

THE CASTLETONIAN

SPECIAL EDITION MAY 2006

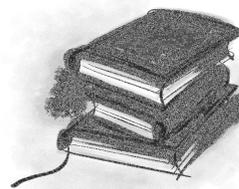
LIBRARY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 10TH

All of us are concerned about the future of the Castleton library. The library has always been, and continues to be, a vital part of our Village. A happy, vibrant Village needs a strong library to expand our minds. To ensure that the concerns of our residents are addressed, the Village Board of Trustees has scheduled a public meeting for **Wednesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Department on Green Avenue.** We welcome your attendance and participation at this meeting.

We will be prepared to tell you what we know and we just don't know regarding this issue. There seems to be many assumptions and few facts out there right now.

Please be assured that the Library has never been told that it "had" to move to make more room for Village offices. No one or no function is getting a new office at Village Hall. There will always be a strong library presence in our Village. There are absolutely no plans, nor have there ever been, to reduce the size of the library at Village Hall even if it is expanded in a new Town office building.

Our goal is to make sure that the Village is fairly represented in any new vision regarding our library. You are promised: Your Mayor, along with the entire Board of Trustees, is prepared to work in an honest and open environment with our residents,



Town officials, and Library Board of Trustees to make sure that Castleton's needs are met. This meeting is an important step in keeping you informed. You deserve nothing less than that.

Please plan on attending the meeting on May 10th to share your thoughts with us.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *John Gleeson receives the Castletonian award.*
- *An elevator in Village Hall will soon become a reality.*
- *Clean-Up Day is May 20th at the Brickyard. Note the Change!*
- *The Village Clerk's Office is now open Saturdays from 10-12.*

GREEN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION MEETING

A public meeting will be held on **Monday, May 15 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall** to discuss plans to reconstruct Green Avenue. Doug Clark, our official Village Engineer, will lead a discussion about what is needed to properly reconstruct Green Avenue, possi-

ble phases of the project, and how much it is anticipated to cost Village residents. Folding the reconstruction of Second Street into this project will also be discussed.

This is an important meeting. Green Avenue and Second Street are in deplor-

able shape. They are certainly not going to get any better by ignoring their condition.

Your Village Board wants to know what you think before any further action is taken.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MAYOR'S CORNER	2
ELEVATOR	2
SEWER BUDGET	2
JOHN GLEESON DAY	3
DOG RUN	3
TIDBITS	3
BUDGET	4



Castleton is beautiful when the flowers are blooming! Enjoy the season!

FROM YOUR MAYOR...

This has been a busy month for your village and we decided to publish a special edition of *The Castletonian* to keep you informed. We had a lot of positive feedback from our April Castletonian. Who knows? We may publish our community newspaper once a month in order to keep you aware of Village happenings!

On May 10th, an important meeting is taking place regarding the future of the Castleton Library. What do you

want if the Library is expanded into the new Schock Town Hall? Please attend this meeting and let us know your thoughts.

Several initiatives are underway. We are proceeding with the Village Hall elevator in order to make our upstairs accessible to everyone. The possible reconstruction of Green Avenue is under consideration. Residents have asked if we can develop a Dog Run at the Brickyard. We also passed a fiscally

responsible budget that has a positive vision for our future.

Let's not forget Main Street. A lot of activity is happening and all of it is occurring right now with private investment! It is amazing how far a positive attitude can take you! We will work with business investors and owners to go after code violators in order to make Main Street as attractive as possible.

VILLAGE HALL ELEVATOR

Village Hall is a wonderful historical resource. It is about to become more accessible to all of us in the Village.

One area of Village Hall that has traditionally been underused is the second floor. Two years ago, the Board of Trustees and the Planning Board began to hold their regular meetings up there.

However, there is a problem.

The second floor of the Hall is not handicapped accessible. To correct this situation, the Board of Trustees, working with former Mayor Marianne Carner, worked hard to develop a plan to install a limited-use, limited-access lift. Senator Joe Bruno helped our efforts by awarding us \$25,000 to install the elevator.

We are now ready to proceed

with the project. Clark Engineering has provided us with the plans to install the elevator and we will soon be ready to begin construction. The Village will be using money contained in our Building Reserve to help defray the costs associated with the installation.

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!!!!



No one likes to discuss "sewer" but it is one of those services that we need to live a healthy life.

Earlier this year, the Village was awarded a \$229,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to install an ultraviolet disinfection system. Our share of the grant is \$59,000. The

expenditures associated with the grant are a wise investment. It is very likely that in a few years we would be required to install the UV system without the opportunity to apply for any grant funds to offset the costs.

The money we will use to meet our financial obligations for the grant depleted our Sewer fund balance. As a

result, sewer rates will rise three percent, starting for Village residents with the January 2007 billing. This increase equates to \$9.00 annually (\$4.50 at each billing). All sewer districts inside and outside the Village will see a three percent increase.

SEWER BUDGET

JOHN GLEESON RECEIVES CASTLETONIAN AWARD

At its regular meeting on April 24th, the Board of Trustees bestowed the Castletonian Award on John Gleeson. In addition, April 25, 2006 was declared "John Gleeson Day" in the Village of Castleton.

Until his retirement on November 27, 2005, "John the Mailman" was a regular fixture to many village residents. We looked forward to his deliveries (well, not the bills) and he always had a kind word for everyone.

John worked for the U.S. Postal Service since 1971 and regularly drove 73 miles-six miles of which he walked. No wonder he stayed in such great shape!

John received an official Village Proclamation and a plaque. April 24th was also John and Sue Gleeson's 41st anniversary and Sue's 21st birthday (again)! What a great day for the Gleeson family!

The Castletonian Award was created on April 3, 2006 by

Mayor Perry to recognize those individuals who "by their deeds and actions have brought distinction to the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson." It will be awarded on an on-going basis.

We are proud to give John this award and, on behalf of the Village, wish him happiness in his well-earned retirement. Remember: It's a jungle out there, John!



"John the Mailman" Gleeson received the "Castletonian Award" to honor his service to our Village.

DOG RUN

Several residents have approached Village officials recently about the development of a Dog Run in what we commonly know as the Brickyard.

For those who are not acquainted with this concept, dog runs are useful to allow our canine friends the opportunity to run "free" and socialize. The area would be enclosed by a fence. Benches

and waste bags would be provided to keep the area comfortable and clean. It would be the responsibility of all users to make sure that waste was collected and disposed of properly.

The Brickyard could be a wonderful place to locate a Dog Run. It was originally deeded to the Village to be used as a park. This use fits that requirement.

Trustee Karen Fagan is working on this issue along with Linda Underwood. If you would like to participate in this project both women would be more than happy to hear from you! Leave a message for Karen or Linda at Village Hall (732-2211).

**VILLAGE
CLEAN-UP
DAY IS MAY
20TH FROM
8:00 A.M.—
NOON AT
THE
BRICKYARD**

CASTLETON TIDBITS

Don't forget that the Village Clerk's Office has extended hours to better serve you! The Office is now open from 10:00 a.m. to Noon every Saturday and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays when the Board of Trustees has a regularly scheduled meeting.

Mayor Perry is looking for your opinion regarding the creation of a Farmer's Market on Main Street. The County Legislature has money available for local communities in Rensselaer County to establish or expand Farmer Markets. All of us welcome the presence of the one or two gardeners who regularly set-up their stands on Tuesday afternoons

and Saturday mornings in the Village. What if we expanded our Tuesday afternoon market?

A "Pooper Scooper" ordinance is in effect! Be considerate of your fellow residents! Pick up after your pets!



Are you interested in expanding the presence of a Farmer's Market on Tuesday afternoons?

The Village of Castleton-on-Hudson
85 South Main Street
Castleton, NY 12033
Phone: 518-732-2211



Mayor: Nancy Perry
Trustees: George Lengio
Joe McInerney
Pamela Gleeson
Karen Fagan

WOW! A LOT IS GOING
ON IN OUR VILLAGE!

WWW.CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON.ORG

CONTACT MAYOR PERRY DIRECTLY AT
MAYORNANCYPERRY@YAHOO.COM

REMINDERS

- ◆ Hydrant flushing begins on May 8th. It will continue Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings through May 24th. One blast of the fire alarm will occur to mark the start of the flushing each evening. Some discoloration of water may happen!
- ◆ Our fine DPW crew reports that residents are doing a great job in flattening and bundling cardboard in 3 x 3 squares. Thank you for your cooperation!
- ◆ Recycling improves the environment and saves our Village money!
- ◆ Street sweeping has started! If you live on Main Street, please adhere to odd-even parking every Friday.
- ◆ Don't leave leaves and brush at the curb. DPW will not pick them up. This also creates a hazardous situation because it plugs the storm drains.



2006-07 VILLAGE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

On April 27th, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the budget for the new fiscal year that starts on June 1st. This new budget plans for our future. Included in it are costs associated with completing several projects in the Village that need attention right now. Some of these projects are discussed elsewhere in *The Castleonian*.

Our Department of Public Works will acquire a new snow plow and new street sweeper this year invoking a new municipal lease-to-own program, spreading the payments over a selected number of years. This is done in much the same way that you

purchase a car or mortgage your home. Since the useful life of this equipment far outlives the number of years we will actually pay it, this type of fiscal arrangement makes sense for our Village.

We also included money to retain a Village Engineer and Planning Board attorney. By retaining Clark Associates as our official Engineer, the hourly rates associated with those services drops dramatically. The Planning Board will be facing many complicated issues over the next several months and we need to provide that Board with legal expertise to ensure that our Village is adhering to legal requirements regarding

Federal and State environmental regulations.

The new budget contains a very modest tax increase of less than three-tenths of one percent. This was included to prevent the total depletion of our unexpended fund balance. If nothing was done to modify the tax structure in the Village, the fund balance would be negative in four years. This means that no money would exist for emergencies.



Our job is to
squeeze your tax
dollars to make
every cent count!