



# Village of Montebello

Lance N. Millman, Mayor

Stacy Caridi, Deputy Mayor  
Steven H. Beldock, Trustee

Melanie Golden, Trustee  
Evan Kuperman, Trustee

## November 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](http://www.villageofmontebello.org)

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

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### Greetings from the Mayor—A 2021 Year in Review

It has been another year with Covid around us. Luckily, we are improving as time goes on and those who wish to get vaccinated should. Either way, we wish you all well and hopefully all continue to practice safe procedures by wearing mask in crowds and protecting your health and safety of your families and if you choose to get vaccinated.

We continue to hold our Village meetings both in person and via Zoom and invite any resident to attend. We have accomplished many things this past year in our village with the main result of continuing to maintain the beauty and the lifestyle we have come to enjoy.

Many homes have changed hands and the good news that I hear is that all who have moved into our great village want us to continue to maintain our laws and protection of those who live here and to keep that open feeling that we work so hard to maintain. That has made Montebello a special place to live! I would also like to ask everyone to continue to respect our village and your neighbors as Montebello has always accepted everyone and will always continue to do so.

With that said here is the year in reflection:

- when the COVID pandemic hit the area, the residents should feel reassured that Village Hall was open and available to the public every day.
- In trying to get back to normal, the Village offered:
  - a Free Concert in the Park featuring "Gratefully Yours" Band
  - Zumba In the Park
  - Continued to keep the Community Garden open and thriving with many residents using the garden (don't forget to sign up for the upcoming season).
  - Montebello Elementary School moving up ceremonies at Village Hall grounds with their own sponsored BBQ.
  - Memorial Day Remembrance with Montebello's own Jeremy Honey as the keynote speaker.
  - Active Scout troops planting trees and cleaning up parks.
  - The walking trail in KGPP is open and the signs in place from the Eagle Scout Project.
- Montebello received a grant from Senator Reichlin-Melnick to repair Historic Village Hall.
- We have completed paving many roads under our new Bond program.
- KGPP our beautiful, prized park remained open.
- I performed free wedding ceremonies in KGPP, where there are beautiful backdrops for the ceremony. (I am always available if you would like to get married in Montebello – you just need a marriage certificate and a willing partner!)
- Designated Historic homes and the WRR trail will be coming soon to our website as part of a grant.
- Installed a new ChargePoint Electric Car charger - it is up and running at Village Hall.
- The new Assisted Living complex "The Sentinel" had their Sentinel ribbon cutting 11.15.21
- Montebello welcomed the new Town of Ramapo Police Chief Marty Reilly and elected a New Village Justice Karen Riley..... no relation.
- Our Montebello Seniors are back in house, and we are very happy to have them. We felt like empty nesters while they were gone and enjoy the noise and chatter from the Senior Room.
- The Village is moving toward becoming a Climate Smart Community and will be setting up a task force.

(Continued on Page 2)



*Greetings from the Mayor—continued*

We have passed several Local Laws in 2021 including:

- LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2021 - A local law amending Chapter 195, Zoning and Chapter 104, Hotels, Inns and Boardinghouses, to regulate short term rental of residential dwellings.
- LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF THE YEAR 2021 - A local law amending Chapter 195, Zoning, Chapter 89 Fire Prevention, and Chapter 163, Subdivision of Land, to clarify the standards for gathering places and places of Worship, and to better define the role of the Community Development Review Committee (CDRC).
- LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF THE YEAR 2021 - A local law amending Chapter 195, Zoning,, to clarify the standards for Lighting, to prevent Glare and Nuisances at uses not requiring Site Plan review.

Your Elected Officials on our Village Board continue to work diligently for all our residents. We have recently completed a very extensive budget process and strive very hard to keep our taxes as low as possible. The result is going from a tax rate for 2021 of 10.895921 to a 2022 tax rate of 10.64868. This is a reduction to your taxes. Again, your Elected Officials are working hard for you. The village will be rebidding the carting contract as the first bidding amounts were too high with an expected increase of 60% over the last contract. We will be exploring new options for carting to lower the contract and are rebidding it for the end of December. We are hopeful that the new rates will be acceptable to the village.

The Village is keeping a very close eye on what is occurring within our village and around our borders. The Village, Planning, and Zoning Boards are making sure that our laws are followed and keep looking for ways to make sure we maintain our wonderful lifestyles. We are making every effort to work with the commercial businesses opening around us to ensure that 24/7 businesses are controlled, and 18-wheeler tractor trailer traffic does not become the norm surrounding our roads! We will continue to fight to maintain our village laws and make sure that are residents continue to live in the best village in Rockland County if not the State, in my opinion.

Keep informed up to the minute by following our updates as well as reading the minutes of all our boards on our website at [www.villageofmontebello.org](http://www.villageofmontebello.org).

Have a healthy and safe winter and hope to see all very soon!

Regards,  
Lance N Millman, Mayor

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### ***Winter Reminders by Stacy Caridi, Deputy Mayor***



- If you would like to be added to the Village of Montebello's *Do Not Knock Registry*, please fill out, sign and mail the Do Not Knock Registry Request form to Village Hall. This form is available on the Village website under Departments, Forms & Applications. This registry **prohibits any door-to-door salespersons (including real estate agents) from coming to your home**. This is a voluntary list and not mandatory for you to be added. Any peddlers wishing to sell door-to-door within the Village will be given this list. Violators can be prosecuted for trespassing.
- **Recycling Hazardous Waste** - the Household Hazardous Waste drop-off facility is located at 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive in Pomona NY. Items can be dropped off during the week (except holidays) from 8 AM to 1 PM. There are select weekend times available, please check their website for dates and times. This facility is available to Rockland County residents only.
  - **Acceptable Waste** includes oil & latex paint cans, wood preservatives & thinners, spot removers, driveway sealer, antifreeze, motor oil, oil filters, gasoline, kerosene & lighter fluids, photography chemicals, pool chemicals, pesticides, fungicides & herbicides, tank fire extinguishers, propane tanks (up to 20 lb.), light bulbs (all sizes), batteries, computers, monitors, laptops, printers, scanners, fax & copy machines, printer cartridges, TV's, VCR's, CD players, cell phones, radios, small freon appliances, air conditioners, small refrigerators, water coolers & dehumidifiers. Medications-- non-controlled over the counter & prescription medication & pet medications
  - **Unacceptable Waste** includes tires, aerial flares, asbestos, explosives, construction material, radioactive materials, medical & biological wastes, controlled substance medication, SHARPS, CD's & VCR tapes, appliances, washers, dryers, dishwashers, large refrigerators or freezers, microwave ovens, toaster ovens, compressed gas tanks, oxygen tanks, acetylene, helium and other compressed gases

What's the Concern? Many products we use in our homes, garages workshops and yards could be hazardous to our health and the environment if used, stored, or disposed of improperly. If handled carelessly, products such as paint, wood preservatives, cleaning products, automotive and pool chemicals, pesticides, and electronics can injure you and sanitation workers, as well as pollute our air, water, and soil. Please use and dispose of these items responsibly.





### **Invasive Insect Alert by Melanie Golden, Trustee**

This issue I have invited a guest columnist, local resident Ann Barry. Ann has her PhD in Biological Sciences and works with Cornell Cooperative Extension and the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, focusing on invasive plants and insects. The focus of this article is one invasive insect and how to stop its spread.

### **Spotted Lanternfly Alert by Ann Barry**

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect has made its way into Rockland County. A large infestation has been found in Orangeburg and some insects have been found locally in Kakiat County Park and Sloatsburg.

SLF is an incredibly destructive pest that can feed on the sap of over 70 different species of plants including agricultural crops such as apple trees, as well as maple trees and black walnut trees. SLF feeds by piercing trees and vines and tapping into the plant's vascular system to feed on the sap. This weakens the infested trees and vines, and they can eventually die. SLF also secretes large amounts of a clear, sticky "honeydew". A black sooty mold can then grow wherever the honeydew is present resulting in a sticky mess in our yards, other outdoor areas and on our vehicles. While very harmful to plants, spotted lanternfly is harmless to people.

The spotted lanternfly emerges in the spring and by summer has become the spotted adult that is about an inch long. The insect lives for just one season and dies with the first hard frost. However, they start laying eggs in late summer and autumn on the trunks of trees and any smooth-surfaced items such as rocks, cars, trucks, and trains. The egg masses, which resemble smooth tan to gray dry mud, normally contain 30 to 50 eggs. The egg masses on vehicles can readily be transported to other locations. When the eggs hatch in the spring, they crawl to nearby host plants to start a new infestation. SLF is a "planthopper" that does not move far on its own. Its long-distance spread is primarily related to its transport by cars and trucks. If you park your vehicle near an infestation or at heavily traveled location with many other vehicles, check your vehicle for any SLF "hitchhikers" before you leave.

**You can help stop the spread of SLF.** Look for the SLF during the growing season and their egg masses on trees and vines during the summer and throughout the fall and winter. If you 'spot' them do two things: 1. Squash the insects. 2. Report the insects and the egg masses here:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ao8d60f6522043f5bd04229e00acdd63>



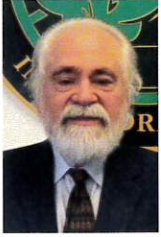
### **Why did you move to Montebello? by Evan T. Kuperman, Trustee**

Some of us have been here since the village was formed and others have moved here for all that the village offers. I have been fortunate enough to have been here from the beginning. Attending Montebello Elementary School, Suffern Middle School and Suffern High School. The trees, country roads, limited street lighting, natural curbs, great schools and easy access to highways are many of the reasons people move here and stay to raise their kids in the same place they were raised. I am fortunate enough to have grown up in this beautiful area and attended the local schools.

As we attend each board meeting, we discuss the great things that elevate our village and maintain the design, architecture and land use. Many things have been preserved in Montebello including historic barns, roads and scenic landscape. Many residents have been finding peaceful solace at the Kathy Gorman Ponds Park or Kakiat Park. It has been so nice to see residents maintaining their new found walking, cycling, and outdoor exercise habits. Over the last year we have spent many ways doing the same things differently. All the open space we have near us has given everyone an opportunity to stay safe while being distant. It is nice to see people coming together again. Our schools have students filling the hallways and the cross-country team is running through the streets again.

As we all take time to enjoy our village, we also need to stay safe. Please drive slowly and watch for people who are outdoors and still enjoying exercising, walking their dog or just going for a stroll. Let's all take a little more caution as we drive through our neighborhoods to enjoy the scenery. Take the time to enjoy whatever reason brought you to Montebello and let's protect everyone enjoying our open space and beautiful landscape.





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

Here we are at the change of seasons. An apt time to place our feet on the ground, catch our breaths, take stock, and ready ourselves for the evolving changes swirling all about us.

What changes you may ask, cocooned, masked, socially distanced, and isolated for nearly two years? Well, we at Village Hall who serve you all, must transition to a post-pandemic world, while still handling the business at hand despite many fits and starts along the way. We regressed to virtual meetings for good reason but, hopefully, by the New Year we will be able to resume consistently meeting in person. We have also learned to function every day in a shifting environment wrought from changes in the federal and state leadership, changed laws, changed rules and regulations, a changed grant environment, and changed attitudes caused by all of this.

As if the above changes were not enough, there is the change represented by the natural flux of different people coming and going. As I've written and counselled before, those of you who have enjoyed raising your families and living in Montebello, it's all still here! Be that as it may, and despite differences in appearance, culture, background, ethnicity, country of origin, and religious practices and affiliations, I've observed good in us all, and all are most welcome. On the other hand, pleasant co-existence does require mutual effort.

One serious note of caution, for example! We at Village Hall, and of course in the Law Department, believing strongly in the great Village that we have helped build, believe equally that preserving that Village for all to enjoy requires acting in good faith in following our laws and regulations. We do not and will not subscribe to the method of acting first, and then apologizing and dealing with consequences later! To mention a few no-no's I've recently witnessed, and by no means an exclusive listing: **do not**, without first asking and taking necessary steps, cut down trees without permits; **do not** alter the natural flora in a conservation easement, dump in same or do construction in same; **do not** attempt to alter substantial swaths of land without a land disturbance permit; **do not** unilaterally attempt to change from a permitted or approved use to another use; **do not** engage in construction by adding to or altering exteriors or interiors of buildings without a Building Permit or first checking if you need one, etc. To reiterate, please ask first and abide by our laws and regulations in the first instance. Prosecuting and fining violations is unpleasant and inefficient for all concerned.

Lastly, continuing with the "change" theme, the following projects have been completed, are underway, or appear to be proceeding even if at an early stage:

- ◆ Montebello Crossing - subdivision and site plan on Route 59 across from the Good Samaritan Hospital – approved, with approximately 200 bed assisted living residence across the rear, and medically related offices and drive-thru retail building across the front.
- ◆ The Sentinel – Assisted Living Residential facility on Rella Boulevard is opened.
- ◆ Ex-Novartis property -purchased by Newco Suffern Holdings, LLC, seeking to develop in the Village of Suffern, up to a 1.2 m. square foot facility for warehousing and distribution (no structure planned in our Village in which 32 of 162 acres is located, but primary access is in Montebello).
- ◆ Stonehedge Farm – early stage, pending adoption of Local Law No. 4 of 2021, allowing construction of 11 high end duplex homes (22 dwellings), and subdividing off and preserving the Minetto Farmhouse, all on approximately 17 acres, located at 220 Spook Rock Road.
- ◆ 34 North Airmont Road – This vacant property in the commercial LO-C zoning district is bound on three sides by Airmont Road, Executive Boulevard and Montebello Road and lies directly across the street from Village Hall. Approved is the construction of a three and one-half story medical office building containing 46,400 square feet. The building is oriented toward Executive Boulevard while preserving and enhancing the buffers in the other directions.

Have a great winter and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
 Warren E. Berbit, Village Attorney





### **A View From the Bench by Judge Karen Riley**

On April 1, 2021, I took over the duties of Montebello Village Justice, succeeding Judge Arnold Etelson, who served for over 50 years as a Justice Court Judge in various courts in Rockland County, most recently in our Village. Judge Etelson's shoes will no doubt be difficult ones to fill, but the community can rest assured that I bring significant experience, both as a prosecutor and judge, to the Village Court. In my first column for the Montebello Newsletter, I wanted to share a bit about myself and my background.

I am a graduate of Cornell University (1985), and Pace Law School (1995). While attending law school, I knew I wanted to be a courtroom attorney and had a strong interest in criminal law. My first legal job was at the Rockland County District Attorney's Office. This job prompted a move from White Plains to Montebello, where I have resided with my family for over 24 years. I spent 10 years in the Rockland District Attorney's office, where I specialized in Sex Crimes and Child Abuse, trying many cases during my years in the office. In 2006, I was appointed as an interim County Court Judge in Rockland County where I presided over felony cases. Unfortunately, I lost the election which would have kept me on the County Court bench, but I subsequently spent years as the Associate Justice in the following justice courts: Hillburn, Airmont and Montebello.

For over 14 years, I have been employed full time as the Chief Attorney for the Children's Rights Society in Goshen, where I represent children ages 0-21 in all types of Family Court proceedings. I preside in our Village Court one to two times per month on average, and sometimes conduct arraignments on criminal cases on nights and weekends. I handle the criminal and traffic cases, and our Associate Justice, Ken Gobetz, handles civil cases, local law violations and landlord tenant matters.

I have raised two daughters here, one is still in the high school and one graduated from the high school in 2020 and is attending college. Many of you may know me from seeing me around, since I love to walk and visit the dog park with my beagle Joey.

So, I hope to see you around town- and not in court. But if you do end up in my court, you can be sure that everyone always gets fair shake.



### **Montebello High School Seniors Achieve Top 10%**

Congratulations to the Montebello graduates on their accomplishment in being named in the Top 10% of the Class of 2021 from Suffern High School! Mayor Millman and the Board of Trustees congratulate the following seniors for achieving Academic Excellence: Abigail Blank, Sophia Chang, Max Cohen, Sydney Goldstein, Jason Kardon, Sarah Katz, Laurence Koodin, Benjamin Liebergall, Sushmi Majumder, Mady Seif, Robert Slovikowsky, Philip Tsang, and Julia Zangrilli.



### **Arbor Day Foundation Names Montebello Tree City USA**

Montebello, NY was named a 2020 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Montebello achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundations. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

More information on the program is available at [www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA)



### ***Congratulations to Deputy Mayor Stacy Caridi!***



Assemblyman Mike Lawler (R,C,I,SAM-Pearl River) hosted his inaugural Women of Distinction event on Friday, May 14. He honored 22 women from the 97<sup>th</sup> Assembly District for their accomplishments.

"It was truly an honor to recognize these outstanding, accomplished women from our community," said Lawler. "Thank you to all the members of our community who submitted nominations for women they know. It was very difficult to narrow the honorees to the final 22. Our community is lucky to be filled with so many exceptional women."

"Each of the women honored today have positively impacted our community for the better through their compassion, talent and volunteerism. Thank you for all you've done for us. The 97<sup>th</sup> Assembly District is a better place with these women advocating for our residents and creating impactful change."

Congratulations to our Deputy Mayor, Stacy Caridi, for being selected one of the 97<sup>th</sup> Assembly District's Women of Distinction for her contributions to our community! This recognition for her work in helping to make our County and Village a better place to live is well deserved.

### ***Memorial Day Observation***

The Village celebrated Memorial Day on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> with a ceremony in the gazebo of Village Hall. The ceremony was kicked off with Welcome by Mayor Millman, followed by singing of God Bless America by Suffern High School student, Fiona O'Brien, then a reading of the Gettysburg Address by Montebello Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, Zachary Dempsey & Lily Somogyi. Assemblyman Mike Lawler addressed the crowd followed by guest speaker Jeremy Honey, Vietnam Veteran, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant. The Marine Corps League Rockland County Detachment presented the flags, laid a wreath, fired a rifle salute and played taps in memory of those who made the greatest sacrifice for our nation.



### ***Honoring Judge Arnold Etelson***

At the July 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Trustees meeting, Mayor Millman spoke in honor of Judge Etelson. "Arnold Etelson served as Village Justice since the court was created on February 15, 2012. He served in a judicial capacity for over 50 years starting in 1967 as the Spring Valley Police Justice then Ramapo Town Justice beginning in 1975 for over 30 years, and then as Village of Montebello Justice. The Board and I wish to thank Arnold for his years of service and commitment to our village and wish you a happy and exciting retirement and present you with a token of our appreciation for your service."

Mayor Millman and the Board presented Judge Etelson with a gavelled plaque which read:

"Presented to Judge Arnold Etelson by the Mayor and Village Board for the Village of Montebello in gratitude of his service as our first Village Justice from 2012 to 2021, and for an unprecedented 54 years on the bench. Presented April 2021"





**Building Department News by Larry Picarello, Building Inspector****Winter Safety Reminders**

Cooler temperatures are a reminder of family gatherings for the holidays. However, the winter months also call for extra precautions. The NYS Division of Consumer Protection, in partnership with the Consumer Protection Safety Commission (CPSC), offers these tips to keep you safe.

The CPSC reports that house fires led to an average of over 2,300 deaths, over 10,000 injuries, and \$7B in property damage from 2016-2018. Home fires are common, but also preventable. Carbon monoxide associated with generators and home heating systems accounted for the largest percentage of reported fatalities; there were 808 deaths from 2004 through 2013 due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Take the following preventative measures to reduce the risk and protect yourselves, your families, and your community:

**Fire and Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips**

- **Make sure your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms are functioning by testing them once per month.** Both alarms should be battery-operated or have a battery back-up, and batteries should be changed once per year. You should have a *separate* alarm for each to prevent these separate emergencies.
- **Have a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm on every floor, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.** You can check for interconnecting alarms so that one sounds, they all sound.
- **Your smoke alarm doesn't just sound when there is a fire.** Learn the difference between the sounds: **three loud beeps (continuous)** means there is smoke or a fire, and **one "chirp" every 30-60 seconds** means it is time to change the battery.
- **Your smoke alarm must be changed every 10 years.** Make sure you find out how old the smoke alarm is when you move into a new residence. If your smoke alarm continues to "chirp" even after you have replaced the battery, it's time to replace your smoke alarm.
- **Most home fires start in the kitchen.** Make sure you always keep watch over your cooking and that there is a fire extinguisher nearby.
- **Have a fire escape plan and review it with your family.** Make sure plans meet the needs of those with disabilities, children, and those with mobility issues in the household.
- **Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion.** If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.
- **On average, one of every 13 hotel or motel reports a structure fire each year.** Make sure you are staying at a hotel or motel equipped with smoke alarms and sprinklers, locate the fire exits when you arrive, and review the escape plan with your traveling companions.
- **Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.**
- **Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open.** Use generators outside only, at least 20 feet away from your home.

You can find more sources of information for fire prevention and carbon monoxide safety at the Consumer Product Safety Commission (<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Materials>)





### From the Desk of the Fire Inspector by Adam Gordon

National Fire Prevention Week came and went in October. The message this year is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety". Do you know what your alarm is telling you? Did you know the difference between three beeps for smoke/fire or four beeps for Carbon Monoxide? How about one chirp or two? When to change the battery or replace the device? Are any of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarms older than ten year old? If so, they should be replaced. Do you or any of your family members have sensory or physical disabilities that make it harder to hear conventional Smoke or Carbon Monoxide alarms? Please look into bedside or other types of alert devices. Does your family have a home safety action plan? If not, see the attached links for guidance.

<https://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/FPW/Educate/2021/FPW21FamilyActionPlanCombined.ashx>

<https://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/FPW/Safety-tip-sheets/2021/FPW21ThemeSafetyTipSheet.ashx>



### Village Code Enforcement by Kenneth Loudon

In March 2021, the Village welcomed Kenneth Loudon as our new Code Enforcement Officer.

With many new residents in the Village, below is the code regarding the Placement of Trash at the Curb (whether it be household garbage or recycling):

*For collection pursuant to a schedule announced by the Village of Montebello, all trash must be placed on the curblane where accessible. Such trash shall be placed in containers whenever possible. Such trash shall be set out no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to collection, and all containers shall be removed no later than 8:00 p.m. on the collection day. When a regular collection day falls on a legal holiday, containers shall not be set out until the next regularly scheduled collection day unless special announcement of collection is made by the Village.*

Recently our office conducted its ten year C.E.S. (Conservation Easement Survey) with great success. These Conservation Easements were created to protect the environment and preserve the natural beauty of our area. We had a few minor violations, with that being said, a number of our residents were unaware of restrictive conditions that may exist on their property. Such as conservation easements, wet lands, historical district or shade tree easements.

So before you plan to start your next home improvement project and are not familiar with any of these conditions, please call our office at (845) 368-2491.

Ken Loudon  
Village Code Enforcer

### Congratulations Montebello Elementary Fifth Graders!

On June 21st the Montebello Elementary Fifth Graders celebrated their graduation with celebration on the Village Hall grounds.



Many thanks to PTA President Tanya Dempsey for organizing the celebration at Village Hall. Thanks to PTA members Brandy Seltzer, Patricia DiLorenzo, Aman Brown, Michele Somogyi, Ryan Dempsey and David Seltzer for their assistance. Fink's Barbecue provided the awesome food and Rob from Rob's School of Music provided the music/DJ for the celebration. Mayor Millman and Deputy Mayor Caridi presented a Certificate of Achievement to the 5th Grade Class in honor of their outstanding academic performance and completion of their graduation requirements.



**HPPC News by Lisa Levin, Chairperson***"Trees for Tribs: Buffer in a Bag"*

In late spring of 2021, the Montebello Historic Preservation and Parks Commission (HPPC) participated in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) "Trees for Tribs: Buffer in a Bag" program for the first time (a program of the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery). The goal of the program is to plant trees and shrubs along the state's tributaries to create a healthy buffer to help reduce erosion, flooding, create healthier wildlife habitats, reduce pollution, and improve water quality in these areas. The NYSDEC supplies twenty-five seedlings to eligible organizations and individuals within New York State to plant along a potentially at-risk waterline to help establish and strengthen the buffer on their property. The program is available to any individual or organization that owns or manages a property with at least fifty feet of frontage along a stream or waterbody.

The HPPC received twenty-five seedlings - five each of silky dogwood, ninebark, red oak, winterberry, and witch hazel - to be planted at 8 Lake Road, a Village-owned open space property adjacent to wetlands and within a flood zone along the Mahwah River.

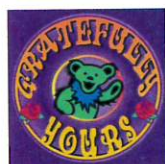
On Sunday, May 16, 2021, coordinated by Village Trustee Evan Kuperman and his wife Anat, local scouts from Girl Scout Troop 40069, BSA Scout Troop 25, and Cub Scout Troop 94 gathered at the property and planted the seedlings along its waterline. The care of the seedlings will be an ongoing project for the scout groups. As the trees grow, the root systems will strengthen the soil along the riverbank on the property and help both prevent further soil erosion on the property's waterline and slow and absorb flood waters that might encroach on the property. It will be a valuable long-term environmentally beneficial project for the scouts to steward. Each year, more plantings can be added to the buffer on the property (and other properties in the Village) to further improve the health of our wetlands.



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**Summer 2021—In the Park Programs**

During July and August, the Village provided a free Zumba program on Wednesdays for Montebello residents. Nicole Russodivito instructed the weekly group in outdoor Zumba lessons under the Village's gazebo. A fun time was had by all participants.



The Village presented a free concert in the park on Sunday, September 19th from 2 PM to 5 PM at the gazebo featuring "Gratefully Yours", a Grateful Dead cover band. The beautiful weather brought many people out to enjoy the band.

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**Join our Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical assistance, grants, and rebates for electric vehicles.

Montebello will be working to become a certified CSC community. Part of the process requires the establishment of CSC task force to help determine and support the plans, policies, and activities that are part of the CSC Certification program.

If you are a resident and are interested in serving on our task force, or if you have questions, please reach out to Melanie Golden at (845) 548-8316 or [trusteegolden@villageofmontebello.com](mailto:trusteegolden@villageofmontebello.com).



# 2022 Village Board Meetings:

January 19

February 16

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 9

December 21

## 2022 Village Hall Holiday Closings:



Monday, January 17

Monday, February 21

Monday, May 30

Martin Luther King Day

President's Day

Memorial Day

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