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What's New?

It's hard to believe a whole year has elapsed and that we are publishing this administration's second Spring Newsletter. "Board 101" will resume in the Summer Newsletter with a feature on the Planning Board. For a refresher on the workings of the Board of Trustees, please refer to the Spring 2008 Newsletter, available at www.plandomeheights-ny.gov

Elections were held last month and your new Board consists of:

- Diana Merenda, Mayor
- Alvin Solomon, Deputy Mayor
- Lawrence Bourguet, Trustee
- Silva (Aida) Ferman, Trustee
- Don Parker, Trustee
- Kenneth C. Riscica, Trustee
- Norman Taylor, Trustee

All seven members of your Board are volunteers who are elected to staggered terms for continuity reasons. At its core, the Board of Trustees embodies "Home Rule" that positively supports the quality of life in VPH.

Your Board meets monthly on first Mondays, generally starting at 8PM, and usually at the village hall at 37 Orchard St. Any changes would be posted on the website. Residents are always welcome to attend meetings.

In Plandome Heights, April is the first meeting after Village elections. Municipal law refers to this as an "Organizational Meeting" which discusses the budget and other items.

At this year's Organizational Meeting, the first order of business of the new Board was to present four-year Trustee and Deputy Mayor Maryann Grieco with a Proclamation thanking her for her outstanding service to VPH.

The Board then acknowledged long-time VPH resident and artist Eileen Bachor, whose "Designing Women" exhibit was being featured at the Library. Eileen has been the Manhasset Community Club art instructor since 1995 and we honor her for helping women to express themselves through Art and Design.

One of the last official acts of the previous Board was to nominate Jamie Mazzie for a Proclamation as well. Jamie lived in VPH from 1969 to 1998 and of course has since become the successful owner of NuBest Salon & Spa. Because of the wonderful work Jamie has done with the "Gift of Life" and his recent sponsorship of Jonathan from Uganda, and because Jamie's roots are right here, we proudly recognize Jamie as a "Favorite Son" of the Village.

Finally the Board cited young artist, Alexander Schwartz, whose Arbor Day Poster was awarded 3rd Place from all the 5th graders' posters submitted in January's contest. Alex's and all other contestants' posters are on display until 4/7 in the Community Room of the Manhasset Public Library.

Current BOT membership, terms and biographies are highlighted below:

**INCORPORATED
VILLAGE OF
PLANDOME HEIGHTS**

P.O. Box 1384,
Manhasset, NY 11030
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Diana Merenda
Mayor

Alvin Solomon
Deputy Mayor

Lawrence Bourguet
Trustee

Silva Ferman
Trustee

Don Parker
Trustee

Kenneth C. Riscica
Trustee

Norman Taylor
Trustee

Valerie Onorato
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Ann Demeri
Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk

Cye E. Ross
Village Justice

Luis Ras
Acting Justice

Edward P. Butt, AIA
Village Building Inspector
Stormwater Mgmt Officer

Richard Hirt
Architectural Review
Board, Chair

Marion Endrizzi
Planning Board, Chair

Don Parker
Technology Advisory
Board, Chair

Eugene O'Connor
Zoning and Appeals
Board, Chair

VPH Board of Trustee Membership

Diana Merenda, Mayor, 2010

Diana has been a client service and marketing support professional with 20 years experience at such asset management firms as Lazard, Morgan Stanley and Deutsche Bank. Most recently Diana was with Bear Stearns Asset Management, until JPMorgan Chase closed the long-only division in which she worked. She holds an MBA in Business Policy from Baruch College and a BA in Communications from Hunter College. Diana and her husband Azie moved to 135 Bay Driveway in Plandome Heights in 1998. Diana promptly joined the Plandome Heights Women's Club. She was a Village Trustee for two years prior to becoming Mayor, and is a member of the Executive Committee for the Nassau County Village Officials Association.

Alvin Solomon, Deputy Mayor, 2010

Alvin Solomon, a resident of One Bayview Circle for over ten years, holds a BBA in Marketing from Baruch College of The City University of New York and an MBA in Business Management from St. John's University. Associated with Burlington Industries for 34 years, he started as a Sales Representative and later served in a managerial position. He also performed Military Service in the NY Army National Guard, as a Medic. Alvin is currently serving his second term as Trustee for the Village of Plandome Heights. In addition, he represents VPH as a Deputy Commissioner for the Port Washington Office of Emergency Management (info@pwoem.org), a coalition of seven local communities formed to handle specific problems which may occur in the greater Port Washington peninsula should a major catastrophe occur. Prior to moving to Plandome Heights, Alvin served since 1981 on the Board of

Directors for the Queens Boulevard Tenants Corporation in Forest Hills. For seven of those years he held the position of President and remains an active Board member. Alvin is a car enthusiast and on sunny days you can see him driving through town in his 1965 Red Corvette Convertible. "Jay Leno, move over!"

Lawrence Bourguet, Trustee, 2011

Lawrence was raised in Manhasset on Colonial Parkway. He attended St. Mary's Elementary School through the eighth grade and graduated from Manhasset High School class of 1976. He holds an undergraduate degree from Muhlenberg College, in Allentown Pennsylvania, and a graduate degree from St. John's University. He has spent the last 25 years in the construction industry and is currently a Senior Project Manager for Tishman Construction Company, working on the Carnegie Hall Studio Towers Renovation project. He has also served as Scoutmaster of Plandome Troop 71 from 2000 to 2005, and has coached PAL baseball. He, his wife, Margaret, and their three children (Thomas, Elizabeth, and Stephen) live at 37 Webster Avenue.

Kenneth C. Riscica, Trustee, 2010

Ken moved to Plandome Heights with his family in 1998. Ken's professional career is in finance, accounting and operations. In addition, he volunteers his time in service to Cub Scout Pack 101, Boy Scout Troop 71 and the Port Washington Yacht Club. Pack 101 maintains the Village Flag on Plandome Court. The Riscica family lives on Winthrop Road.

Norman Taylor, Trustee, 2011

Norman and his wife, Judy, reside at 17 Winthrop Road.

□

REMINDER ...

Contractor & Landscaping jobs are not allowed on Sundays or Federal Holidays. If you're unsure when Federal holidays fall, check the VPH listing on Cablevision Channel 18 or call the office.

Contractor & Landscaping jobs are allowed on Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 6pm and on Saturdays from 9 to 5 (unless it is a holiday).

Please be considerate of neighbors.

BOT Membership, continued

Silva (Aida) Ferman, Trustee, 2010

Silva Ferman, better known as Aida, immigrated to the United States from Canada in 1961 after marrying her husband, former Plandome Heights Mayor George Ferman. Trained as an elementary school teacher, she has spent most of her married life volunteering in various capacities. She has volunteered at the Church of Holy Martyrs, the Holy Martyrs Day School, and served as secretary on the board of the Armenian Language School. She assisted at the Shelter Rock Elementary School Library. For many years, she was a class mother. She has volunteered at SCA Fairs, class trips, and the Manhasset High School Frolic. She has lived in the Village of Plandome Heights for 39 years, and is a member of the Plandome Heights Women's Club. As with her late husband, Aida is dedicated to the Village and in 2004 was elected as a VPH trustee.

More People News

Cye E. Ross was re-elected for a third four-year term as Village Justice. He is an attorney in private practice for over 30 years. Cye and his wife Rona have lived in VPH for 25 years. They have raised their three children here, one of whom is a member of the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Dept., and reside at 46 Winthrop Road.

Luis Ras, Esq., 169 Bournedale Road North, accepted a renewed one-year appointment as VPH Acting Justice; **Jim Madison**, 78 Bournedale Road South, accepted a renewed five-year tenure on the Planning Board, and **Tom Ahn**, 54 Bournedale Road North, accepted a renewed one-year term as ARB Alternate Member.

Mary Corrigan, Esq., of 15 Cove Drive, was appointed for one

Aida lives at 88 Shore Road and has raised one daughter, Dr. Debra Ferman.

Don Parker, Trustee, 2011

Don Parker has managed technology solutions for the Financial Services industry for the past 16 years. He is currently Global Relationship Manager for CorrectNet Inc, the world's largest client reporting firm. Past positions include VP Product Mgt BRIDGE, and VP Product Mgt Instinet, both now Thomson-Reuters companies, as well as sales manager roles at NYFIX and Trading Technologies. Don received his MBA from NYU's Stern School of Business in 1991. Plandome Heights residents since 2002 at 18 Winthrop Road, Don and his wife, Pam, have two daughters Delaney and Emory. Don was appointed several years ago to represent VPH at Greater Manhasset Council meetings, is also Chairman of the VPH Technology Advisory Board, and spearheaded the volunteer clean up of the VPH Preserve.

year as Village Prosecutor, replacing Michelle Prior of Ackerman Levine.

Edward Butt, AIA, was appointed as Building Inspector / Storm Water Management Officer, a position formerly filled by Tom Byrne. Ed will conduct his work during a weekly five-hour period, much reduced from prior years due to necessary budget constraints. **Mike Bogart** was reappointed Asst. Building Inspector for one year.

Lucille Van Baaren, recently featured as part of the Zoning and Appeals Board article, has accepted a new five-year tenure on the BZA. We thank Lucille for this commitment as we thank all the volunteers who successfully make "Home Rule" work in Plandome Heights. ■

Spring Alert! West Nile Virus Is Still A Problem

Plandome Heights Honors Arbor Day on April 24th at the Plandome Heights Preserve, 11a.m.

The Village's Arborist from Harder, Tom Walsh, will plant the tree purchased from the grant awarded to VPH.

Our own arborist, Trustee Norman Taylor, will give a lecture about trees and basic DOs and DON'Ts.

Be there to learn and be part of the wonderful Arbor Day tradition.

Mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus caused 5 deaths in Nassau County in 2008.

Marion Endrizzi has been actively monitoring the West Nile mosquito situation in VPH since 1999 in conjunction with the Nassau County Department of Public Health (DPH) and during this period has arranged for the Department of Public Works (DPW) to test Village storm drains, as well as the sump in Plandome Pond Park for any evidence of infestation. For the past 10 years, testing has been done every 3-4 weeks during the active mosquito season from the end of April to the second frost in the late Fall. If and when evidence of mosquito activity is found in these areas, a natural larvicide is applied in a very localized and controlled manner.

West Nile virus has recently become a heightened priority as the problem has escalated with the deaths of some infected people. In response, our own Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth has asked Marion to join her recently formed Committee to address this issue on a county-wide basis.

At their first meeting, the Committee decided that the first step in

addressing the issue should be to communicate with the residents the seriousness of the problem in order to increase awareness and to enlist their assistance and support in this effort.

The Committee also brainstormed with the Commissioners of DPH and DPW as to general approaches to combat the spread of the mosquito population in Nassau County in an environmentally safe way. In future meetings, the Committee will identify specific issues and proposed recommendations for measures to be used to address this problem.

In the meanwhile, residents can and should take some simple steps to reduce West Nile exposure, including: (a) eliminating any standing water on your properties (e.g., bird baths), (b) applying repellents with DEET and (c) wearing loose long-sleeved shirts and long pants. These relatively easy steps can keep you and your family safe from West Nile virus.

Stay tuned for more updates and status reports on this project. Marion will keep the community informed as her experience on the Committee continues.

■

More Help from St. John's University

The Village continues to benefit from its association with SJU business development programs. This Spring semester we are fortunate to have three students do projects for the Village: Amy Reynolds, a doctoral student, is creating an alternate website that has more of a "select & click" approach. In addition, we have two students who have come

to us via the SJU Internship program. Kurt Purddie and Linda Caldwell are both working on preparation for a Judicial branch event, and Linda is also working on event planning such as for the Arbor Day tree planting, the placement of the contest posters, and the preparation for the BOT annual meeting. Great Job! ■

Plandome Heights Newsletters Are 'Going Green'

VPH is 'going green' with its Newsletters for two 'green' reasons: ecological and fiscal.

We know this is a big change but we also hope that it will be embraced.

There will be many who may not have a computer available. Please, help that neighbor by printing out a newsletter for him or her.

Let's give this a try and save paper, effort, postage, cash, tax dollars 😊

VPH Is "Shovel Ready"

You've all been reading about stimulus packages and "shovel-ready projects". At the recent NYCOM Legislative Briefing, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand explained that the stimulus money would be disbursed from the Federal to State Governments. In turn, States would devise systems for fund distribution. The objective is to create jobs that are necessary and will improve the economy. But what does it actually mean for VPH?

For years VPH has known of the need of a major roadworks project on the west side of Plandome Road in the area of Summit, Bay Driveway, Bayview Circle and Shore Road, and prior Boards had previously allotted \$100,000 for this capital project (which we know is insufficient). Many residents saw first-hand last August that the downward spiral of the water flow, crossing insufficient drainage systems, literally picked up a vehicle and carried it to smash into one further west, also carrying debris and uprooting the road.

Carpe Diem! The Mayor and Trustee Bourguet, in conjunction with advice from Village Engineer Sidney Bowne, quickly created a "shovel-ready project" in the amount of \$300,000 for submission to NYS in February. The project would install additional storm drainage, recontour where

Sweeping Changes

The Village has been arranging for our streets to be swept thrice yearly by the Town of North Hempstead at a reduced "inter-municipal" rate, but its men would only be permitted to come out (too early) on Saturday mornings. This was due to the fact that the TNH DPW tended to its own work during normal business hours,

Shore meets Bayview Circle and generally repave roads and curbs. As you might imagine, there is a great deal of scrambling going on statewide as we already know that there will only be \$4 billion in stimulus awards for \$11 billion of submissions.

Amazingly, VPH has made it to the next list! It does not mean we were accepted. It does mean we have not yet been rejected -- and that's saying something. We believe that Assemblywoman Schimel and Senator Craig Johnson were helpful in this endeavor, and thank them.

The Mayor has met with the Department of Environmental Conservation to discuss the need for DEC permits and the project generally. Trustee Bouguet and the Mayor will be meeting for reconnaissance purposes with Sidney Bowne soon.

If our project is selected to move forward, there are strict compliance guidelines. Candidates must be ready to act immediately or forfeit the award. Stay tuned for more updates and status reports on this project. If VPH's shovel-ready project is actually selected, we will hold group meetings, and visit neighbors personally door to door as this will definitely have an impact on the residents in that part of VPH. ■

and conducting this type of work on behalf of VPH was essentially "extra". Well, we've decided to give someone else a chance. Cow Bay (our snow removal guys) will sweep our streets (4/8) at a rate just as competitive as that from TNH. And best of all, the work will be done on a weekday! ■

Thanks to VPH Vendors!

Plandome Heights is incredibly grateful to its vendors who have partnered with VPH during this economic downturn.

In our effort to bring costs in line with VPH decreased revenues, every vendor, without exception, has agreed to either give the Village a discount or perform an additional service for us, gratuitously.

Dollars & Sense

In our last *Dollars & Sense*, Trustee Riscica reported progress on two fronts: (a) initiation of a "laddered CD program" to increase interest income and (b) "reengineered" financial processes to monitor "actual to budget" performance that was helpful in identifying a "slight" over-budget condition at the halfway mark in the fiscal year.

Two things have **fallen** since that report: interest rates and snow! Interest rates have fallen so that our expected revenue from interest will be well below budgeted income, and the increased snowfall resulted in snow removal expenditures well in excess of our budget. The result is that we now expect a modest deficit in operations for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2009. Further, we expect decreases in revenues from interest and other non-property tax sources to continue into the coming fiscal year.

Our reaction to these events is the same as your reaction in your own homes: we are doing everything we can to reduce expenditures. We are doing this now for the rest of this fiscal year, and for next fiscal year. As such, we have planned decreases in human resources and revisited virtually every contracted service in order to lower costs. The result is that, despite a significant

decrease in expected revenues, we have been able to keep our property tax increase to a modest 4.4%, which amounts to about \$45.00 per household.

Maintaining the financial integrity of the Village is a prime goal. In the face of reduced revenues, cutting costs and raising taxes modestly preserves VPH's financial integrity.

Our Village Clerk / Treasurer will soon be filing the public notice for the collection of taxes. As required by statute, "Village taxes are due in one payment between the first day of June and the first day of July 2009. For taxes paid thereafter, the Village is required by NYS law to collect interest of an additional charge of five percent for the first month or fraction thereof said taxes are past due, and one percent (1%) for each additional month or fraction thereof said taxes are past due until paid."

As our fiscal year ends May 31, we will feature a more comprehensive financial report in the Summer Newsletter. In the meantime, the Board wishes to extend its gratitude to Trustee Ken Riscica and Treasurer Valerie Onorato for completing a most difficult analysis on time and with data integrity. ■

UPCOMING NEWSLETTER FEATURES

- Keep Your Eyes On The Board: focus on one VPH Board per newsletter
- Plandome Pond Park Update Summer '09
- New and Improved Website Courtesy St. John's University
- Dollars & Sense as VPH Begins a New Fiscal Year

SEND US COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

- Email: newsletter@plandomeheights-ny.gov
- www.plandomeheights-ny.gov