



# THE CASTLETONIAN

*Village of Castleton on Hudson*

## A Message from the Mayor...

May 2010

I'm thrilled to be the new Mayor of Castleton and thank you to everyone who voted for me. Many people have reached out to voice their ideas about what changes they would like to see in the Village. All these ideas are appreciated and I am keeping a list. We also have one very new board member, Mike Phibbs, and one very experienced new board member, Marianne Carner. All the board members have their trustee assignments and are helping me get acclimated to my new position.

We've made some changes...

The Village Board meetings will continue to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Village Hall, but we've changed the start time to 7:00 PM (meetings were starting at 7:30 PM). If you want to see what the Village is up to I encourage you to come to a meeting.

We also have 2 new Village employees. Say hello to Peg Lill. She is our new Village Clerk and her position is full time. Also

new is Pam Smith. Pam is our Treasurer and her position is part time. Up until now we have been using a hired consultant to act as the Treasurer. With Pam on board we will have a 2<sup>nd</sup> person as backup for the Village Clerk as well as a seasoned expert in accounting to manage the payroll, check writing, bills, etc. Once Pam is up to speed we will reduce our use of the consultant to handle only the monthly financial statements and budgets.

We're cleaning up some old files, throwing things out. (Nothing important, just some old bank statements and cancelled checks and yes, we know state law requires keeping those things on hand for several years. These are very, very old). Our goal is to create some extra space. Peg and Pam might be rearranging some desks and things so be sure to drop by and say "Hello" to our new staff.

*-Mayor Joe Keegan*



Castleton's Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 10:00 AM.

HAPPY  
MEMORIAL  
DAY!



# TIDBITS

There is a 4-way stop sign at the corners of Ransom, Greene and Morgan Terrace. Many neighbors are complaining that cars are either not stopping or doing a “rolling stop” through the stop sign. There are lots of kids walking to school now that we have sidewalks on Green Avenue. Avoid a ticket by coming to a full stop at this intersection.

## Walk in Memory of Kyle Koch...

On May 13th many Village and Town residents got together to walk in Castleton to increase awareness of substance abuse in our community and to stand united against it.

The walk was in memory of high school student Kyle Koch, who died on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Kyle was a senior at Maple Hill High School.



*Walk in Memory of Kyle Koch*

Have you noticed the new sign on 9J (North Main Street) as you are entering Castleton? We finally have the letters. If you have a Village event and would like to have it posted let Peg at Village Hall know and we will arrange a special message.

A sad farewell – former DPW employee, and lifelong member of the Castleton Fire Company, Donald Cripps passed away on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Many of you probably remember Don. He was a lifelong resident of Castleton and worked for 30 years as a member of the Laborers Union Local 190. After his retirement Don became a member of the Village DPW crew for nine years. He was a great asset to the Village and he will be greatly missed. Our sincerest condolences to his family.

Big shout out to the Girl Scouts, Daisy Troop #1730, for cleaning up Main Street as part of their Earth Day project. The girls picked up bags and bags of trash (yeah, a lot of trash – not good). For their hard work troop leaders treated the Daisys to an ice cream at Stewart’s and the Mayor presented each Daisy with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Thanks to Kim Eaton and the other Daisy Troop moms and dads for organizing and helping with the cleanup.



*The Daisys helping to improve our Village.*



## Sewage Treatment Plant

Yes, the Village of Castleton has a sewage treatment plant. But we need your help. All the water from the rain and winter thaw is getting into our sanitary sewer lines overstressing the treatment plant and most of this water does not even need to be treated! The two ways water gets into the sanitary sewer pipes are *infiltration* and *inflow*. *Infiltration* occurs when rain water saturates the soil and eventually seeps into damaged pipes in the ground. *Inflow* occurs when water from basements, crawl spaces, or downspouts (part of your gutters) are directly connected to sanitary sewer lines.

*Inflow* water can be quickly and inexpensively addressed. Every

gutter downspout that does not discharge directly to the top of the ground may contribute to *inflow*. Sump pumps in a basement or crawl space being pumped in the sanitary sewer lines also contribute. The result is acceptably clean water goes into the Villages sanitary sewer lines and overstresses the treatment plant. This costs everyone money by requiring extra pumping and treatment of water that doesn't need to be treated.

### *BUT YOU CAN HELP!*

There is a second kind of sewer line running through the Village. This is called the *storm* water sewer line. And it's these lines that gutter downspouts and sump

pumps need to be connected to (or they can just drain onto the top of the ground). If you are not absolutely certain where your gutter downspouts or sump pumps discharge the Village will help you find out this information. If we can reduce the amount of water being treated we can avoid expensive modifications to the sanitary sewer lines and the treatment plant that could potentially increase our sewer bills dramatically. Please call us at 732-2752 or 732-2983 and we'll make arrangements for someone from our staff to visit your property. We appreciate everyone's help on this.

## Castleton Public Library

Lots of legal issues happenings at the library. Most of you know that the State Education Department, which now oversees the library, has requested that the Village Board submit a list of names for new members of the Castleton Public Library board of trustees to include both Village and Town residents. The State, not the Village board, is going to pick the actual board members (the Village is simply forwarding a suggested list of names). The current Library board of trustees filed a

lawsuit in an effort to amend the State's rule that all new library trustees must be Village residents (and as a result of the lawsuit the State actually *did* amend this to include Town of Schodack residents) and that the Service Area of the library include the Town of Schodack (at the moment the library charter only mentions Castleton as the service area). Once the new library board of trustees is named they will hire a librarian and hopefully we can put this difficult episode behind us.

### **Library Hours...**

- Monday:** 2 PM—8 PM
- Tuesday:** 2 PM—7 PM
- Wednesday:** 2 PM—8 PM
- Thursday:** 2 PM—8 PM
- Friday:** 2 PM—8 PM
- Saturday:** 9 AM—3 PM
- Sunday:** Closed





# Fire Department Notes

As of May 1<sup>st</sup> the Fire Department responded to 46 calls to date. Our little department handles Fire and EMS calls for the Castleton Fire Protection District. We protect the Village of Castleton and part of the Town of Schodack.

We're always looking for new members! If you ever wanted to give back to the community and help others in their darkest hour, then come down on any Tuesday night around 7:00 PM and we will give you a tour of the fire station and help you fill out an application.

Many of you heard about the slope failure behind the station (if you didn't: an entire section of hill behind the Fire House slid down onto our property). Our insurance company informed us that our

pavilion, garage (which serves as an auxiliary kitchen) and BBQ pit are in danger of being hit by a secondary slope failure so those structures are being considered a loss. We are getting quotes from local contractors for the replacement of those structures.

Our monthly breakfast fundraisers are done for the season and will resume in October. Thank you to all who participated. We offer a full service, all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8:00—12:00 on the first Sunday of the month. If you've never come down for breakfast you should try it, eat in or take out. Come see your friends and make new ones while enjoying a delicious meal and supporting the Fire Company.

Don't forget our youth group, the *Castleton Firecrackers*, they're always looking for new members. If your son or daughter, age 10 – 16 would like to have an introduction to the fire service and do some small community service projects, then give us a call at 732-4342. Also, our youth group collects returnable cans and bottles as a form of fundraising. Just drop them off at the station, there is a green trailer out front (custom made by the Firecrackers!) or call us and we'll pick them up.

## DPW

PAVING We know that there are many potholes out there and the crew is working hard to fill them. We are hoping to pave some streets too. Let us know if you see a pothole.

WATER AND SEWER Why do we flush Fire Hydrants? Our water system has many dead end lines and areas of low water consumption where deposits settle out in the water mains. These deposits can, and often do, result in taste, odor and turbidity complaints.

Flushing the hydrants twice a year in the Spring and Fall, will normally remove most of the settled deposits. Flushing also helps us check proper operation of the hydrants. DPW will finish the Spring flushing in May. They will

flush the system again starting September 13, 2010 every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9AM to Noon until the entire system has been completed.



*Enjoying Firehouse breakfast!*

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



## Village of Castleton on Hudson

### MAYOR

JOSEPH KEEGAN

### TRUSTEES

MARIANNE CARNER

CHERYL MANNION

MICHAEL PHIBBS

PAUL POWERS

### VILLAGE CLERK

MARGARET C. LILL

### VILLAGE TREASURER

PAM SMITH



*Peg Lill and Pam Smith,  
New Village Employees*



## Budget

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The Village board did pass a budget for our new fiscal year which starts June 1<sup>st</sup>. We don't need to tell anyone that these are tough fiscal times for all of us and municipalities are no exception. Each department did their best to cut out almost all unnecessary expenses but we have the added burden of starting to payback the Green Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street projects and we have a large business (Castleton Energy Corp on 9J) challenging their assessment. The Village was in good shape financially (thank you to Marianne, Brian and the former Board of Trustees) so we had to make only minimal increases in our water and sewer rates.

Please take a moment  
to visit our web page at  
[www.villageofcastleton.org](http://www.villageofcastleton.org)  
for up-to-date information  
and an overview of activities  
in our community.