

Messages to all Chestnut Ridge Residents July 27, 17, 16, 12 and 8

July 27 Message

Hello Readers/members. I want to thank you for all for your continuing support of CUPON of Chestnut Ridge. And, for those of you who attended the Village Board meeting last Thursday evening, I thank you for your interest in the village and your concern for how the Village government functions or makes decisions that impact every resident of this diverse community.

Just as you, I am confused about the Village's actions regarding the proposed resolution about Burials. The Resolution was unveiled at the June, 2019 Village Board meeting without any prior notice to the community and without any public request for such a law to be entertained. As presented in its original form, it did not state that the Village opposed a burial law, rather it suggested that there is a need for such a law and then explained the path a resident would need to take to achieve a burial of a loved one on his/her property which included submission of a site development plan to the Planning Board with the Planning Board making the final decision on the submission. Nowhere in the draft is a statement from the Village Board/mayor stipulating that such a law was not needed nor supported by the Board.

Any resident who attended that meeting waled out perplexed about the resolution and concerned that by the July meeting it would be a done deal as it would be discussed and then voted on. In fact, until last Wednesday, that is the impression we had. However, the proposed resolution and its consideration was removed from the agenda for the the July meeting with no real explanation.

We learned at the meeting on July 18th that the Mayor is opposed to such a law and that he felt that the residents who spoke openly about their opposition were misinformed and the victim of "fake news". it is not fake news to review the resolution as proposed in June. And, as we know all too well, even when resolutions are commented upon by members of the public, public sentiment rarely has an impact on the final draft of the law. Just consider the public outcry about the House of Worship law and consider what its final form is!

We have learned a few important facts about the genesis of this resolution. In January, 2018, the IMAM of the Jerahi Mosque passed away and the members of the mosque, after reviewing the state laws and other available documentation discovered that there was no real law that precluded the burial of the IMAM on mosque property. After consulting with the Village, the health department and all other necessary entities, the IMAM was buried on the grounds of the Mosque in February, 2018 with the cooperation of the Village of Chestnut Ridge. This is documented.

The Mayor's assertion that the Mosque conducted the burial without proper authorization is not true.

I am wondering why the law was not proposed in march of 2018 right after this event if

the Village government was not comfortable with the burial . And, why was the law so loosely constructed for the June meeting that it had to be adjourned so our Village attorney, by his own assertion, needed to do additional research to insure the law is sound and comprehensive. Why the delay of over one year and then what was the rush!! to present it in such an incomplete form? [Article in the press click here](#)

Again, for me, I find the sequence of event most puzzling. And, for sure, the Village's approach to the proposal of resolutions that may be adopted to become law, I hope going forward there is more thought and legal research done before the resolution is presented to the public. Mr Sevastien's identified purpose is to offer legal expertise on matters of concern to the Village and its legal actions.

We will advise you about the is matter as we move forward and again, i encourage all readers to attend meetings and ask questions. Your opinion does count.

See you all at the next CUPON meeting on 8/6/19 at the Ambulance Building at 7PM.

Thanks, Hilda Kogut

July 17 Message

Please note that the Village Board will hear a motion to adjourn discussions about the proposed Burial Law for the meeting to be held on 7/18/19. The Village attorney is doing more research. But this matter will come back on the agenda, for sure.

This should not deter any of you from attending the meeting and asking the hard questions during the open discussion part!!! Why do we need this law? Who has requested it? Who broke the law as it stands by burying a "loved one" in their back yard. Have they been cited with a violation?

Ask about the issue of health? Who certifies the health of the deceased? Who protects me or you or your children from a burial that occurs on behalf of a person who had a contagious disease? We are in the midst of a measles epidemic!? For those of us who have autoimmune issues - this contamination could spell severe health challenges. This has been documented!

Is it the Planning Board's job as well to handle these issues. Maybe a member of the Planning Board can be identified as the Burial Monitor!- attending each "funeral" to insure the law is complied with!!!

PLEASE USE YOUR VOICE to demand that on this occasion, the Mayor and the Board listen to everyone!

Thanks, Hilda Kogut

July 16 Message (Burial in my Backyard?)

This audio recording snippet contains the Mayor's explanation about WHY the Village now needs a burial law. [CLICK HERE](#)

I have provided the explanation offered Mayor Presti at the 6/20 Board meeting. My question for the Mayor and the Board is why not just pass a law that says there will be NO Burial of Human remains.

I urge all to attend this Village Board meeting on Thursday, July 18 at 8PM in Village Hall meeting and ask 2 questions, Who has asked for this law to be enacted and WHY is it necessary. Chestnut Ridge is in the NY metro area where there are numerous cemeteries that are open to all members of the community and many that are limited to only certain denominations. CHESTNUT RIDGE has no need for a law such as this when homes are close to water sources and schools and businesses and schools!!

Once again the needs of a few/one segment of the community are taking precedence over the interests of the majority!!

For once, Mr Mayor say no to someone's request. No, is what you said when we asked for a building moratorium so we all know you can say NO!! and develop a law that protects all residents from the request of one member of the community or just a few!!

Attend this meeting and speak out!!

Hilda Kogut

July 12 Message

Hello Chestnut Ridge residents. Our next Village Board meeting will be Thursday, July 18 at 8PM in Village Hall. I encourage all who are able to attend. There are issues that are beginning to present themselves that require our constant attention and comment.

1-The Village Board and the mayor introduced a resolution that will probably become law if we are unable to sway the Board and mayor. It is entitled Proposed [Local Law regarding the Burial of Human Remains in Residential districts.](#)

While I cannot be sure why this matter is being brought before the Board for consideration, I can say that it concerns me greatly to think that with the approval of the Planning Board going forward someone could be buried on my neighbor's property. While this may be the extreme, we must consider this issue when it comes to the environment and water supply. Many of our residents have streams on their property or use private wells as their source of water!!

I for one, believe this issue should not be left to the Planning Board to provide approval for such a request.

I have taken the time to forward the proposed law to the Rockland County Health Department and am awaiting their response.

I encourage all to attend the meeting and voice your concerns. AND, if you have any other suggestions about agencies or avenues to pursue to have this matter examined more thoroughly, please take the liberty of doing just that.

2- So many residents have voiced their concerns about their safety in reference to the private school buses that ride up and down streets, make illegal U turns, back up and simply drive the buses with disregard for the safety of the residents or the children on the buses.

The Village government offers us no support, the Town of Ramapo Police Department does not seem to have any interest in protecting our residents or has no authority to act.

The state law that governs school buses is weak. it does not penalize drivers who back up or make U. I have learned that while Chestnut ridge transportation does NOT allow drivers to travel in cul de sacs, make U turns or back up, these actions are not illegal, they are dangerous.

I believe that we should start collecting names on petitions and then present as many signed petitions as we can collect to our Assembly person, Ellen Jaffee and State Senator, David Carlucci and pressure them to author legislation to strengthen the laws and penalties for such irresponsible driving.

This will be an agenda item at our next CUPON meeting set for 8/6/19 . if any resident wants to help with this endeavor, please let us know!!!

3- AGAIN, the Village Board meeting is 7/18/19 at 8PM in Village hall. Come, listen, participate!!!

Thanks Hilda Kogut

July 8 Message from Hilda

Hello readers. I want to wish you all a great holiday and thank you all for your support of CUPON of Chestnut Ridge. This organization exists because of you and me and for all of us. Please continue to be engaged and urge your neighbors and friends to read this site and come to our meetings I have a few items to up date for all.

1- There will be no CUPON meeting in July. The 4th of July holiday and the dates that are available going forward conflict with meetings in the Village of our Planning ,

Zoning and Village board. I encourage all to attend these meetings and learn about projects that are proposed in the Village that have become reality since the passing of the House of Worship Resolution. There has been no effort to stop any such development while the House of Worship law is under review through our Article 78 filing before Judge Paul Marx. The meeting schedule for the month of July is available thru a link attached to this site. PLEASE review it and attend meetings and ask questions.

2- There has been no decision about the Article 78 at this point. the matter is under consideration by Judge Paul Marx of the NYS Supreme Court. We have no date for his completion of the review or when he will render his decision.

3-The Orthodox Jewish Coalition through the efforts of Attorney Joseph Churgin has filed a letter with the US District Court and Judge Roman to attempt to join in our Federal Suit. Our attorney for the Federal Suit, Cozen O'Connor, et al filed a response which is also attached. Thus far there has been no published response by the Judge to the request made by Churgin on behalf of the OJC. This is a strange request but clearly the effort is to impact our efforts before the court and diminish the argument we have made on behalf of CUPON and the residents who spoke out against the adoption of the HOW law as it was constituted and ultimately passed by the Village Board this past spring.

4- It is summer now and I caution all residents to be alert to be alert to the summer camps that seem to pop up at homes within the Village of Chestnut Ridge without any legal authorization. If, in your neighborhood, you see a regular arrival of groups of children who stay at a home all day long- which is clearly uncharacteristic of the home or neighborhood, I urge you to call the County to report these camps. The county office to call is the health Department and the number to report such activities is 845-364-2601. if you are able to photograph these activities all the better. AND, if the children arrive in school buses, try to jot down the names on the buses and license plates. If you re concerned about reporting these matters, you can call the Village and report it to Code Enforcement as well.

5- Additionally, I urge you ALL to attend the meetings for the Zoning, Planning, and Village Board. There are a number of huge projects that are being considered- The Wellington School Complex which will occupy a huge parcel of land on the corner of Red Schoolhouse Road and Summit Rd towards the Thruway entrance. This complex will have 2 yeshivas. Additionally, a parcel of land that is on Red Schoolhouse Rd bordering the Chestnut Ridge Middle School where the entrance is proposed to run thru Ferruzza Rd is also being considered. Both of these projects are under review and consideration- no shovel in the ground yet. WE MUST KEEP OUR EYES on the projects.

6- Additionally on 5 Ann Street and 7 Ehret Rd there are proposed renovations/enlargements to homes that seem to have the feel of 3 Spring Hill Terrace type constructions. No approvals have been granted yet- if construction is being done with contractors whoa re unlicensed- REPORT them to the Village during

the work week. After hours or on weekends, unlicensed contractors should be reported to the Rockland County Sheriff at 845-638-5400/5401.

7- I have been sending out requests for donations to CUPON of Chestnut Ridge. I ask that you all consider making a donation to this group- our funds are used for legal fees and thus far our representation has been terrific. We cannot do this alone and are working for everyone. Please support this effort.

Thanks, Hilda Kogut