the zeal to achieve a good result has unintended negative consequences. As citizens, it behooves us to bring issues such as this to the attention of our representatives in Albany. ■

FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

- The "Mobile Passport" event scheduled for September 23rd has been canceled. *Please contact the Rockland County Clerk's Office if you need a passport.*
- Biodegradable Leaf Bags are available at Village Hall for fall cleanup. *Filled bags should be placed curbside for pick up.*



ENHANCING OUR VILLAGE

by Trustee Steve Sorillo

The Village of Montebello is one of the most scenic places to live in in the area. We are very fortunate to be blessed with an abundance of natural beauty from our tree lined streets to the western mountains. The Mayor and the Board of Trustees has been charged with, among other things keeping and enhancing this very important aspect of life here in our Village. The value of our homes and the enjoyment of the "Montebello" lifestyle is to a great degree dependant on maintaining this asset. We have tried to do that by allowing growth that is in keeping with the Master Plan, strict interpretation of zoning and conservation regulations and recently clarifying the Village Tree laws. We do these things with the clear understanding that homeowners have certain rights. These rights include the ability to make their property unique, to upgrade and adapt their dwelling to their needs while not infringing on their neighbors rights. This is a delicate balance and at times a difficult task. One we do not take lightly. We keep exploring ways to improve the quality of life here in the Village while always keeping in mind the costs involved.

One of the challenges we face in maintaining the appearance of the Village is the control of litter. We are all very pleased with the efforts of the Parks Commission. Their Montebello clean up day is a huge success taking vast amounts of trash off the streets. However, this occurs only once a year. Recently we asked the sanitation service to change its method of picking up recycled waste. Once they picked up cans, bottles and plastics in the morning and newspapers in the afternoon. Most people put out their recycle waste early in the morning. During winter months the wind would blow newspapers everywhere. By simply reversing the pick up times we were able to eliminate a large source of the roadside trash that plagued us without incurring any additional cost.

We are now exploring another avenue in our battle against trash. The concept of allowing local roads to be adopted by certain businesses. The Adopt-A-Road program has been around for some time on a statewide and countywide basis but not at the village level. The Adopt-A-Road program would allow a business to select a road and keep it clean by sending out crews on a regular basis to pick up trash on that road. In return a small plaque would be placed on the road indicating the name of the adopting business. The Board has begun to explore this plan and how it might benefit us. Many questions need to be addressed before this type of program can be put into effect. We would need to make available only certain roads dependent on length, location and homeowner wishes. Liability and insurance requirements as well as safety issues need to be addressed. The size and location of the plaque is another consideration. Would we make this program available to any business or institution or limit it in some way, possibly to only those that operate in the village or are owned by village residents? And of course we must consider the legal ramifications. The enactment of this type of program would allow us to eliminate a great deal of the trash that we now contend with at very little cost to us.

While we study the ramifications of such a plan we ask you the homeowner and taxpayer your opinion. Do you think this program makes sense for our Village? What other aspects should we consider? Would you like to be a sponsor? Please tell us your thoughts and ideas. ■

FROM THE DESK OF HARRY P. LEWIS...

Building Inspector

Safe Digging is Everyone's Responsibility

Safe digging starts with a call to Dig Safely New York a toll free phone number (1-800-962-7962); however, that is not where it ends.

In fact, it's only the first step in an ongoing process that requires everyone's cooperation, responsiveness and good judgment and the importance of safe digging cannot be emphasized enough.

- If you plan on excavating always call Dig Safely New York two to ten working days prior to your dig or excavation.
- Be ready with all important information: The municipality, street address, extent and type of work, starting date and time of excavation, near streets, caller's name, excavator/ contact person and phone number.
- Wait for the site to be marked! Marking could be color coded paint, flags, or stakes.
- Always respect and protect these markings, note the color of the markings and what type of facilities they indicate.
- Excavate with care and always hand dig when within 2 feet on either side of any marked lines.
- If you damage, make contact or disturb any underground utility line, immediately notify the affected facility operator, utility or pipeline company.
- If damage to an underground facility creates an emergency take immediate steps to safeguard health and property by calling 911.

By not calling Dig Safely New York, here's what you could be getting into:

- Personal injury, including loss of life.
- Damage to the environment.
- Costly property damage.
- Damage to these utility lines: telephone lines, cable television, 911 emergency, fire and police communications, electric gas pipelines, sewer, traffic signals, and water lines.
- Costly delays and expensive repairs.
- Legal problems.
- Civil penalties.

If someone is planning to dig on your property or you are doing the excavation look for:

- Pad mounted electric transformers
- Utility service wires attached to the side of a utility pole and entering the ground.
- Telephone or cable television pedestals.
- Water valve or hydrants.
- Regulator signs or markers.
- Manhole rings and covers.

Even when all precautions are taken, accidents can still happen. If an underground facility is hit or even scratched, notify the facility operator.

Trained technicians will come out to your site and mark the locations of all facilities with no cost to you.

It's the law call 1-800-962-7962 before you dig. ■

NOTES FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

By Chairman Josephine P. Bracken

The Historic Preservation Commission is proud to announce we are now the 1st Village in Rockland County to become members of the Certified Local Government (CLG) which is part of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The following is a project description that was included in a grant proposal:

"The Village of Montebello is dotted with historic homes, buildings and landscapes reminiscent of its pre-Revolutionary settlement and agricultural heritage. These buildings and related features provide the community with its own unique character and sense of place. While there is an awareness in the community that these structures contribute to the historic character of the area, only three locations have been formally designated "historic". In a survey of Village residents completed prior to Development of the comprehensive land use plan, 65 percent of respondents indicated they believe that certain locations in Montebello should be considered for historic designation, and another 20 percent stated "maybe". In



2004 the Village took the first step in fulfilling this goal when it established a Historic Preservation Commission. This group has developed guidelines for historic designation, consulted on changes to local law concerning preservation issues, and has worked with local developers on several projects impacting historic locations in the Village.

The Historic Preservation Commission would now like to move forward with a more formal process of review of all structures within the Village to determine a comprehensive plan for historic designation and related preservation efforts. While the county in which Montebello is located (Rockland) did a study of historic structures in 1998, it was not comprehensive and addressed only some of the numerous buildings in the Village. The Village of Montebello therefore desires to conduct its first comprehensive survey according to NYS standards, in order that the skills of a professional architectural historian may be engaged to evaluate appropriateness of historic designation for the structures located within the Village. The results of the survey will be used to develop a long range plan for community education, homeowner outreach, formal historic designation of structures, and Development of owner incentives which will encourage the long term preservation of Montebello's historic heritage. This survey process will commence in the fall of 2008. ■