

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Montebello Day

Sunday, October 10th

Noon until 4:00 pm

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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



MAYOR'S REPORT

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." The opening sentence of Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" describes a paradoxical era. We, too, are experiencing a time of extremes. The economy is weaker than it has been in decades. The housing market has yet to recover from a large decline. Our Country is at war, and our taxes seem too high. Yet, even during such a difficult period, the Village is moving forward with meaningful endeavors that will improve the quality of life for our citizens.

We have come further than most other municipalities by enacting unique laws that help protect trees and historic properties, while limiting our carbon footprint. In the last few months we have added to this effort by instituting a regular inspection of our historic properties to ensure that they are maintained. We have taken another park for dedication to the Village, guaranteeing that it will never be developed (please see article inside). We have begun the process of developing the Gorman Ponds Park using grant money to build an eco-friendly and handicapped accessible pathway (please see article inside). We are also planning a photovoltaic system to help power our community system. This project is fully funded by a federal grant. The Village was recently honored by the Rockland County legislature for our efforts in these important areas (please see article inside).

One paradox of enjoying life in a bucolic neighbor-

hood occurs when encountering some of the less desirable members of the indigenous fauna. A recent spotting of a coyote in the Indian Rock community has drawn concern. Residents are encouraged to avoid such animals (which could be rabid) and, certainly, never feed them. I recently had a frightfully close encounter with a very large bear while jogging along Grandview Avenue. I want to thank the good samaritans who were kind enough to let me jump into their car, "bearly" escaping. Please read Trustee Sorrillo's article inside for more "bearish" news.

Our traffic calming program, unlike any in the entire state, is making a real difference in people's lives. Three speed humps were installed on Oxford Drive and Lety Lane this summer (please see article inside). Canterbury Lane has been closed at Viola Road (please see article inside). Each of these changes will reduce the speed and the volume of traffic in the Pines subdivision, making the streets safer for the children and for all the residents. These changes were instituted prior to the beginning of the new school year. We are also working with the County to improve the lines of sight at the intersection of Spook Rock and Viola Roads.

New refinements to our Village code, based upon the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, were enacted into law. For example, the parcel of land on Route 59 between the Monastery and the Kindercare strip mall has been rezoned to protect a 100' buffer of trees along the street so that this natural vista will be preserved. A new, simpler application for each of our Boards is now available for use and accessible from our website.

We have also instituted a simple way to complain online about potholes (please visit villageofmontebello.com).

Community events are also taking place. This summer we held a successful Camp-Out (named in honor of Frank Corbo), a wonderful concert, and a great Clean-Up day. Later this month, architectural historian Jill Fisher will lecture on the Village's Historic Structures at the Community Center (please see article inside). All are welcome to attend. On October 10th we will hold our annual Montebello Day celebration (please see article inside). Everyone is invited to join us for food, entertainment and fun.

Our finances are strong. We struck a deal with the Town of Ramapo to split the cost of paving Dunnigan Drive, saving us more than \$40,000. We were able to save money on the Canterbury Road closing by acting as our own GC. Our credit rating was raised by Moody's, reflecting a conservative financial approach and on the heels of several years with minimal to no tax increases. Our midyear accounting ledger shows that we are well within our budget projections for 2010.

Our future requires that we focus on going even further. In the coming year we will work on more Code changes as we continue to enact the Comprehensive Plan. We will propose a budget that will further conserve our assets while enhancing services. We will support our businesses, develop our parks, protect our trees, and enforce our Historic Preservation laws. Our goal is to keep property values in Montebello among the highest in both the County and the State. It is our hope that the Village of Montebello remains an oasis of civility even amidst a seemingly Dickensian economic storm.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, thoughts, suggestions and complaints. ■



FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRE INSPECTOR,

Frank Wilson III

In 2003-2007, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 15,260 home structure fires that were started by candles. These fires caused an annual average of 166 civilian fire deaths; 1,289 civilian fire injuries; and \$450 million in direct property damage.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Candle Fires

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System show that in 2003-2007:

- On average, 42 home candle fires were reported per day.
- More than half of all candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- In one-fifth (20%) of the fires, the candles were unattended or abandoned.
- More than one third of home candle fires begin in the bedroom, although the candle industry found that only 13% of candle users burn candles in the bedroom most often.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.

The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, Halloween, and December 23.

CORRECTION

Trevor Plummer graduated in the top 10% of the Suffern High School Class. His name was accidentally omitted from the list of such students in our last newsletter. Congratulations to Trevor!

October 2010	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2
	3	4	5 <i>Planning Board Workshop 7:00 P.M.</i>	6	7 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i>	8	9
	10 <i>Montebello Day 12 noon - 4:00 pm</i>	11 <i>Columbus Day Closed</i>	12 <i>Planning Board 7:15 P.M.</i>	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i>	21 <i>Zoning Board of Appeals 7:45 P.M.</i>	22	23
	24 31	25	26 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>	27 <i>Historic Preservation Commission 7:00 P.M.</i>	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	November 2010
	1	2	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 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 7:00 P.M.</i>	25 <i>Thanksgiving Closed</i>	26 <i>Village Hall Closed</i>	27	
28	29	30 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>					

December 2010	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i>	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	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
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>	29 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 7:00 P.M.</i>	30		

within the County of Rockland, the Town has a population of approximately 110,000. The executive is the Supervisor with a term of two years and four council members who serve staggered terms of four years each.

Village of Montebello-consisting of 4.4 square miles within the Town of Ramapo, the village has a population of approximately 4,000. The executive is the mayor with a term of four years and four trustees who serve staggered terms of four years each.

Each level of government has administrative departments within the executive branch, such as police, transportation, parks, etc. that are charged with carrying out the laws that are enacted by the legislative branches with the approval (signature) of the executive.

As citizens in a representative democracy, it is essential that we both register to vote and, exercise our right to vote, in each and every election. Only then can it be truly said that "... the government acts with the consent of the governed".

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

Jill Fisher, AICP, of Larson Fisher Associates, Inc., has completed an Historic Resource Survey of the Village of Montebello. This unique report provides us with the most comprehensive survey of the historic structures in our Village, some dating back hundreds of years. The Village paid for this work through grants, including money from the NYS New York State Historic Preservation Office. Montebello is the first and only municipality in Rockland County to receive the important Federal recognition of being a Certified Local Government for our comprehensive historic preservation efforts. This survey will be posted on our website. Ms. Fisher will also present her work at a public meeting on September 22nd at the Montebello Community Center at 7:30 PM

MONTEBELLO URGES ACTION TO FIGHT THE MTA TAX

The Montebello Village Board opposes the MTA mobility tax levied by the State. Numerous Counties and Towns in the suburbs have initiated or joined lawsuits seeking to have this tax overturned by the courts. These suits allege that the MTA tax violates the NY State constitution. The Village supports these suits and is encouraging the Towns in Rockland County to join in this fight.

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION INVITES ALL MONTEBELLO RESIDENTS TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT

Architectural historians will make a PowerPoint presentation on the significant historic, architectural and cultural landmarks as well as the historic districts in our beautiful Village of Montebello.

Date: September 22, 2010

Place: Montebello Community Center

350 Haverstraw Road, Montebello, NY

Time: 7:30 p.m.

PLANNING BOARD

6 River Road – Public Hearing Wetlands Permit

Application of Carole A. Van Hook, 5 East Gate Road, Montebello, New York 10901, for Approval of a Wetlands Permit entitled “6 River Road” to allow disturbance and construction within 100 feet of a freshwater wetland. The proposed construction is approximately 5 square feet of a 3,200 square foot dwelling. A NYSDEC permit has been obtained. The subject property is located on the westerly side of River Road approximately 300 feet south of Victory Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.14, Block 1, Lot 19 in an R-35 Zone.

The application was approved at the August 10, 2010 Planning Board meeting.

Wehman-Bambace—Public Hearing Amended Lot Line Change

Application of Gina Wehman, 3 Lake Road, Montebello, New York 10901 and Christine Macnaughton, 1 Lake Road, Montebello, New York 10901, for an Amended Lot Line Change. The subject property is located on the East side of Orchard Street at the intersection with the North side of Lake Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.17, Block 1, Lots 25 & 26 in a R25 Zone. The Applicants received Final Approval on September 8, 2009, a first 90 day extension on April 13, 2010 and a second 90 day extension on June 8, 2010 that will expire on September 4, 2010.

The application was approved at the July 13, 2010 Planning Board meeting.

ZONING BOARD

Michael Drab Public Hearing

Application of Michael Drab, 10 Graniks Way, Montebello New York 10901 for variance from the requirement of Article IV, Section 195-13, Use Group

h (Development Coverage), [Required: 20%; Proposed: 29.8%] of the Zoning Local Law of the Village of Montebello to permit construction, maintenance and use of an existing sport court at an existing single family dwelling. The subject property is located on the east side of Graniks Way and 780 feet from the intersection of Senator Levy Drive in the Village of Montebello which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.16 Block 1, Lot 34 in a RR-50 Zone.

The application is adjourned to the September 16, 2010 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

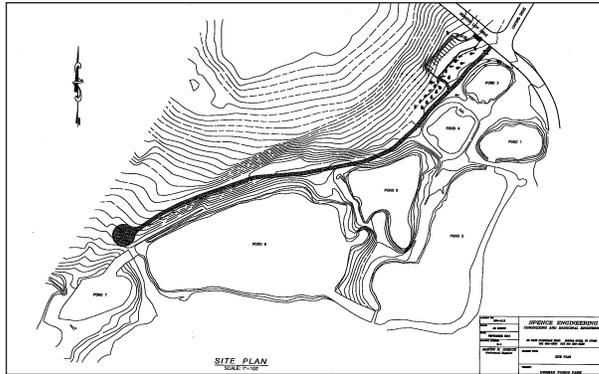
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

by Lois Williams, Commission Member

The Historic Preservation Commission has enlisted the services of Jill Fisher of Larson Fisher Associates of Woodstock, NY, to conduct a survey of houses and other structures in the Village of Montebello. The purpose of this research study is to determine the historical/architectural significance of buildings which are 50+ years old. Our ultimate goal is to formally designate certain historical buildings in order to preserve the architectural heritage of our village for posterity. This process, which began in late 2009, was made possible by a grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation. In the interest of public education and awareness of the HPC's efforts, a PowerPoint presentation will take place on **September 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Montebello Community Center at 350 Haverstraw Road**, Montebello, NY. The public will be able to view many of their own homes that were selected from the historical resources of our village. Information on preserving the architectural integrity of Montebello's properties will be available in booklet form at a future time. This informative brochure will assist homeowners in understanding the original character of

NEW SPEED HUMPS

Traffic calming speed humps were installed on Oxford Drive and Lety Lane in August. These three humps were built at the request of the residents and after a public hearing was held by the Board of Trustees. A petition is required in order for the Board to consider a hearing. Instructions for the petition process are available on our website. The height of these humps are limited in order to slow traffic to approximately 10 MPH.



KATHRYN GORMAN PONDS PARK

Work is proceeding on phase one of the development of the Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park. This phase includes the construction of a small parking lot and a handicapped accessible walking trail. Stone pillars will be constructed at the entrance to the trail on Senator Levy Drive. Phase two will include an ecological maintenance program for the ponds, themselves, likely including fountains. The current work is being subsidized with a federal grant and directed by the Montebello Parks Commission.

FAMILY CAMP OUT

The Montebello Parks Commission hosted the Frank Corbo Montebello Family Camp-out on the grounds of Village Hall Park on June 19th. A ceremony honoring Mr. Corbo was led by the Boy Scouts. Wonderful weather marked the occasion and a great time was had by all.



MONTEBELLO'S BOARD HONORED BY THE ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE

(l to r) Legislator Ilan S. Schoenberger, Legislator Alden H. Wolfe, Mayor Jeffrey S. Oppenheim, Deputy Mayor Lance N. Millman, Chairwoman of the Legislature Harriet D. Cornell, Trustee Marc D. Citrin

The Montebello Village Board was presented with the Rockland County Distinguished Service Award on September 7th in honor of our efforts to preserve and protect our Village's historic structures, trees, open spaces and encourage the use of renewable energy sources. Legislator Alden Wolfe nominated Montebello for this honor, noting that we are the only Rockland municipality to be designated as a "Tree City", an Historic "Certified Local Government", and a "Climate Smart Community".

CANTERBURY ROAD CLOSURE

Access to Canterbury Lane from Viola Road has been permanently closed at the request of the residents of Canterbury. An emergency access gate will be maintained in the event that emergency services require entry. However, all regular traffic must access Canterbury via Oxford Drive. The closure of this lane had been planned for years, but was delayed until the roads in the Pines were recently dedicated to the Village. The closure eliminates a dangerous intersection at Viola Road and will enhance traffic safety on Canterbury.



Historical Architect, hired by grant monies and a contribution by the developer of the Fant Subdivision. The Architect was overseen by the HPC (Historic Preservation Commission), and given great assistance by our Historian, Criag Long. The comprehensive report is a significant work cataloging all historically and architecturally important structures and areas, and will serve as an excellent resource document for many years to come. There will be a separate formal presentation to the public on September 22nd, and the HPC is working on a means to make hard copies available. I urge that you all peruse a copy, and perhaps even obtain one of your own. You may be surprised to even note that your home or its neighborhood are noted.

As always, my best to the community as we change seasons. It's been a long, hot summer, but I will miss it.

Sincerely,
Warren E. Berbit

LEGISLATOR WOLFE REPORTS ON MAYER DRIVE BRIDGE

Dear Neighbor,

I know how frustrated you must feel as a result of the Mayer Drive bridge closure, and would like to give you a quick update on where things stand. One major hurdle - funding - seems to have been overcome, with the acceptance last month of grant funds from New York State. The Highway Department is currently working with its engineering consultants to select the best design option, balancing the overall cost against the desired scope of the project. While I had hoped that the project would be completed by the end of this year, I'm now told that a realistic completion date might be as late as early spring. I'll continue to remain in close contact with the highway Department, advocating

for a timely completion. If you'd like to reach me directly, feel free to give me a call at 638-5100

Alden H. Wolfe
Rockland County Legislator



"FUN FACTS" ABOUT OUR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

By: Marc D. Citrin

How long has it been since your last Civics 101 course?

While the nation is focused on the mid-term elections that will decide control of Congress, let us not forget that most of

the laws and regulations that govern our daily lives are enacted or promulgated by our state and local governments. Here's a brief synopsis of the four separate levels of state government that have authority over residents of our village:

New York State - population approximately 19,500,000 (2006) contains 62 separate counties. The executive is the Governor whose office will be filled in the November 2010 election for a four year term together with a lieutenant Governor. The legislature contains two separate bodies, the Assembly with 150 members and the Senate with 62 members whose offices will be filled in the November 2010 election for two year terms.

Rockland County- the 2nd smallest county in area after Richmond County (Staten Island) consisting of 199 square miles with a population of approximately 295,000 (2006). The executive is the County Executive who serves a term of four years. The legislature is unicameral or one body consisting of 17 members who represent individual districts and also serve terms of four years.

Town of Ramapo-consisting of 61.9 square miles

Cabriolet.

Turning left onto Montebello Road from North Airmont, one first observes our stone and slate Village Hall on the northwest corner, and the sweeping grounds of the property. The stone building, the pavilion, tot lot, memorial garden, and many plants and trees, and even the solar power panels, are quite impressive to guests seeing them for the first time, so, too, is the whoosh down Montebello Road, with mantel of trees overhead, and continuous stone wall to the right. In its infancy the Village acquired the Village Hall on 1.5 acres, then purchased the remainder of the property, built the senior center extension, added the pavilion, tot lot, Memorial Garden, solar power system, and built up the plants and gardens.

Turning right onto Mile Road, not only is the tree tunnel effect enhanced, but the wisdom of not disturbing the meandering nature of road when it and its drainage system were completely rebuilt, is readily apparent. Thus, the important features, such as mature trees and stone walls, remain untouched. My guests were awestruck by the greenery, large plots and nice mix of homes, being hard pressed to think of the equivalent in proximity to their own homes.

I showed my guests the Montebello Community Center, and one remembered visiting it 18 and 15 years ago, remarking that from what he remembered of the sanctuary, it would make it an ideal meeting place. Then we toured some of the newer and older neighborhoods, and my guests were very impressed with the way the old flowed into the new, and vice versa, the common thread being the preserved greenery, rock walls, and vistas. (From various locations in our Village the scope of the mountains is a very prominent, and stirring sight).

The newer subdivisions, such as the Montebello Pines, Golden Estates, Montebello Fields and West, the Rose Hill Road area, Cobblestone, Fant Farm, etc., had them agog. Given their frames of reference, "only multi-millionaires could possibly live in

such dwelling places". As my doctor guest put it, "I have been pretty successful all my career, and I could never afford a house like this." Of course, that was by Los Angeles (and Long Island) pricing and availability.

My guests asked questions about the newly installed speed humps on Oxford and Lety, and noticed that the closing of Canterbury was in progress. They had never heard of a government so attuned to their citizens so as to afford them the opportunity to petition for improving road safety in road sections conducive to speeding, or of one keeping a promise made 20 years ago (when the Pines was before the Planning Board).

My guests also noticed the construction of Phase I of the Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park as I slowed along Senator Levy Drive, where the natural parking area and main path were visibly taking shape. I explained about the 7 ponds, 6 within the park.

This helped me take stock, and realize even more that we/you have made a difference over the past 24+ years, and that a Montebello which can turn the heads of sophisticated foreign visitors, or west coasters, is a place we should all be proud of.

Continuing in the same spirit, at the September Village Board meeting we will be adopting Local Law No. 2 of 2010, which is the first phase of a three phase effectuation of the Comprehensive Plan Review, which has been reported on in great detail. The most significant change is amending the Zoning code to replace the VC (Village Center) Zone, on Route 59, west of Hemion, with the R59DD (Route 59 Development District), which allows a more creative, mixed use case by case in the judgement of the Village Board, and also imposes 100 ft. and 50 ft. conservation easements on the property.

At this September's meeting we will take dedication from the Fant Subdivision of parkland on the eastern side of Spook Rock Road (the pristine 12 acre field in the Spook Rock view shed), and the Board will approve the comprehensive report from the

MONTEBELLO DAY OCTOBER 10th

This year Montebello Day will be celebrated on October 10th. Free food, activities and entertainment will be provided to all residents. Anyone wishing to volunteer can call Village Hall (368-2211). We look forward to welcoming adults and children for this exciting event.



ANOTHER PARK FOR MONTEBELLO

Montebello has taken dedication of another park! The bucolic acreage on Spook Rock Road, directly across the street from the Fant Farm barns, has been dedicated to the Village and will be maintained as open space. This land is an open field on which one can often see wild turkeys, deer, and other native wildlife. The fields are usually hayed twice a year. Preserving this gateway vista will help ensure that Montebello maintains its charm for generations to come.

HISTORIC MONTEBELLO

The Montebello Mansion. In August 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan purchased the former Groesbeck mansion which was built in the 1860's. The Ryans called their estate "**Montebello**". Within three years, they had the frame dwelling torn down and replaced with a large brick and stone mansion at the cost of \$600,000. The new summer home contained such amenities as a two-lane bowling alley, an electric elevator, a private chapel, greenhouse, 13 fireplaces and in all, over forty-four rooms. The estate comprised 1,000 acres (4.0 km²) and had a working farm. (Not including the 5 smaller "mansions" the Ryans built for their sons in the area, some of which are still standing today).

Orphaned at age nine, Ryan would eventually become the tenth wealthiest man in the nation. Using his wife's wealth as a foundation on which to build his own. Ryan launched a business career. Upon moving to New York, he engaged in the stock market trade and at age 23 became the youngest man ever to purchase a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. >From there he amassed millions in urban transit, railroads, tobacco, insurance, banking, rubber, diamonds and even the Thompson submachine gun.



The Ryans were as generous to philanthropies as they were rich. It has been estimated that Mrs. Ryan gave \$20 million dollars to various charities and endowments across the country. Most of these were affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church; however, there were also sizable donations to nonsectarian institutions as well. By 1905 it was reported that Mrs. Ryan's munificence covered the building of "at least one hundred new chapels, schools, churches, hospitals, homes for Sisters of Charity and homes for the aged and infirmed". Mrs. Ryan displayed a special fondness for her new neighbors by contributing equipment to the newly formed Suffern Fire Department. She also built a new church and established a girl's school and a seminary in Suffern, among other things. Shortly after the turn of the 20th century, she turned her attention to the health needs of the community and started Good Samaritan Hospital.

After Mrs. Ryan's death in 1917, the family divided up the estate and sold the main mansion in 1921 to Edward Swann, NYC District Attorney. After a brief period of ownership (several months), Swann sold the property to the Archdiocese of NY. They established a retreat site for St. Joseph's College and Seminary at the mansion. In 1944, Montebello was sold to Suffern resident Gustav Mayer. Among some of the plans the Mayer family had for the property, one idea was to develop a country club. That never materialized and the vacant mansion fell victim to vandals. The cooper mining giant Phelps Dodge Corp. bought the dilapidated mansion in 1951 and used it as a corporate records headquarters for the next 31 years. After a relocation move, Phelps Dodge Corp sold the mansion to Gary Goldberg. After extensive renovation, Montebello became an office park. The mansion and its environs were declared an Historic District in Montebello. Under the architectural auspices of the Montebello Historic Preservation Commission, luxury carriage houses are currently being developed in the front yard by developer Larry Turco.

their homes and suggest ways in which additions and upgrades can be constructed without loss of their home's architectural origins. Jill Fisher will be available to answer questions. It is the HPC's sincere hope that our residents will take advantage of this interesting and informative session. Also, come visit our table on Montebello Day on October 10, 2010 for additional information.



FROM THE DESK OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

Lawrence Picarello

As we get into fall, and the beginning of the heating season, it's important to touch on a few things. Please take the time to physically go and look at the area where your boiler/furnace and hot water heater are installed. Check to see that the immediate area is clear of combustible objects, the pipes nearby aren't being used to hang clothing and other objects, and that the flue pipes are connected and secure. If your carbon monoxide detector is battery powered or has a back up battery, replace it now. If you're uncomfortable doing any of this, call a licensed professional to check your heating equipment before starting up for the season.

Fireplaces, woodstoves, and pellet stoves are a great way to supplement your central heating system, and if used properly may save you on your heating costs. Solid-fuel burning appliances do have particular requirements for safe installation and use. In addition to being regulated by the N.Y. State Building Code, the manufacturer's specific guidelines must be followed. A building permit is required to add a woodstove, coal stove, pellet stove, or fireplace. Please feel free to call this office if you have any questions.



By: Trustee Stacy Caridi

The Village of Montebello recently received a complaint from a resident who felt that the use of tar to fill cracks in the roads was unsightly. The resident felt that paving the road would be preferable. Although such a complaint is reasonable from an esthetic standpoint, it does not take into consideration the large amount of money that is saved by repairing cracks and pot-holes.

The Village of Montebello has a contract with the Town of Ramapo for the maintenance of our roads.

This contract includes crack filling and pot hole repairs. It also includes a variety of other services, such as snow plowing. Road paving is not a part of this contract, and must be paid separately.

Road paving is very expensive. One half mile of road can cost in excess of \$100,000 to pave.

Montebello has approximately 25 miles of roads. Therefore, the cost to repave roads is not insubstantial. Clearly, the longer we are able to maintain the life expectancy of a road, the more money that the Village can save. This savings translates directly into lower taxes. Alternatively, an aggressive paving program would require a hefty increase in taxes. I doubt that many people would be happy with this option.

Crack filling the roads extends the life expectancy of a road by preventing water from seeping under the tar. The freezing and thawing of water under the roads leads to bigger cracks and shortens the life of the road. Ideally, we should expect our roads to have a 20 year average life expectancy before they need to be repaved. This number of years is variable, depending also upon traffic volume.

Not all the roads in Montebello are owned by the Village. For example, Montebello Road and Spook Rock Road belong to the county, while Route 202 belongs to the State. Our Village routinely lobbies for repaving when those roads deteriorate. Not surprisingly, this happens often as these are among the most trafficked roads in the area. This fall we hope to see the Airmont Road bridge over the NYS

Thruway repaved. This work will be done by the County Highway Department. In the past we have worked to see that other County and State roads in our Village were repaved.

Although the appearance of a freshly paved road is very pleasing, it is incumbent upon the Village to save money by maintaining infrastructure in a responsible manner. In this way we are able to limit increases in our Village property taxes. Filling cracks with tar is a cost effective method by which we can save tax dollars.



BEARS

By Steven A. Sorillo, Trustee

There have been a growing number of reports of bear sightings in the Village of Montebello as well as the surrounding areas. Their meanderings are not confined to just the open areas like Harriman or Kakiat Parks or the large wooded areas in and around Montebello. They have been seen in our yards, on our patios and on our streets. I myself spotted one on my front yard crossing the street and disappearing into the woods. These are black bears and while not as large or as dangerous as their brown cousins out west they are still wild animals and can be quite dangerous. It has not been determined if it is one bear or a number of bears in our area. The one I encountered was very big, probably three hundred pounds or more. Other reports I am aware of were also about a large bear. Bears eat a great deal during the Spring, Summer and Fall months in order to layer on fat for their Winter hibernation. We may have several bears in the area, all large due to this behavior. They are omnivores, which mean they eat meat as well as berries and other flora.

I contacted the police when I sighted the bear but there is not much they can do. By the time they

arrive on the scene the bear has usually wandered off. I have been informed that there are several steps to take in an encounter with these black bears. Do not approach the bear and don't run away either. They may think of you as prey trying to escape. Don't turn your back but do back away slowly. Usually he will not follow you. Go someplace safe like indoors. If the bear is close to you or is approaching you there are several other steps to take. Make yourself appear larger, spread your arms and stand tall. Make noise, yell and wave your arms. This should do it. These bears do not want to attack you they are just looking for food. They are afraid of humans and do not know how to perceive them. All of this advice is good and the standard procedures for black bears but, let's not forget bears are wild and their behavior which can be generalized about does not always hold true from one bear to another or from one situation to another. The only really safe thing to do is to stay away from them. Look outside before you go out and be aware of what is around you.

I hope you find this information useful. Be safe.

FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE ATTORNEY:

On successive days over the Labor Day Weekend we entertained guests from out of state. On the first day the guests were a couple from Los Angeles, one of whom is a physician (more on why this is mentioned, later). On the second day our guests were from England.

Why am I telling you this? Because, sometimes we take what we have for granted, and we need to recalibrate our thinking and appreciation through the eyes of strangers (to our Village). This happened for me upon conducting a half-hour motor tour for each set of my guests, enhanced by the glorious weather and dropping the top on my