




COME JOIN THE FUN!
Montebello Day
Sunday, September 18th
Noon until 4:00 pm

VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO
INCORPORATED 1986

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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



Hurricane Irene blew into town and reminded us that our best efforts to control nature can be quickly overwhelmed. In just a few short hours, the Mahwah River overflowed her banks (please see article inside), filling our streets and lawns with water and debris. Blackouts and road closures tested our patience. While the damage was substantial, the resilience of our citizens to persevere is evident. Your Village officials worked with O & R, police,

highway and other agencies to restore services to our neighborhood as quickly as possible. Long term, we will continue efforts to lobby the county, state and Army Corp of Engineers to address the hazards of the Mahwah River.

In spite of the difficulties caused by Irene, this summer has witnessed a number of significant accomplishments in Montebello. Our village continues to lead the region in ingenuity, ecology and frugality. We are harvesting dividends, both metaphorical and literal.

Montebello's financial status is quite good. Our budget will show additional revenue from grants received. For example, we received more than \$28,000 from FEMA to help pay for last season's snow storm cleanup. We received more money than budgeted from CHIPS to help pay for road repaving. We have even received a small grant from our garbage carter, Interstate Waste, to help us pay for a shed for the community garden and another grant to pay for an electric car charging station at Village Hall.

Montebello is now officially the only municipality (to our knowledge) having 100% of its buildings powered by solar electricity. New solar panels at the community center were turned on last month and are generating electricity (please see article inside). This 9800 Watt system was almost entirely paid for from a federal grant. Along with the solar array at Village Hall, Montebello's new collectors demonstrate our leadership in promoting renewable energy and savings our taxpayers' dollars.

Montebello is the only Rockland municipality in the western part of the county to have created a community garden (please see article inside). Situated at Village Hall, the garden has 16 plots growing a wide range of produce. If you are interested in obtaining a plot for next year, please sign up at Village Hall. Plots are assigned on a first come, first serve basis. However, if enough people request plots we may be able to expand the size of the garden next year.

The Board of Trustees has authorized repaving three roads that were deemed by our engineer to be in the worst condition. Charmwood Drive, Orchard Street and Belvedere Path are in the process of being repaved. Viola road is also being repaved by the county highway department. Additionally, a speed hump will be placed near the mid portion of Orchard Street (please see article below). The goal of the speed hump is to calm traffic. The hump will be identical to those installed on Oxford, Lety and Mayer.

The Mayer Drive Bridge will soon be repaired. The County Legislature has

approved more than \$870,000 to pay for the replacement of the bridge. We hope that work will begin shortly and we are hoping for completion before the freezing weather prohibits the pouring of cement. So far this project has proceeded along the timelines offered by the county highway personnel.

Our Village has changed municipal insurance carriers for the coming year. Using an RFP process, we identified the lowest bidder who would provide us with identical, if not better, coverage. The new plan will cost essentially the same as our prior plan.

In my last column I extolled the beauty of Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park, Montebello's magnificent pond-studded and path laden natural arboretum. However, in my excitement I forgot to mention the park's location. The small parking lot is located opposite the intersection of Oxford and Senator Levy Drives. Please enjoy this wonderful park. The Village recently installed a bicycle rack and dog waste bags, as well as garbage receptacles in an effort to keep the park clean.

Finally, I want to invite everyone to join us for Montebello Day on September 18th at Village Hall. Deputy Mayor Lance Millman and Trustee Stacy Caridi are planning a special day and we thank them for their selfless work on behalf of the village. I hope to see you there. Please call me with your ideas, your suggestions and your complaints.

ORCHARD STREET SPEED HUMP PLANNED

The Village Board approved a proposal to install a speed hump on Orchard Street. The hump is being placed at the request of the residents of Orchard Street, who submitted two petitions signed by homeowners and residents. The hump will help calm traffic on this busy street which measures 1,215 feet.

Montebello's traffic calming program was instituted several years ago in order to allow resi-

dents the option of requesting speed humps on their roads. The program requirements, which are detailed on our website, require the submission of a petition, the evaluation by the village engineer, and approval by the Village Board following a public hearing.

Orchard Street is one of Montebello's most densely populated streets and is home to many children. Orchard is used as a cut-through between Route 202 and the Thruway and Airmont Road via Montebello Road. Speed humps

continued on page 2



have been demonstrated as an effective means of preventing speeding and reducing the frequency of injuries. East Mayer, Oxford, and Lety have already had speed humps installed. Orchard Street will also be repaved as part of this project.



PROPOSED NEW RENTAL LAW

By Stacy Caridi, Trustee

The Board of Trustees is considering adopting a new law in Montebello that would require homeowners who wished to rent their property to first obtain a permit from the village. There are several reasons to consider such a law. There are reasonable arguments both supporting and opposing a "rental law". I want to share these ideas with you and invite you to share your thoughts with us.

Given the current real estate environment, we are witnessing an increase in the number of rental properties available in Montebello. While there is no prohibition against renting a home in Montebello, it is obviously required that renters and homeowners abide by our zoning code. Yet, there is reason to suspect that many renters might not be aware of the requirements of our zoning code. Lacking any preventative inspection mechanism, absentee homeowners might not feel any incentive to comply with our code, particularly if violating the code could yield a higher return. This schism could result in harm to either the tenants or to emergency service workers.

Last year, County Executive Scott Vanderhoef established a housing task force to address the issue of code violations in Rockland County. Our Mayor was asked to serve as a member of this task force. The task force has learned about situations where renters have erected illegal walls in apartments that place the residents at risk, e.g. depriving them access to emergency egress windows. In several cases, this problem has placed tenants and firefighters in harm's way. A similar problem led to the death of two firemen in the Bronx just a few years ago. We want to avoid such a problem in Montebello.

Rental permit laws exist in many municipalities. For example, the Village of Haverstraw has such a law. A small permit fee is paid every 2 years (e.g. \$25) for the right to rent a property unit. However, as a condition of receiving the permit, the homeowner must allow an inspection by the village's building inspector. Violations would need to be corrected in order for a permit to be issued.

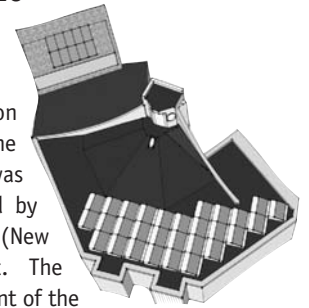
The benefits of this law are relatively obvious. The village ensures that rental units are not illegally converted in a manner that might be dangerous to the tenants or to the emergency workers who would need to respond in the event of an emergency. Renters are ensured that their safety from violations of the building and fire code are not compromised. Neighbors are also assured that their street will not become laden with "flop houses" that are illegally converted in violation of the code. Arguably, the prevalence of such properties would contribute to the deterioration of property values throughout the neighborhood.

The drawbacks of this law are more subtle. Some might feel that the entry of a village official is an invasion of privacy. Some people might construe the government's actions as a threat to their rental business, which values lowering the costs that compliance might require. Finally, some people just hold a more libertarian view that government has no role in enforcing the zoning code.

Although the arguments against enforcing a rental law might not sit well with some tenants and some landlords for the reasons presented, it is ultimately the obligation of the Village Board to find a reasonable manner in which to enforce the law for the public good. The Board of Trustees recently held a workshop to discuss this concept and we would benefit from guidance from the public. Would you favor the establishment of such a law in our Village? Please feel free to write, email, or call us and share your opinion and your reasoning.

SOLAR PANELS AT THE MONTEBELLO COMMUNITY CENTER GO LIVE

Montebello has completed the installation and activation of a solar power system at the Community Center. This 9,800 Watt array was almost entirely paid with money received by grant from NYSERDA. Lighthouse Solar, Inc (New Paltz, NY) performed the installation work. The system should eliminate a substantial amount of the cost of providing electricity to the MCC.



Montebello now has solar panels helping to provide power to both of our municipal buildings. We are the only municipality in Rockland able to make such a claim, and possibly one of the only in the entire country. We have also recently been awarded a grant to install an electric charging station at Village Hall to serve as a resource for electric vehicles.

PARKS COMMISSION UPDATE

By Tony Piazza, Chairman

We all hope you have been enjoying the summer despite the "interesting" weather we've encountered.

We also hope many of you have had the chance to walk through Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park and enjoy the natural beauty.

The Parks Commission has been working with an outside engineering firm on Phase II of the development and should have a plan before the end of the year. If all goes well, our residents should be seeing work begin next spring.

A quick reminder, we would like to encourage all park visitors to please follow the posted rules, especially relating to cleaning up after yourselves and picking up after your pets. For your convenience, two trash receptacles have been placed along the main path and a pet litter station with plastic bags is located just beyond the main entrance.

Montebello Day is only a few weeks away and members of the Parks Commission are looking forward to meeting with Village residents. We will have a table set up at the event to answer any of your questions relating to our activities and the development of recreational spaces.

We will also be conducting a survey to assess if you would like us to continue with the current events that we sponsor throughout the summer, or if you would like to see something else done in their place.

Please stop by and give us your input.

| October 2011 | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | | 1 |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Planning Board Workshop 7:00 P.M.</i> | 5 | 6 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i> | 7 | 8 |
| | 9 | 10 Columbus Day CLOSED | 11 <i>Planning Board 7:15 P.M.</i> | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i> | 20 <i>Zoning Board of Appeals 7:45 P.M.</i> | 21 | 22 |
| | 23 30 | 24 31 Halloween | 25 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i> | 26 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 6:45 P.M.</i> | 27 | 28 | 29 |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | November 2011 |
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| | | 1 <i>Planning Board Workshop 7:00 P.M.</i> | 2 | 3 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i> | 4 | 5 | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 <i>Planning Board 7:15 P.M.</i> | 9 | 10 | 11 Veterans Day CLOSED | 12 | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i> | 17 <i>Zoning Board of Appeals 7:45 P.M.</i> | 18 | 19 | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Thanksgiving CLOSED | 25 CLOSED | 26 | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i> | 30 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 6:45 P.M.</i> | | | | |

| December 2011 | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------|--------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| | | | | | 1 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i> | 2 | 3 |
| | 4 | 5 | 6 <i>Planning Board Workshop 7:00 P.M.</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | 11 | 12 | 13 <i>Planning Board 7:15 P.M.</i> | 14 | 15 <i>Zoning Board of Appeals 7:45 P.M.</i> | 16 | 17 |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i> | 21 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve |
| | 25 | 26 CLOSED | 27 CLOSED | 28 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 6:45 P.M.</i> | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve |



FROM THE DESK OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR – *Lawrence Picarello*

Nothing is quite as exciting as seeing a long awaited project like an addition, pool, patio, or a deck come to fruition. Sometimes, however, I have to deliver a bit of bad news before a building permit can be issued. There are areas within the Village that require an additional

layer of review. If your property falls within a Conservation Overlay District (typically low lying, wet, or environmentally sensitive areas), any work other than routine landscaping must be reviewed by the Planning Board before a permit is issued. To find out if your property falls within a regulated area as identified on the zoning map, and how this may affect the planning process, please call the building department anytime.

Finally, campaign season is upon us, and temporary political signs are sprouting up everywhere. You can rest assured that all the signs you see within the Village borders have been placed only after the fair permit fee has been paid. The fee provides for a timely removal after the election. Within the Village, you will notice that the sign removal is rigorously enforced.

HISTORIC MONTEBELLO

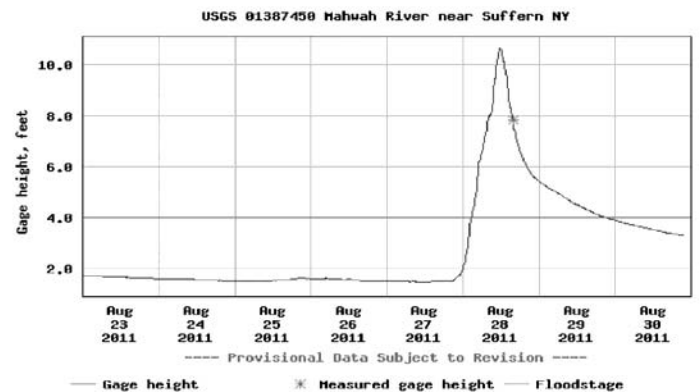
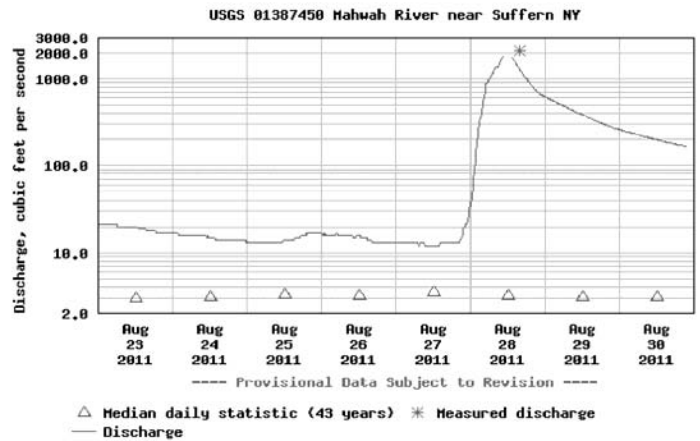
The James Young House, built c. 1810, at 62 North Airmont Road.

The Young homestead located at 62 North Airmont Road was built c.1810 and retains its simple vernacular 2-story form with a 5-bay front facade and gable roof. Its proximity to the road and stone wall along the right-of-way indicates its rural origins. Labeled as "Jas. Young" on the 1854 O'Connor Map, by 1876 it was the property of "Mrs. Young." A number of Youngs are enumerated in the 1850 census as living in Ramapo—among them, James, age 66, a farmer, married to Maria Young, age 68. The 1854 map also labels a house off Mile Road, along with a grist mill, as "J. Young," neither of which is extant. The Young property represents a significant part of the community's rural past and contributes to the historic character of Montebello.



HURRICANE IRENE

Hurricane Irene caused the greatest flooding in Montebello in recent history. The flooding was primarily a consequence of the profound overflow of the Mahwah River. Seen in the charts below, on August 28th the Gage height was measured at 8ft while the discharge rate was nearly 100 times normal (USGS).



SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

The last few years have witnessed a number of fatalities on Montebello Roads. In several cases, speeding is suspected as a significant factor. Driving within the speed limit reduces the risks of injury to yourself and to others.

Please Drive Carefully and obey our local speed limit.



PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD UPDATES

PLANNING BOARD

9 S Bayard Lane—Public Hearing

Wetlands Permit

Site Plan Approval- Conservation Overlay District

Application of Dominick R. Pilla, 23 Depew Avenue, Nyack, New York 10960, for Approval of a Wetlands Permit entitled “9 S. Bayard Lane” to allow disturbance and construction within 100 feet of a freshwater wetland and for Approval of a Site Plan for construction within a Conservation Overlay District. The proposed construction is for a one story dwelling with a new driveway. The existing one story residential dwelling will be demolished and the existing gravel driveway, stone walls and slate walkway will be removed. The subject property is located on the south side of Bayard Lane approximately 389 feet of the intersection of Haverstraw Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.10, Block 1, Lot 76 in a R-35 Zone.

The application is currently before the Planning Board.

11 S Bayard Lane—Public Hearing

Wetlands Permit

Site Plan Approval- Conservation Overlay District

Application of Dominick R. Pilla, 23 Depew Avenue, Nyack, New York 10960, for Approval of a Wetlands Permit entitled “11 S. Bayard Lane” to allow disturbance and construction within 100 feet of a freshwater wetland and for Approval of a Site Plan for construction within a Conservation Overlay District. The proposed construction is for a one story dwelling with a new gravel driveway, deck, patio and walkway. The existing one story residential dwelling will be demolished and the existing macadam driveway, stone walls and wood shed will be removed. The subject property is located on the south side of Bayard Lane approximately 600 feet of the intersection of Haverstraw Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.10, Block 1, Lot 75 in a R-35 Zone

The application is currently before the Planning Board.

SMK-Rose Hill Subdivision—Public Hearing Preliminary Plat

Application of SMK Home Builders, 24 Waters Edge, Congers, New York, 10920 for a Preliminary Subdivision Plat and a map entitled “SMK- Rose Hill” dated March 31, 2011 for a three lot subdivision which was submitted to the Village of Montebello. The total acreage for the parcel is 3.415 acres. The property is located on the south side of Rose Hill Road, approximately 600 feet west of the intersection of Spook Rock Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 41.17, Block 1, Lot 60 in an RR-50 Zone.

The application is currently adjourned to a future Planning Board meeting.

Thomas Biondi—Public Hearing

Site Plan Approval—Conservation Overlay District

Application for Site Plan review pursuant to section 195-63, construction in the Conservation Overlay District which was submitted to the Village of Montebello Planning Board for owner Thomas Biondi, 23 Robin Hood Road, Montebello, New York 10901. Total acreage is 0.9782 +/-, Section 48.19, Block 1, Lot 1 in a R-35 Zone. The Applicant seeks approval for the construction, use and maintenance of a pool patio with pavers.

The application was approved by the Planning Board at the August 9, 2011 meeting.

Town of Ramapo—Public Hearing

Coe Farm Road Sewer Extension

Wetlands Permit

Application of the Town of Ramapo, 237 Route 59, Suffern, New York 10901, for Approval of a Stream and Wetlands Permit entitled “Coe Farm Road Sewer Extension” to allow disturbance and construction within 75 feet of a freshwater wetland. The proposed construction is for the extension of sanitary sewer service from Coe Farm Road to provide gravity sewer service to an existing dwelling at 585 Haverstraw Road, which will cross 75 feet of wetland. The subject property is located on the west side of Coe Farm Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Sections 40.20, Block 1, Lots 21 and 52 in a RR-50 Zone.

The application is currently adjourned to the November Planning Board meeting.

ZONING BOARD

Mariusz & Marta Gandy

207 Haverstraw Road

Public Hearing

Application of Mariusz & Marta Gandy, 207 Haverstraw Road, Montebello, New York 10901 for Variances from the requirement of Article IV, Section 195-13, Use Group x-1, Column 8 (Side Yard), [Required 10feet; Proposed 0.7feet]; Column 10 (Rear Yard), [Required 10feet; Proposed 3.25feet] and Article VI, Section 195.24B (spacing between principal and accessory structure) of the Zoning Local Law of the Village of Montebello to permit construction, maintenance and use of existing accessory structures to existing single family dwelling. The premises which are the subject of this application are located on the east side of Haverstraw Road approximately 400 feet from the intersection of Lake Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.13, Block 2, Lot 48 in a R-25 Zone.

The application received a partial approval at the July 21, 2011 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

**SMK Rose Hill Subdivision
8 Rose Hill Road
Public Hearing**

Application of SMK Home Builders, 24 Waters Edge, Congers, New York, 10920 for an Area Variance from the Zoning Code of the Village of Montebello to permit construction, maintenance, and use of a proposed new subdivision with one lot having 48,747 square feet when 50,000 square feet is required. The total acreage for the parcel is 3.415 acres. The property is located on the south side of Rose Hill Road, approximately 600 feet west of the intersection of Spook Rock Road in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 41.17, Block 1, Lot 60 in an RR-50 Zone.

The application was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the July 21, 2011 meeting.

**Eileen Moynahan & Ed Diaz
206 Haverstraw Road
Public Hearing**

Application of Eileen Moynahan & Ed Diaz, 206 Haverstraw Road, Montebello, New York 10901 for removal of conditions attached to a previously granted variance from the requirement of Article IV, Section 195-13, Use Group x-1, Column 5 (Front Yard), [Required 35feet; Proposed 31feet]; Column 8 (Side Yard), [Required 10feet; Proposed 5feet] of the Zoning Local Law of the Village of Montebello to permit construction, maintenance and use of an existing accessory structure (Garden Shed) to existing single family dwelling. The premises which are the subject of this application are located on the north side of Haverstraw Road approximately 250 feet from the intersection of Orchard Street in the Village of Montebello, which is known and designated on the Ramapo Tax Map as Section 48.13, Block 1, Lot 10 in a RR-50 Zone.

The application was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the August 18, 2011 meeting.



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 Sunday, **September 18, 2011** between **Noon and 4:00 pm.**

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.

Of course, we will have our normal obstacle courses and jumping booths. In addition, this year we will have bungee jumps and a rocking bull, along with our Police Department and the K-9 Patrol, Tallman Fire Department and local ambulance services.

As always we anticipate great music throughout the day and door prizes donated by our neighborhood establishments.

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. So far we have Outback, Applebee's, La Vera Cucina,

Nicky's Pizza, Nonna's, etc. 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 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!

MONTEBELLO COMMUNITY GARDEN

Visitors to Village Hall are noticing the growth and blossoming of the first bounty from the village's community garden. With the assistance of Cornell Master Gardeners, and under the leadership of Deborah Jindala, the garden has become a wonderful success in it's first year. The Village has received a grant to purchase a small tool shed and we will also install bins for the fall clean-up. Residents interested in participating next year are encouraged to visit or call Village Hall.



**THE INSPIRING STORY OF JOE ACOCELLA, JR.
A TRUE "PUBLIC SERVANT"**

By Marc D. Citrin, Trustee

On August 8, 2011, Joe Acocella, Jr., the Town Clerk in Harrison, New York passed away at the young age of 30. His life's story is one of both inspiration and personal courage.

Joe was born with a genetic disorder that required the amputation of both of his legs at age 3. Despite being confined to a wheelchair and beset by multiple health problems including diabetes, kidney dialysis and heart ailments, he graduated from college in 2004 and took a job as a records clerk at the Harrison Police Department.

In 2005, he was elected to the Harrison School Board. In 2007, he made history by being the youngest person ever elected a Town Clerk in the State of New York.

In his brief tenure as Town Clerk, Joe modernized the office by making public records available online. Less than a week before his death, he was speaking publicly at the Town Board meeting calling for a "no-knock" policy to regulate the hours that salespeople could come to resident's homes.

Joe was the recipient of the NYS Assembly Excelsior Award for Excellence for his work on organ and tissue donation awareness. He volunteered regularly to work with disabled children at the Elizabeth Seton Children's Hospital in White Plains.

When asked recently how he handled his lot in life, Joe responded: "There's always somebody that has it worse off".

Joe will be greatly missed by his family, friends, community and all those who were touched by his courage, fortitude and commitment to public service.



FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE ATTORNEY – Warren E. Berbit

At 1:51 pm on Tuesday, August 23rd, at my office in Suffern, the floor wavered up and down several times like a rippling ribbon in the wind. At the same time, the building swayed to the sides. These sensations lasted a good 20 to 30 seconds. I was astounded, but analytical. I thought, "So this is an earthquake.

What is it doing here?" As I processed some more my next thought was, "I bet we are right over the Ramapo Fault. Will the Earth open and swallow us?" Still the tone of my thought was quizzical, not one of panic.

I am not saying that there is a causal connection, but moments before the calamitous event I opened an e-mail from the Village Clerk indicating that our Newsletter articles were due on September 1st. I was pondering a subject when Mother Nature/G-d/fate intervened. Who am I to deny destiny, so the subject of this article was ordained.

As a seemingly related circumstance, or premonition, earlier in the day at 12:39 pm, I took a brief excursion from work tasks to dialogue with a collector group about radio and antique telegraph instruments. The focus turned to a report about unusual solar flare activity. I made the following comment:

"And the torrential rains and violent WX, even in the NE, is unprecedented. Something big is going on. Dare I say it, we are leaves blowing in the wind."

Ironically, as I am writing this part now the skies are rapidly graying in anticipation of a storm, and we are still two day's away from Irene's landfall.

So, for those of you who don't have premonitions, or even for those who do but still want to know, I will focus upon what steps the Village has taken and would take to deal with a large scale emergency.

Diverting some, Irene has already intervened since the above was written, so I am finishing this right at the wire, September 1st. This time I did not lose power at home, which was an unusual positive, but did lose power at my office. I know that many others did lose power, including Village Hall through sometime on Monday. Even Tuesday morning I noticed frequent momentary intermittences in the electrical supply while at the Village.

At dusk on Sunday, August 28th I attempted to survey the Village. I was disheartened to note flooded intersections and closed streets, streams and

the Mahwah River raging way above and outside their banks, and homes surrounded by water. My heartfelt condolences to those having to bail out, and who lost their possessions. I know how horrible it was when we had to deal with a basement mold problem two years ago because we failed to detect that the AC condensation line had been blocked virtually all summer.

In 2002 the Village adopted the Village Emergency Response and Recovery Plan ("VERRP"). The intent is to establish a mechanism and framework to deal with all emergencies. The Plan is to be reviewed and updated annually. It sits at the head of a much larger document, which together represent the Enhanced Overall Plan. An Incident Command System ("ICS") is an important part of the overall document. The local (Village) responsibility is to quickly evaluate the size and complexity of an event, and to classify same as soon as possible after the situation begins. There is a clear hierarchy of emergency providers, and coordination, broadening to the Town and County level.

At the Village's local disposal are the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and people necessary to assess technical issues, such as the Building Inspector, Fire Inspector, Village Engineer and Town Highway Superintendent. Of course, the Town Police Department would likely be involved, and the fire department/ambulance corps, as a function of need. For more extreme events, or events of wider geographic scope, the County would assume the lead and coordinating role, and become the Command Central at the Fire Training Center (involving the Director of Fire & Emergency, the Fire Coordinator, the Sheriff, 44-Control, etc).

The circle widens, as based upon the nature and scope of the emergency. Thus, the County and State Police can become involved, State and Federal agencies, FEMA, the National Guard, etc. The point is to have anticipated and planned in advance for every manner of emergency that can unfold, and to have protocols and procedures in place such that everything fits together smoothly, efficiently, eliminating delay, uncertainty, and minimizing harm to the extent possible.

Taking Irene for example, someone had to rescue trapped persons, assess the risk of the wind and rain, declare premises too risky to inhabit, prepare shelters and get displaced persons to same, block off unsafe streets, assess the structural integrity of roads, bridges, and the like, report and deal with downed trees and wires, pump out water from structures and a myriad of other things. So, in the midst of nature's chaos, many professionals were working long and difficult hours effectuating the VERRP.

Post 9/11, we are reticent to discuss procedures which come into play relative to terroristic threats or actions. Suffice it to say, they do exist.

Sorry to have limited myself to vague generalities, but to attempt otherwise would require many more pages. At the least, I hope I have made you aware that there is a whole network of dedicated professionals, and an elaborate system, which spring into action when emergencies arise.

May your lives quickly get back to normal, and Irene relegated to anecdotal stories to be told to your children and grandchildren.