

April 2012

The Castletonian

Greetings from the Mayor.... I am absolutely thrilled to have been re-elected Mayor of the village for another 2 years! The past 2 years have been a real education and I enjoyed every minute.

Please read through this issue to see what has been accomplished and our plans for new initiatives.

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State of the Village

Village Hall – we upgraded some of our facilities. There’s a new phone system that gives the village clerk and treasurer more time to work on important matters instead of constantly taking phone messages. With this new system messages left for the Mayor, building inspector, code enforcement officer, DPW supervisor and Water and Sewer supervisor, court system, etc. are immediately forwarded to that person’s cell phone or an email is left for them which, when opened, will play the message. We turned the copier into a scanner (there was no charge for this, we just needed to turn on the feature) so documents can be scanned to a file (a huge time saver for the village clerk). We upgraded a few computers and some software and added a backup system so that in the event of a fire, all village documents on file will be secure. We will be getting a new furnace in the near future thanks to a NYPA grant the village received to use for energy conservation. The DPW crew painted the inside of village hall (it looks great)

and redid the vestibule. Do check out William Knoll’s eagle scout project in the vestibule which talks about storm water management (and made from mostly recycled materials). His project helped the village fulfill part of our federal outreach requirement – thank you William!!!!

Sewage treatment plant – thanks to that NYPA grant we were able to purchase some needed plant parts and added a heating system to replace the outdated electric heating units (this should save us a bundle in energy costs).

Water – Hurricane Irene took a toll on our water treatment plant but most of the repair costs were reimbursed with FEMA funds.

DPW – we renegotiated a new trash collection agreement last year and for the same amount we were paying the prior two years the new contract included recycling pickup which was previously

done by our DPW crew. This new contract freed up our DPW crew to have an extra day to work on village projects.



Mayor Joe Keegan thanks Eagle Scout William Knoll

Building Inspector and Code Enforcement – We have a new code enforcement officer, his name is Bob Hammond. We are currently interviewing for a new building inspector.

Property Assessments – we turned these over to the town last year since the village really didn’t have an experienced assessor on staff. There was also confusion with residents when their Town and

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Village assessments were different. Now they are the same.

Taxes – this is the first year of the state mandated 2% property tax cap. We are currently working on next year's budget and we will *not* be asking the state for any kind of tax cap waiver.

Paving – last year we tried to pave a number of roads on

the south end of the village. The price of asphalt is very high right now and we get most of our paving budget from the state so we'll stretch it as far as we can this summer. We know that Seaman Avenue needs repaving. It also needs drainage and there's an old water line that runs under Seaman that needs to be replaced. We want to replace and repair at the same time, but unfortunately it is just not in the budget this

year. We are keeping our eyes open for grant money to complete this expensive project.

Library – lots happening here. The library has been under the control of a new board for about 2 years now, there's a new librarian, some new shelves, electronic downloads and lots more. Read more under the library section.

Robo Call List

If you are not on our emergency robo-call list give the village clerk a call and we'll add you or a caretaker to the list.

Coming Soon

NEW CROSSWALK We are hoping to move the crosswalk at Campbell and Scott down the street a bit towards Lynch. This will allow us to have one of those signs in the middle of the street that says "yield to pedestrians in crosswalk". These signs are not allowed on crosswalks in 4-way intersections. We are waiting on some grant money to pay for this. Just an FYI – there is already a state law that says

vehicles need to yield to pedestrians in any crosswalk. So if you see some kids on their way to or from CES and they're in the crosswalk – please STOP and wait until they are safely across.

WATER HOOKUP WITH TOWN OF SCHODACK We are working with the Town to hook into their water system in the event that we need some extra water. Right now we are at maximum capacity and cannot

release any new water permits (and housing developers are asking for these from the village on a regular basis). This connection would also serve as a backup water supply in the event one of our wells stops producing.

Next Tax Bill

In order to streamline office procedures and reduce paper and postage costs, the special district billing will now be billed with the metered water on the same bill. Special district bills come out 2 times a year. They bill for trash, sewer and capital water charges. You will now get one

bill with all of these charges on them. The first billing with the combined charges will be June 1, 2012, the second billing will be December 1, 2012. Between printing costs, paper, and postage we estimate about \$1,300 in yearly savings by combining these two billings. Other changes

include a flat rate penalty for late payments, and new water meter reading dates. Please watch your mail for a letter from the clerk's office detailing all the changes.

STORMWATER POLLUTION

Waste from dogs, cats and other domestic animals can travel directly to the Hudson river after a heavy rain. This is a major source of bacterial pollution for the Hudson. Please clean up after your pet!

Please remember to recycle. The Village pays per ton of trash. Recycling reduces that weight.

ELECTION RESULTS

Mayor Joe Keegan was elected again for another 2 year term.

Marianne Carner was re-elected village trustee for another 2 years.

Newcomer **Jenifer Pratico** was elected village trustee for 2 years.

The entire board wishes to thank outgoing trustee **Mike Phibbs** for his valuable service to the village.



The Maple Hill Storytellers — comprised of talented Maple Hill Middle and High School students — will be presenting “Tales from the River” as part of the 10th Annual Riverway Storytelling Festival. This free event will occur at the Castleton Public Library on Wednesday, April 18th at 6:30pm. Come down and support the storytellers!

WATER METERS

If you have not yet switched to one of our new water meters please call Village Hall (732-2211) to schedule an appointment. All meters on the water system will need to be changed out. The meter and installation is free, there is absolutely no cost to the homeowner, and it takes less than 20 minutes. Please call the Clerk’s office to make an appointment.

Snippets from the Castleton Library’s Annual Report

The library hours were expanded to include evening and morning hours beginning February 28, 2011. The library is successfully operating at 46 hours a week; 11 hours more than previous years!

The library now offers a regular weekly story hour, monthly Lego Club, and monthly movie nights. Beyond regular programming, the library offers computer classes, preschool story hours, and crafts.

A new book drop was installed in July 2011. The outdoor book return allows patrons to return items after library and Village Hall hours. As was hoped, the book return is well-used and is quite popular with library patrons!

Lending policies were adjusted to ensure patrons were able to access materials in a timely manner. Adjustments included: no longer limiting the number of DVDs a patron can borrow at one time, a shorter loan period for new books, and allowing some books to be put on a request list that previously was not available.

With the help of volunteers, the Ruth Spieske Reading Nook was created in memory of Ruth Spieske, a woman who dedicated many years of service to the library and left a generous gift upon her passing. The Nook is a comfortable, quiet space where community members can sit to read, use a laptop to connect to the wireless network, or meet

with a small group.

You can also download from the library’s electronic collection onto your Kindle, iPhone and many other electronic devices. It’s so easy, just stop by the library and they will explain how it works.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Wednesday:
12PM-8PM

Thursday-Friday:
10AM-6PM

Saturday: 10AM-4PM

Fire Department

The Fire Company will sponsor a ham dinner to benefit the VFW on April 28th. There will be two servings: 4:00 and 6:30, call 732-4694 to reserve. What is the VFW? The VFW has been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, creating a new GI bill and they fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, the VFW won a long-fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active-duty service members, and members of the Guard and Reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

More News from the Fire Department: **Abigail Dingman** received the William Leadbitter Memorial Firefighter of the Year award. Life Member **Barry Secor** was the recipient of the Richard Becker award for his many contributions to the fire service, and starting the Schodack Fire Investigation Unit. Barry works for the village justice court. The ladies Auxillary welcomed new life members: **Orry Schermerhorn**, **Carol Nato**, and **Mary Shea**.

And the youth group gave an award to **Brian Schank** for all his support with the youth group.



**VILLAGE OF
CASTLETON ON HUDSON**

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For updates on happenings around the Village and to access the monthly calendars, please bookmark our website and visit frequently:

WWW.CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON.ORG

MAYOR
JOSEPH KEEGAN

TRUSTEES
MARIANNE CARNER, DEPUTY MAYOR
LUCAS ASHBY
JENIFER PRATICO
AMY RYAN

VILLAGE CLERK
MARGARET C. LILL

VILLAGE TREASURER
PAM SMITH

SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK

Your key to all season enjoyment of state parks is the season's pass. For \$65, the Empire Passport provides you unlimited day use vehicle entry into most of the parks. Apply on-line or call your favorite park for more information.

Vehicle Entrance Fee: Cars \$6 on weekends and holidays: 5/1 - 10/11

Rentals:

Pavilion \$100: Water Electric 100+ people; Riverview Pavilion \$25 15+ people; Tent (30x30) \$75 Electric 50+ people; Tent (20x30) \$50 35+ people

Trash removal option: \$6 per bag-Checks made out to "Schodack Island NHT"

Dry Slip Boat Permit:

\$150 for the season from - May 1st to Columbus Day; or \$ 50 per month if available.

I Love My Park Day: Schodack Island State Park

Saturday, May 05, 2012 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thanks to
the DPW
crew for
making
Village Hall
look so great!



Tari Civerolo checks out the new paint color.



Freshly painted walls at Village Hall!