

The Castleonian

December 2010



PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

A minor change is coming to your tax bills. The Village Board has voted in favor of the Town of Schock taking over as the property assessor for the Village. Right now each property in the Village is assessed by both the Town *and* the Village. These assessments don't always match and it's confusing for residents. We've had residents come to Village Hall meetings wanting to challenge their Town assessment and the Town has reported the same issue. This is confusing for everyone.

Village Board members, who were acting as assessor for the Village, are not experts in property assessment and the Town has a paid employee who is an expert. Residents are still entitled to challenge their assessments but from now on this will be done through the Town only.

Some Village residents might see a small increase in their assessment and some will see a small decrease but most won't notice any difference.

Your June 2011 tax bill will reflect this new single assessment. Let us know if you have any questions.



The Mayor, Village Board, Village Clerk, Treasurer, DPW, Fire Department, Water and Sewer, Building Inspector, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Code Enforcement along with the many volunteers who help run our Village would like to extend our best wishes to you and your family for a safe and Happy New Year.

See you in 2011!

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING UPDATE

The Village has been trying to gain access to a small parcel of land at the bottom of Scott Avenue on the Hudson River ever since New York State shut down the railroad crossing many years ago. The State did offer to build a pedestrian walkway over the railroad tracks but the Vil-

lage would have been responsible for all the yearly maintenance of the entire structure plus two elevators. The maintenance cost of this seemed prohibitive for the Village and last month the board rejected the State proposal and suggested to the State that the design be changed so that

elevators would not be necessary. That design change included either going under the tracks or using a switchback design that went over the tracks.



SNOW REMOVAL & EMERGENCIES

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.

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 locations:

- * 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, the DPW crew will pick up the recycling as soon as the roads are safe for travel.

♪ *Let it snow... Let it snow... Let it snow* ♪

CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library held a very successful open house with lots of guests: Schodack Town Board members, Library board members, county representatives, Village board members and lots and lots of big and little kids.

A yearly fundraiser at Barnes and Noble in Colonie Center raised a lot of money for the library. Also many books were purchased and donated to the library. This was sponsored by the Friends group.

The Library Board is currently interviewing candidates for the Library Director position.

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



Contact the Friends group at:
friendsofcastletonlibrary@yahoo.com

*Barnes and Noble
 Fundraiser for the
 Castleton Public
 Library*

SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK

For the ice skating enthusiast, a revamped skating rink has been leveled and enlarged. Two light poles have been installed and there will be Friday night skating during January, February and most of March (weather permitting). A fireplace has been installed with benches to keep the chill off. With the partnership of the Friends of Schodack Island, warm refreshments will be available. If a group is interested in playing hockey, that

can be arranged so that no open skating would occur at the same time. There are two hockey goals but the nets need to be replaced. Call us, let's have some fun this winter!

Hunting season is open until December 21st. Hunting is allowed at the island by special permit only, which is issued in person at the park



*For more information,
call 732.0187*

NYPA GRANT

The Village received a \$150,000 energy award thanks to the ongoing persistence of Village Trustee Paul Powers. The money must be used for energy efficiency. We are upgrading some sewer plant equipment which is much more energy efficient, some heating and lighting upgrades in various Village build-

“...there will be Friday night skating during January, February and most of March”

ings and we'll be purchasing a photovoltaic system which will power some heating and lighting which will significantly reduce our Village electric and gas bills.

WATER METERS

The Village has started replacing existing water meters with new radio read water meters. Once the new meters have been read that data can be automatically uploaded into the billing system (we were doing this manually, a very inefficient and expensive process). The new radio read water meters are also equipped to notify the Village if a leak is detected in the home. This will help us reduce water loss or discover if someone has tampered with a meter.



*Future Scientists of America!
Science Fair at CES*

Weight Watchers....we are trying to get about 8 more people to help us start a meeting. You don't have to live in the Village to be part of the meeting. Give the Village Clerk a call if you're interested.

STORM SEWERS

Have you noticed the stencils around the storm sewers in the Village? The DPW with the help of the Boy Scouts stenciled “No Dumping. Drains to River” around all the storm sewers. This was part of our MS-4 pro-

gram which minimizes the amount of unclear water that flows into the Hudson River.

This was part of William Noll's Eagle Scout project and he was helped by other scouts.

Village of Castleton on Hudson

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www.castleton-on-hudson.org

Office hours are 9:00 - 3:00,

Monday - Friday



MAYOR

JOSEPH KEEGAN

TRUSTEES

MARIANNE CARNER

CHERYL MANNION

MICHAEL PHIBBS

PAUL POWERS

VILLAGE CLERK

MARGARET C. LILL

VILLAGE TREASURER

PAM SMITH

IF YOU'D LIKE A COPY OF *THE CASTLETONIAN* SENT TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS OR YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE AN ELECTRONIC COPY, SEND AN EMAIL TO: CLERK@NYCAP.RR.COM

GREEN AVENUE BOND

The Village has sold a bond in the amount of \$1,945,000 to cover the cost we borrowed to redo Green Avenue. We were able to get a very low interest rate on the bond because of the Village's good fiscal health.

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.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth A. Deyoe, age 35, of Main Street in Castleton, passed away on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, after a courageous battle with cancer and heart and lung disease. Mom to Thatcher, 4th grader at CES. A great friend and loving mother.

Evelyn M. Dusenbery, age 84, of Castleton, died Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at Albany Memorial Hospital.

LeRoy Hallenbeck Sr., age 65, died Friday, November 26, 2010 at St. Mary's Hospital Troy. Good friend of the Castleton Little League.

Elizabeth (Betty) Scott, 90, passed away on Monday, November 29, 2010, in her home at Castle Hill Senior Apts.

Janice S. Jackson, 86, longtime resident of Castleton, passed on peacefully October 12, 2010.

The Village has a website at : www.castleton-on-hudson.org.

The webmaster, Ken Ormiston, does a great job of keeping the site updated with news and pictures.

Check back often!