

THE CASTLETONIAN

NOVEMBER 2008

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE

One of the fundamental problems that we face in attempting to revitalize our Main Street and make the Village a more vital and attractive place to live and work is that of neglected, vacant and abandoned properties. As long as such properties are allowed to remain uncared for, it will be difficult to entice new businesses to locate in the Village and to provide more employment, shopping and dining opportunities for our citizens. Property values in the Village will remain depressed and Castleton will continue to miss out on the prosperity that has come to many of its neighbors in the Capital District.

Given the current situation, the Village Board has

decided to undertake a review of the Village's policies, practices and codes that pertain to such properties. To that end, they have established a Property Maintenance Task Force. The Task Force will identify the extent of, and causes of, our problem with nuisance properties, will review our current enforcement activities and our existing codes, and will recommend options for the Village Board, the Planning Board, the Historic Review Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider in tackling this long-standing issue.

The Task Force will be chaired by Trustee Paul Powers who will be joined by: Craig Crist, *Village Attorney*; Glenn Hebert, *Vil-*

lage Building Inspector; William Schouten, *Village Code Enforcement Officer*; Don Walsh, *Chair of the Planning Board & Historic Review Commission*; and Betsy Prohonic, *Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals*.

It is anticipated that the Task Force will meet three to four times in its deliberations. All meetings will be open to the public. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, November 20th.

The Board is looking to add some representative property owners and tenants to the Task Force. If you are interested in participating in this important effort, please contact Donna Mesick at 732-2211.

MINI-HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

This is a special plan for home repairs for seniors, over 60, in Rensselaer County. The program is funded by R.O.U.S.E., RPC. If you own your home with the deed in your name, you may be eligible for a repair. Eligible repairs

include: leaking roofs; sewers and septic tanks; wells; electrical; and furnaces. Cosmetic repairs such as painting, tile, siding and carpentry are not eligible under the program.

Any Rensselaer County senior over 60 and earning

less than \$30,000 per year, including interest and income from assets may be eligible. Proof of income will be required.

For more information, please contact ROUSE, RPC at 283-3435.

(<http://rouserpc.com>)

MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDARS!

THE VILLAGE-WIDE GARAGE SALE WILL BE ON MAY 9.



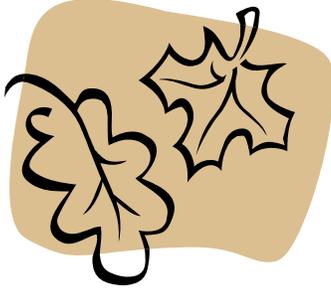
CLEAN-UP DAY WILL BE MAY 23.

THE ANCHOR

The need is growing all over the Capital Region and it's no different at The Anchor food pantry. We are seeing new clients every week and the number of food calls is growing. Thanks to two amazing fundraisers recently, the Kiwanis Club's Clove Run and the Ecumenical Choir event at Trinity Lutheran Church, we have had an injection of funds and food, but the shelves keep emptying at an alarming rate!

Community support has always been essential to the efforts and activities of Cooperative Christian Ministries of Schodack and that is especially true now. May we suggest you consider volunteering at our thrift store? As food calls increase, Louann Ingraham, the Anchor manager, has less time to deal with clothing donations and other tasks.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DPW

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Fall is upon us and leaf pick up is well underway. Please rake your leaves to the edge of the road, but not into the road. This will help to maintain a safe travel lane for our vehicles and keep our storm drains clear. We will try to pick up leaves on every road once before making a return trip throughout the Village. Please be patient with this process. Emergencies may arise which need to take priority. Also bio-degradable bags of leaves may be placed at curbside at any time during pick up. The last date for machine pick up is tentatively set for December 5th. After that time, we will only pick up leaves in bio-degradable bags.

With winter fast approaching, we have a couple of reminders for you. If the Mayor has declared a snow emergency, please remove

your vehicles from the road so that we may plow the streets as quickly as possible. Additional off-street parking is available at the following location:

- The two Village parking lots on Main Street
- Sacred Heart Church on Stimpson Avenue
- Trinity Lutheran Church on Green Avenue
- The DPW Garage on Van Buren Avenue
- Behind the Fire House on Green Avenue. (Please do not park in front of the Fire House as this is reserved for emergency personnel.)

If there is a snowstorm on a day that recycling is to be collected, we will pick up the recycling as soon as the roads are safe for travel.

The new Village calendar

will soon be delivered to every household. In the calendar, you will find useful information regarding dates the brickyard is open, Christmas tree pick up, clean up day and more. If you do not receive a calendar, please call the DPW Garage and we will be happy to deliver one to your door.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 732-2983.

Have a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year.

-Richard A. Saville,
Working Foreman

**CALL THE DPW
GARAGE AT
732-2983...**

**IF YOU ARE A NEW
RESIDENT AND
NEED A RECYCLING
BIN. THEY WILL
DELIVER ONE TO
YOUR HOME.**

OR

**IF YOU SEE A
STREETLIGHT THAT
IS OUT OR
DIMMED. PLEASE
PROVIDE THE POLE
NUMBER.**

SNOW REMOVAL

During any snowstorm, Main Street follows special rules. On the first day of the storm, there will be no parking on the east side of Main Street from Stewart's north. This will allow NYS DOT to plow all the way to the curb. After the snow stops, cars can be moved across the street so that plows can remove snow on that side.

The reverse applies to Main Street south of Stewart's. Parking is allowed on the east side during the storm. Cars should be moved to the west (River) side after the snow ends.

Compliance with these rules will prevent large mounds of snow from clogging the street and making driving difficult.

SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK

As many residents know, New York State has closed the park for the winter in order to make necessary reductions to address a huge deficit. As a village board, we have asked NYS Parks and Recreation to revisit this decision, especially since so many residents have made their objections known to us.

We feel that Schodack Island State Park has been targeted unfairly, mostly because it has a single gate that can be secured easily. Offi-

cially have admitted that this closure is more severe than the reductions to other parks in the district under their control.

Winter access is allowed in a great number of parks, even after they are closed for the season and it would seem this privilege could be extended to Schodack Island. If bathroom facilities are a problem, porta-johns could be used. Minimal plowing will be done regardless of whether or not the park is officially open, so

those who enjoy cross country skiing and snowshoeing could continue to use the park as in the past.

Our library has conducted programs there and will miss enjoying the beauty and serenity that are so evident in the winter. We will continue to attend any meetings that may be held to address this issue in the hope that we can reverse this decision.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT THE CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY!

The Castleton Public Library is pleased to announce a full schedule of activities for the holidays, highlighted by our annual Barnes & Noble Book Fair on Friday, December 5th!

Join us at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Colonie Center on December 5th, as we celebrate the release of the movie "The Tale of Despereaux", based on the popular book by Kate DiCamillo. We have an entire day's worth of activities planned, filling the hours from 10 AM -10 PM. We will be featuring guest readers, performances by the Encore Academy of Dance, Mrs. Miller's story hour and craft, a Knitter's Circle of Friends who will create hats & mittens for The Anchor, Banana-grams contests, music from local musicians Kitty & Bert Murphy, and a special appearance by the "Reading Rats" with their keeper Barbara Kelp, from Petskleen Pets. Our "Reading Rat Club" has gained popularity this fall. We are reading "The Tale of Despereaux" and "The Christmas Rat" by Avi during the months of November and December. A group outing to see the movie is planned for early 2009. Check our calendars on the library desk, or visit our website at www.uhls.org/castleton for specific dates.

During the month of December and all day at the book fair, we'll be displaying

decorated Christmas trees for auction. Local businesses, civic organizations and individuals are hard at work decorating trees for us to display, and for some lucky winner to bring home for the holidays! If you are interested in picking up a tree to decorate, there is still time, so please stop in at the library. This fundraiser was very popular last year, so be sure not to miss out on your chance to win! Come on down to the library to see the fabulous local talent we have on display!

An event like this calls for many helping hands, so we are looking for volunteers to assist us with gift wrapping, staffing the library tables, and developing and teaching make & take crafts. If you'd like to be a part of our most exciting event of the year, please call the library at 732-0879 to sign up for a time slot.

Drop in to the library for a chance to win tickets to a Capital Repertory Theatre performance at the New York State Theatre Institute anytime between now and May of 2009!

Our regularly scheduled programs continue throughout the months of November and December. Toddler and preschool story hours are held each Monday and Tuesday morning at 11:00 AM. We are celebrating National Children's Book Week November 17-23, so stop in for our fam-

ily movie "Wall-E", rated G, at 6:30 PM on Friday, November 21st. Mrs. Miller hosts the "American Girl Book Club" on Saturday, November 22nd at 4:00 PM at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Colonie Center. Native American Kaya will be featured. There is also a drop-in Native American craft in the children's room all month long!

The library is eagerly anticipating 2009! It's the beginning of the Quadricentennial to mark the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage, and also the library's 100th birthday! Henry Hudson himself will be visiting the library all during the month of February! Stay tuned for some exciting events!

-Darlene Miller
Library Director

**The library will
close at 5:00 PM on
Wednesday,
November 26th
and will remain
closed through
Saturday,
November 29th.**



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Just an hour a week would make a difference.

One more thing you can do to support the ministry and to stretch your own budget is to shop at our thrift store. Monies raised by the store pay our rent so that we can maintain the food pantry. We have gently used clothing, including a great selection of winter coats, linens, books, jewelry and house wares - all at nearly garage sale prices. Another way to help is by donating non-perishable food items or a monetary gift. Donations can be mailed to CCMS, PO Box 92, Castleton, NY 12033. Food items can be dropped off when our store is open at 52 South Main Street. For more information call The Anchor at 732-4120.

Together we can make a difference this holiday season and into the New Year.

-Rev. Barbara L. Dickens
Vice President, CCMS

THE ANCHOR IS OPEN...

**Mondays: 6:00 - 8:00;
Tuesdays: 9:00 - 2:00;
Thursdays: 9:00 - 4:00;
and
the first Saturday of
the month from
11:00 -2:00.**

VILLAGE OF CASTLETON- ON-HUDSON

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Castleton, NY 12033
Phone: (518) 732-2211
Fax: (518) 732-1550
www.castleton-on-hudson.org

Office hours are 9:00 - 3:00,
Monday - Friday



MAYOR

MARIANNE CARNER

TRUSTEES

KAREN FAGAN
CHERYL MANION
JOSEPH MCINERNEY
PAUL POWERS

VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER

DONNA MESICK

OFFICE ASSISTANT

BARBARA SHERMAN

GREEN AVENUE UPDATE

Progress continues on the Green Avenue reconstruction. New water lines have been installed from Main Street to the village line. Individual homes are now being connected and that phase of the project should be complete by the time you read this newsletter. New storm drains will be put in place and we may see some curbing this year on the south side of the street if the weather continues to be favorable.

Residents on Green Avenue have been extremely patient, with very few complaints to date.



**We can all help by
using another route
whenever possible.**

HOLIDAYS ON THE HUDSON

Our annual holiday celebration will take place on Sunday, December 7th at Village Hall. Mrs. Miller will once again be reading to the children at 3:15 PM and Santa will arrive on the fire truck at 4:00 PM.

The Castleton Fire Company will provide hot dogs and a beverage for the youngsters and the holiday tree will be lit that day.

This is a wonderful annual event that is not to be missed!

**The House
Decorating
Contest will
be judged on
Sunday,
December
14th after
7:00 PM.**