

Plandome Heights

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017

Kenneth C. Riscica
 Mayor

Daniel Cataldo
Silva Ferman
Gus Panopoulos
Dianne Sheehan
Alvin Solomon
Norman Taylor
 Trustees

Arlene Drucker
 Clerk - Treasurer

Elizabeth Vera-Koubi
 Deputy Clerk, Building

Lenore "Lee" Regan
 Court Clerk

Cye E. Ross, Esq.
 Village Justice

Mary Breen Corrigan
 Village Prosecutor

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

Bart Giusto
 Emergency Mgmt.
 Coordinator

Maryann Grieco
 Architectural Review
 Board, Chair

Eugene O'Connor
 Zoning and Appeals
 Board, Chair

James Madison
 Planning Board, Chair

Trey Harragan
 Technology Advisory
 Board, Chair

Message from the Mayor



August 31 - I'm pleased to report news of events, activities, progress and plans in our Village. And I am pleased to report that all is well!

At this writing, we are wrapping up Phase 2 of the Capital Plan that we

launched a year ago in September 2016. Phase 2 involved the paving of Cove Drive, Willow Court, the rest of The Waterway and parts of Shore Road as well as concrete repairs on Plandome Court and Grandview Circle. Phase 1 of the Plan, completed in November, involved paving and extensive replacement of swales on The Waterway and The Neck in addition to concrete work on roads and curbs on Grandview Circle, Summit Drive & Plandome Court.



Former Senator Jack Martins & Senator Elaine Phillips present a grant check for \$44,000 for the Village to Mayor Riscica on August 25.

Our Capital Plan is supported by \$150,000 of NY State road grants made available to us by former State Senator Jack Martins. We leveraged this money with another \$210,000 of

Village and other capital funds to do more work, in more areas, to benefit more residents. On

August 25, we invited Jack and his successor, Senator Elaine Phillips, to the Village to inspect the work and to express our thanks.

In April, we met with new NCPD Commander Daniel Flanagan in Village Hall. In June, the Nassau County Mayors and Supervisors met with Executive Ed Mangano in connection with the Shared Services Initiative mandated by NY State. Also in June, we updated our Village Code to address current trends. See more inside.

In July, we added important new lighting to Chester Drive and repaired Bournedale roads. In July, we also submitted our annual financial report to NY State on-time, as usual, and with a surplus for the 8th year in a row. More inside.

Also in July, freshman Congressman Tom Suozzi invited the Mayors in his 3rd Congressional District to discuss national and local issues with him. See more inside.

With our sanitation and snow removal contracts successfully renegotiated earlier this year, our next challenge is dealing with our need for more space in Village Hall. Several opportunities are being considered including expanding at our existing space, if possible. Cost is a concern so we will move thoughtfully.

We have made improvements throughout the Village this year. I look forward to the effort ahead. Our Village is in great shape.

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

Kenneth C. Riscica, Mayor

Jack Martins and Senator Elaine Phillips visit Plandome Heights on August 25th



Left: Reviewing the Capital Plan with Jack Martins and Sen. Phillips, **Middle:** Meeting with contractor owner Sam Stasi on Cove Drive **Right:** Group photo with Trustees Aida Ferman and Alvin Solomon

Capital Improvements Throughout the Village

Overview - The current stage of our 10-year, \$1.2 million Capital Plan involves \$360,000 of road work on The Waterway, The Neck, Cove and Willow as well as flat concrete and curb work on Grandview, Summit and Plandome Court. Thanks to former NY State Senator Jack Martins (and now Senator Elaine Phillips), we have state grants for Waterway/Neck and Cove (and other roads) for \$150,000. In the Fall we completed \$220,000 of work on Waterway/Neck, Grandview, Summit and Plandome Court. This Summer, we completed an estimated \$140,000 on Cove Drive, Willow Court, Shore Road, Plandome Court and Grandview Circle. The contract we have is 20% lower than the 2015 bid and contains an “accordion” feature that lets us expand the scope-of-work to do more. Accordingly, we have expanded the work more than 20% from our original plan.

Capital Resources & Great News About a New Grant – In December 2016, before Senator Jack Martins retired from the NY State Senate, he recommended Plandome Heights for a new \$100,000 road grant which we earmarked for the Bourneades. This grant would help fund the remaining \$545,000 of work under our 10-year Capital Plan (see right).



Milling operations on Cove



Concrete gutter on Willow



Flat concrete road on Plandome Ct.



Curbs on Grandview

Summary –

The work completed under the current Capital Program consists of approximately the following (inclusive of engineering bid and supervision costs):

- Paving The Waterway/The Neck	\$ 75,000
- Replace swales on Waterway/Neck	65,000
- Concrete on Plandome Ct. and Grandview	<u>80,000</u>
Phase 1	\$ 220,000
- Paving Cove, Willow, parts of Shore	110,000
- More swales on Waterway	15,000
- More concrete on Plandome Ct./Grandview	<u>15,000</u>
Phase 2 (est.)	\$ 140,000
Total Program	\$ 360,000
	=====

This was funded with \$150,000 of NYS grant funds discussed at left (40%) and \$210,000 of Village Capital and other Funds (60%). Totals from Phase 2 are estimates, subject to final bills.

Remaining Capital Plan – We can summarize our ten-year, \$1.2 million capital plan as follows:

- Work <u>completed/spent</u> (Bay, Bayview)	\$ 265,000
- Work <u>completed</u> – (Phase 1 & 2, above)	<u>360,000</u>
- subtotal completed	625,000
- Estimated for <u>future</u> work	<u>535,000</u>
o Total capital plan	<u>\$1,160,000</u>



Paving on Cove Drive

Shared Services Initiative

We support Governor Cuomo’s efforts to address high property taxes in New York. In that regard, our Village is a voting member of the Nassau County Shared Services Panel that is mandated by the State. Nassau’s 64 Villages, 3 Towns and 3 Cities are developing a Shared Services Plan to reduce costs. One of the things we learned in that effort is that the Villages are leaders in shared services; we have to be. For example, in Plandome Heights we:

- Share a Building Inspector with Plandome Manor
- Share traffic sign work with the Town sign shop
- Coordinate closely with MLWD on capital projects

- Share emergency mgt. communication and service with 10 Manhasset/Port Villages and the Town in PWM-OEM,
- Share public meeting space with Plandome & Library
- Share engineering services with 21 other municipalities in a pact with the Town, mapping storm water and sewers,
- Share storm water mgt. with Manhasset Bay Protection,
- Share temporary personnel with Plandome Manor

These efforts, as well as the work of numerous volunteers, result in our cost of service delivery being 33% lower than outside the Village. The State/Nassau effort has focused us on doing more and our thoughts are included in the Nassau County plan.

Mayors Meet with New NCPD Commander, Daniel Flanagan



In April, Mayor Riscica hosted a meeting with the Manhasset Mayors in Village Hall to meet the new NCPD Precinct Commander Dan Flanagan, pictured

at left with Mayors Donno (Plandome Manor) & McNamara (Flower Hill). Issues discussed included public safety, crime statistics and prevention, rollout of new police officers, increased staffing for the POP Team as well as traffic and parking enforcement. As a result of that meeting, the Mayors identified areas in their Villages for a “targeted enforcement” effort that was done in May and June in the Villages. We continue to enjoy, and value, a close and cooperative relationship with our NCPD & we welcome Dan.

Best Practices Yield Best Results in Finance

Overview - In finance, we use “Best Practices” for municipal governments including our budgeting, financial controls, ‘performance vs. budget,’ “Planning Beyond One Year” and ten-year Capital Plan. Results include: (1) moderate, stable taxes that are *1/3 lower than outside the Village*. (about \$500 less per household, year-after-year), (2) systematically building our capital reserves to support our 10-year Capital Plan (3) eight years of operating surplus. In 2017, NY State awarded us the best score on its Fiscal Stress Test; zero on a scale of 0-100.

Fiscal Year Ends in Surplus - In July, we reported financial results for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2017 on time as usual to NY State. We reported a \$23,000 surplus that is our 8th year of consecutive surplus. The Trustees set aside the surplus to fund our 10-year Capital Plan. Our financial statements were audited by the Village’s independent CPA firm and we expect a “clean” audit report. A summary of the financial results is at right and further detail, with commentary from the Mayor, is on our website at www.PlandomeHeights-NY.gov.

Financial Trends - In terms of trends, building fees have nearly doubled normal levels and contributed significantly to our surplus in the past five years. But those fees are declining. Our building activity ‘crested the wave’ in 2015, came down 20% in 2016 and is down another 20% in 2017. So, we expect less contribution from building going forward and will need to look at the effect on our ability to generate needed surplus.

Also in terms of trends, earlier this year we locked in our sanitation and snow removal costs at favorable levels. Now we need to tackle our “space” issue as our Village Hall is at capacity. It is too early to project the outcome, but it is clear

Year ended May 31, 2017:	Budget	Actual	Better (Worse)
Income:			
Real Property Taxes	325,000	324,000	(1,000)
Building related fees	54,000	86,000	32,000
Other earnings	35,000	30,000	(5,000)
Grants and aid	34,000	42,000	8,000
Total Revenue	448,000	482,000	34,000
Expense:			
General Gov. Support	189,000	198,000	(9,000)
Public Safety	41,000	50,000	(9,000)
Transportation	55,000	45,000	10,000
Parks	16,000	10,000	6,000
Community Service	147,000	156,000	(9,000)
Total Expense	448,000	459,000	(11,000)
Surplus(Deficit)	-	23,000	23,000

Notes:

- a. Related to building activity.
- b. Related to NY State grant for street lamp and other.
- c. Legal and other costs of 6 new laws and 2 new contracts.
- d. Lower snow removal from a light winter.
- e. Includes \$16,000 in pass thru cost paid for by Zoning fees

that we are likely to need to add more space (and cost) to support our operations.

To summarize our finances:

- Our taxes are 8% lower than 2010,
- Our taxes are 33% lower (\$500/home) than outside Village,
- Our surplus supports our ten-year Capital Plan,
- We continue to comply with the NY Tax Cap.

Summer Shorts

Patrick J. Sheehan, Eagle Scout - Plandome Heights honored Patrick J. Sheehan on his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.



Patrick Sheehan with Trustee Dianne Sheehan and Mayor (and Scout Unit Commissioner) Riscica

This was celebrated in Troop 71 at its Court of Honor on June 17, 2017. Officials from the Boy Scout Council, the Village, Town, County and State were on hand to honor Patrick in front of his fellow scouts, friends & family.

Congressman Tom Suozzi meets Mayors – Congressman Tom Suozzi invited the Mayors in his 3rd District to meet to discuss local and national issues; 15 Mayors attended. The Mayors each made a short presentation about issues in their Villages and then Congressman Suozzi gave us an update on (a) his experience as a freshman congressman trying to form bipartisan relationships in a polarized Congress and (b) national issues. We discussed helicopter noise, jet traffic patterns and defense spending in our area. The meeting was informative and



productive. Tom gave us his contact information so that we can be helpful to our residents that require help with a national matter. We have a group photo with Tom Suozzi on our website.

New Lighting on Chester – In July we added a new street lamp to Chester Drive near Webster Ave. The project cost about \$5,000 and was funded with additional funds allocated to us from NY State for road and infrastructure matters.

Updates to Village Code – In June we updated our Village Code to address a variety of current matters including: (a) regulating short-term rentals, (b) regulating cell phone antenna, (c) regulating filming in the Village and (d)



adding an “impact fee” for large construction jobs to recognize the outsize impact they have on Village infrastructure and staff. The new laws are posted separately on our website at <http://www.ecode360.com/laws/PL1989>.

Sign up for North Shore Alerts – Our emergency notification system is www.NorthShoreAlert.org. We use it for emergency notifications such as power outage status and street closings, please sign-up.

Please Curb Your Dog – We are receiving complaints about the failure of pet owners to pick up their dog waste. Please follow the law and pick up and dispose of your dog waste.

\$250 Tag Sale Signs Available – When residents tape “tag sale” signs to our white decorative street name signs, the glue from the tape leaves a residue that becomes an unsightly black streak. The fine is \$250 fine per offense. Please, don’t do this.

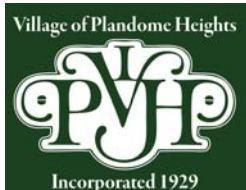
Fall leaves – Please do not rake leaves into the Village streets for any reason. Any leaf removal in the Village must be bagged for disposal by Dejana or removed by landscapers.

Clerk's Corner

As a reminder, we pay for side yard pick-up so it is not necessary to put your trash at the curb.

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

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.



**Incorporated Village of
PLANDOME HEIGHTS**
37 Orchard Street | Manhasset, NY 11030
516 627-1136; Fax 516 627-1393
www.plandomeheights-ny.gov

PR SRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Flushing, N.Y.
Permit #1764

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017

Village Contacts

Mayor, Kenneth C. Riscica

Mayor@PlandomeHeights-ny.gov

Clerk-Treasurer, Arlene Drucker

Clerk@PlandomeHeights-ny.gov

Deputy Clerk, Building, Elizabeth Vera-Koubi

DeputyClerk@PlandomeHeights-ny.gov

Court Clerk, Lenore “Lee” Regan

CourtClerk@PlandomeHeights-ny.gov

Building Inspector, Edward Butt, AIA

BuildingInspector@PlandomeHeights-ny.gov

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