



# THE CASTLETONIAN

*The Village of Castleton is a Great Place to Live!*



June 2006

Summer

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## Tidbits:

- *The new Village fiscal year started on June 1st.*
- *It's that time of year – garbage, water, and sewer bills are sent out the first week of June!*
- *Congratulations to all our Village residents who are graduating this month! Good Job!*

## Code Enforcement Helps All of Us

**Y**ou may have noticed in recent weeks that citations pertaining to incidents of code violations have risen dramatically in the village. This is no accident. Your Village Board of Trustees is making a concerted effort to clean-up the village and rid it of chronic, unattended problems that detract from the beauty of our community. Bill Schouten is our Village's Code Enforcement Officer. Since he was appointed to his office on April 3, he has been diligent about enforcing our zoning code to ensure that everyone is living up to its intent. What is the

point of having codes that pertain to garbage and un-registered vehicles (as examples) if they are not enforced properly?

All residents and business owners should be reassured that no one or no business is being singled out for punishment. On the flip side, no one is immune from receiving an "Order to Remedy." In most instances, the action needed to solve the problem is simple. Bill is willing to work with anyone to resolve code issues. In other cases, individuals and/or business owners may have more serious issues that may force the Village to convene a Hearing



Board or pursue the matter in court. This issue is of paramount importance to your Village Board. It is committed to following through on all code enforcement orders to make Castleton a better place for all of us.

## Hey, Do You Need a Ride?

**N**one of us need to be reminded that gas prices have risen to over \$3.00 per gallon. One particularly astute citizen has requested that the Village solicit interest regarding the establishment of a ride board, whereby rides/riders

can be matched up to make the trek into other Capital District areas.

Are you interested in riding/ or having riders in your vehicle? This can be a great way to save money and make friends! We could create such a board by installing

one in Village Hall and keeping it updated.

We will gauge public opinion before we move ahead on this idea. Mayor Perry welcomes your thoughts. Please e-mail her at [www.mayornancyperry@yahoo.com](mailto:www.mayornancyperry@yahoo.com). Thanks!

## Update on the Castleton Library



The future of the Castleton Library is a concern to all of us!

Mayor Perry and the Board of Trustees assured over 60 residents on May 10th that the Library in Village Hall would remain at its same size regardless of the creation of a Town Library.

The Library is considered a vital part of our community and it is a key player in our efforts to revitalize Main Street. The discussion focused on making sure that our Village has proactive, positive efforts moving forward and that we monitor and work closely with the Town to ensure that our village library needs are met.

Mayor Perry gave a brief background on the Library from the Castleton perspective. The Village cannot afford to maintain a library on our own—at least not a very good one with the books and services we expect (and deserve). We contrib-

ute \$10,000 every year from the Village Budget to the Library. We also give our space, heat, electricity, and bookkeeping services to the library free of charge. However, the Town of Schodack gives the Library over \$70,000 annually to cover its expenses. The Village does not have an additional \$70,000 to maintain a library.

There are issues associated with the location of the Village Library. Its very success has caused these issues. Those of us who use the library realize that it is bursting at its seams, and really does not have enough space. There is limited space in Village Hall even though the Library has a good portion of the first and second floors at its use.

Our residents had several questions and we will be working to resolve these in the upcoming months:

- If a Town Library is created, would a Memorandum of Understanding be instituted? What will remain in the Village and what will change?
- How do we ensure our continued representation on the Library Board?
- What will happen to the historical books and records?
- Will there be adult and children books available?
- What kinds of programs and activities will be offered?

We will be communicating with you on this subject as we learn more. You can expect public meetings during the upcoming months as developments unfold.

Thank you for your concern!

Happy  
Father's  
Day!



Summer is wonderful!

## Please remember.....(please)

- Make sure that lids are on your garbage cans at all times!
- No burning of any kind is allowed in the Village!
- Please keep cutting your cardboard in 3x3 squares for recycling pick-up!
- On a very unhappy note, DPW has informed the Village that the lawn on Main Street next to the railroad fence is full of dog feces! Please make sure that you pick up after your pet! This situation is unhealthy – do you

want your children to be playing in an area that is full of poop? If this situation does not improve, then the Village may have to consider outlawing any pets from being walked in that area. Be considerate, please!

## What About Those Skateboards?

Summer brings with it all the fun associated with outdoor activities including one that has some Village residents up in arms—skateboarding. Several citizens have asked Mayor Perry if the Village can intervene to prevent skateboarders from riding on their property (including the sidewalks). Some fear that any injuries sustained by skateboarders on their property

become the liability of the homeowner.

The short answer is “no.” The Village cannot prevent law-abiding skateboarders from using the sidewalks any more than it can prevent walkers from using the sidewalks. However, you may inform skateboarders to leave your property. Skateboarders—and their parents—should use common sense. It is not rare to see children

riding their boards down the middle of heavily traveled roads, oblivious to the vehicles approaching them. The “tricks” that many children attempt on the curbs are not safe. Children should be monitored by their parents to behave and, if requested, vacate private property in a courteous manner. Also, our curfew law prevents any child under the age of 17 from being on village streets after 10:00 p.m.



## DPW Contract Approved

The Village has concluded negotiations and approved a contract on May 22nd with the United Public Service Employees Union, representing our DPW and Water staff. Our employees had been without a contract since June 1, 2005.

We value our employees and

the new contract, covering the years 2005-2007, is a fair investment in our most valuable resource—our employees. Although \$7,500 had been budgeted for legal assistance in this effort, no money was necessary to conclude the work.

Highlights of the new contract include:

- Pay raises of 2%, 3%, and 4% over three years. The union wanted 4%, 4%, and 4%.
- Allowing dental insurance at the same rates as health insurance.
- Commitment to approving a transitional work policy over the next year.



*Our new DPW contract is an investment in our most valuable resource—our employees.*

## New Clean-Up Day Location a Success!!

The bi-annual Village Clean-Up Day was held on Saturday, May 20th. Based on a suggestion offered by Rich Saville, our DPW Foreman, the large bins were placed down in the Brickyard. The reason for the location change

from Main Street was due to the massive amount of “hit and run” trash that was typically deposited after the event formally ended. It would not be unusual for residents of other towns and villages to throw their trash out during the weekend before the trailers were hauled

away on Monday morning. We have to pay for that!

Even though it had rained for 8 straight days, the added space worked like a charm! DPW reports there were no excess deposits made during the weekend. The next Clean-Up Day is September 30th at the Brickyard!



**A clean Village is a happy Village!**

THE VILLAGE OF CASTLETON IS  
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

**Code Enforcement Phone  
Number (Bill Schouten):  
701-8045**

**Building Inspection Phone  
Number (Glenn Hebert):  
701-6696**

The Village of Castleton-on-Hudson  
85 South Main Street  
Castleton, New York 12033

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Fax: 732-1550

COMMENTS? LET'S HEAR THEM!  
MAYORNANCYPERRY@YAHOO.COM



## The Village of Castleton-on-Hudson

Nancy W. Perry, Mayor

Trustees: George Lengio, Joe McInerney, Pam  
Gleeson, Karen Fagan

Village Clerk and Treasurer: Donna Mesick

Deputy Clerk: Betty Saville

Office Assistant: Sue Werkman

## Department of Public Works Goals for 2006

**Y**our Village Trustees will discuss 2006 DPW goals at its June 12th meeting.

Our DPW has indicated that it intends to undertake these projects this summer:

### Sidewalk Replacement

- Van Buren Ave. from Scott Ave. to 23 Van Buren.
- Removal of sidewalk on Hudson Street near Williams Street.

### Storm Sewer

- Replace 3 catch basins on Morgan Terrace.

- Repair storm drains on Ransom Ave. and storm line in CES lawn.
- Replace 2 catch basins on Anderson Ave.
- Replace 1 catch basin on Chestnut Street.

### Road Repairs

- Repave Morgan Terrace.
- Repave Anderson Ave.
- Repave dead end of Chestnut Street.
- Repave George Street.
- Finish other miscellaneous road repairs throughout Village.

- Repair Van Der Wal Lane and Haber Way.

### Water Projects

- Replace water line on Anderson Ave. with new 6-inch pipe.
- Run new 6-inch water main to dead end on Chestnut Street.
- Connect water lines from Willow St. to Hudson St.

This list is not exhaustive. It gives you an idea of the types of things our DPW staff will be doing in the upcoming months. Come to the June 12th Board meeting if you have questions or ideas! You may also call Mayor Perry.

