



Village of Montebello

Lance N. Millman, Mayor

Stacy Caridi, Deputy Mayor
Steven H. Beldock, Trustee

Melanie Golden, Trustee
Evan Kuperman, Trustee

February 2021 Edition

Montebello is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Our Village government is here to help you. Information about available services, a calendar of events, forms for download, and contact information are available on our website:

www.villageofmontebello.org

Montebello's laws and zoning code are available at <https://ecode360.com/MO1927>

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Greetings from the Mayor



2021 Horizon

It has been a while since we had a snowy winter. Once you get past the snow shoveling, clearing your front walk, and throwing down your rock salt, you get to step back and see the beauty of the snow throughout the woods and our yards. Please remember not to overdue the shoveling and overexert yourself. With COVID-19 still very real, I continue to see a lot of our neighbors throughout the Village taking walks when the weather was warmer but also now to see the beauty of the winter.

For everything else that is occurring I am happy to report that our Village is continuing to be both financially sound and conservative in our spending, and running as efficiently as possible during these unusual times. Our Boards have been doing virtual Zoom meetings and our Village Hall has remained open to the public. I would like to thank those that visit our Village Hall in following the required protocol of wearing a mask, keeping their distance, and respecting our limit as to the amount of people who are there at one time.

In addition, I would also like to continue to thank those essential workers who serve our community, county, state, and country. Without their dedication we would not have been able to continue to survive through these times. I know that some of us have lost loved ones or friends and it has been difficult, but I know you have been able to get through these times with the help and support of your families, friends, and neighbors. As long as I can remember, for the twenty some odd years that I have lived in Montebello, the neighbors and friends that we have made here within our community have always been there for each and every one of us. That is why Montebello has survived and become in my opinion one of the best villages to live in, not only in Rockland County, but in New York State.

As we progressed through last year and into this year, we have once again put together a budget for our village that we feel is prudent and sound. We have passed in 2020, through a vote of support by our residents, the ability to go out and do a BAN and a Bond to not only pave just a few roads but to pave 22 roads. We have already paved some of the roads over the past few months and will be finishing up the balance this summer. We have been extremely fortunate to obtain 15-year bonding when the rates have been at an all-time low. Our first bonding yielded an interest rate lower than 2 percent and we feel very confident that the balance of the bonding will also yield a very low interest rate. By working with the bonding company along with our village accountant, the Board has been able to come up with a plan that will save us thousands of dollars both currently and over the next few years. As a result of your support, the Village Board was able to keep our promise that we will not be raising our village taxes in 2021 and we have achieved a zero increase in our tax rate!

We will continue to be pro-active through planning and investing for the future of Montebello. We are continuing to implement the many aspects of our latest Comprehensive Plan through changes in our Local Laws. These changes will continue to strengthen our original goals when the Village was first created.

With the help of our past and newly elected State Senators and Assemblypersons, we will continue to try to obtain grants. We have been very fortunate to have received some grants over the past years to help maintain our Village infrastructure. We are looking at possible capital improvements to our historic Village Hall roof and have already obtained grants to do the necessary capital improvements at our Community Center on both the roof and siding. We were also able to obtain funding to put a necessary generator at our community center. This will allow us to keep the Community Center on during needed times.

We are also working on possible improvements to our ponds in the Kathryn Gorman Ponds Park through aerators and bubblers to keep the water moving and help control the algae the grows in stagnant water. We are looking at the possibility of continuing to utilize solar panels to run these items. If you have not had a chance to walk through this park, you should make it one of your short nearby trips to see. It is incredibly beautiful year-round. We have a gazebo to rest in and benches throughout the area. But please do not forget to be mindful of others around you and continue to practice staying a safe distance and wearing a mask.

I hope soon, with the help of vaccines, practicing good judgment and wearing of our masks, to see everyone in person.

Please stay safe and healthy and if our Village can help you please let us know.

Sincerely,
Lance Millman, Mayor



Preserving Property Values ***By Stacy Caridi, Deputy Mayor***

Micro economists use the term “negative externality” to refer to a cost that is incurred by someone not involved in a particular transaction. For example, a chemical plant that spills toxins into the groundwater imposes a cost on society. Similarly, cigarette smokers who suffer health problems cause higher medical costs to be incurred by the general public. It has been proven that homes in the vicinity of abandoned and neglected properties experience a decline in property values. Such an externality means that your property value is affected if your neighbor neglects their home. It is a legitimate purpose of local government to take action to prevent such externalities from affecting your property value.

Montebello has a property maintenance law that is specifically aimed to preserve your property value by preventing neighborhood blight. For example, it is a requirement in the village that lawns are mowed to an appropriate length. Yards must be kept clean from abandoned vehicles. Refuse needs to be properly contained. In addition, Montebello has a tree law that provides some oversight to preserve the green quality of our neighborhood that benefits property values. In the wake of Hurricane Irene, some people have had questions regarding the tree law. Our staff at Village Hall is happy to answer all your questions (845 368-2211). To summarize, you are not restricted in pruning trees or removing fallen trees on your property. Utilities are never restricted from removing trees that they feel imperil utility lines. Permits (costing \$10) are required for removing big trees (having a caliper more than 4 inches at a height of four feet above the ground). However, there is no limit to the number of dead trees that can be removed and there is no limit to the number of trees that are threatening harm that can be cut down. Please be certain that you get a permit before acting unless waiting may cause imminent harm. In such a case, take photos and contact the Village office for an emergency permit before having the tree removed. Safety always comes first. The purpose of the tree law is to prevent wanton clear cutting of properties and the overdevelopment that we have seen in other municipalities. Such activities constitute a negative externality because they lower everyone's property values. At the same time, the village is committed to make this law easy and friendly. Those who violate the law may find fault with our methods, but our success is one reason that Montebello remains among the best places to own a home in Rockland.

Our building department is actively issuing warnings and summonses to force compliance with our property maintenance laws. In cases where we have not found compliance, the Village Board has hired contractors to address certain problems (e.g., mowing the lawn). The cost of this work is applied as a lien against the title holder's property taxes. Therefore, taxpayers are not charged for these costs. In addition, the Board is contemplating using a section of the New York State Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law (NYSRPAPL Sections 19A) to take title of abandoned properties. This is a complicated and last resort method to address the problem of abandonment. Certainly, the village would prefer that an absentee property owner (including banks and mortgage companies) cure problem on their own. However, it is simply not fair to all the other homeowners to see their property values hurt because of the negligence of others. A conscientious and dedicated local government is the cure for such a negative externality.



Being Thankful During COVID ***By Steven H. Beldock, Trustee***

As I sit to write this article, reflecting back over the past 12 months, I realize that the last 12 months have been a period of time different than any, in my 60 years. Many among us are going through extraordinarily difficult experiences, unlike any they have seen before. From the loss of loved ones, to the loss of employment opportunities, virtually educating their children, and simply being unable to socially interact with friends or go into a restaurant.

It is indeed a time for each of us to be thankful for what we have. It is also a time for each of us to be, perhaps, a little more understanding of what others are going through. Maybe, it is a time for each of us to extend more than our usual courtesies towards our fellow man [and woman].

From my point of view, I am extraordinarily appreciative for everything I have. My 90-year-old father recently received his second vaccination. My daughter and her husband are safe in Florida, although they are isolated from all of their usual activities. My wife and myself, and my son and his family are all safe here in New York. My business has survived.

To say that the forgoing puts me in better shape than most would be putting it mildly. For the third time, I will say, I am truly thankful and appreciative for everything I have. I look forward to serving the residents of the Village of Montebello and doing the very best I can to maintain the pristine beauty of our Village and the opportunities each of us have to survive and prosper. We should each look forward to the future, with optimism.



Being a Bear Smart Community

By Melanie Golden, Trustee

You may be reading this article while it is still wintertime but bear activity, which begins in April, is right around the corner. Last year was a very active season for bears in our area, more so than in the past. While the bear population is not necessarily larger, bears seek food sources outside their normal (and nearby) bear habitat due to various factors such as dryness, poor berry growth, etc.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) provided the following information to reduce bear attractants and deter bear activity:

- **Remove all bird feeders from April 1st to November**—a full feeder has thousands of calories.
- **Take out trash as close to garbage pick-up time as possible.** Do not put garbage out overnight, and use ratchet straps (not bungee cords) around your bins or get a bear-resistant trash container.
- **Mask garbage odors** with ammonia-soaked rags.
- **Do not place meat or bones in compost piles.**
- **Remove grease from grills after use:** Turn the grill on "High" for several minutes after you are done cooking to burn residual odors off the grill.
- **Don't feed pets outside**—leftover food or even an empty dish can attract.
- **Make noise:** Noise such as air horns, banging pots and pans, car horns, or even your voice (all from a safe place) can help bears move on faster.
- **Use motion-sensing alarms.** One such alarm recommended by the DEC is the "Critter Gitter" (though any wildlife motion sensor that makes alarming sounds will do).

It really does become a community-wide/homeowner responsibility to effectively prevent nuisance bear activity—the more people being "bear smart," the better.

When there are problems even after all attractants have been eliminated, it may become necessary for the DEC to step in. Unfortunately, relocation is not an effective option - bears do live throughout New York, and the DEC would just be trading bears around. Also, bears can travel hundreds of miles back to their area. The DEC does not intervene for nuisance bears, but does trap bears that exhibit behavior deemed aggressive or dangerous.

If you do encounter a situation where a black bear is acting aggressive or dangerously, or is not responding to your deterrent behavior and it is preventing you from entering/exiting your home, you can call the DEC's Environmental Conservation Officer dispatch at **845-256-3013**.

The DEC's bear advice site is: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6995.html>. Another site offering great advice on living with black bears may be found at <https://bearwise.org/>. Enjoy the spring and let's be a Bear Smart Community!



Keeping Social in a COVID-19 World

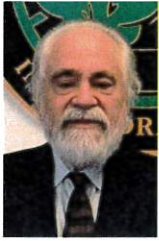
By Evan T. Kuperman, Trustee

It is hard to believe it is February and COVID-19 arrived in our area about a year ago. We have experienced such a different way of life, from the way we shop and entertain, to the way we visit with friends and family. Daily activities like walking, hiking, cycling, and getting outside have become more the norm than the exception.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we come together as a community. With the freezing temperatures and stormy weather, in addition to the pandemic, many of us are finding ourselves at home way more than usual. We are missing essential socializing time with friends, catching up with loved ones and enjoying fun experiences together. There are many ways, although they may not be what we are used to, to reach out and still feel tied to one another. Some ideas that come to mind are:

1. Call a friend who you know could use a meal. Find out what your friend likes to eat, prepare a meal, and leave it on their doorstep.
2. Your family can do a meal / dessert exchange with another family. Each family prepares a surprise meal/dessert for the other. Take pictures of your family enjoying their food and share with your friends.
3. Do a virtual family game night with some friends. Choose a game like charades, or even Pictionary, where you can compete as teams to play virtually.
4. Go back to older times and have a group of kids become pen pals. This can also be done with family or close friends who do not live nearby. This is a safe way to stay in touch, and writing the letters is a good activity.
5. Kids can send friends some funny mad libs to fill in and send back. Set up a virtual time to read them.
6. Create a virtual movie night with other families. Make fun snacks and plan to watch the same movie as your friends. Leave your video chat on so you can enjoy the movie together.

While kids tend to find ways to be social with group video games, it is important for adults to also find ways to connect with others. These are just a few ideas, and I know you will be able to think of many other creative and fun activities. I am sure many of us are excited for spring and the warmer weather, along with the hopes that the vaccines can get us together soon.



From the Desk of...
Warren E. Berbit, Village Attorney

I hope this finds you and yours safe and healthy irrespective the pandemic in which we are immersed. Of course, sad to say given a big enough sampling, some of you may have been directly impacted, and we all have friends, family, acquaintances, or co-workers who have suffered. At least the vaccines are here, and I strongly urge that you all avail yourself of that opportunity, albeit the lines are long and the supplies short. (And mask, distance, and wash!)

Couple the COVID-crisis with the terrible division in our nation, as evidenced by that outrageous – shook me to my very core – upheaval in Washington, D.C.! What once was our strength and our example unto the world – how all types, races, religions, cultures, countries of origin could mix to make a stronger whole especially in times of crisis enabling overcoming same despite all odds –has sadly become more a source of an angry abyss between us. Hopefully, reconciliation and healing are now upon us, but there is much work to do and effort to expend.

Couple, too, changed demographics in the Town, and even in Montebello where it is apparent that many different types of people have discovered our bucolic Village and are moving in supplanting the more homogeneous group moving out. In the long run, this is a good thing, once we learn to understand and appreciate each other. I believe this to be a realistic possibility and certainly a worthy goal if ALL approach setting aside indifference or, worse, disdain.

We must learn to step away from making value judgements due to differences and to give each other the opportunity to reach across cultural or religious divides - to better inform, explain, and better appreciate the differences, rather than shy away or be repelled by same. After all, people are people, and when you get past the garb, the dogma, the practices, there is common good within us all. New and old Montebellians alike, we are special and can remain special. Step back, take a breath, and learn about each other. The healing can start here.

Returning now to the norm, my congratulations and gratitude to Village Justice Arnold Etelson after 54 years on the bench. (See Judge Etelson's farewell article elsewhere herein).

I have three Local Laws to report as follows:

Local Law No. 4 of 2020 ("Amending Chapter 143 Section 8 of the Village Code") –

Clarifying the Sign Law as requested by the Building Inspector (BI). Makes more certain the BI's or his designee's authority, and simplifies but does not change the substantive provisions. (e.g., free standing, temporary signs limited to 2 ft. by 3 ft, etc.).

Local Law No. 1 of 2021 (Amending Chapter 195, Zoning and Chapter 104, of the Village Code)"-

(Pending). Makes transient, short-term (under 30 days) rental of residences, or parts thereof, or of outside amenities, such as pools, unlawful. However, makes rental for 30 days or more of a spare bedroom, and shared use of kitchen lawful, to help enable the ability of empty nesters, retirees, fixed income owners, to retain their homes.

Local Law No. 2 of 2021 ("Amending Chapter 195, Zoning of the Village Code") (Pending) (Home Occupation (HO) Clarifies existing law, simplifies by dividing HO's into two classes, the first, HO-1, is made simpler to approve administratively where owner and no more than one employee. HO-2, owner and 2 or more employees akin to the present Special Permit Application. Note: in both cases, as before, limited to 500 square feet, or 50% of floor area, whichever is less.

Please stay safe. Get vaccinated. And learn to appreciate each other, as we all appreciate our beautiful Village. May we all emerge in the Spring to a bright, new world. See you on the roads again.

Sincerely,

Warren E. Berbit, Village Attorney



Montebello Community Garden
By Regina Rivera

The Village will begin accepting applications for spots in the community garden on March 15th. Garden plots will be assigned on a first come first served basis, although every effort will be made to give returning gardeners the plot they tended previously. For those unfamiliar, the garden is 100% organic and no pesticides or chemicals are allowed. Each gardener is responsible for soil maintenance, planting, weeding and watering and gardening tools are provided. All Montebello residents are eligible so if you're interested, please download the application on the Village website or give us a call before April

Justice Court News

By Judge Arnold Etelson



This is my final submission to our newsletter. I will be retiring at the end of my term on March 31. It has been a pleasure to wrap up my 54-year local justice career by serving the last 9 years in Rockland County's finest village. As a native of Ramapo, why do I rate our village so highly?

Montebello, "beautiful mountain", boasts the following:

- 4 public schools (high, middle and two elementary)
- A large shopping center with an adjacent strip mall near Good Samaritan Hospital, with the Suffern Free Library right down the hill.
- Crowne Plaza Hotel which hosts many area events.
- A huge county park (Kakiat) with a dog run bordering the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail and Harriman State Park
- Katherine Gorman Ponds Park, beautiful with half a dozen ponds, highly recommended, on Senator Levy Drive

Numerous historical landmarks

- A U.S. Thruway, U.S. highway (202) which runs from Maine to Georgia, a state highway (59) and is the route of General Rochambeau and his French soldiers who allied with Washington during the Revolutionary War.
- A large Senior Center
- An interstate Mahwah River
- Two municipal buildings, one housing Village Hall and Montebello Senior Citizen meetings, and a separate Community Center housing the court, village meetings and private events.

We have a shade tree easement law to provide beauty and shade to our homes and an ordinance regulating tree removal which has been approved by an appellate court and is a statewide model law.

It should be noted that in our 35-year history being celebrated in May we are, with perhaps 2 or 3 exceptions, the only village in Rockland that has had no contested elections. This doesn't just happen. Credit must be given to the Mayor, Trustees, department heads and staff and their predecessors for competently, honestly, and diligently administering the running of the village for the benefit of our residents. Tough issues must be dealt with and they have been very successfully. Mayor Lance Millman and the Board of Trustees continue to administer our non-political village where everyone seems to get along with each other. We should also recognize our Village Attorney, Warren Berbit, who helped form our village and may have set a record for continuously serving as a chief attorney for the same municipality for 35 years and continuing. The 12-acre Warren E. Berbit Nature Preserve on Spook Rock Road is named in his honor.

I would be remiss if I did not express my praise for our Village Clerk, Joan Will. A great clerk is the lifeblood of a local administration. Joan's help to myself and the court, not part of her Village Clerk position, has been invaluable. Her knowledge as a former court clerk, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been a godsend. Equal kudos is due to my Court Clerk, Raquel Diaz. During my long career I have had many clerks, but political correctness to the side, she has been the best. Every judge will tell you that the clerk's assistance provides the lifeblood to the court.

The court calendar has continued to be light, especially in the past year because of COVID-19. In-person court appearances have been very limited, the proceedings being conducted virtually in most cases through Zoom procedures with the Assistant District Attorney, Public Defenders, many of the lawyers, and litigants.

Court sessions are held on the first Wednesday of the month by the Associate Judge and on the second Wednesday by myself. Associate Justice, Karen Riley, holds vehicle and traffic court and I hold civil and criminal court. My vacated seat will be filled by the voters in the March election. The Village Board appoints the Associate Justice. The new court administration will decide how the two judges will divide their duties.

In retirement I will continue my hobbies of bicycling, tennis, snowshoeing, gardening, traveling, entertaining senior citizen groups on my violin (currently by Zoom), and my new hobby of writing limericks and rhymes.

For those of you who have read this far, a bit of trivia: President Zachary Taylor was born in Montebello, Virginia, and U.S. Senator from 1923 to 1938, Dr. John Copeland who lived in his home on Copeland Drive and 202, was involved as President of the NYC Board of Health in assisting in the treatment of victims of the 1918 flu epidemic that killed millions.

We are in COVID-19 now for over a year. It is not too late to remind everyone to continue wearing a mask and to social distance to keep safe.

Sincerely, Arnold Etelson
Village Justice

SPOTLIGHT ON: The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

By Lisa Levin, Chairperson Historic Preservation & Park Commission



There is a historic marker in downtown Suffern that chronicles its connection to American history. *Rochambeau's Encampment 1781-1782** recounts Suffern's role in Revolutionary War history. What you might not know is how Montebello is connected to this historic encampment.

The Continental Army's Campaign of 1781 resulted in the largest troop movement of the Revolutionary War. Ships carrying 5,300 French Expeditionary Forces, under the command of General Rochambeau (Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau), landed in Newport, Rhode Island in July of 1780. They remained there until their departure the following June, when they began their movement to the Lower Hudson River Valley. The 4,000 troops under the leadership of General George Washington that spent the winter of 1780-1781 near Newburgh, NY joined the French forces in Philipsburg, near White Plains, NY on July 4, 1781.

Although the original target of the American-French joint attack was the British forces in New York City, Washington and Rochambeau realized that a strong naval support would have been necessary to defeat the British forces and changed their plans, redirecting the joint force south toward Yorktown, Virginia. There, with the support of French Admiral De Grasse's naval forces in the Chesapeake Bay, the joint American and French forces would target British forces commanded by General Cornwallis.

The joint American-French force began its journey in August 1781, crossing the Hudson River to Rockland County. Beginning its march in Stony Point, the troops moved south through Haverstraw toward Ramapo, traversing roads in what is now Montebello, ending at the encampment in and around Suffern's Tavern (which Rochambeau used as his headquarters). From there, they made their way south to Yorktown where the British forces were defeated. This victory was the final battle of the American Revolution. After their success, the joint forces remained in Virginia during the winter. In the spring of 1782, the troops returned North, travelling our same local roads once again. If you'd like to learn more about this critical campaign, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/waro/index.htm>.

The route taken by the joint force runs from Rhode Island down the east coast to Virginia is now known as the "Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route." The Montebello path of the two armies followed Haverstraw Road (Route 202), Lake Road, Viola Road, and a small portion of Spook Rock Road. The Village of Montebello Historic Preservation and Parks Commission (HPPC) is working to highlight the importance of this historic route with the installation of signs marking the path that this joint force took 240 years ago. This historic campaign is just one of the many reasons that these roads were among those designated as a Historic and Scenic Roads Overlay District in 2018.

Montebello's connection to this important time in history is only one of the reasons that our village is so remarkable and why the Montebello HPPC strives to spotlight and preserve the history that is right outside our doors. As important as it was to designate these important historic roads, it is just as important to designate your historic property, to commemorate those houses that have been a part of our historic landscape. If you have a historic property and would like more information about Historic Designation for your property, please call Montebello Village Hall at 845-368-2211 or visit the Village website to download a "Request for Evaluation" application.

*The marker reads: "After crossing the Hudson, Commander-in-chief of the French army in America, General Jean-Baptiste Rochambeau, encamped here with his 5000 troops en route from Newport, R.I. to Virginia. Joining with Gen. Washington, the two armies hurried to Yorktown and forced the surrender of the besieged British General Cornwallis October 19, 1781. This devastating blow proved to be the final battle of the American Revolution. A year later the French troops returned and Suffern's Tavern again served as Rochambeau's headquarters."

Keeping Fire Hydrants Clear

By Michael Mandikas, Code Enforcer



After a heavy snowfall it is typical to see everyone outside of their homes, shoveling sidewalks and clearing driveways. It's a necessary wintertime task for all of us, no matter how begrudgingly we get it done. However, all too often one very important snow-covered area gets overlooked; and that's the fire hydrant.

In order for firefighters to utilize a fire hydrant quickly and easily in the event of a fire, there needs to be a 3-foot radius surrounding the hydrant that is completely cleared of snow. If a hydrant is covered, the firefighters need to clear it themselves and the delay that this causes could mean additional property damage, injuries or even lives lost.

According to Village Code "it is the duty and obligation of any owner, occupant or tenant of any real property located within the Village of Montebello to maintain a clear and unobstructed path for a radius of 15 feet in every direction from the fire hydrant to maintain said area clear from all obstructions, including, but not limited to dirt, debris, shrubbery and snow."

I would like to encourage residents to "adopt a fire hydrant" near your home and keep snow shoveled away from them during the winter season. Please make it a point to uncover your fire hydrant after every snowfall. This will ensure firefighters don't lose precious moments finding and shoveling out fire hydrants.

Building Department News**By Larry Picarello, Building Inspector**

Many residents have inquired about the installation of backup generators. Typically these generators are fueled by natural gas, utilize an electrical transfer switch, and are equipped with sophisticated self-diagnostic features. Please note that a permanently installed backup generator does require a building permit. This is our assurance (and yours) that the generator has been installed properly to code, using a licensed electrician and a licensed plumber. This office will review the specifications and location to make sure the placement meets zoning requirements, manufacturer's requirements, and will not be impacted by flood conditions. Please note that all generators must be installed above Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Following inspection by the Building Department and submission of a third-party final electrical inspection certificate, a Certificate of Occupancy for the generator will be issued. Further note that a generator installed without a permit will be flagged during a violation search as done in the course of a home sale or refinance, and is a violation. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Building Department at 845-368-2491.

Finally, if you are considering selling or refinancing your home, a bit of preparation will ease the process for you. I would encourage any resident to review their Building Department records (property file) before selling or refinancing. Not all realtors take the time to do this important step, often leaving it to the homeowner. It is important for you to see that all improvements, modifications, and additions are covered by the appropriate Certificates of Occupancy. These records are kept in very good order, on site at Village Hall, and are available during our regular office hours.

Lawrence A. Picarello
Village Building Inspector

From the desk of the Fire Inspector**By Adam Gordon**

Hello to all residents, I hope everybody is healthy and had a great holiday season. If you haven't done so this year, now would be a great time to have your clothes dryer vent cleaned. Here are some quick facts from the USFA regarding home clothes dryer fires:

- 2,900 home clothes dryer fires are reported each year and cause an estimated 5 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss.
- Failure to clean the dryer (34 percent) is the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires.
- More home clothes dryer fires occur in the fall and winter months, peaking in January.

Clothes Dryer Do's

- Have your clothes dryer installed by a professional. Make sure the correct electrical plug and outlet are used and that the dryer is connected properly.
- Read manufacturer's instructions and warnings in use and care manuals that come with new dryers.
- Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up. In addition, clean the lint filter with a nylon brush at least every six (6) months or more often if it becomes clogged.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipes every three (3) months. Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.
- Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- Put a covering on outside wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt. Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent.
- Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is on.
- Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.
- If you will be away from home for an extended time, unplug or disconnect the dryer.

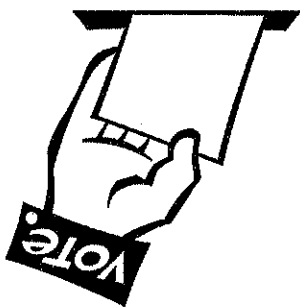
Clothes Dryer Don'ts

- Don't use a clothes dryer without a lint filter or with a lint filter that is loose, damaged or clogged. Don't overload the dryer.
- Don't dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic. An example is a bathroom rug. Don't dry any item for which manufacturer's instructions state "dry away from heat".
- Don't leave a clothes dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.



Village of Montebello
One Montebello Road
Montebello, NY 10901

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**Village Elections will take place on
Tuesday, March 16th, 7 AM to 9 PM
at Village Hall, One Montebello Road**

**Village Trustee
Village Trustee
Village Justice**

**On the ballot will be the filling of two Trustee
positions and Village Justice**

REMINDER: VILLAGE ELECTIONS!