

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights
NEWSLETTER – FALL 2014

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

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Lawrence Bourguet
Daniel Cataldo
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Alvin Solomon
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Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to share with you news of events, activities, progress and plans in our Village.

Over these past months we: (a) completed our annual audit on time, without exception and with strong results, (b) advanced our Capital Project for The Waterway/The Neck, (c) worked on continuous improvement on trees and sidewalks, (d) negotiated an extension of our sanitation contract and (e) participated in events and occasions with residents.

Our financial reports indicate stable taxes and reserves building to fund our capital plans. As such, we should remain in the top tier of NY Villages in the State fiscal stress tests.

In June we celebrated the first anniversary of our Clerk and Deputy Clerk. They reflect our “culture of service” and we appreciate them.

In August, we negotiated favorable pricing for the permitted two year extension of our contract with DeJana for sanitation services.

We were informed in August that the Plandome Pond Park project isn't scheduled to be complete until November 2015. Our NY State grant for The Waterway/The Neck also seems to be moving that project into 2015.

The following pages present details of these items and other news in the Village.

The Village is in great shape. It is a privilege to serve as your Mayor. Residents can contact me directly at Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov.

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor



Fiscal Year Ends Strong

On July 27, 2014 we reported our audited fiscal year end results (May 31, 2014) to NY State. We reported on time and with the unqualified report of our independent auditors. We reported a surplus of nearly \$26,000 despite expenditures associated with the “relentless snow” this past winter.

The principal driver of the 2014 surplus is the continued high level of building activity which resulted in building fees of \$32,000 (58%) more than budgeted. Four complete homes were under construction this past year, a highly unusual level of activity. That will level off as those projects complete this year. In May, the Trustees set aside the surplus for future projects under our capital plan.

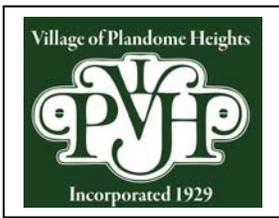
With 14 snow events and nearly five feet of total snow, our snow removal costs were more than \$14,000 (67%) over our budget. We were able to offset these costs with budgeted contingencies and adjustments in other areas. A more complete presentation of our financial results is on the “Finance” page of our website at www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finance together with our 2014 – 15 Budget.

The Village remains in *strong financial shape*. As such, we expect *stable taxes* while we *build reserves to fund our capital plan* and we plan to maintain our “fiscal stress rating” in the *top tier* of NY Villages. Our goal is to comply with the tax cap again next year so residents are eligible for the 2015 NYS Tax Rebate program.

Tree Trimming

Downed trees and limbs can be a significant threat to life, property and our power lines. We urge residents to survey the condition of trees on your property and consider calling in an expert to address the safety and aesthetics

of your trees. Any significant changes to trees on the Village right-of-way (“tagged trees”) need to be discussed with the Village before taking action.



Johnathan Knox Honored for Eagle Scout Rank in Troop 97

The Board of Trustees of Plandome Heights declared Sunday, June 22, 2014 as a day of recognition for Johnathan Knox, on the occasion of his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. In the Court of Honor, Johnathan was presented with Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Scout award, along with five other Manhasset boys. Johnathan is the son of Jayne Knox, former Trustee of the Village, and Michael Knox, Troop 97 Chairman and former Civic Association Officer. Officials from the State, Town, County and Village were on hand to honor Johnathan and five other boys. Johnathan started in 2003 as a Cub Scout in Pack 101 where he earned his "Arrow of Light" in 2008. In Troop 97 since 2008, Johnathan earned 33 merit badges and performed his Eagle Scout Service Project at St. Francis Hospital in Manhasset.



Senator Jack Martins & Mayor Riscica honored Johnathan & his parents Jayne and Michael Knox

The Waterway/The Neck Capital Project and Related Grant

Our project engineers completed the design engineering and "bid package" for the resurfacing of The Waterway/The Neck. The Trustees have made the authorizations necessary to fund the project and to put it out to bid. We are currently coordinating with State

Senator Jack Martins' office to complete the approval process for \$50,000 in state funding that he has secured for this project. Once approved, we will move forward. However, it looks like that approval may not come in time to do this project in 2014. We will keep you informed.

Plandome Court Developments

Since the financial crisis of 2008, communities have had to deal with the blight from distressed or abandoned homes. In our community, residents have had to deal with one such home on Plandome Court that has been abandoned, foreclosed and moving through the bankruptcy process. During that process, we have been vigilant to assess the safety and ensure the grounds are

maintained according to Village code as best as possible. We have learned that the bankruptcy is moving to completion and then the property will move forward to auction. At auction, a new owner will emerge and the process of revitalizing that property can commence. While this will take time, we welcome the positive progress.

Shore Road, Adjacent Subdivision in Plandome

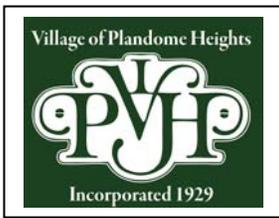
On August 19, 2014 we received a request for our review of a planned subdivision of a 5+ acre, waterfront property in Plandome to build four single family homes. The Village Planning Board has "concurrent jurisdiction" because the property is adjacent to our Village at Shore

Road. The project has received preliminary approval from the Planning Board in Plandome Village as a "conforming" project with no variances requested. Our residents have had, and will have, the opportunity to comment on the project at Public Hearings.

Summit Drive and Grandview Circle Water Main

Manhasset Lakeville Water District has advised us that their planned capital project to replace the 2" water mains on Summit Drive and Grandview Circle with 4" water mains has been pushed back. We are told that the project,

originally included in their 2014 Capital Projects Plan, has been deferred due to the need to address the Munsey Park water tower. The new plan is to do this in 2015, but this could slip depending on progress on the water tower.



Farewell, Larry Kaplan...

Much has been written about the life of Lawrence J. ("Larry") Kaplan. In WWII he received five Battle Stars serving under General Patton, he landed on the beaches of Normandy, participated in the Battle of the Bulge and helped to liberate the Buchenwald concentration camps. Back home he became an economics professor, husband, father, grand- and great-grandfather. North Hempstead declared Larry a "Hometown Hero" for his work on the WWII memorial and declared Larry and his wife, Jeanne, among the "longest married" (68 years) in the Town on Valentine's Day 2014. Larry had wonderful passion for Jeanne and for his family. And he was a man of great intellect who engaged in life-long learning & teaching.

However, what we will remember most about Larry is how the sparkle in his blue eyes, the warmth of his smile and the compassion of his voice, welcomed you as his friend. Larry and Jeanne moved to Plandome Heights in 1977 where he spent 37 years with us as our neighbor and our friend. He passed peacefully on August 5, 2014 at 98 years old. Farewell, Larry Kaplan, we miss you.



Larry Kaplan shares his experiences and views with Mayor Riscica, Trustees Solomon and Ferman and our staff over coffee in December 2013

In the Bourdales, Plandome Pond Park Work Scheduled Through 2015

In our Winter Newsletter, we reported that North Hempstead approved a \$300,000 project to dredge 500 cubic yards of sediment out of Plandome Pond Park in order to improve the flow of water and address the stagnant water and buildup of algae.

In August 2014, Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio provided us with a timetable for the work. Since the project requires environmental review and permitting by the NYS

Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") the project timeline includes their reviews and is as follows:

- August – November 2014; sediment sampling program,
- November 2014 – March 2015; design documents prepared and then reviewed by DEC;
- March – July 2015; bid documents/approvals and contract award,
- August – November 2015; work performed.

Continuous Improvement Program

Our "continuous improvement" program this summer focused on helping residents replace approximately 25 damaged sidewalk "flags." In addition, we worked with 20 residents to raise up or trim back trees and bushes that were at risk of obstructing signs, sidewalks and streets. In

each case, the work was preventative so no code violations were necessary to be cited. As a result, the Village is looking good. At the Preserve, we added a sign reminding dog owners to pick up after their pets and we are taking steps to replace the light on that flagpole.

Sanitation Contract Proposed Extension to 2017

Our sanitation services are provided by DeJana Industries, Inc. under a contract for five-years with a permitted two-year extension. Our sanitation costs were significantly reduced in 2010 when the contract was awarded. This summer we negotiated the two-year extension period with a 2% rate of increase to conform to the tax cap. In our

deliberations, we benchmarked our costs against the rest of Manhasset and found we had the lowest "cost per household" in Manhasset based on 2013 data (latest available). Extending the contract maintains this low cost and creates certainty in our budget and taxes. We are fortunate to have Trustee Taylor's experience in this area.

Manhasset Bay Protection and Storm Water Management

Since our storm sewers drain to Manhasset Bay, street sweeping and catch basin cleaning are important elements of our storm water management and bay protection program. This summer, we swept our streets and cleaned out our storm drains removing approximately 37 yards of sediment and debris that would otherwise end up in Manhasset Bay.

Trustee Lynne Aloia, our liaison to the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee reminds residents that we can reduce our impact on the Bay by:

- 1- Avoiding unnecessary grease and solids in your Septic Systems and pump it out every 3 – 5 years,
- 2- Avoiding unnecessary use of fertilizer,
- 3- Limiting the use of pesticides,
- 4- Do not discard household hazardous products with regular trash,
- 5- Cleaning up your pet waste,
- 6- Never place litter in storm drains.

A copy of the report of our Stormwater Management Program (MS-4) is available on our website.

Clerk's Corner

We remind residents that overnight parking on Village streets is prohibited. If you need to park overnight on the street temporarily, please contact Village Hall.

Village code restricts contractor work to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. No work is permitted on Sundays or Federal holidays.

The Village Clerk maintains a “non-solicitation” list for residents who don’t wish to be bothered by persons lawfully soliciting in the Village.

Please keep all dogs on their leashes.

Is your emergency contact information up to date? Log on to www.northshorealert.org to update your contact information and personal preferences.

Incorporated Village of Plandome Heights

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www.plandomeheights-ny.gov

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Sign up for **Village Emergency Notifications** at www.northshorealert.org