

# Message from Mayor Brett Yagel

June 2012

Dear Residents,

I hope that this communication finds you and your family well. With this in mind, I wanted to share with you some items regarding your Village. And while your government does not always operate on a schedule you may desire, it does so on one that is methodic, deliberate, and necessary. And one that achieves results for us all. Some examples:

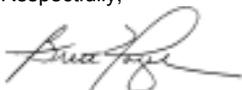
- Over the last two paving seasons, we have undertaken the most aggressive road repaving/rehabilitation schedule in village history. To date, we have repaved over 7.5 miles of roads, at a cost of over \$ 1.2 M. Considering the Village's overall budgets were approximately \$ 3.2 M, this represents a significant re-investment in our shared infrastructure. And while we may not have re-paved your particular road, we continue to evaluate and schedule roads for repaving. In the meantime, if there is an issue with your road, please let our village staff know. Your input is important, as well as valued.
- Last fall, the Village entered into a new consolidated fixed-price Highways Services Agreement for Road Repairs / Snow Plowing Services (other than paving). The transition was seamless, went relatively unnoticed, and the results better than anticipated, especially given the surprise Halloween snow storm.
- Taxes always go up, right? Not this year! You are not seeing a mirage on your tax bill. Cost containment, safety, service levels, infrastructure improvements, the protection of our environment and quality of life, continue to be a priority of this administration. The Village budget that was approved, provides a solid foundation for achieving these, while being cognizant of the current economic conditions, state mandated tax cap levy, and being respectful of our fellow village residents. How, can this be achieved without raising taxes? Here's how:
  - Through the efforts of the Mayor and New York State Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, Assemblyman Zebrowski was able to secure a \$110K Multi-Modal grant for our road re-pavement initiative. Thank you Assemblyman Zebrowski for going the 'extra mile' in these difficult economic / budget times.
  - When Hurricane Irene made her appearance last August, this administration was able to leverage our position in the Hazard Mitigation Program. As such, we have been extremely aggressive in pursuing Disaster Assistance funding through FEMA. The result, we are confident that the repairs, which exceeded \$90K, will be reimbursed at 75% of our costs.
  - Pursuing fixed-priced contracts, rather than Time and Materials contracts has resulted in a minimum yearly savings of \$ 30K this past year alone.

Regarding other matters (pending Litigation (Tartikov, Patrick Farm), the Provident Ball Park complaints, and the Desalinization Plant), here is where we are currently. Regarding:

- All litigious matters, I am limited to what is discussed in public and/or private, as benign and innocuous statements can be mangled and end up in supplemental letters to the courts by an opposing side. Suffice to say:
  - Tartikov - the case remains in Federal Court, where we await a decision. The presiding justice has called a conference on the case for late June. We will keep you posted.
  - Patrick Farm - we recently received a decision in the Appellate division which found in favor of our Village on several points. As such, the 'defects' must be corrected and other cases are now back into consideration. We, as well as other groups, including ROSA, continue to pursue the issues in various courts, as well as with State and Federal authorities/entities.
- Provident Bank Park and the frequency of fireworks - we continue to receive numerous complaints about the unrealistic and increased frequency of fireworks this season. This administration, as well other area Mayor's, will be speaking with the Ramapo Supervisor about the potential public/private nuisance that has been created, and the effects on our quality of life, not to mention, the potential violation of Town Law!
- United Water New York's Proposed Haverstraw Water (Desalinization) Project – President John F. Kennedy once stated that *"...the great enemy of truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic."* Such has been the case with this project. On February 27, the Village Board adopted a resolution opposing this project. In short, it's proximity to a nuclear power plant, the disturbance to a fragile ecologic system, mitigation should malfunction occur, the potential health effects on residents, the overall project costs to existing ratepayers and not investors, the operational costs – as this is an energy intensive process - these are but a few of the reasons for opposing this project. We are concerned that Rockland has achieved the perceived designation of a 'water-stressed environment'. Some other regions sharing this designation: Aruba, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, are but a few. And while it is understood that 'tax ratables' (reducing the overall residential tax bills), there are other less costly options that should be explored first, before a potential \$400.00 in water rates are applied to your existing water bill.

In closing, let me state we have many village events planned for this upcoming Summer Season. These are either no cost, or limited cost events. I look forward to seeing you at one, or all, of these events. Please enjoy your Pomona!

Respectfully,



## UPCOMING RECREATION EVENTS

### **Fishing Derby:**

The Annual Lou Cohn Memorial Fish-in for children will be held on June 24, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Fairy Pond on Secor Court in the Village of Pomona. Contest begins at 1:00 p.m. Trophies will be awarded. Children up to age 14 are invited to participate. Bring a fishing pole; we provide bait and assistance. Snacks and drinks for all.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pomona Music Festival:**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Village of Pomona Music Festival will take place on Sunday, July 15th from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Village Hall. Bring a chair or blanket and spend the day with us listening to live music including the famous POMONA JAM BAND featuring Joe Ham, Paul Guzzone, Rich Louie & more. Local bands playing Jazz, Rock, Blues, R&B and Pop all afternoon. Make a Pie for the "Best Pie in Pomona" Contest. Show your talent in our "Pomona's Got Talent" Showcase (all ages), "Health and Fitness" vendors, Kids activities - ALL FREE ADMISSION...ALL DAY <sup>1</sup>

**POCUS** (Pomona Clean-up Squad) next meets June 10, 2012 at Village Hall at 10 a.m. Join your neighbors to help keep Pomona clean from roadside trash.

### **Yoga:**

Don't forget our free (to village residents) Yoga class. Tuesday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. or Friday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. at Village Hall. Beginners welcome, bring a mat.

### **Movie Nights:**

Join us this summer and fall when we bring back our Movie Nights. The dates will be 6/23/12, 7/21/12, 8/25/12 and 9/8/12. The movies will all start at 7:30 p.m. and will be downstairs in Village Hall. Free! (Movies to be announced).

### **Pomona Cultural Center:**

The Summer Exhibition 2012, opening reception Saturday, June 16, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Pomona Cultural Center on Route 306, just north of Pomona Road. Join us!

Summer Flamenco Dance Classes/Workshop June-July 2012

Taught by accomplished flamenco dancer Marina Elana Scannell.

Co-Ed classes are scheduled for: Sunday, June 17, 24, and July 1, 8, 15 and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30pm. – 5:30pm. Free for Village of Pomona residents; non-residents \$15 per class. For more information and to register for classes please call: (845)362-8062 / 354-0545 or email: [gde@pomonavillage.com](mailto:gde@pomonavillage.com)

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