

Wesley's World

Village of Wesley Hills

February 2010



Reflectors

Please remember to wear reflectors when walking in the dark. They are available free of charge to Village residents at the Village Hall.

New Traffic Pattern

The no left turn signs at the south entrance of the Wesley Plaza shopping center have been in effect for almost four months now. It has taken some time to get used to, but they are helping to avoid traffic congestion and accidents at Village Green. Some adjustments need to be made, such as removing the right turn only restriction when leaving that exit. We are working on that with the DOT and the shopping center. Vehicles traveling north on route 306 should enter the shopping center via the north main entrance. Please do not use the office building parking lot as a shortcut, as that is illegal and unsafe. Avoid getting any summonses by not stopping or standing in the fire zones or handicapped spaces without the proper permit.

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2010 Census

The census is almost here. Every household will receive a questionnaire in March, and it must be completed and mailed back upon receipt. Just answer the ten short questions and send the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion for items such as hospitals, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels, and emergency services to states and communities, based in part, on census data. Please note that Rockland County's share depends on us. Please send in your form immediately.

Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires. If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge and a picture ID. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. If you still are not certain about their identity, please call the Regional Census Center phone number to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau. 212-584-3400

REMEMBER – the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's response with anyone, including other federal agencies or law enforcement entities.

For more information about the upcoming census, please visit the official U.S. Census Bureau website at www.census.gov.

Village elections
Tuesday, March 16th at Village Hall.

Lawsuits Update

1) A ruling has been made in the lawsuit brought by the Villages of Chestnut Ridge, Montebello, Pomona, and Wesley Hills, against the Town of Ramapo regarding the Adult Student Housing facilities law. Judge Nicolai ruled that the law was created properly but the Town Planning Board did not go through the proper SEQRA requirements in issuing a permit for the development of the site on Grandview Avenue. The judge had previously allowed 16 families to occupy that facility temporarily, until the case is completely adjudicated. At this point, the applicant can either appeal the decision, or go back to the Planning Board so that the proper SEQRA process can be performed.

2) The lawsuit brought against the Village by resident Daniel Rosenblum has been resolved. The claim was that the Village wasted taxpayer funds by participating in the lawsuit mentioned in item 1 above. The case was discontinued by the plaintiff with neither side admitting fault and no monetary payments made to either party. Unfortunately, this lawsuit cost the Village taxpayers \$60,000 in attorney fees. That alone would account for the Village tax increases in the last two years.

3) The lawsuit brought against the Village and Ira Wickes Arborist is proceeding. Neighbors of that business claim that the Village illegally passed a law creating a special use permit that would allow an arborist business to operate within the Village. At the moment, the Wickes business has an application before the Village Planning Board to obtain this special use permit. The Board is holding public meetings and reviewing all aspects of the business and consulting with experts to determine if the permit should be issued, and if so, what restrictions should be put into effect to reduce or mitigate possible adverse effects on the neighborhood.

Sidewalks

Work is proceeding on the two major sidewalk projects in the Village. The Forshay Road project plans are complete, and have been submitted to the Village. The NYS DOT has held two public meetings to get input on the Route 306 project. They are currently finalizing the plans for where it will be installed, and what properties will be affected. Another meeting will be held to present the plan to the public. Construction on these projects is targeted for 2011 and 2012 subject to funding availability.

Haitian Earthquake Relief

On January 17, as part of a larger group, the Town of Ramapo participated in sending medical supplies to Haiti. For those still interested in offering assistance, please review the following information:

Preferred items based on current need

- Monetary donations
 - Ramapo Haitian Task Force
 - Rockland Haitian Relief Campaign
 - Partners in Health
 - The American Red Cross
 - Any checks brought to Town Hall will be forwarded to Partners in Health and the American Red Cross
- Medications, bandages, insect repellent
- Personal hygiene items – soap, toothpaste, hand sanitizers
- Non-perishable food items such as water and canned foods

Town Drop-off Points

- Ramapo Town Hall
- Ramapo Cultural Arts Center
- Haitian Task Force Office (Cultural Arts Center in Spring Valley)
- HTI Building (Torne Valley)

Important Contacts

- Haiti Help Line monitored on a regular basis 845-357-0102
- Town Clerk – Chris Sampson – Coordinator of the Town of Ramapo Haitian Earthquake Relief 845-357-5100

Highway Department

Due to the problems where State Highway Route 202, Spook Rock Road, and Limekiln Road meet, the Village has submitted plans to the Rockland County Department of Highways for a redesign of that intersection. The changes would call for a direct continuous connection between Spook Rock Road and Limekiln Road. A separate connection from Route 202 to Spook Rock Road would be created slightly south of the current intersection. This would avoid the confusion of having all three roads meet at a single intersection. The plans are currently being reviewed by the Engineering Division. If the plans seem feasible, they will be pursued with the New York State Department of Transportation, as they would have the final say on any proposed modifications to this intersection.

Cell Tower Update

The first two public hearings on the application by Verizon Wireless to install a cell tower at the Antrim Playhouse have taken place, and there were a lot of good presentations made by those in attendance. Additional information is being gathered including more testing to see the effects of putting another antenna on the existing tower on the Mitch Miller property off Limekiln Road. Research is also being done to look for possible alternate sites that might be less objectionable to neighbors. The next meeting on this application will take place at 7:00 PM on March 24th at the Limekiln Elementary School at 35 Lime Kiln Road.

On a somewhat related topic, the Village has signed an agreement with T-mobile to allow for the installation of a flagpole type cell tower on the Village Hall property. If approved, this will generate a significant amount of revenue to the Village and will assist us in keeping tax increases to a minimum. Keep an eye on our Village website and emails for information about when public hearings on that application will begin.

Reminders

- At its meeting held on December 16, 2009, the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council adopted new rules in order to comply with legislation called [Amanda's Law](#). The law specifies new rules regarding the installation of carbon monoxide detectors. Homes constructed before January 1, 2008, must have a carbon monoxide alarm installed on the lowest story having a sleeping area. Homes constructed on or after January 1, 2008, must have a carbon monoxide alarm installed on each story having a sleeping area and on each story where a carbon monoxide source is located. Only one carbon monoxide alarm is required on a story having both a sleeping area and a carbon monoxide source.
- Please remember that multi-family homes are illegal in Wesley Hills. This applies to both the physical structure of the house, as well as renting part of an existing house to an unrelated family. You are allowed to rent to a single unrelated border without separate kitchen facilities.
- Home businesses have specific rules and may require a special use permit. Under no circumstances are home retail business allowed in the Village.
- Please note that New York State rules regarding building and permits are constantly changing. Before you start any construction project, please call the Village building department to find out if any permits are required. It is truly in your best interest to have the building inspector review your plans to make sure that everything is up to code and all safety considerations are taken into account.

VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS

432 ROUTE 306
WESLEY HILLS, NY 10952

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #70
MONSEY, NY 10952

February 2010 NEWSLETTER

Mayor
Dep. Mayor
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

David Goldsmith
Edward McPherson
Howard Richman
Marion Ben-Jacob
Brett Bekritsky

***** ELECTION REMINDER *****

Village elections will be held on Tuesday,
March 16th at Village Hall.
Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

We still want your Emails

We would like to thank all those residents that have sent us their email addresses. The Village email list is now over 650 names. If you have not already done so, please send your email address to mayor@wesleyhills.org, so we can add you to the Village email list. Please let us know if your email address has changed.

TOR Supersaver tickets

Transport of Rockland (TOR) supersaver bus tickets can now be purchased at the Village Hall. A packet of 10 round trip tickets costs \$9.00. That is a 33% discount off the regular single ticket price. Visit the website www.co.rockland.ny.us/PublicTrans for information about bus routes and schedules.