



Newsletter

SUMMER 2009

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ENCLOSED WITH ISSUE:

- **Envision RxSaver card**
- **NCMA Discount card**
- **Cellini Italian Feast Discount coupons**

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**Don't Miss the "Staples® Cross-Shredder" Offer! Details on Page 4**

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Goodies!

The New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM) is commemorating its 100th year. The Village of Plandome Heights is a *bona fide* member of NYCOM and, as such, enjoys the benefits offered through this prestigious organization. VPH conserves legal expenses by being able to contact and get input from NYCOM's several attorneys who are on staff. We also get assistance and guidance on financial matters, as NYCOM's Deputy Director liaises with the Office of New York State Controller Tom DiNapoli's office on a day-to-day basis.

NYCOM holds several training programs throughout any given year, including a large one at its annual conference. Because 2009 was its 100th year, this year's conference had a particularly good program and was well attended by fellow municipal leaders and many vendors, including two of our own: New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal and General Code, both of which have given VPH either a rebate or a discount during this challenging year. We are thankful for their courtesies and their service.

There were some new vendors which are additionally worthy of note to you directly as residents: "Envision RxSaver" and "www.govdeals.com".

NYCOM entered into an agreement with the Envision Medical Solutions' Prescription Savings Program for the benefit of residents of municipalities. The program is called "Envision RxSaver". In Manhasset, there are

three pharmacists participating in the program: MacLennan, Rite-Aid and Raindeew. (Manhasset Park Drugs does not currently participate.) Enclosed with this Newsletter mailing is an Envision RxSaver insert which holds two cards per household. (Please visit the VPH office if you need more cards for your household.) Simply print your name on the card and present the card to the participating pharmacy. You and your family may use your savings card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance, or if you do not currently have insurance coverage. Additional features include:

- no age limit
- no pre-existing condition restrictions
- no waiting period
- no enrollment or membership fee
- instant activation

www.govdeals.com is an auction site for government goods and equipment. Cash-strapped municipalities throughout the country are clearing out offices, closets, basements, garages and even impound lots to raise needed capital. They sell old items and/or unwanted property such as office equipment, vehicles, highway equipment and other specialty items. Roosevelt Island recently registered to sell one of their cable cars! (NB: There is *No Parking* of any cable cars on VPH streets ☺).

Bidders may register for free at the site, similar to the way in which eBay® operates. In fact you could think of this as the 'eBay® for governments'.

“Very Important Dates”

7/26: ‘Mad Tea Party’ – Meet Alice, the Queen of Hearts, and the Mad Hatter for photos and art activities

8/2: Storytelling in Alice’s Enchanted Garden

8/2: Meet the Artist, Max Hergenrother

8/9 at 2PM: Special screening of the 1933 “Alice in Wonderland” at the NCMA Studio Building

Get more info at the NCMA Museum Website: www.nassaumuseum.org

And More Goodies!

You could also go to YOUTUBE and search for GOVDEALS in the search bar, which will bring up recent media coverage such as Fox News and ABC News to learn more.

Acceptable payment methods typically include credit card, wire transfer and PayPal.

What www.govdeals.com does is put bidders and buyers together. It helps out the municipality involved in the transaction, reduces waste and hopefully saves the bidder some bucks. Everybody wins!

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Another opportunity for VPH residents comes to us by way of our membership in the Nassau County Village Officials Association (NCVOA), which was contacted by the Nassau County Museum of Art (NCMA), located at One Museum Drive in neighboring Roslyn Harbor.

Admission for adults is generally \$10 each. The enclosed pass, without an expiration date, allows two adults to enter for \$16 or a 20% discount. Visit the office if you need more. (Kids’ admission is already discounted.)

Museum grounds include 145 acres that are as spectacular as their 50 outdoor sculptures are interesting. This ‘Museum Without Walls’ is one of the largest publicly accessible outdoor sculpture gardens on the east coast, and certainly the closest one to VPH! Off the record, if you practice a ‘carry in / carry out’ picnic policy, you’ll be able to enjoy your lunch on the grounds as well. (Food and drinks are not permitted in the museum of course.)

As an added feature, and for a limited time, the ‘MiniArtMuseum for Children’ offers a wonderland setting for a magical museum experience

based on Lewis Carroll’s timeless children’s classic. The NCMA advises us that visitors to *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, which shows through Sunday, September 7, are greeted along the pathways to the ‘MiniArtMuseum’ by an enchanted garden, a giant chessboard, the Queen’s croquet grounds, giant mushrooms and the Mad Hatter’s tea party.

Cool pen and ink illustrations by artist Max Hergenrother adorn the walls of the ‘MiniArtMuseum’. The artist reinterprets Alice’s fantasy adventures for today’s kids.

We also learned that the NCMA ‘MiniArtMuseum for Children’ is the region’s sole art museum dedicated to children. The building is open Tuesday-Sunday, 12-4:30 pm.



Although you could visit the ‘MiniArtMuseum for Children’ with a separate admission if you prefer to do so, it’s not cost effective because admission to this exhibit is included in the general admission price.

However you decide to enjoy the Nassau County Museum of Art, just remember:

**“Don’t Be Late!” ■**

**INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF  
PLANDOME HEIGHTS**

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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, Esq.**  
Village 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

## Dollars & Sense

Trustee Ken Riscica reports that the new VPH fiscal year began June 1, 2009 and so far as been "financially uneventful." In today's economy, that is good! As you'll recall from earlier reports, in order to offset declining revenues from interest income, mortgage tax receipts and revenue sharing, your Board

reviewed and cut virtually every line item of expense in the current-year budget. In addition, we raised property tax a modest 4% or approximately \$45 per household. As a result, VPH has a sound Budget for the current fiscal year and is maintaining a healthy "rainy day" fund in reserve. ■

## Happy 80th To VPH

Did you have a chance to see the great coverage in the June 25<sup>th</sup> *Manhasset Press* for the Village's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? For those who missed it, the VPH Boy Scouts did a great job raising our new flag on our new flagpole for the first time. In a separate, very solemn, campfire ceremony at Yawgoog Scout Reservation on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, VPH Boy Scouts formally retired the Village's old, worn flag. Then, on Independence Day, the ashes containing that flag were buried at the base of the original flagpole, now installed at the Village Preserve.

the US Capitol on 6/11 (the actual VPH anniversary date). Vendor Quinn Flags contributed the mounting of this flag on a stand and will send it to our office. Upon receipt, we will finally be able to return the borrowed flag now in the office to its rightful owner, Roslyn Harbor. Long-time residents may remember Matt Quinn from his youth. He grew up at 88 Brookside and came to love the flag so much he joined the trade.

We also paid homage to our own "King Solomon", Eugene O'Conner, BZA Chair, for receiving NYCOM's prestigious 25-Year Service Award. This is only the second time in the history of VPH that such an award has been granted. Our hats are off to Gene. The entire Village thanks Gene for his service – as well as that of his wife, Jackie, for the countless hours that Gene has spent over the years at countless BZA meetings instead of being at home.

VPH reminds everyone that Legislator Judi Bosworth arranged not only to grant us the new flagpole but also a \$50,000 beautification grant. VPH is so grateful to the Nassau County Legislature for these awards.

We recently received the flag that Congressman Gary Ackerman promised to send, after it flew over

Another fabulous announcement! Senator Craig Johnson pronounced the approval of a \$200,000 major road-works grant to VPH as a result of an earlier submission we made. The "Albany stalemate" has delayed the grant's processing. Although frustrating, we will take no action until we get the actual paperwork, so *stay tuned*. We have asked the Senator to send a letter to us about the status of events in Albany. ■

## Welcome Newcomers

Michael and Lisa Leadbetter, and their twin sons, Henry and James (2-1/2) move from their apartment in Douglaston into 69 Bay Driveway this month. The Village welcomes the Leadbetters into the community, and congratulates the whole family on their new home! ■

**Emergency  
Preparedness  
Seminar Hosted  
by Legislator  
Judi Bosworth**

**7/21 at Black  
Box Theater,  
Manhasset  
Middle School,  
7-8:30 pm**

**“Having a plan  
in place ahead  
of time and  
understanding  
how to protect  
yourself and  
your family is  
vital.” (JB)**

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**More to Come on
VPH Emergency
Management --
Next Newsletter**
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**Gazebo Summer  
Concert Series**

**7/20  
New Vintage  
Swing Band**

**7/27  
Buddy Merriam  
and Back Roads  
(traditional  
bluegrass)**

**8/3  
Swingtime Big  
Band**

## **Mosquitoes & Identity Theft – Avoid Stings**

Marion Endrizzi, VPH representative on Legislator Bosworth's NC West Nile Mosquito Committee, reports that the Mosquito Division of the NC Dept of Public Works (DPW) tested Plandome Pond Park (PPP) for mosquito infestation, as they remain vigilant for West Nile Virus on our behalf. The sump in PPP showed neither mosquito activity nor larvae. DPW attributes this to the cleaning out of clogged pipes which had originally caused stagnant water. In contrast, DPW applied natural larvacide to both the pond itself and storm drains abutting PPP, as mosquito activity and larvae were identified in both. Marion will continue to follow up throughout the summer, and we thank her for this effort. In return, she asks us to ensure there is no stagnant water on or about our properties, for example birdbaths, unused tires or tire swings which may be hanging on trees. Mosquitoes love to breed in stagnant water. *(Editor's Note: The project to refurbish PPP is nearing completion. We expect to publish an update in the next Newsletter.)*

On another painful subject, identity theft, your VPH Board is adopting a formal policy regarding identity theft prevention at the August meeting. Residents should be comforted in knowing that when VPH documents are slated to be discarded under NYS municipal archival regulations, the documents are destroyed using a cross shredder. This thwarts the usability of discarded documents, if stolen. The Board's policy adoption formalizes an existing procedure.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct encourages all our residents to exercise the same caution with their own data waste. Cross shred all mailing labels, inserts from catalogues – any identifying printed data. If you don't already have a good cross shredder, great news! We are pleased to announce that our own office supplier, **Staples®** (near King Kullen in Manhasset), has generously given all VPH residents a \$10 discount on the purchase of any of their cross shredders. To take advantage of this great deal, just tell the cashier that you live in VPH, and the management team on shift will authorize the discount. ■

## **Office & Website Updates**

VPH has another terrific intern for the summer, Matthew Swiatek. The internship is for credit. Matthew is a senior at Rochester Institute of Technology's Saunders College of Business and is pursuing a BS in Finance and with a Minor in Criminal Justice.

Matt is helping Clerk Val and Deputy Clerk Ann with archiving and related office projects through August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please drop by the office and thank Matthew for his contribution.

We appreciate the great feedback on the new Village website. During September we will be learning the new program and may not be able to post this Newsletter to the website until then. Any resident with Dreamweaver experience and time to lend a hand should please contact Trustee Don Parker. ■

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