

# 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

On May 7th 2011, the Village of Montebello celebrated its 25th anniversary by dedicating Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park in honor of Mayor Gorman, Montebello's first Mayor. We are fortunate to have so many of our founders still living in the area and available to tell the story of Montebello's origin. I would like to offer you a brief, up to date description of the latest chapters in our history. I believe that these endeavors are testimony of the continued success of the village and reaffirm the reason that our village merited incorporation and deserves our ongoing support.

Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park is officially open and I encourage every citizen to visit. The park is spectacular, with walking trails, ponds, wildlife and a small parking lot for your convenience. Our dedication ceremony included an official ribbon cutting with giant scissors by Mayor Gorman (Please see the article inside). We were honored to have Assemblywoman Annie Rabbitt, along with many of the Villages' original leaders. In my opinion, this is the nicest park in Rockland County.

Warren Berbit has been the village's attorney for 25 years. He has been both witness and party to the creation and execution of the entire history of this village. Consequently, I asked him to author a document reviewing the history of our village. Although I asked him to do this for our 20th anniversary, I am pleased that he was able to get it in under the wire for our 25th! His history is now posted on our website: [villageofmontebello.com](http://villageofmontebello.com). I encourage you to read this interesting story online.

On May 29th, the Village of Montebello held its annual Memorial Day ceremony. This year the Marine Honor Guard presented the colors, played taps and helped us place a wreath at our American Flag. Howard Goldin spoke of his difficult experiences in Vietnam. Skyler Spinner, a 5th grader, captivated everyone with a superb reading of the Gettysburg Address. (please see the article inside). Congressman Elliot Engel honored us by joining everyone at Village Hall for coffee and doughnuts following the ceremony.

One special aspect of this Memorial Day event was that everyone had the chance to see our recently installed 9/11 steel beam fragment from the World Trade Center Towers. We have placed the steel on a piece of granite in a way that permits the viewer to see the way it was twisted by the force of the collapse of those massive building. Please find a moment to visit this monument next to our tot lot at Village Hall. (Please see article inside).

The Village of Montebello has created the first Community Garden in western Rockland County. We are doing this for several reasons. First, this is a great opportunity for neighbors to meet and work together on a fun and functional project. Second, we are educating people about organic local gardening. This is a fairly simple, yet very important "green" principle. Third, we are going to inspire and motivate many others to copy our model and develop vegetable gardens of their own. The garden is fully subscribed this year, but more room may be available next year (Please see article inside). Please visit Village Hall to see the garden.

Montebello, once again, became the most active municipality during Clean up Rockland Day. We were able to collect almost 100 bags of litter from garbage littering the sides of our roads. The roads are already looking better. (Please see article inside). We have also retained another part time employee to assist us with litter pick-up from along our roads.

Our budget continues to look great. We have already received several grants this year, including approximately \$30,000 from CHiPs, for road paving, and from FEMA for road plowing. Additional savings allowed us to go back and revise last years budget to reveal a surplus in excess of \$270,000. This is great news. However, the money will not be used wastefully. Instead, we will save it to prevent or limit any future tax increases. Our Village has not had an increase in taxes in three years and we currently have the lowest tax rate of any village within the Town of Ramapo.

The 2010 census data is in and the news for Montebello is excellent. Our median household income rose from \$116,600 to \$134,816. Compare this with the state's wealthiest County, Manhattan, where the median household income is only \$47,030. Or consider the county with the highest median

household income in all of America, Falls Church, VA, with an income of \$113,313. The census data shows that our growth is among the highest in the county, primarily a result of the development of Montebello Pines in the last decade. This growth has increased the average household income and the average property value significantly. In my opinion, there is no better place to live and raise a family in Rockland County.

Montebello has some of the best property values in all of Rockland County. Although school taxes are high, the quality of our public schools is excellent. In an effort to recognize the educational value that our taxes provide and to reward the hard work of our high school seniors, the Village Board recognizes those seniors graduating in the top 10% of their class each year with a special ceremony during our Board meeting. This year's honorees are listed inside (please see article). Congratulations to both the students their parents.

Maintaining property values requires that we maintain our properties. Overgrown yards, clear cutting of trees without permits, and hoarding of rubbish may violate our code. These activities have an impact on everyone in the village and may reduce everyone's quality of life as well as their property values. Consequently, the village is determined to enforce maintenance laws firmly but fairly. We have hired a new prosecutor, Jay Gollard, with experience both at the FBI and as an Assistant District Attorney (please see article inside). Our efforts to promote a green village have resulted in our being named a Tree City for another year. The plans for a \$500,000 reconstruction of the Mayer Drive bridge are complete and the County Highway Department will be advertising for construction bids this month.

The first 25 years of our Village's history are over. But the past is prologue. Montebello has so many great opportunities to flourish in the next 25 years. Improving the quality of life while preserving the single family home community that has been the hallmark of this special place will certainly continue. Generations to come will recall that they grew up in a wonderful village in New York called Montebello.

**DEDICATION OF KATHRYN GORMAN PONDS PARK**

On May 7th the Village celebrated its 25th anniversary by formally dedicating Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park. Under blue skies and with a huge American flag hung by the Tallman Fire Company, speeches honoring Mayor Gorman were made by Mayor Oppenheim, Village Attorney Warren Berbit, County Legislator Alden Wolfe and State Assemblywoman Annie Rabbitt. The event included a ribbon cutting and a tour of the park led by Tony Piazza and members of the Parks Commission. The park is now open for use by all citizens. It includes a parking lot, a handicapped accessible trail, 7 ponds with natural walkways and beautiful vistas. The Parks Commission is working on the next phase, which will include water flow management.

The following are excerpts from the remarks by Mayor Oppenheim:

Today we are observing three simultaneous occasions. First, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Montebello.



Second, we are officially opening this magnificent park. Third, we are recognizing the service of Kathryn Gorman by naming this park in her honor. And by observing all three events on one day we are also saving the taxpayers the cost of doing this 2 more times.

In thinking about Mayor Gorman's service to the Village I have been asking myself the following question: What is the hallmark of great leadership? What is it that distinguishes a leader from an administrator? Both need to tend to the affairs of the public yet only one is remembered for accomplishing great things. What is the key characteristic that sets one apart from the other? And I began to think about America's greatest leaders. : Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln. What is it that made only some of our President's great leaders?

I believe that the answer might be encapsulated in one word: vision. A great leader is notable for the possession and determination of a clear vision of the future. Not just a



vision for tomorrow, for next month, or even for next year; but a vision for the next generation and generations to come. Such a vision is the reason that we revere Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

25 years ago the land that we are standing upon was undeveloped. It could have been overdeveloped with the loss of trees, the destruction of nature and a general disregard for the surrounding community. But a small group of civically minded citizens had a vision. They knew that the only way to make certain that this land was properly developed was to found a new Village and to lead that Village diligently. And

thanks to that small group, the Village of Montebello exists today.

That, my friends, is vision. And that is leadership. Kathryn Gorman was the leader of that group and the first Mayor of Montebello. Under her leadership and with her vision, this community developed to be the finest place to raise a family. And the centerpiece of Mayor Gorman's vision was the creation of a beautiful park in the center of the Pines Community. So it is completely fitting that we honor her today, on the Village's 25th anniversary, by naming this park Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park.



Mayor Gorman labored selflessly for 20 years on behalf of our Village. When I say selflessly, I mean it. She didn't do it for the money, there wasn't much. She didn't do it for the patronage, there wasn't any. And she didn't do it for the glory. I can tell you that she never asked for any accolades. The decision to name this park in her honor was mine alone. And you probably know that Kathy is rarely at a loss for words. But I can tell you that the day I told her that I wanted to name the park in her honor she was speechless.

Mayor Gorman served this Village selflessly and therefore could not be more deserving of this honor. Mayor Gorman's vision defined the quality of leadership that we honor today. Her contribution will not just be remembered by us or by those who are here in the next few years, it will be remembered for generations by all who visit this park, by all who are raised in this neighborhood and all those who have the benefit of calling Montebello their home: thanks to the vision, and leadership, of Mayor Gorman.

Today may be the end of the first 25 years of Montebello, but it is really just the beginning of so many more. We are beginning to use and develop this park. We are witness to a new generation of families who have moved here specifically because Montebello is such a great place to live. Generations to come will tell their children that they grew up in Montebello and it was a wonderful place to have been a child. They will remember their families, their community, their streets and this park. And they will remember the name of Kathryn Gorman, Montebello's first mayor. What a fantastic legacy. Thank you Mayor Gorman.

## **BORSODI SCHOOL OF LIVING AKA BAYARD LANE**

*By Josephine Bracken, Commissioner of Montebello HPC*

During the period that the Montebello HPC worked with our Historic Architect, Jill Fischer, we became more and more certain that the Bayard Lane community was very important to the history of our village. As we read about Ralph Borsodi's "School of Living" which was located on Bayard Lane, we began to realize that we might have an area we could designate as a Historic District.

Here is a brief history of Ralph Borsodi and his "School of living". Ralph Borsodi was the author of 13 books and 10 research studies. He was also physically active, a productive homesteader and a real doer who practiced what he preached. He experimented and implemented on many levels – from good nutrition, through building his own home and garden; weaving his clothes and furnishings; organizing experimental small communities, a School of Living for a new adult education, and developing new social institutions such as the Community Land Trust and a non-inflationary currency, which he called Constants.

No one of today's specialty-labels encompass Ralph Borsodi. To use more general and abstract terms, he was a decentralist, liberator, and human benefactor. His efforts to implement the community use of socially created values in land, was part of his plan to encourage people to leave cities for more rural living.

Family and friends helped him plan and establish the School of Living in 1936. Bayard Lane was a 40 acre plot with the homestead located at the center of 16 family homesteads on its four-acre plot. Here, too, Borsodi initiated the group-title to land, with member-families paying an annual rental rather than a fee for outright private ownership.

From 1936 to 1945, these 16 lovely homesteads surrounding the School of Living continued to house educators, authors, homesteaders, and social-changers. Gardening, home-production, and workshops in adult education were continuous during these years.

It is interesting to note here how the wheel does turn. Currently we can see how people are putting great emphasis on organic farming and growing their own food. The Village of Montebello has joined the farming movement by offering small plots of land on the Village Hall property for the very purpose of growing your own vegetables.

The School of Living did eventually vanish in the 1950's. A few original homesteads that remain are interested in Historic Designation. Unfortunately there aren't enough houses left to designate Bayard Lane as a Historic District.

This story is a prime example of how quickly the past can be erased and the importance of Historic Preservation.

If any current residents of the original homes on Bayard Lane are interested in having their homes designated as historic, please leave a message for the HPC at the Montebello Village Hall.

**IN THE WORKS...**

*Steven A. Sorillo, Trustee*



Well it looks like Summer has arrived even if it is not official yet, the weather is beautiful and the days are long. The long, cold snowy Winter is a fading memory and what seems to have been a very short rainy Spring is now past. This season Summer has come in with a resounding blast. A week or so of extreme heat followed by storms with severe wind and rain and then of course the accompanying power outages. We can only hope that is all behind us and we can enjoy the rest of the season.

In continuing our green initiative and in order to reign in our costs the Village of Montebello is currently in the process of having solar panels installed at the Community Center on Route 202. The work is being done by the Light House Solar Company under a grant by NYSEDA. The grant totals \$57,000.00. We have been able to rent out the Center for various activities giving us an unexpected source of income. While the rental fees are not very large it is a welcomed. Please if you have a need for a venue that can accommodate a large crowd and you don't want to pay exorbitant rates by all means look into this facility.

The Montebello Community Garden was opened on June fourth and it is a complete success. The Garden has a number of individual plots each in an enclosed area with the entire Garden also enclosed by a fence to keep out the deer. Water is also provided. All plots have been accounted for. The Garden was designed for the possibility of expansion. Next year if the interest is apparent we can expand the Garden.

With the coming of Summer the asphalt plants are open and we can obtain paving materials. We are in the process of determining which streets are in most need of repair. The Village has a budget of \$100,000.00 for such work and while this seems like a lot it is not enough to cover all the projects we wish to undertake this year. A decision on which streets to pave and when that will occur will be made shortly. One other thing, the repairs to the bridge on Mayer Drive are still tentatively scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that Summer means many of our children are outside playing. All of us complain about the speeders on our streets pointing an accusatory finger at the local high school and college kids but I have witnessed many a soccer mom in her minivan or a local businessman in his sedan speeding through these same streets treating stop signs like green lights and speed limits as if they don't apply to them. We should lead by example and be more careful out there.

Finally I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe Summer season.

**TIME TO ENJOY, RELAX AND BE COURTEOUS TO OUR NEIGHBOR'S**

*By: Lance N. Millman, Deputy Mayor*



It's that wonderful time of year again. Spring/summer is upon us depending each day on the bizarre hot/cold weather.

Either way, we are all out working on our properties, trimming our trees and plants and planting our gardens.

We are enjoying walking, running, bicycling and chatting things up with our neighbors and friends.

It's great to see our village including other border towns and villages clean up and take pride in their property. It's so very important that we maintain our wonderful village lifestyle. Montebello has always taken pride in its beautiful surroundings.

But, we must do it with courtesy to all around us.

Don't just pick up branches and garbage on your property. If you see it across the street or in your adjoining neighbor's bushes, give a helping hand and clean up those areas also.

If you are walking and see trash that you can pick up on the side of the road, please help out. I was amazed at seeing two water bottles lying on the side of our new trails in our new park, where there are two visible trash receptacles.

Be mindful of your neighbor's "peacefulness", if you decide to mow or trim your lawn. Try not to do it at 7:00 am in the morning on the weekends and try not to do it at dinner time (5-7 pm) when most of us are trying to enjoy a wonderful meal in our backyards.

Be aware of how sound carries in our neighborhoods. You would be surprised on how far music playing outside can carry. Although, we all enjoy listening to music, it may not be the type your neighbor likes. If you decide to have a large party that may be noisy, let your neighbor's know, maybe

they would make other plans for that day

Even try to be aware of spot lights in your backyard. They should be pointed to light up your specific area not to be blinding to your neighbors when they look out their back yard.

Also, please be careful driving with everyone enjoying our roads. Speeding should not be an ongoing issue but it is. Speeding must be controlled by each individual. It's a lesson to teach our children and for all of us to follow.

I hope we all continue to enjoy living in our village. We just need to conduct ourselves with common sense and be courteous to all.

Thank you and I'll see you around the village.

**MEMORIAL DAY**

On May 29th, the Village of Montebello held its annual Memorial Day ceremony. The Marine Honor Guard presented the colors, played taps, fired guns and helped us place a wreath beneath our American Flag. Howard Goldin spoke courageously of his difficult experiences in Vietnam and his selfless philanthropic endeavors. Skyler Spinner, a 5th grader, captivated everyone with a superb reading of the Gettysburg Address. Hara Millman sang America The Beautiful. Congressman Elliot Engel also honored us by joining everyone at Village Hall following the ceremony. The Congressman took the opportunity to view our 9/11 Memorial Garden.



**PARKS COMMISSION UPDATE**

**Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park**

On May 7th, Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park was officially dedicated in a ceremony conducted by Mayor Oppenheim.

The event was attended by local residents, distinguished guests and of course Mayor Gorman.

It was a fitting tribute to our first mayor who worked so diligently to preserve the ambiance of our village.

The park is now officially open to visitors. As you walk through it, I hope you will notice come of its residents, including an egret, two beautiful great Blue Herons, an array of large turtles who love sunning themselves on the rocks around the pond, red tailed hawks, mallard ducks and Canadian geese, a variety of birds, wild turkeys, deer, fox, and at least one mangy coyote that I noticed.

As of right now, only the main trail is open. In the next several weeks, we will add a rack to lock up and secure bikes, and a bag dispenser for pet waste cleanup.

Additionally we are currently working with AKRF engineering firm to improve the hydraulics of the ponds.

We are also working with the architectural firm of Matthews Nielson for further park development including more trails and other features.

The park provides a beautiful natural setting for all of us, and should prove to be a source of pride for our village.

**Summer Concert**

Mark you calendars for Wed. July 27th (Rain date July 28th) for our annual summer concert. The concert will be held from 7:00pm to 8:00 pm on the Village Hall grounds.

John Morowski and Denny McCormick will perform an evening of popular acoustic music.

We hope you all will be able to join us for an entertaining night.

**Fall Event**

The Parks Commission is currently discussing the possibility of having a movie showing event in early fall. More to follow.

Submitted by Tony Piazza  
*Chairman Parks Commission.*

**SUMMER SAFETY TIP**

Recently the Tallman Fire Department has been dispatched to a number of mulch fires at private residences. One of the mulch fires they were dispatched to was at 4:00AM. A passerby noticed and reported it.

**An investigation by the Fire Department found that mulch had been piled on top of a halogen landscape light. Halogen lights have high operating temperature. Enough that over a period of time (overnight) the mulch can catch on fire.**

Please be aware of this situation and check your landscaping and inform your landscaper to be cautious when putting down mulch. At that time of night a fire could burn unchecked and cause a lot of damage possibly spreading to the house itself.

**CLEAN UP MONTEBELLO**

On April 9, the Village of Montebello hosted another clean-up day as part of Keep Rockland Beautiful. Citizens pitched in to help clean up the entire village. The weather cooperated and the Village roads are already looking much better. Thank you to all the participants!



**PLANNING BOARD**

**Empire Executive Inn (Crowne Plaza) Architectural Review**

**Sign Permit Approval—Public Hearing**

Application of Empire Executive Inn, LLC (Crowne Plaza Hotel) 3 Executive Boulevard, Montebello, New York 10901, for Architectural Review of a revised building façade and porte cochere (covered entrance) resulting from the conversion of the existing Holiday Inn Hotel to Crowne Plaza Hotel, and Sign Permit Approval relating to replacement of the monument and gateway signs. The subject property is located on the south side of Executive Boulevard approximately 1500 feet from the intersection 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 5 in a LO Zone.

*The application is currently before the 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 before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board.*

**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 is currently before the Zoning Board.*

**COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The Village of Montebello’s new Community Garden has opened for planting! This season we have created 16 gardens for residents to grow vegetables and flowers. Thank you to Scenery Solutions for donating two of the garden beds. The group, led by Montebello resident Deborah Jindala, is learning from several Cornell Cooperative Master Gardeners. This is the first Community Garden in western Rockland County. The garden is entirely organic. Some of the gardeners may harvest their vegetables to support local food kitchens. We hope to inspire and motivate others to develop vegetable

gardens of their own. The garden is fully subscribed this year, but more room may be available next year. Please visit Village Hall to see the garden, but please stay outside the fence if you are not currently a gardener.



**WELCOME JAY GOLLAND**

Jonathan Ripps, our former prosecutor resigned in May and the Village Board appointed Jay Golland as his successor. Mr. Golland has extensive experience and superb qualifications. He was a Special Agent with the FBI, an Assistant District Attorney in Rockland, and a lawyer in the office of the Public Defender. He has a private practice in Ramapo and also lives in Rockland County. We welcome him to our Village.



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

I found the dedication of the Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park on the Village's 25th Anniversary, May 7, 2011, and the combined Memorial Day remembrance ceremony and dedication of the WTC artifact in our 911 Memorial Garden on May 29th, to be extraordinarily stirring. I was moved, I was made proud, I was drawn in, and I acknowledged to myself, "You know, self, as corny as it may seem ["self" is a wizened, old cynic, so I have to choose my thoughts carefully], this is the essence of America. This is the essence of Democracy. This is what we are all about. This is why we did what we did".

From the beautiful vistas in the park – the sweeping waters – the many turtles sunning on a stone outcropping – an egret standing on the far shore – the ducks swimming in unison – and all the surrounding flora and fauna – the Park was magical on that day. It was the serendipitous back drop to modest speechifying by the Mayor, our historian, myself, and First Mayor Gorman, followed by the presentation of awards from the County and State Legislatures, and various luminaries. The crowd, or should I say throng, was Hollywood-casted perfect. Happy, good looking, appropriately attired, well mannered, and truly appreciative. The huge American flag hanging from the platform of the erect cherry picker added just the right touch. Like I said, it was magical. And it was wonderful reconnecting with other founders, like Kathy, Jane Burke, Amy Rapoport, but, especially, L. James Hickey, whom I hadn't seen in many a year. (Did I miss anyone?)

I am always stirred by the Veteran honor guard which precision marches at our Memorial Day ceremony, the forlorn bugle playing taps, and the three-shot rifle salute. This year did not disappoint. Howard Goldin, former Police Chief of Spring Valley and a Viet Nam veteran who was an active combatant, was the main speaker. He was poignant and, yes, even tear inducing in his remembrances of his fellows who did not return from that conflict and others, or who returned having left parts of themselves on foreign soil.

The Montebello tradition of having a 5th grader, this year Skylar Spinner, read the Gettysburg Address, also added to the ambiance. As did the presence of our very own WW II Vet, Harry Lewis, who recently retired as our building inspector. Of course, this year the dedication of the WTC twisted girder as a permanent reminder in the 911 Memorial Garden added a strong element to remembering those who sacrificed for this Country, or who were sacrificed simply because they were within our shores peacefully going about their business.

As always, a nice, light breakfast followed in the Seniors Club meeting room.

Another nice touch that brings home that we not only started a Village, but also an enlarged family, is the tradition started by Mayor Oppenheim of awarding certificates of merit to Montebellians graduating in the top 10% of the Suffern High School Class. This usually occurs at our Regular Meeting in May, which this year was on the 18th. In addition, scattered throughout the year are other recognitions, such as the making of Eagle Scout. Upcoming, adding to the familial feel, the concert on the lawn on July 27th. In addition, the 16 community garden plots at the Village Hall are being planted.

I know, I did not offer much new substance in this piece, but I hope my ramblings, in diverting from the legal and the technical, help exemplify more the emotion, the spirit, and, yes, even prideful feelings, that constantly fuel the engine that led to the creation of your Village, and keep it on track.

As the Mayor has often stated, we are always on the look-out for interested, talented people to step forward in service to their Village. Hence, if any of my musings ring true to you, please consider submitting your resumé to the Village with a cover explaining what sort of activity might interest you. Indeed, even if my musings have had an opposite effect, but you would still like to get involved for any good reason (like shutting me up?), again, please submit your resumé (or CV).

The activities mentioned all occurred on beautiful, warm days, laced with Spring and hinting of Summer. A perfect segway to wishing you and yours a fun, enjoyable and safe summer.

Respectfully,

Warren E. Berbit  
*Village Attorney*



### 9/11 STEEL MEMORIAL

The Village of Montebello has obtained a remnant of the World Trade Centers. This 9/11 steel beam fragment was mounted on a piece of granite in a way that permits the viewer to see the way it was twisted by the force of the collapse of the buildings. The beam sits adjacent to our 9/11 Memorial Garden on the Village Hall property. Please feel free to visit.



**VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO  
FIRE INSPECTOR**

ONE MONTEBELLO ROAD  
MONTEBELLO, N.Y. 10901

fireinspector@villageofmontebello.com

PHONE: 845-368-2491 FAX: 845-368-2044



"The Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from thousands of types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical or mechanical

hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals- contributed significantly to the 30% decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years."

The web site [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) has listings of all the product recalls by the commission. It lists the dates the recalls were issued and also provides phone numbers that are called hot lines to put you in contact with the CPSC. It is very informative and the amount of recalls is surprising. This is especially helpful with children's products.

If you have any questions about a product you have purchased you can go on line and see if the product has been recalled.

One other important note, when you purchase a product do not forget to register your warranty card with the manufacturer, in the event that a recall is issued for that product, it is the only way the manufacturer can notify you of the recall.

This commission provides protection for you and your family, utilizing it will help keep your family safe.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR**

*Lawrence Picarello*



What are those things on the roof?

I'm pleased to report that there have been a number of photovoltaic (PV) solar panel installations in the Village. Thanks to the vision of the Village government, permit fees on NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) approved solar installation will not exceed \$250.00, regardless of cost of construction. This progressive step is a great incentive to install a system and reduce your electric bill. These systems are proven, and they work- many of you have seen the Villages own system which has been operating for several years. Solar installations remain subject to a building permit, third-party electrical inspection, and must meet all roof loading requirements for this geographic area.



Thinking of having a garage or yard sale?

If you are planning a garage or yard sale, please remember that garage sale signs are subject to a temporary sign permit. The Village will hold a refundable deposit of \$100 to insure that the signs come down one week after the event. You will note that the Village has been proactive regarding the proliferation of the assorted lawn signs, handyman signs, etc. you may see in other municipalities.



**HONORING THE TOP SENIORS IN MONTEBELLO**

The Board of Trustees honored the Montebello seniors graduating from Suffern High School in the top 10% of their class with certificates at the Board meeting in May. The honored seniors are: Cullen Soares, Jana Soares, Leah Sackler, Lindsay Roth, Jared Roth, Julia Liebergall, Scott Greenwood, Alain Kaldany, Sujay Alvenkar, Blake Fleisher, James Liu, Ashley Kunow, Alec Brodsky, Michelle Ciofi, and Alyssa Berkowitz.



<b>July 2011</b>	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2
	3	4 <i>INDEPENDENCE DAY Closed</i>	5 <i>Planning Board Workshop 7:00 P.M.</i>	6	7 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i>	8	9
	10	11	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 Comm. 7:30 P.M. Summer Concert</i>	28 <i>Rain Date for Summer Concert</i>	29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	<b>August 2011</b>
	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 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 7:30 P.M.</i>	25	26	27	
28	29	30 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>	31				

<b>September 2011</b>	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Parks Commission 7:30 P.M.</i>	2	3
	4	5 <i>LABOR DAY Closed</i>	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	21 <i>Board of Trustees 8:00 P.M.</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>CDRC 9:30 A.M.</i>	28 <i>Historic Preservation Comm. 7:30 P.M.</i>	29	30		



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

VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO  
INCORPORATED 1986

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