

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF  
**Plandome Heights**  
NEWSLETTER – FALL 2015

**Kenneth C. Riscica**  
Mayor

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**Silva Ferman**  
**Gus Panopoulos**  
**Alvin Solomon**  
**Norman Taylor**  
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Deputy Clerk, Building

**Maura McMullan**  
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**Mary Breen Corrigan**  
Village Prosecutor

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Village Building  
Inspector Stormwater  
Mgmt. Officer

**Bart Giusto**  
Emergency Mgmt.  
Coordinator

**Maryann Grieco**  
Architectural Review  
Board, Chair

**Eugene O'Connor**  
Zoning and Appeals  
Board, Chair

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Technology Advisory  
Board, Chair

### Message from the Mayor



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

Over the months of the fall we: (a) continued to improve Village trees, (b) completed the final "Phase 4" of our Street Name

Sign project, (c) replaced worn traffic signs on Cove, Summit and Plandome Court, (d) supported the Plandome Pond Park project and (e) issued permits to facilitate large projects on Plandome Court and Brookwold Drive. In addition, substantial projects on Beachway, Shore and Willow are now largely completed.

Fall clean-up is underway to sweep the streets, clean the storm drains and make various small repairs. As we prepare for another winter, Trustee Taylor and I have met with our snow removal contractor to review equipment and to coordinate methods and plans; *we are prepared.*

Looking forward into 2016, we are working with MLWD to prepare for a Spring 2016 project to replace the 2" water mains on Grandview Circle and Summit Drive with 4" water mains. On the

Waterway/Neck road resurface project, we decided to move the project into 2016 for competitive reasons. At that time we should have clarity on an additional road grant and we can consider expanding the project to Cove Drive.

Our "best practices" in finance are paying off in best results as I summarize below.

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

On public safety, I believe that we are getting the increased patrols we requested thanks to Commander Berry and Legislator Nicoletto. Residents should call 911 to report any suspicious activity. In my experience, 911 calls are answered promptly; I have attended three of them in the last month. Further, I have received the Legislator's support, as well as the support of the Nassau County Village Officials Association, in asking Executive Mangano to return the "Problem Oriented Policing" ("POP") teams to the community.

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

*Kenneth C. Riscica*, Mayor

### Welcome New Volunteers

In September 2015 Mayor Riscica made two appointments to our Village Boards.



Laura Maurischat was appointed to the Architectural Review Board ("ARB") to fill the unexpired five-year term of departing member Richard Hirt. Richard served us

for many years on the ARB, including as Chair, but moved out of the Village this past summer. Laura has lived in the Village since 2008. During her time in the Village, Laura has renovated and expanded a home in the Bournadales and recently completed her new home on Shore. So Laura is no stranger to our processes/procedures and she will be a valuable asset to this important Board.

Anil Wadhvani was appointed to the Building and Zoning Board ("BZA") as a much needed



alternate member. Anil moved into the Village in 1995 and had his home built on vacant land on Bay Driveway. Anil is a mechanical engineer by background. The BZA currently does

not have an alternate member so Anil is being appointed to a new position. With his background and intellect in engineering and his experience building his home in the Village, Anil will be a valuable member of this important board.

The Mayor's appointment of Anil and Laura was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

## Summit Drive and Grandview Circle Water Main Spring 2016 Project Planned by MLWD

We will meet with the leadership of the Manhasset Lakeville Water District (“MLWD”) in January 2016 regarding their planned capital project to replace the 2” water mains on Grandview Circle and Summit Drive with 4” water mains. Perhaps you have seen their blue “mark-outs” on the streets. We are told that the project should be on the calendar between March and May 2016. The work will involve breakup of portions of the road and extensive excavation to

lay the new pipe, then “settling” of the trench that is created for the new pipe before road repair/replacement. This process includes a period to excavate and lay pipe (say 2-3 weeks), then temporary repairs and waiting (say 6 weeks), followed by a period to do the permanent road repairs (say 1-2 weeks); a total of about 10 -12 weeks. After we meet with MLWD in January, we can schedule an informational meeting for residents if you feel that is desirable; stay tuned.

### Ready for Snow Season; Some Tips



We met with our snow removal contractor in November for our annual planning meeting for the coming winter snow season. We reviewed equipment readiness, materials and process/procedures. Like last year, Cow Bay’s operations will include a GPS component. During and after a snow event, we tour the Village to assess the performance of Cow Bay in clearing our streets.

Deficiencies noted are communicated to Cow Bay and the nearest truck is dispatched to correct any problems. There are a few things you should know about our snow removal:

- Contact [info@PlandomeHeights-NY.gov](mailto:info@PlandomeHeights-NY.gov) for snow removal issues (5 of us monitor that email),
- Keep cars off the street until snow removal is complete,
- Do not deposit your snow back onto the street,
- Keep fire hydrants clear and accessible to firemen,
- Do not interfere with the Cow Bay drivers,
- There should be no need to contact Cow Bay; contact us.

### Town Works to Improve Plandome Pond Park

The Town of North Hempstead’s \$300,000 project to dredge 500 cubic yards of sediment out of Plandome Pond Park began in November 2015. The goal of the project is to improve the flow of water and address the stagnant water and buildup of algae. In order to reduce the flow of disturbed sediment, the project team is pumping out the Pond and then dredging.

When the dredging is complete, the project plan calls for “dewatering on-site [drying of the sediment] prior to transport

to a landfill.” This is estimated to be “...an area of *approximately 3,400 square feet...*” So this work will involve disruption at the Park for a period of time, likely several more weeks.



### Mid-Year Financials: “Best Practices” Yield Best Results

In finance, we have adopted “Best Practices” for municipal governments including our budgeting, financial controls, performance vs. budget, multi-year planning and ten year capital plan. Results include:

**The Present** - November is the half-year mark in the Village fiscal year. We now expect the year to generate a *surplus* as a result of income from: (a) settlement of a matter, (b) unanticipated State and Federal aid and (c) continued building projects over plan.

**The Future** - Our “*Planning Beyond One Year*” initiative calls for us to plan our operations with a view to the future. For us, that future includes (a) our “Capital Plan” which looks at needs over ten years, (b) maintaining services at a level commensurate with expectations for a community like ours, (c) maintaining our cost advantage vs. services provided outside our Village and (d) complying with Tax Cap.

The good news is that all our key metrics are favorable including:

- our operating budget is structurally balanced,
- our taxes are 35% lower than outside the Village,
- surplus is being generated,
- surplus is being set aside for capital projects and
- our capital resources are building to support our needs.

These results put us in the top tier of Villages in “stress tests” by NY State with a (low) stress score of 3.3% out of 100%.

We expect *no surprises* on the horizon as we confront the continuation of the Tax Cap (see ‘Tax Cap Update,’ next page) and the capital plans coming into focus in 2016 and beyond.

We have complete & transparent financial information on our website on the “Finance” page and in the ‘Mayor Presentation’ on our homepage. See [www.PlandomeHeights-NY.gov](http://www.PlandomeHeights-NY.gov).

## Property Tax Rebate/Freeze; Tax Cap Update

Eligible residents are scheduled to receive “Property Tax Freeze” rebate checks sometime before year-end from Albany. This year’s check will include a rebate for your share of tax increases at the County, Town and Village, in addition to School taxes. Since the Village complies with the program, your rebate check will include this year’s increase in Village tax. This program of “Tax Cap” (*limits the rate of increase*) and “Tax Freeze” (*rebates any increase to you*) is a two-year

program that will continue next fiscal year (2016 -17). The “Tax Cap” is generally the *lower* of 2% or inflation. Our plan is to make you eligible again for next year’s rebate check.

In June 2015, N.Y. State passed an extension of the “Tax Cap” for *three more years* extending to 2019 – 20. This is *very good news* for taxpayers, but not-so-good for municipal officials. However, by our “planning beyond one year,” we expect to continue to comply (see “Best Practices Yield Best Results”).

## “Only Rain Goes Down the Drain”

Our storm drains keep our streets safe from flooding by removing storm water quickly. Those drains lead the rainwater and snowmelt from our streets to Manhasset Bay. As such, it is important not to place pet waste, lawn fertilizer, used oil, food scraps, trash, or anything else into our storm

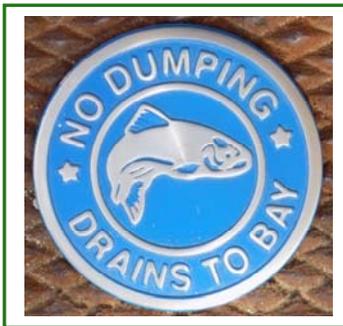
include periodically: (1) sweeping our streets of sand & debris

(2) vacuum cleaning the debris that gets collected in our storm drains. Both efforts remove tons of material each year from our Village and keeps it from entering the Bay. Trustee Lynne Aloia is our Village

representative to MBPC. Trustee Aloia reminds residents that we can also reduce our impact on the Bay by:

- Avoiding unnecessary grease and solids in your septic tanks and pump them out every 3 – 5 years,
- Avoiding unnecessary use of fertilizer,
- Limiting the use of pesticides,
- Do not discard household hazardous products with your regular trash

For more information, you can visit our website at [www.PlandomeHeights-NY.gov/environment](http://www.PlandomeHeights-NY.gov/environment).



drains. Some of our storm drains are marked with a stainless steel medallion to serve as a reminder that “only rain should go down the drain.”

Our Village is a member of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee, MBPC. MBPC was formed in 1998 to

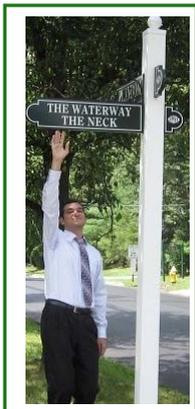
coordinate efforts of the County, Town and Villages to “...protect and enhance the quality of the Bay, its tributaries and wetlands...” Since 1998, through education and coordinated efforts, the water quality of the Bay has *improved significantly* and *continues to improve*. Efforts in our Village

## Speaking of “Electronic Waste”....

Pursuant to a 2015 State law, electronic waste such as T.V.’s, computers, monitors, electronic games and cellphones (“E-Waste”) can no longer be disposed into landfills. As such, you may not put such items out with your trash. Dejana will not pick them up. Instead, residents must take such items to a

Town disposal site. The Town of North Hempstead offers residents the opportunity to properly dispose of T.V.’s, computers and other E-Waste, as well as rechargeable, lithium and button batteries and bulbs at 802 West Shore Road Port Washington, NY 11050 from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

## Street Name Sign Project Project Complete, Old Signs Offered to Residents



In October, we completed “Phase 4” of our Street Name Sign project by replacing signs on the west side of the Village and on Bournedale Road South. The new signs are reflective (as required by new law) and have been “hardened” against vandalism under a design we worked out with our sign contractors. Our old signs were frequently vandalized resulting in about \$1,500 annually in replacements. The new signs have the same decorative look but have been hardened from the inside of the post, and in some cases

lifted (as shown). Since installing the new signs in 2013, *none* of the new design signs have been vandalized.

By doing the project in phases, we were able to: (a) modify the new design as we learned from installation, (b) spread the cost over three tax years (not all in one year) and (c) utilize some grant money that became available. The project cost about \$15,000 over three years, before receipt of about \$5,000 in grant money. Under our “*Galleries de Plandome Heights*” program, the used signs are available to residents for “*garage art*” or “*dormitory art*.” There may be a few signs left; call or email the Clerk if you are interested.

## Continuous Improvement, Focus on Trees

We greatly appreciate the help and cooperation of residents in our “continuous improvement” program this year to focus on the health of our trees and to reduce overgrowth impacting public safety. By partnering with residents to consolidate needs, we get this work done at favorable costs to what homeowners would incur on their own. All told, in 2015 we

have worked with residents to remove approximately 30 deteriorating trees and over 50 instances of trees or bushes interfering with public safety. This is important for the safety of the Village. Now we are looking at “holes in the tree line” so we can work with residents to plant new trees under our tree program; since 1994, over 200 trees have been planted.

### The Short List

**\$250 Tag Sale Signs** – When residents tape “Tag Sale” signs to our beautiful white street sign posts, it leaves a residue of glue that accumulates as a black stripe over time. Taping any signs on our sign posts violates our Village code and is subject to a \$250 fine; please don’t do it.

**We have “Side Yard” Garbage Pickup** - Our contract with Dejana calls for them to pick up your household trash at your side yard. As such, there is no need to put your trash at the curb.

### Clerk’s Corner

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

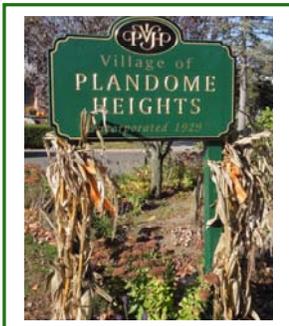
Village code restricts contractor work to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday. No work is permitted on Sundays or Federal holidays.

Please curb and clean up after your dog.

The Clerk maintains a “non-solicitation” list for residents who don’t wish to be bothered by lawful soliciting in the Village. If you would like to be included on this list, contact us.

Is your emergency contact information up to date? Trustee Solomon reminds: logon to [www.NorthShoreAlert.org](http://www.NorthShoreAlert.org) to update your contact information and personal preferences.

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**Incorporated Village of  
PLANDOME HEIGHTS**  
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### Village Contacts

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<b>Court Clerk</b> , Maura McMullan	CourtClerk@PlandomeHeights-ny.gov
<b>Building Inspector</b> , Edward Butt, AIA	BuildingInspector@PlandomeHeights-ny.gov

Sign up for **Village Emergency Notifications** at [www.northshorealert.org](http://www.northshorealert.org)