



On the Town with Supervisor Reese Berman...

2006 — A Year of Accomplishments



*Town Supervisor
Reese Berman*

To further my goals of promoting open government and better communications with our residents, I have required all Town government departments, including the Supervisor's office, to publicly describe their departments' activities in the current year and their plans for the upcoming year. These are set forth in a new accomplishments and goals section of the budget document. You can read the departments' reports beginning at

page 17 of the budget document on the Town's website at <http://www.northcastleny.com/documents/2007AdoptedBudget.pdf>. Here's an abbreviated version of my accomplishments entry for the Supervisor's office.

Long-Range Planning

- Created Finance Task Force to advise on reducing expenditures, increasing revenues and fund balance, and creating multi-year financial plan
- Created Capital Improvement Task Force to advise if our municipal buildings need to be renovated, expanded, replaced or relocated
- Created the position of Clerk of the Works to represent the Town in the construction, renovation and maintenance of municipal buildings

Communication

- Initiated televising of Planning Board meetings
- Updated and revised Town website

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Land Use Laws Adopted; Moratorium Expires

by Adam Kaufman, Director of Planning

On December 13, 2006, the Town Board adopted several local laws designed to implement the Town Comprehensive Plan Update of 1996. The adopted laws provide increased protection of the Town's environment, protect the character, quality and



Adam Kaufman

livability of the community and otherwise promote the public health, safety and general welfare of all residents of the Town of North Castle. It is noted that with the conclusion of the Moratorium Planning and Zoning effort and the adoption of the local laws, the residential subdivision and Banksville development moratorium was permitted to expire on December 31, 2006.

The newly adopted laws can be divided into two categories: text amendments to the Town Code and the reclassification of land from one zoning district to another zoning district. Brief descriptions of the adopted text amendments are provided in this article. To read the entire package of local laws (including the adopted re-zonings) please visit www.northcastleny.com, click on the legislation page (in the upper right hand corner) and

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On the Town with Supervisor Reese Berman

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- Initiated and held Meet the Supervisor meetings in all three hamlets
- Increased number of Town Board public work sessions and reduced frequency of executive sessions
- Negotiated with Cablevision for televising Valhalla School Board meetings in North White Plains

Emergency Preparedness

- Set up our first Red Cross shelter at H.C. Crittenden School with the Police, the Red Cross, and North Castle Citizens Corps Council
- Initiated and oversaw development and distribution of emergency contact information form for all Town residents

Environment

- Implemented recycling in municipal buildings and promoted recycling in our schools
- Led Town Board adoption of Westchester County Greenway Compact Plan
- Promoted Town purchase of flexible fuel vehicles
- Conducted multiple public hearings and work sessions on, and promoted adoption of, land use legislation which will have direct and positive impact on the environment: Floor Area Ratio, Impervious Surfaces, Floating Senior Zones, Environmental Subtractions, Steep Slopes, Maximum Building Height, Minimum Contiguous Buildable Areas, Increased Wetland buffers when near a steep slope, and several rezonings
- Promoted use of phosphorus-free lawn and garden products

Technology

- Initiated computer training of staff to increase computer literacy and improve efficiency
- Created Cable Advisory Committee to negotiate franchise agreements and explore improved Cable TV
- Established Information Technology committee

Community Projects

- Initiated and oversaw cooperative project by residents and developers, Byram Hills Schools Administration and Highway Department to bring school busing to Whipoorwill Hills.
- Organized resident participation in Quarry Heights Sewer Project, defined Town and County responsibilities, and assumed general coordination and promotion of the Project
- Completed arrangements for funding of Washington Avenue Public Improvement Project and coordinated County and Town participation in the Project
- Promoted and facilitated Town and County discussions regarding future of Washington's Headquarters in North White Plains
- Expedited review process for the new Windmill Water District tank and well

Administration

- Established monthly meetings with all department heads
- Initiated development of Town's first employee handbook to clarify the job duties and rules of conduct for Town employees
- Developed Volunteer Service Application form and established a pool of volunteers for Town service

Committees

- President's Council of Northern Westchester Hospital
- Northern Westchester Watershed Committee
- Westchester Putnam Association of Supervisors
- Westchester Municipal Officials Association and its Executive Committee
- Co-Chair Westchester County Climate Protection: Global Warming Task Force

Many of these accomplishments could not have occurred without the cooperation and assistance of the Town Board and Town Staff. We can all look back to 2006 with pride in what we have achieved.

Town Clerk's Topics

by Ann Leber, Town Clerk

Voting Machines

Who will be the Presidential candidates in 2008 and how will we vote for them? With the current proliferation of likely suspects, the 'who' should not be a problem. It's the 'how' that could be.

Under the Help America Vote Act of 2002, each State is required to meet certain standards with regard to Federal elections. It is the responsibility of the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) to certify voting machines that meet these standards. The individual counties would then choose which of those certified machines to purchase to replace the old voting machines.

New York was the only State that hired its own independent testing company, Ciber, which was in the process of testing three direct recording electronic systems and two optical scanners. As you may have read, Ciber's testing methods are now being called into question by the Election Assistance Commission. This, according to NYSBOE Public Information Officer Bob Brehm, has put New York's certification process on hold. NYSBOE is working with the Department of Justice to resolve the issues with the testing lab and develop a new calendar for replacement of the old machines.

I asked Mr. Brehm whether it is realistic to expect that voting machines could be certified, purchased, fabricated and delivered and that election technicians, inspectors and the public trained in their operation in time for the 2008 Presidential election. He said that, although the Department of Justice would like full compliance by that time, it might be more realistic to expect to phase in the new machines in selected jurisdictions by November 2008.



Ann Leber

Voter Verifiable Receipts

One of the requirements of the new voting machines is that they have a voter verifiable receipt. The receipt, which looks like a supermarket tape but remains behind a glass window beside the ballot, is reviewed by the voter before she finalizes her vote. If the receipt shows that the vote has been recorded accurately, the voter casts her vote. The receipt remains inside the voting machine. If the vote is not recorded accurately or if the voter changes her mind, she will be allowed to change her vote before pressing the final button. Using the voter verified receipts, the local Boards of Election will audit 3% of the voting machines used in an election to determine that the machines accurately counted and recorded the votes cast on them.

Election Districts in North Castle

Three of North Castle's election districts are very close to capacity according to NYS Election Law, which permits 950 registrants per district or, with the approval of the county board of elections, not more than 1150 registrants. Election District 8, the area north of the Armonk hamlet with its poll located in the Crittenden Middle School, has 1147 voters. Districts 6 and 7, the areas located on the east and west sides of Route 22 from Route 433 to the Bedford line with their polls located in the Armonk Firehouse, are also very close to the maximum.

In order to comply with election law and upon the suggestion of the Westchester County Board of Elections, we are planning to move the southern boundary of District 8 so that those registrants living between School Street and Bedford Road will be part of District 2, our smallest district, and vote at Town Hall. We plan to carve a third district out of Districts 6 and 7, thus making three districts out of two. The poll for the new district will also be located at the Armonk Firehouse. All the details remain to be worked out, but registrants whose district is changed or whose poll is moved will be notified by the Board of Elections.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 273-3321 or by e-mail at townclerk@northcastleny.com.

Land Use Laws Adopted...

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then proceed to the 2006 Archived Legislation web page.

Local Law 26: Senior Citizen Housing Floating Zone

This district was established for the purpose of furthering the goals of the North Castle Comprehensive Plan by providing a multi-family residence district specifically designed for, and limited in occupancy to, senior citizens. A senior floating zone requires that a minimum of 15% of the total number of units be designated as “affordable” senior units. The zone is not yet mapped, but could be mapped through a legislative determination of the Town Board at a later date. As part of the law, there are criteria that require that the zone, when mapped, be placed in an area with public water and sewage treatment facilities. There are additional requirements of the new district including minimum parcel size, maximum floor area ratio, maximum building height, bedroom restrictions and parking standards.

Local Law 27: Steep Slopes Regulations

The steep slopes law involves the establishment of regulations designed to both minimize and control proposed development on steep slopes. Steep slopes are defined as slopes of 25% or



View of a steeply sloped area

greater. If steep slope disturbance is proposed as part of any application for a Town permit or approval, a steep slope permit issued by the approval authority is required. The approving authority will review a proposed steep slope disturbance plan and determine whether that plan meets the requirements of the law, including but not limited to, both avoiding disturbance where possible and limiting it to the minimum amount practicable.

Local Law 28: New Residential Development Standards

Floor Area Regulations

The adopted floor area regulations are designed to minimize the scale of overly large houses, a concern which has been repeatedly expressed in North Castle and has been identified as a problem in many suburban communities throughout our area.

This law establishes a maximum permitted house size, in terms of floor area in relation to lot area, which is known as “floor area ratio” or FAR. There are two levels of FAR limits: **basic** and a higher or **maximum** FAR. The **basic** permitted gross floor area is allowed subject only to obtaining a building permit, unless (1) a new or reconstructed dwelling is involved, (2) the size of the expansion is 1,500 square feet or greater or (3) a wetland or steep slope disturbance permit is required. In such case, Planning Board site plan approval must be obtained. Any proposed development in excess of the **basic** (but less than the **maximum**) permitted gross floor area requires Planning Board special permit approval.

There is a one-time exemption from this process for existing homes which are expanded by 10% or less, provided the house would not exceed the maximum FAR by more than 10%. Additionally, Planning Board review is necessary for any proposed new building or building expansion on a lot in an existing neighborhood if that home would be 50% larger, in terms of FAR, than the average of its five closest neighbors.

All new construction on existing and proposed lots would need to meet the requirements of the law. Maximum floor area for existing lots would be based upon the gross lot area while maximum floor area for newly created lots would be based upon net lot area (excluding wetlands and steep slopes).

Impervious Surface (Gross Land Coverage) Regulations

The adopted impervious surface regulations are designed to limit gross land coverage by buildings and paved surfaces and are intended to protect community character, minimize land disturbance, minimize the removal of vegetation and minimize stormwater runoff.

This law establishes a maximum permitted gross land coverage, in terms of floor area in relation to lot area. There are two levels of impervious surface limits: **basic** and a higher or **maximum** limit. The **basic** permitted gross land coverage is allowed subject only to building department review, unless (1) a new or reconstructed dwelling is involved, (2) a house expansion of 1,500 square feet or greater is proposed or (3) a wetland or steep slope disturbance permit is required. In such case, Planning Board site plan approval must be obtained. Any proposed development in excess of the **basic** (but less than the **maximum**) permitted gross land coverage requires Planning Board special permit approval.

All new construction on existing and proposed lots would need to meet the requirements of the law. Maximum permitted impervious surface coverage for existing lots will be calculated based on the gross lot area while maximum impervious surface coverage on newly created lots will be based upon net lot area (excluding wetlands and steep slopes).

Environmental Subtractions

Environmental subtractions are intended to assure that **each newly created lot** would not only meet the minimum dimensional requirements, including lot area, of the district in which it is located, but also assure that the property has an adequate area of land which can be built upon without disturbing or otherwise impacting significant environmental features. The basic goal is to allow future development to occur in a way which minimizes its potential impact on the environment.

Environmental subtractions require the subtraction of 75% of the area of significant environmental features, including wetlands, waterbodies, watercourses and 100 year floodplains and the subtraction of 50% of the area of Town-regulated steep slopes, from the area which can be counted toward meeting the minimum lot size requirements of the zoning district in which a lot is located.

Environmental subtraction regulation applies to land located in all zoning districts, including one- and two-family residence districts. However, this law applies only to newly created lots. If an addition is being added to an existing building or if a new structure is built (or re-built) on an existing

lot, environmental subtractions do not apply.

Minimum Contiguous Buildable Area

The minimum contiguous buildable area requirement is intended to assure that each **newly created lot** would not only meet the minimum dimensional requirements, including lot area, of the district in which it is located, but that there would also be a suitably sized and shaped area within it which can be built upon without disturbing or otherwise impacting significant environmental features. The basic goal is to allow future development to occur in a way which minimizes its potential impact on the environment.

A minimum contiguous buildable area is an area of land that is free from environmental constraints, such as wetlands, wetland buffers and steep slopes. This area represents the portion of a property where a house, driveway, septic system and recreational amenities can be placed without the need to disturb sensitive environmental features.

The minimum contiguous buildable area calculation is only applied when subdividing property and will not affect existing lots, regardless of whether or not a house is situated on these lots.

Local Law 29: Wetlands and Drainage Law Amendments



Wampus Pond — a typical wetland

The adopted revisions to the wetlands and drainage law provide for an increase to the wetland buffer setback around certain wetlands, watercourses and waterbodies from 100 feet to 150 feet to incorporate any slope area in excess of 25% which begins within the 100-foot setback and which drains down toward the wetland, watercourse or waterbody. This is to provide additional protection from human activity and other forms of encroachment.

Any proposed disturbance to a Town-regulated wetland or Town-regulated wetland buffer requires approval from the Town Engineer or Planning Board.

Local Law 30: Miscellaneous Zoning Changes

Generators

The Town Board adopted a new law that requires power generators and noise producing equipment to comply with all minimum setback requirements applicable to accessory structures. In addition, no generator is permitted to be located within any front yard unless it is set back at least three (3) times the distance required for a principal building. Furthermore, all generators must be screened and fenced as required by the Building Inspector and “exercise time” for all generators is limited to weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Swimming Pools

The revised law now requires that all swimming pools be set back from lot lines at least the minimum distance required for a principal building in the district in which it is located. In addition, the law requires that a pool located in a front yard be set back at least three (3) times the distance required for a principal building and contain three (3) times the minimum lot area required in that zoning district.. Furthermore, the minimum required setbacks established for swimming pools also apply to cabanas and decks or terraces surrounding said pool, as well to all structures and mechanical equipment or other appurtenances related to the pool’s use and operation.

Election Inspectors Needed

If you are a registered voter and a resident of Westchester County, you can become an Election Inspector by attending one 2-hour class given by the Board of Elections. Inspectors work from 5:45 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Primary Day and/or Election Day. You will be paid \$25 for taking the class and \$225 for each Primary and General Election day worked.

Interested? Contact Town Clerk Ann Leber for further information by phone (273-3321) or e-mail (aleber@northcastleny.com).

Tax Office News & Notes

by Patty Colombo, Receiver of Taxes

Tax Payments

Did you know that you can pay your Town and School taxes online? Visit www.northcastleny.com and look for the Tax Receiver’s web page. We hope to have water payments available for online payment in 2007. Our programmer is now working on that project.

When paying taxes by check, please do not write in the area on the back of your check. This area should be left clear for the Tax Receiver’s official stamp. Please enclose the tax payment stub or write your property identification number on the front of your check.

There is additional information located on the reverse side of your tax bills, which I am sure you will find valuable.

If your tax payment arrangements have changed in any way, contact my office in writing immediately. Please always feel free to call my office (273-6620) or stop by if you have any questions.

New Water Bills

Please become familiar with the relatively new water bills, generated by the Water Department, which contain both the meter charge and the water consumption amount. Please make sure your check reflects the total amount of both charges. If you make out your check in the wrong amount, by law, these checks have to be returned to you. In such cases you may incur a penalty if your corrected payment is not received by my office before the due date. Unfortunately, even though the original check arrived on time, only checks with correct amounts can be deposited.

A Helpful Tip

Do not combine your Town tax and Water bill payments. Although it seems logical, these are two separate accounts and must arrive on separate checks.

The North Castle Tax Receiver’s office wishes each and every one of you a magical 2007!!!

Biodiversity Study

by Danielle LaBruna

This spring, renowned ecologist Dr. Michael W. Klemens and his staff will begin conducting biodiversity surveys in the Byram Lake and Seven Springs areas of North Castle. These surveys will be the first steps in a new biodiversity partnership project for the Town of North Castle.

“Biodiversity” is shorthand for “biological diversity” and refers to all the different forms of life — animals, plants, fungi (like mushrooms) and even



Saw-whet Owl

microorganisms — in an area. Scientists often measure biodiversity by the number of species they observe. Field biologists will be going to the woods, wetlands, fields and streams of North Castle in order to discover what kinds of creatures live in our midst. Because there are so many different types of plants and animals in nature, field

biologists will focus on birds, reptiles and amphibians, since these animals are good indicators of how biodiversity is faring as a whole.

Dr. Klemens and his staff have already completed biodiversity surveys for the Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor project in nearby North Salem, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge and Bedford and for the Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan in Putnam Valley, Cortlandt, Yorktown and New



Salamander

Castle. These surveys revealed some uncommon and shy species that are sensitive to development, such as the spotted salamander and pileated woodpecker. Concentrations of such species indicate that an area still has high quality wildlife habitat. Once we identify these areas, we will better know how to plan for development. That is, development should be directed away from quality wildlife habitat and toward areas where habitat is already degraded.

If you receive a letter from the Town of North Castle requesting access to your property for a biodiversity survey, please respond. Surveys consist of a simple walk-through of your property lasting for a few hours on two or three separate occasions this spring and summer (March-October). The more properties that are surveyed, the more information we will have to better protect North Castle’s biodiversity for our benefit and the benefit of future generations.

North White Plains Alert: Don’t Overpay Sales Tax

by Ed Lobermann, NWP Resident

North White Plains residents may or may not know that they are often charged excess NYS sales tax on goods or services that are delivered to them. This is because the North White Plains zip code is 10603, which is recognized by the federal post office system as located in the City of White Plains. North White Plains has a 7.375% sales tax, while the City of White Plains has a 7.875% sales tax. This additional 1/2% tax collected by White Plains is used exclusively and solely for the benefit of White Plains. It behooves North White Plains residents to monitor the sales and use taxes they are being charged. Merchants and service providers who utilize the nine-digit zip code system will probably charge the correct sales tax, but the providers who use the five-digit zip code system are probably over charging North White Plains residents by 1/2%.

Caveat emptor!

Long Lost Earring

An earring was left behind after the December 2005 tribute dinner for former Supervisor Lombardi at the Crown Plaza in White Plains. It is a gold, x-shaped earring with small diamonds, for pierced ears. To claim it, bring the mate to the Town Clerk’s Office (273-3321) and you’ll have a beautiful pair to wear!

From the Desk of Police Chief Robert M. D'Angelo...

Police Department Promotions

William A. Fisher, Deputy Chief of Police

It is with pleasure that I announce the promotion of Lieutenant William A. Fisher on January 6, 2007, to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. Since attaining the position of lieutenant in April 1994, William Fisher has proven himself to be an outstanding police administrator. As a lifelong resident of the Town of North Castle and a 24 year veteran of the North Castle Police Department, Lt. Fisher is very familiar with the citizens and geography of the Town. As lieutenant, he was instrumental in the department's accreditation in December 2000 and has maintained this program through reaccreditation in 2006. Lt. Fisher is also responsible for the department's Emergency Medical Technician program, through which he has successfully trained 20 certified EMTs, and instituted the department's Continuing Medical Education program to keep the department's EMTs certified.

Lieutenant Peter J. Simonsen

On January 6, 2007, Police Sergeant Peter J. Simonsen was promoted to the rank of police lieutenant. Lt. Simonsen began his police career in North Castle in 1990. Based on his exemplary service as a police officer, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, serving with distinction and proving to be an excellent first line supervisor. In addition to his patrol duties, he is responsible for the department's traffic management function, dealing with area traffic studies and signage. Lt. Simonsen also serves as the department's lead firearms instructor and armorer. He possesses excellent management skills that will be an asset to the Town and this department.

Sergeant Timothy P. See

Police Officer Timothy P. See was promoted to police sergeant on January 6, 2007. He will continue to serve the North Castle Police Department and the community as a member of the Emergency Service Unit. In order to participate in this volunteer unit, members must be highly trained in all facets of police work, firearms, emergency medicine

and technical rescue. Sgt. See has taken and maintained these high training standards since joining the unit. In addition to his regular patrol work, Sgt. See serves as a police firearms instructor. Sgt. See's knowledge of police patrol work and his experience gained with the ESU will make him an exemplary first line supervisor.

New Police Officers

In addition to the above promotions, it is my pleasure to announce the addition of four new police officers to the North Castle Police Department, hired to replace our latest retired members.



New Police Officers Raymond J. Thomas, Joel M. Thomas, Thomas R. Cobelli and William McClure

Officer Raymond J. Thomas

Police Officer Raymond J. Thomas joined the ranks of the North Castle Police Department on December 31, 2005. Prior to his police career, he served his country as a United States Marine. During his military career he received numerous medals and commendations. Officer Thomas graduated from the Police Academy and the department's field training program and is working in the department's patrol division.

Officer Joel M. Thomas

Police Officer Joel M. Thomas was appointed to service with the North Castle Police Department on December 31, 2005. He graduated from Grove City College, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Officer Thomas graduated from the Police Academy and the department's field training program. He is currently assigned to the department's patrol division.

Officer Thomas R. Cobelli

Police Officer Thomas R. Cobelli was appointed to the Town of North Castle Police Department on July 22, 2006. Prior to his police career, he was

employed by the Empire State Carpenter's Union, Local 11, where he served as a carpenter and shop steward. Officer Cobelli has since graduated from the Police Academy and has successfully completed the department's field training program. He is currently assigned to the department's patrol division.

Officer William McClure

Police Officer William McClure began his police career with the New York City Police Department on July 1, 2004. He graduated from the NYPD Academy and served in Mid-town South. In September 2005, Officer McClure joined the White Plains Police Department, where he served until his appointment to the North Castle Police Department on October 28, 2006. Officer McClure has successfully completed the department's field training program and is assigned to the Patrol Division.

Web Page Revisions

Deputy Chief Fisher has made numerous changes to the police department's web page, which can be accessed from the Town web site at northcastleny.com. Many of the additions provide public safety information to residents and visitors to our community. These changes have been made to supply current and easily updated police information to persons visiting the site.

The most recent change is the addition of a Megan's Law page. This page has been designed by the department's Sex Offender Unit to provide valuable information regarding sex offender notification. In addition to the notification regarding offenders in our community, the page provides a link to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services' sex offender registry site for additional information.

The department is also creating a general information page. This page will be used to inform our residents about crime, traffic conditions and emergency information.

It is my hope that all of you will take advantage of these new informational web pages. If you need any additional information regarding people or events located on the web site, please call the police department at 273-9500.

New Drive-Thru Mail Box — Use It or We'll Lose It

A new drive-thru mail box has been installed on Kent Place in Armonk. Unfortunately, it's on the wrong side of the street.



In an effort to alleviate parking issues in front of the post office on Main Street, the Town had requested that the Postal Service place a drive-thru mail box in another location. The plan was to install it on Kent Place, but on the other side of the street so it would be accessible from a vehicle.

While we try to fix it, please take advantage of this new service even if it means getting out of the car for the time being. We hope to have high usage at this convenient location, otherwise the Postal Service will remove the mail box.

ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE CLEAN UP IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 21st

Clean Up Day is the day to pick up bottles, cans and papers discarded along the roadside in your neighborhood. (No branches or leaves, please.) We supply the bags and you supply the much-appreciated people-power.

Collection bags may be picked up at:

- **Highway Secretary's office in Town Hall, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

OR

at the following locations on Saturday, April 21st, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- **Community Center in North White Plains**
 - **Lobby of Town Hall**
 - **Banksville Fire House.**

North Castle Highway Department

Homeowners who prune their trees and shrubs should place brush roadside with the cut ends toward the street. Branches cannot be longer than 4 feet in length nor 4 inches in diameter. Piles cannot be larger than 4 feet high nor 25 feet in length. Only one pile per household is allowed per scheduled pick-up. Whole trees, logs, stumps, building material and household debris are not acceptable. The Highway Department is not able to pick up large quantities of branches that have been pruned by hired contractors or gardeners. You must have your contractors or gardeners remove this material.

The brush chipper will be in your zone one week every month, except for the month of November when the leaf vacuuming program takes place. Find your pick-up week on the brush pick-up schedule which can be accessed from the Highway Department page on the Town's web site at www.northcastleny.com. Then call the Highway Department (273-3561) the week before to schedule a pick-up. The brush must be roadside by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of your pick-up week. If you forget to arrange an appointment or if you put brush roadside after the chipper passes through your street, call to arrange for your brush to be collected during the next scheduled pick-up week. Please remember to call 273-3561 for an appointment.

Con Ed Tree-Trimming Program Underway

On January 16, Con Ed began a tree-trimming program in selected areas of North Castle in an effort to reduce power outages caused by tree limbs pulling down electric wires. Information was mailed to residents who live in those areas, and a forester will contact homeowners in person to discuss with them any trimming planned for their property.

The Con Ed web site (www.conEd.com) has additional information or call 1-800-752-6633 (75-CONED).

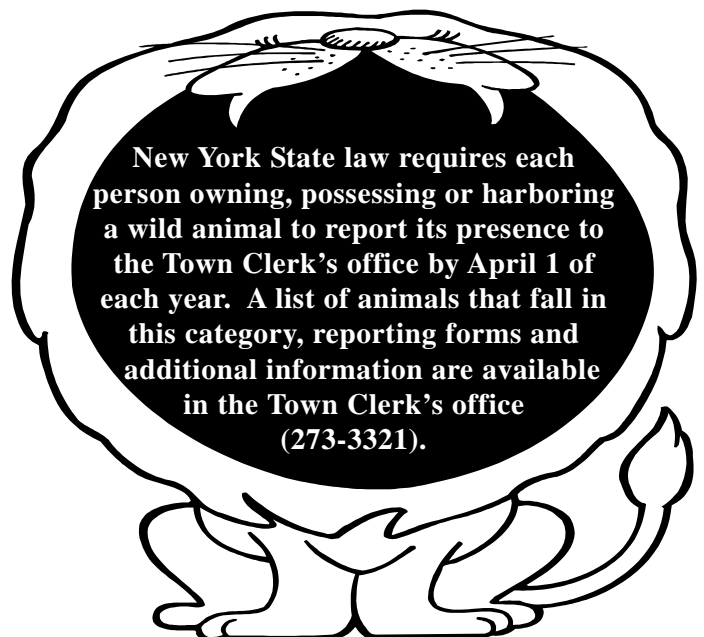
Recycling

WHAT Let's do our part by making sure we recycle all of the appropriate materials correctly. Please help to keep our planet green, our air pure and our ozone layer from being depleted.

WHY Many man-made products are not readily biodegradable and take up space in landfills. Recycling is an alternative to this. It extends the useful life of a material. It also prevents pollution associated with industrial production and reduces the number of trees cut down.

WHEN Put out your items for recycling on the same day as garbage pick-up. Recycling materials must be available for collection at 7:00 a.m.

HOW Newspapers, magazines, phone books and junk mail may be commingled and tied with cord in bundles not higher than 10 inches or placed in brown paper bags. Corrugated cardboard must be broken down, cut, separated and bundled not higher than 10 inches and not wider than 36 inches in either direction. Glass bottles (all colors), all aluminum, tin and metal cans, foil and pie plates, **plastic bags** and **plastic containers (numbers 1-7)**, should be rinsed. They may be commingled in clear or blue tinted recycling bags, which are available at most local supermarkets and hardware stores.



Did You Know?

by Doris Finch Watson, Town Historian

We all know that before the days of cars, transportation depended, of course, on the horse and buggy (or sleighs when it snowed), and getting in and out was not easy for it was a long stretch between the ground and the carriage. There were added problems: alighting in winter meant one often faced snow drifts; in spring and summer it was thick mud and puddles, for there were no paved roadways. Adding to those problems, it was the time of long skirts, even hoop skirts, and high-buttoned shoes. Getting in or out of carriages safely was not an easy task for ladies or for gentlemen.

Enter the STEPPING STONE. Many existed across our Town of North Castle — at churches, at stores, at public buildings and at homes. They were a common sight, much needed and much used.



*Stepping Stone at the
North Castle Historical Society
Gift of Mitzi Weissman*

Some were “two-step” stones, which were easier to use, and others offered a single step. They are sometimes referred to as carriage stones.

The particular two-step stone pictured here stood on the Platt Farm on the west side of the New York-Danbury Post Road in the 1800s (now Route 22 or Bedford Road). Mr. Platt was known throughout the Town as “Pickles” Platt because of the fields of cucumbers he raised for pickles.

This stone now stands on the Smith’s Tavern Educational Complex and serves as “steps” to the south entrance of the old Brundage Blacksmith Shop. The stone had remained in its original spot at the farm during the years it was the Platt property and after the late “Doc” Marks purchased the property. When it became the property of his daughter, Mitzi Weissman, who was cognizant of its historic value, she graciously offered the Stepping Stone to the Historical Society where visitors could appreciate the history of its role in a time long past.

Today, there remains a two-step stone in front of No. 12 Bedford Road and another very large one is at the Armonk United Methodist Church. If you know of other Stepping Stones, please let me know, for I would like to inventory them. They are part of our history.

Upcoming Community Events

Armonk Antiques Show

April 21 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 22 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At Byram Hills High School

*Sponsored by
North Castle Historical Society*



Memorial Day Parade

May 30 — 6 p.m.

**The parade goes down Main Street,
turns left on Bedford Road and
ends at American Legion Hall,
where memorial services will be held.**

*Sponsored by
American Legion Post #1097 and
Town of North Castle*



Fol-de-Rol

June 8 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

June 9 — 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

June 10 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Held at Wampus Brook Park
across from St. Stephens Church.**

*Sponsored by
Lions Club of Armonk*

Coming Soon...

The John & Goldie Hergenhan Recreation Center

Construction is progressing with the conversion of the former Armonk Firehouse on Maple Avenue into a new recreation center in honor of John & Goldie Hergenhan.

The approximately 12,000 square foot, three level building will provide Town residents with: multiple meeting spaces, two ceramic studios, two fine arts studios, a cyber café, and administrative offices for the Recreation Department. The building will be equipped with an elevator and new restrooms and will be handicapped accessible on all levels. The first floor General Activities Room will include French doors that open onto a terrace for an outdoor social gathering space. These French doors, which replaced the former garage doors, are visible from the front of the building.



*Hergenhan Recreation Center —
Architect's rendering of new exterior*

The renovation includes new heating and air conditioning for the entire building, as well as an exciting combination of finishes and colors to provide a welcoming atmosphere for a variety of uses and activities.

“As architects, we are proud to be a part of the adaptive re-use of this wonderful building, particularly in giving the building a new life to be shared by all Town residents,” said John Sullivan of Sullivan Architecture.

A generous donation of \$1 million from Armonk native Joyce Hergenhan helped bring the project to fruition. Calling herself a “local girl who made good,” Ms. Hergenhan asked that the center be named in honor of her parents John and Goldie Hergenhan, respectively North Castle’s longtime chief of police and dedicated community volunteer.

The construction team is working diligently toward an opening and dedication in late April 2007.



Hergenhan Recreation Center — Interior renovation work

TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE

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Supervisor: Reese Berman

**Councilmen: Rebecca Kittredge, Gerald K. Geist,
William H. McClure, William R. Weaver**

Town Clerk: Ann Leber

Receiver of Taxes: Patricia A. Colombo

Miller House Re-Opens

The Miller House on Virginia Road in North White Plains will be open to the public from noon until 3 p.m. every third Sunday of the month through October. Docents from the Friends of the Miller House Committee will be available to take visitors through the house. For further information send e-mail to mlbmillerhouse@verizon.net.