

October 2006



THE VILLAGE OF CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON

# The Castletonian

## Local Law #2 Public Hearing Set for October 26

The Village Board of Trustees, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals will all be in attendance on October 26 to solicit public comment on the repeal of Local Law #2 of 2003. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Fire Hall on Green Avenue.

Local Law #2 of 2003 requires any building lot in the Village to conform to all zoning regulations regardless of area size requirements. Exceptions were to be considered within six months after the law was filed with the New York Secretary of State. Needless to say, that six month time period expired over three years

ago.

It has been determined that this Local Law was not reviewed by the Planning Board in 2003, thereby bringing into question its legality. The Trustees have proposed to repeal the law due to its procedural irregularities and will hold the public hearing to listen to your questions regarding whether the law should be resubmitted in a proper fashion or repealed permanently.

The Planning Board and Village Trustee meetings have been attended by many citizens interested in the outcome of this matter. *If you cannot attend the meeting, please call Mayor Perry at 732-2211 with your opinion!*

this issue has been so divided that it was decided to bring all three Village Boards together to obtain a wide range of expertise and thoughts on how to proceed.

Your opinion counts! We want to hear what you have to say on this matter.



## Village Board Meeting Date Change

Update your calendars: Wednesday, October 11th will mark the next meeting of the Village Board of Trustees. Columbus Day is celebrated on October 9th this year and marks a legal holiday for our Vil-

lage. No public meetings are held that day. Trustee meetings are typically held the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Due to a scheduling conflict, Mayor Perry cannot meet on the Tuesday after Columbus Day,

and the Board of Trustees graciously agreed to postpone the meeting until Wednesday, October 11th.

We welcome your attendance at any Village Board meeting!

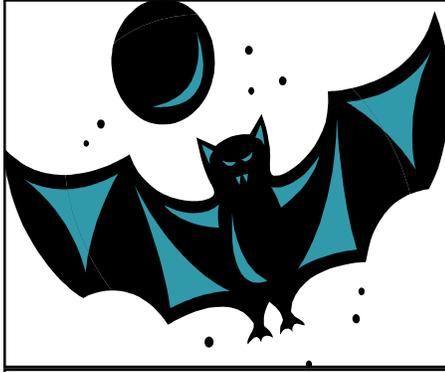
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• Don't forget! The Castleton Elementary School Reconstruction Vote is scheduled for Thursday, October 26th, 6 am -9 pm at the Maple Hill High School. If you have any questions, contact the District Office at 732-2124.

# Castleton Library Expansion Proposal

The Library Board of Trustees approached the Village Board on September 25th to request support concerning the possible expansion of ser-



"Hey," says this bat, "better that I'm here in this newspaper than in your attic!"

vices to the new Town Hall.

This topic is very sensitive in the Village of Castleton. The Library Trustees are requesting the Town of Schodack reserve space on the second floor of the new Town Hall while the issue of a library is addressed.

It was the opinion of the Village Trustees that the Library may work with the Town to reserve space at the Town Hall for services related to the library. This does not mean that there will be a reduction in services at the Library in Village Hall.

**Your Village Board wants to make it perfectly clear to our residents that this DOES NOT constitute any move of the**

**Library from Village Hall out to the Town of Schodack. YOUR VILLAGE LIBRARY IS HERE TO STAY!** Instead, this presents us with an opportunity to enhance the services and products available to our residents. There are all sorts of materials, especially concerning local historical reference, that cannot be placed on display due to the severe space constraints at Village Hall. What good are books if we can't read them?

When, and if, there are any further details, you will be informed. Mayor Perry has requested the Library Board of Trustees hold a public meeting in the Village once more information is known. Please, if you have any concerns, please call Mayor Perry, or any Village or Library Trustee. We care about what you think!

## Vote "YES" for CES

The rehabilitation of the Castleton Elementary School will be on the ballot October 26th from 6:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m. at the Maple Hill High School.

CES is a beautiful resource for our Village and we appreciate the hard work the Board of Education has done over several years to make sure that we do not lose this important landmark. It would have been very easy for the Board of Educa-

tion to abandon the school building and construct a new one out of the Village. Instead, the Board has recognized the importance of CES to our community.

Now, it is our turn. The Board of Education deserves our support. Please vote to approve the changes the Board wants to

make to the school. We deserve to have our children receive the best education possible in a building that takes advantage of the technology so needed in the 21st century. If you have any questions, please call the Schodack Central School District at 732-2124.

*Please vote on October 26!*

## Leaf Pick-Up to Begin October 23rd

It's that time of year again! Leaf pick-up begins on Monday, October 23. Our hardworking DPW Crew asks us to please remember some very important guidelines:

- Rake your leaves down to the curb. Do not push your leaves into the center of the street.
- Remove garbage, sticks, or

branches from the leaves. This material is dangerous and cannot be vacuumed into the truck. Any leaf piles that contain this kind of material will not be picked up.

- Leaf pick-up ends on Friday, December 1.



*DPW will be starting leaf pick-up on October 23rd.*

Do not rake your leaves to the side of the road after that date. They will not be taken away and you subject yourself to code enforcement violations.

- Please be patient! Our DPW Crew may have to plow snow (!) or do other things that may slow down the process!

# Trustees Adopt New Claim Reimbursement Policy

It is not unusual for the Village Board of Trustees to see requests for reimbursement regarding small incidents that happen to our residents. These usually occur because it is the belief of the resident(s) that the Village is to “blame” for the situation. For example, in September, the Board of Trustees reviewed a claim for \$80 from a resident who had to replace a tire on his car due to a section of rebar that was protruding from a Village street that purportedly punctured the tire. Earlier this year, the Trustees reimbursed a resident for a blanket that was stained in the wash after the hydrants were flushed.

The amounts of these claims are usu-

ally never large. However, at the last Board meeting on September 25th, it



was decided that the Village would establish a new policy concerning the

reimbursement for small claims of this nature. **Effective immediately, any resident who suffers from a condition attributable to the Village must report the condition to the Village prior to any consideration of reimbursement. The Village will have 5 business days to investigate the condition with the intent to rectify the situation.** If the Village does not respond to the problem, either in full or in a way that is satisfactory to the resident, then a claim may be presented to the Board of Trustees for its consideration.

It is important to safeguard your tax dollars while ensuring your safety. This new policy will help satisfy both conditions.

## Main Street Update

The Board of Trustees is working hard to lay the groundwork for our \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant award. Deputy Mayor George Lengio will attend a mandatory seminar for all grant recipients in Ithaca on October 3-5. It is there that George will learn about all of the “red tape” that we will have to consider to make sure that our money is used wisely and ac-

cording to federal and State regulations.

Mayor Perry sent out notices regarding “Requests for Proposals” in order to obtain a consultant to guide us in the use of our grant money. We are required to solicit the services of a consultant to advise us. Responses are due back to the

*Mayor Perry will be scheduling a meeting soon with Main Street business owners to discuss next steps.*

Village on October 23rd. If you know of any consultant firms that would like to bid on this project, please contact Village Hall at 732-2211 for more information.

Mayor Perry will be contacting Main Street business owners in the near future to begin discussions with them on this grant.

## Oh, and By the Way...

Street lighting is monitored by the Village Board of Trustees. If you notice that any street lights are not working, please call Village Hall at 732-2211 and we will contact National Grid to rectify the situation.

David Sager of our DPW staff suffered a serious injury on October 26th. All of us in the Village wish Dave a speedy recovery!

Is that chicken barbeque we smell? The first Kiwanis Chicken Barbeque will be held Sunday, October 29th. Contact any Kiwanis member for more information.

The CES Morning Program is a beautiful Village tradition. However, we ask all participants who drive to the program to please, please make sure to park safely and DO NOT block



This black cat wishes you a Happy Halloween!

traffic on Route 150. This road is State highway and the a route for trucks and large vehicles to go in and out of the Village. Be safe!!!



**THE VILLAGE OF CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON**

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*Castleton is a great place to live!*



*The Village of Castleton-on-Hudson*

*Donna Mesick, Village Clerk and Treasurer*

*Betty Saville, Deputy Clerk*

*Sue Werkmann, Assistant Clerk*

## Halloween House Decorating Contest

Is your house the “creepiest” in Castleton? Do your trick or treaters run screaming from your yard? Then why not be recognized for your accomplishments—participate in the first Village “Halloween House Decorating Contest.”

All of us are fond of the annual Christmas House Decorating Contest that occurs in our Village. We are looking to expand this concept by seeing the extent of interest in our community in having a similar contest during Halloween.

The official judging will take place on Sunday, October 29th at 7:30 p.m. At that time, Mayor Perry will escort a panel of unnamed judges around the Village to decide who indeed has the “spookiest” house in Castleton!

Recognition will be awarded for the following categories:

- (1) First, second, and third prizes for Best Halloween-decorated residence.
- (2) First and second prizes for Main Street (homes and businesses).
- (3) Overall Grand Prize Winner for Most Halloween Spirit.

Winners will be announced in next month’s edition of *The Castletonian*, along with who served as judges for this year’s contest.

At the conclusion of contest, we will review whether there was enough interest this year to conduct the contest in subsequent years.

Your Village Board is always looking for ways to make our community more enjoyable for you. Please contact Mayor Perry at 732-2211 if you have any ideas.

