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Message from the Mayor



I am pleased to report to you news of events, activities, progress and plans in our Village.

It has surely been a very busy winter, particularly since the start of 2016. Let me share with you the things that are going on.

My goals for 2016 included engaging, right away, with the new NCPD resources coming on stream in 2016. We did that in two activities. On January 11, 2016, I hosted all five Manhasset Mayors in our Village Hall for a working session with Commander Berry of the Third Precinct. Then on January 27, 2016, the five Manhasset Mayors hosted a very spirited and engaging presentation for residents by NCPD Community Affairs and the Third Precinct. Mayor Donno of Plandome Manor led that. You can read more below about those meetings.

We have been working with our partners in PSEG over time in making improvements to the reliability of our electric distribution system, including necessary tree trimming. Much has been done in this area since Super Storm Sandy,

and more will be done. We talk about that below.

The MLWD project to replace water mains on Grandview Circle and Summit Drive kicked off with a planning meeting for residents on February 10. The project is currently scheduled to start between April and May 2016.

The N.Y. State Tax Cap program calls for municipalities to limit tax levy increases to the lower of 2% or the actual rate of inflation. The rate of inflation has been coming down and is a mere 0.12% for next year's budget. This low rate of inflation creates challenges, now and for the coming 4 years. We are planning to live within our cap and I discuss that below.

In December we were notified by N.Y. State that our grant for roadwork on Cove Drive was approved. It still needs to move through Agency approvals but we are hopeful to do the project in 2016. More on that, and Waterway/Neck, below. The following pages present details of these and other items in the Village.

It is a privilege to serve as your Mayor. You can reach me at Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov

Kenneth C. Riscica, Mayor

The Blizzard of 2016

We were supposed to get a few inches of snow on the fringe of a large storm, "...but the storm track could change." The last time we spoke to Cow Bay on Friday, January 23rd, it was agreed that we needed to be prepared for "2 inches or 2 feet;" we got 29 inches. It took two days to dig out.

Bournedale Road North



Above: Shore Road - Below: Plandome Pond Park



Public Safety – Being Proactive and Making Progress

In mid-2015 a new Commander of the Third Precinct, John Berry, was named. In 2016, Commander Berry is bringing three new resources to bear on our public safety. As such, our goals coming into 2016 included engaging quickly and deeply with the Commander and his new resources.

Therefore, on January 11, 2016, the Village hosted a meeting with Commander Berry and the Mayors of the five Manhasset Villages. At that meeting, Commander Berry introduced us to Deputy Inspector Gregory Abruzzo, a 30-year veteran and the Deputy Commander exclusively for the “Three North” sector (our sector) of the Precinct, a new position. We were also introduced to Officer Carlos Rivera, our new Problem Oriented Policing (“POP”) Officer. Commander Berry told us that he stationed the POP team right here in Manhasset at the Community Policing Center on Community Drive.



Working session with Inspector Berry and his team and five Mayors in VPH Village Hall

Deputy and a planned rollout of new police officers. When the meeting was over, we had a list of action items for each of us to follow up.



Commander Berry, Dep. Abruzzo, Officer Rivera and the Mayors of Munsey Park, Plandome Heights, Flower Hill, Plandome Manor and Trustee of Plandome

Under the leadership of Mayor Barbara Donno of Plandome Manor, the Mayors of the five Manhasset Villages subsequently arranged to host a Public Safety presentation for Village residents by the Nassau County Police Department. The meeting was held on Wednesday evening, January 27, 2016 at the Munsey Park School auditorium.

Presenting for NCPD were Officer Sharon Galvin of the Community Affairs Division and Deputy Inspector Abruzzo.

Joining the five Manhasset Mayors was NC Legislator Rich Nicoletto and Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio.



Officer Galvin and Dep. Abruzzo (center) with the five Manhasset Mayors, Leg. Nicoletto and Councilwoman DeGiorgio

Officer Galvin gave a spirited and informative talk about personal safety, home safety and car safety. She was interrupted frequently by questions from residents who were fully engaged by her talk. Deputy Abruzzo spoke about crime statistics, community policing and the “POP” team as well as routine patrolling/policing.

In the discussion with Deputy Abruzzo, it became clear that the residents expect a higher level of routine, local patrolling. Inspector Abruzzo indicated that he would address that. Both Deputy Abruzzo and Officer Galvin reminded residents to call 911 with anything suspicious, not just emergencies.

Officer Galvin discussed “social media” and she invited the “Manhasset Watch” group to “plug in” to the police Community Affairs for high quality information. We’re told by members that this has already improved the information.

Deputy Abruzzo informed us that the second POP officer for our area, Dan Fliedner, has now been assigned and is working. Abruzzo also told us that additional police officers are expected to join the Third Precinct when the next class of 120 police cadets graduates in June 2016.

Since the summer, three important things have changed that make us safer. First, we are getting more visible and more frequent “directed” patrols in our Village. Second, 2 members of the POP team and a Deputy Commander have been added to our area. Third, our residents have “eyes on the street” watching out and reporting suspicious activity to 911. In addition, NCPD will add officers to the precinct in June when the new recruit class graduates. *Is this enough?* We had more POP officers in the past; so we can do better. But this is *positive progress* and that is why we are sharing it with you.

Available information – Our website contains valuable information including:

- NCPD – Make Your Home Safe
- NCPD – Public Safety Tips and
- What is a POP Team?

Go to www.PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov for this information.

Electric Reliability – PSEG Tree Trimming Program



The reliability of the distribution of electric power to our homes includes regular trimming of our trees. In addition to the Village and our residents trimming and maintaining our own trees, PSEG has responsibility to maintain trees on the “right-of-way” for their electric lines. In our Village, those are often “rear yard” lines, which are hard to access. We have been working with our partners at PSEG to support the

reliability of our electric distribution, including the need for “tree trimming.” The result is a plan that includes:

- Since Storm Sandy, many of our most vulnerable transformers, wires and poles have been replaced,
- More than 5 trees were removed in 2015 that were determined to be a danger to distribution lines,
- The common power line with Plandome (Plandome Court and north side of Bournedale North) has had extensive trimming, pole replacement and wire upgrades in 2014,
- In December 2015, fairly extensive “hot spot” trimming was performed in the Bournedales section and
- A full trimming of the distribution lines in the west side of the Village is being scheduled for 2016.

We are satisfied with these activities and this plan. It is important for residents to understand, and support, that the PSEG tree trimming program has changed. PSEG reports:

“In the wake of the severe storms that have struck Long Island recently, it was recognized that previous line clearance of 6 feet was not a utility best practice in maintaining reliability and service restoration in the event of an outage. As such, the goal is to create a larger buffer between the power lines and nearby trees and eliminate more potential outage threats. Therefore, we will prune trees to 10 feet below power line or prune to 8 feet on the sides and 12 feet above the high voltage power lines.”

PSEG-LI further reports that:

“Tree-related power outages are down 60 percent in areas where the new program has been implemented.”

North Hempstead - Inauguration and “State of the Town”

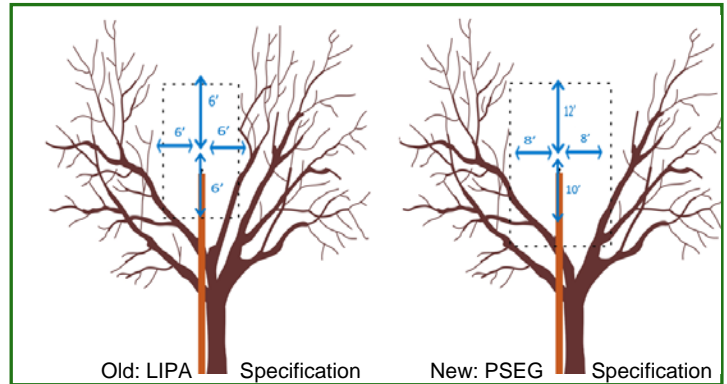
Our Village has historically maintained a great relationship with the Town of North Hempstead. As a small village, the strength of that relationship is important to us. As such, we participate with other municipalities in Town events.

In January 2016, Mayor Riscica represented our residents at (a) the January 3, 2016 Inauguration of Supervisor Judi Bosworth and Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio and (b) the January 29, 2016 “State of the Town” address by Supervisor Bosworth where she emphasized bipartisan collaboration.

At right; Mayor Riscica with Supervisor Bosworth at the State of the Town address on January 29



On December 16, 2015, PSEG announced that LIPA had *approved modest increases in electricity rates in 2016 – 2018* partly directed at making investments in tree trimming and other factors to improve reliability and customer satisfaction. So we are paying for this increased effort.



The new trimming standard is depicted above. Residents will find this different from the past and we encourage you to understand that this is necessary for the reliability of our electric distribution and you should cooperate fully with the PSEG tree trimmers. With “rear yard” lines this effort is done by hand trimmers who need to climb the trees in your rear yard. The debris will be fully removed by the PSEG trimming teams. The vendor for this effort is likely to be Asplundh and their representatives wear I.D. and safety vests.



In January 2016, PSEG began the effort with trimming of lines on the street on Bay Driveway (left). After the snow melts, they will return to trim the “rear-yard lines” on Shore, Cove, Waterway and Neck.

As we move forward, PSEG will be looking into replacing aging poles and frayed distribution lines. This is a longer term project (3 – 5 years) and involves deploying some federal money to “harden the system” after Storm Sandy.



Above; Mayor Riscica with Councilwoman DeGiorgio at the Inauguration on January 3

Summit Drive and Grandview Circle Water Main – Spring 2016

Residents met with the leadership of the MLWD on February 10, 2016 in the meeting room of the Bayview Firehouse regarding the planned capital project to replace the 4” water mains on Grandview Circle and Summit Drive with 6” and 8”

water mains. We are told that the project should start in April or May 2016. The project is projected to take a total of about 10 - 12 weeks. All construction projects are subject to delays for weather and other factors.

Waterway, Neck and now Cove

After two harsh winters and oil prices over \$100/barrel in mid-2015, our view was that the bids we received in 2015 to pave Waterway/Neck did not reflect favorable conditions. In December 2015, we received “approval” for an additional \$100,000 grant to extend our paving to Cove Drive thanks to

Sen. Jack Martins. That grant still needs Agency approval to be awarded. We believe that conditions in 2016 will be more favorable for this work as a larger project. As such, in February 2016 the Trustees authorized us to move forward with engineering to revise our bid packages for a 2016 project.

Property Tax Cap Update

Our property tax cap is the lower of (a) 2% or (b) the inflation rate. In December 2015, the State set the inflation rate for our category of Villages at 0.12%. To us that is \$384 in total. For reference, our sanitation costs will escalate about \$3,000 or

eight times our tax cap. Since we haven’t used our full cap in prior years, we have some unused cap available. As we study the budget, I have advised the Trustees that we plan to present a Tentative Budget that will live within our allowable tax cap.

Clerk’s Corner

Our Village election is Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at Plandome Village Hall from noon to 9:00 p.m.; please vote.

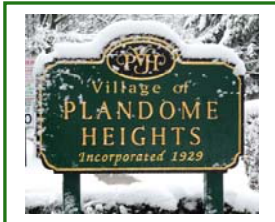
Village code restricts contractor work to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. No work is permitted on Sundays or Federal holidays.

Please don’t shovel snow back onto our streets; fines are \$250. Please keep cars off the street until the plows are through.

Please curb and clean up after your dog.

We remind residents that overnight parking on Village streets is prohibited. Contact us if you need to park overnight.

Trustee Solomon reminds you to sign up for Village notifications at www.NorthShoreAlert.org.



Incorporated Village of PLANDOME HEIGHTS

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