

The South Nyack News

VOLUME XXXIV

December 2008

FEDERAL FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

Since the early 80's, the Village of South Nyack has applied for and received Federal Community Development funding for various projects that have included new sidewalks, curb and curb-cuts, playground construction in the Franklin Street and Elizabeth Place parks, street paving and improvements to the village's Esposito Trail.

Construction of a covered community performance space in the Franklin Street Park (the 2007 grant) will begin in early spring and work to upgrade the storm drain system on Cedar Hill Avenue (the 2008 grant) will begin when the weather permits.

Under the able leadership of former village trustee *Mary Jane Alexander*, members of South Nyack's Citizen Advisory Committee, meet to identify needs that can possibly receive funding.

If you would like to be involved in this community effort, please contact Mary Jane by email at depotpl@cs.com, or by phone at 845-353-0697.

A Message from the Mayor...

Dear Neighbors:

Some fall items of note: Let's all take local pride in our refurbished Gazebo at Village Hall. Our South Nyack landmark "glows" nightly, recently transformed with a new roof and floor, totally rebuilt window boxes, a freshly scrubbed and painted body and brightly lit just in time to cheer up the neighborhood and home bound commuters during the early darkness of daylight savings. For this I am most grateful once again to Jim Johnson and his DPW crew. (It isn't all about leaf collection!)

Indeed there was a very special incentive to complete the Gazebo renewal. The Village Board passed a resolution to honor our generous neighbor and constant friend, David Rituper, who had passed away last spring. Over the years David maintained the flower boxes with fresh seasonal arrangements adding a tasteful, finishing touch to our village landmark. A memorial plaque was

scheduled for placement in the Gazebo as a tribute to David. With the plaque installed, his friends gathered on the evening of October 28th along with Village Board members, staff and villagers to witness the official dedication. The Mayor's proclamation was followed by loving words, memories and wine toasts and a general consensus that David would surely be enjoying the occasion.

In the spirit of recent "giving of thanks", residents can be grateful for other major village improvements. After months of summer work installing a new gas line on Piermont Avenue,

sewer repairs on Mansfield, Piermont, and Cornelison Avenues AND with storm drain and sewer work on South Boulevard the two village neighborhoods now have freshly milled and paved streets, resulting in a smooth ride in time for the holiday season.

My other recent village activities seem to involve (too many) meetings: a TZ Bridge Summit, County Solid Waste Committee, Rockland Mayors, Community Development Planning; Hazardous Events Planning (for FEMA funding), Rockland Riverfront Community Council (source of \$ for our Gesner Park). We are looking forward to improvement of the Cedar Hill storm sewer and work on a new, covered performance space for Franklin Street Park. It seems more progress requires more meetings.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

Tish



The Village of South Nyack

Mayor

Patricia M. (Tish) DuBow

Trustees

Alain Leinbach
Dana L. McKee
Donald J. McMahon
Thomas E. Neff

Village Information

**282 South Broadway
South Nyack, NY 10960**

Village Hall.....	358-0287
Fax	358-0630
Police	358-0206
Fax	358-2714
Building Dep't.....	358-0244
Fax	358-0630
Dep't Public Works..	358-0227
Fax	358-5563
Justice Court.....	358-5078
Fax	358-2714

The Village Hall is open
from 9am to 5pm
each weekday

South Nyack Monthly Meeting Schedule

*Held at the Village Hall
unless noted otherwise*

Board of Trustees

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 8 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Planning Board

3rd Wednesday at 7:30 pm

South Nyack-Grand View Joint Police Board

*Held at either the South Nyack
or Grand View Village Hall*

Monthly meetings at 7:30 pm
See the Monthly Calendar for Dates

Justice Court

*Held at the Firehouse
90 Depot Place*

Twice monthly at 6:00 pm
See the Monthly Calendar for Dates

SOUTH NYACK RESIDENT TRAVELS AS PART OF A HUDSON VALLEY MEDICAL MISSION

School nurse and South Nyack resident **Ann Bennett-Collazuol**, recently had the experience of seeing first hand how acts of giving can change someone else's life. In August, Ann had the opportunity to travel to Aquiraz, Brazil as part of a team of two dozen Hudson Valley medical volunteers on a mission to provide health care to poor children in the area.

This was not her first trip to South America. In a recent interview with *Hudson Valley Magazine*, Ann talked about the trip she made when she was 20. It turned out to be a life-defining experience because while visiting local clinics there she was inspired to become a nurse and learn how to take care of people.

"Healing the Children", a Connecticut based non-profit organization sponsored the recent trip but the volunteer surgical team paid their own way including travel expenses and provided all the supplies and equipment needed for surgery and medial treatment.

From the Hudson Valley Magazine article: "The

Aquiraz mission began with months of raising money and gathering supplies. The kids at St. Paul School, where Bennett-Collazuol works as the school nurse, were excited about the idea of helping children in another country; they brought in bags of toys, coloring books, and soccer balls, as well as monetary donations from their parents."

There were three full surgical days on the Aquiraz mission; in all, 48 surgeries were performed, and many lives changed.

"To be part of something like that, is like a miracle." Ann said.

To read the full story by A. Silberman, visit:

<http://www.hvmag.com/Hudson-Valley-Magazine/November-2008/Helping-Hands/>

PENGUIN PLUNGE

Take the Penguin Plunge! Receive a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that your goose bumps are going to a good cause.

At three months Ashley Gankiewicz, a South Nyack resident, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor on the optic nerve and in the chiasm area of the brain attached to her pituitary and hypothalamus glands. Ashley also has scoliosis, balance, coordination and depth perception issues, visual loss, early onset puberty due to her tumor and cardiac problems. Ashley is 7 years old.

On Sunday, March 1, 2009 a Penguin Plunge into the Hudson River will raise

money that will go directly towards Ashley's health care bills and out of pocket expenses which average \$25-\$30,000 yearly.

Join us on March 1st at Penguin Point in Nyack's Memorial Park, for this worthwhile, invigorating cause. For information on the levels of sponsorship or details about the event, please contact Officer Barbara Noyes, South Nyack Grandview Police Department, (845) 358-0206 or b.noyes@gmail.com.

If you are not a Penguin, come to the park anyway to cheer and support the plungers. Exact time to be announced.

John Vassar Awarded Purple Heart

In 1952, while in the Army's 3rd Infantry in Korea, South Nyack's *John Vassar* stepped on a roadside mine and was hit by shrapnel. Despite the effects of his injuries, Vassar returned to combat, spending 16 months serving in the Korean War.

In November, the Purple Heart was one of 6 medals awarded to Vassar by Congressman Eliot Engel in a ceremony attended by family members, friends, veterans and government officials. The lengthy wait for the honor was attributed to lost documents and red tape. Although the award was slow in coming, it is never too late to say thank you to John Vassar and congratulations!

400th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Hudson River

The year 1609 marked the discovery of two major waterway courses: the discovery of the Hudson River by

Henry Hudson and the discovery of Lake Champlain by Samuel de Champlain. Two hundred years later, in 1807 inventor Robert Fulton, made the first successful steamship voyage up the Hudson marking a new era of navigation and technology. These events impacted our state and country and set the stage for the settlements of New York City and the Hudson



and Champlain Valleys.

2009 marks the 400th anniversary of these events and the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission has developed anniversary activities to commemorate these three historic voyages.

The official kick-off event for all of NY State will be an ice festival at our own Rockland Lake on Sunday, January 25, featuring ice sculpture, hot air balloons, exhibits about the ice industry, and if the weather cooperates, giant artwork on the frozen lake surface. State and local co-sponsored events are planned for Nyack this summer.

Watch for more news on the upcoming celebrations through October 2009! For information, please visit www.exploreny400.com.



For information and to volunteer at local events planned for the Nyacks this summer, go to www.FriendsOfTheNyacks.org or phone 358-4973.

Leaf Collection

The Fall curbside leaf collection has ended. Any leaves and lawn debris must now be put into biodegradable bags and placed at curbside for pick-up. These bags are available to residents at the South Nyack Village Hall.

Visit the
Village of South Nyack

web site: www.SouthNyack.info

to see our calendar of events—including the recycle schedule, a listing of members of all boards, phone numbers, and commonly requested permits.

DONATE YOUR OLD RADIOS

Northern Services Group, a not-for-profit organization, which operates an array of living options for senior citizens would welcome donations of new or used working radios for the use of residents of their Assisted Living and skilled nursing facilities.

Donations may be dropped off at the Volunteer Services Office at Fountain View on College Road, Monsey. For further information, please call Brenda J. Greenberg at 845-426-6757.

DONATE USED CELL PHONES

Used cell phones are collected at the South Nyack Village Hall for "Call to Protect". Donated phones are re-programmed to dial 911 and given to victims of domestic abuse.

Holiday Toy Drive

South Nyack / Grand View Police are once again sponsoring a toy drive this holiday season to benefit children in our community. To help brighten a local child's holiday season, residents can purchase a new toy and deliver it unwrapped to the South Nyack Village Hall by December 21. Through the

assistance of the Nyack Public Schools Family Resource Center, the gifts will then be distributed to the neediest children in the community.

No time to shop?

You can also make a cash/check donation to the South Nyack PBA and toys will be purchased with the collected funds.



Christmas Tree Sale

Beautiful Vermont evergreen trees are on sale weekdays between 3 pm and 9 pm and from 9 am to 9 pm on weekends, at the Orangetown Fire Company #1. A variety of trees are available including Balsam & Fraser Firs. FREE local delivery. The firehouse is located at 90 Depot Place, off Cedar Hill, between Franklin Street & Broadway.

South Nyack Officials

Village Clerk	Sara M. Seiler
Deputy Village Clerk	Carol Drummond
Village Attorney	Keith J. Cornell
Asst. Village Attorney	Robert Knoebel
Village Treasurer	Marvin Nyman
Village Engineer	Steven J. Collazuol
Court Justice*	Dennis E. A. Lynch
Acting Justice	Thomas Mascola
Justice Court Clerk	David Majewski
Building/Code Inspector	David Majewski
Asst Building/Code Insp.	David McLeod
Fire Safety Inspector	David Majewski
Asst Fire & Safety Insp.	Vincent Narciso
Supt. of Public Works	James F. Johnson
Chief of Police	Robert Van Cura
Assessor	Kelsey D. Graham
Records Access Officer	Sara M. Seiler
Village Historian	Myra Starr

*Elected Position

PROTECT VILLAGE TREES

The Village's trees bring natural beauty to streetscapes and frame views of our houses and the Hudson River. Many of these trees were planted within 10 years of the beginning of the 20th century when streets were widened to accommodate public gas, water and sewer lines and automobiles.

All things have their own inherent lifespan and many of the largest maples are starting to die ... (witness the thinning crowns from dropped branches and bare branches even in summer)...or have toppled during storms. Trees assessed to present a potential hazard are trimmed or removed to prevent injury or damage. Additionally, the utility company's policy to keep trees trimmed away from phone and electric wires has produced misshapen and weakened trees that subsequently have failed and been removed.

Many of you have voiced concern for the state of the Village's trees and called for action to restore this important Village asset. In response, the Board of Trustees is creating a new Village Tree Committee that will be charged to inventory the Village's tree stock and develop plans for the near-term enhancement and long-term maintenance of public trees. Their first activity will be to apply to Cornell Cooperative Extension for a tree survey to be conducted in the spring by students from their arborist program. The committee will begin in January to hold informal gatherings with the intent of raising public awareness, soliciting recommendations and advice, and building a volunteer base for future activities.

If you would like to receive alerts of upcoming meetings, contact Don McMahon at depotpl@cs.com or Anna Hammond at Anna.Hammond@gmail.com with subject TREES or call Don at 353-0697. Please provide your name, address and phone and/or email address so we can keep you informed.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Chair	Roger Seiler
Member	Kelsey Graham, Richard Holt
	Charles Cross, Bonnie Christian
Alternate	Russell Bly, Clifford Weathers
Planning Board	
Chair	Marc Massay
Member	Raymond Schwarz, Jeffy Ilowite
	William Whitehurst, Timothy Kenna
Alternate	Kenie Mittleman, Myra Starr

Seniors Have New President

The Orangetown-Nyack Senior Club recently elected Jean Kelsey as its President. Jean and her husband, Merle, are long time South Nyack residents and both have been very active in the Club for several years.

Jean and her committee have finalized the schedule of monthly day trips for 2009, as well as a 5 day trip to Wildwood Crest in early June. Every month the members enjoy an interesting trip to entertaining and /or cultural places.

The Seniors always welcome new members, and the only 2 requirements for joining are: 1) You must be a resident of the Town of Orangetown and 2) You must have already celebrated your 60th birthday.

Meetings are at 2 :00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria of the former St. Ann's School, Jefferson St., Nyack. (enter from the east side parking lot)/ For further information please call Jean at 358-0809.

Staff Changes ...

After 28 years with the Department of Public Works, *George Abrams* has retired. We thank him for his many years of reliable, loyal service to the village. Nyack native *Ryan Cassidy*, formally a part-time summer DPW employee, has been hired to fill his position.

Marvin Nyman, a CPA who has worked for the village in the past, has been appointed Village Treasurer to replace long-time, valued employee *Barry MacCartney* who has resigned. The Board of Trustees thanks Barry for his 14 years of service to the village. (The treasurer position is part-time.)

Three new part-time police officers have joined the South Nyack-Grand View Police Department: *Thomas Martin*, *George Kopac* and *Brian Lyons*. All were full time officers with other nearby police departments and bring skills and experience to their work in our village.

And.....also working part-time for the village are *Denise Weber-Mishkel* and *Rich Steinmann*. We thank Denise for her efforts in putting together this newsletter. Rich, the Village Hall custodian, is the grandson of the late Vernon Steinmann, long-time village employee.

Welcome All!

BE SAFE AND SECURE THIS SEASON!

From Thanksgiving through the New Year, many families and children will be celebrating with decorations and parties. Following are a few safety rules can help make this wonderful time of year even more enjoyable.

LIGHTING

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and discard damaged sets.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated

staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Another option is to run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).

- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire



materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

DECORATIONS:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimming with small removable parts out of reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass angle hair". Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

By following these easy tips, you can help to ensure a safe and secure holiday season.

Reminders for Winter Snow Removal

With leaf collection at its end, and winter right around the corner, it is important to understand the responsibilities required of homeowners with regards to snowstorms. In the past, homeowners have done a great job clearing sidewalks for safe passage and our DPW's around-the-clock efforts have kept the streets open for travel. Below are some reminders:

- Village law requires property owners to have the sidewalks abutting their property clear of snow and ice within 24 hours of the cessation of a storm.
- Vehicles must be off the street within 2 hours after a snow storm has started. (If snow is predicted, the police will not grant permission for over-night street parking).
- Parking cars over the public sidewalk is illegal...and dangerous for pedestrians who have to walk in the street to pass. Cars parked in this manner are in jeopardy of being towed at the owners expense.
- If possible, wait to clear snow until after the storm has ended. It is the policy of the Village DPW to plow curb to curb. This clean-up takes a few hours after the snow has stopped.
- Snow may not be plowed, blown or shoveled into the street.
- When clearing your driveway, stack the snow to the right of the direction of traffic flow so that the mound does not get pushed back into the driveway by the Village plow.
- We also ask that you also take time to clear the area around the fire hydrants near your home. Our volunteer fire fighters are trained to fight fires. Help them do that, by clearing access to the hydrants in case an emergency arises.

Help protect your home, your family and your neighborhood! Have a safe winter season!

2009 SOUTH NYACK RECYCLING PICK UP SCHEDULE

January

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ON DUTY 24/7

The South Nyack-Grand View Police Department endeavors to serve our community with pride and professionalism in all law enforcement related matters. To meet the needs of South Nyack and Grand View residents, the department is staffed by a Chief, a Sergeant, and 14 police officers, who are a combination of full and part-time employees. Officers are on patrol 24 hours a day, every day of the year protecting the residents of our villages. To contact the police in an emergency, residents should dial 911. The call will be answered by the Town of Orangetown Dispatch Center. They will dispatch a South Nyack-Grandview Officer. Calls placed to our non-emergency number, 845-358-0206 will be answered either by our staff or the automated phone system which provides several options for contacting members of the police department. We encourage residents to report all suspicious activity as soon as they observe it to help keep our community safe. - Robert W. VanCura, Chief of Police

The South Nyack News

Village of South Nyack
282 South Broadway
South Nyack, New York 10960

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 STANDARD
 US POSTAGE PAID
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