

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

**Kenneth C. Riscica**  
Mayor

**Lynne Aloia**  
**Daniel Cataldo**  
**Silva Ferman**  
**Gus Panopoulos**  
**Alvin Solomon**  
**Norman Taylor**  
Trustees

**Arlene Drucker**  
Clerk - Treasurer

**Elizabeth Vera**  
Deputy Clerk, Building

**Maura McMullan**  
Court Clerk

**Cye E. Ross, Esq.**  
Village Justice

**Mary Breen Corrigan**  
Village Prosecutor

**Edward P. Butt, AIA**  
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

**James Madison**  
Planning Board, Chair

**Trey Harragan**  
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 summer months we: (a) received the approval of grant money for our Waterway/Neck road project, (b) improved our Village trees, (c) advanced our capital project plans, (d) worked with the Town to pave Webster Avenue, (e) completed another fiscal year *in surplus* and *on time* and (f) began to advance a *new* road grant with the help of NY State Senator Jack Martins.

In addition, building activity continues to be robust with substantial completion of two very large projects on the west side of the Village (Shore and Beachway). These completions are being followed by a project on Willow and two large projects on the east side of the Village (Plandome Court and Brookwold Drive).

Further, we are welcoming more than 20 new families to our Village in time for the new school year as there has been robust home sale activity. It is worth noting that Village home values are strong and Village residents are making investments in their homes.

Also, I am expecting the Plandome Pond Park cleanup work to begin this Fall.

The following pages present details of these and other items in the Village. The Village is in great shape and moving in the right direction. It is a privilege to serve as your Mayor.

You can reach me anytime at  
Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov

*Kenneth C. Riscica*, Mayor



## Fiscal Year Ends Strong

On July 30, 2015 we reported our audited fiscal year end results (May 31, 2015) to NY State. We reported a *surplus*, with our revenues nearly 20% higher than budget (due to *non-recurring items*) and our costs 4% higher than budget. Our higher costs supported the high activity in fee paying building projects, and included higher costs for snow removal, which were more than offset by *lower* administrative costs.

The further good news is that: (a) the Trustees set aside this surplus toward future capital projects and (b) *our core budget*, the budget that drives our tax levy, *continues to be sound*.

To summarize our finances:

- Our taxes are 10% lower than 6 years ago,
- Our taxes are 37% lower than our benchmark,
- Our *reserve funds are strong and building* to support our capital projects,
- We plan to comply with the NY Tax Freeze again in 2016 so you are "rebate eligible."

These results are possible because so many volunteers serve our Village, among other efforts and factors. We can all be very proud of this record. A summary follows on page 3 and a complete and transparent presentation of our financial results is on our "Finance" page at [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finance](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finance) with our 2016 Budget; 13 pages of analysis and detail.

## Progress on Capital Projects

### NYS Grant Awarded, Senator Jack Martins Visits Jobsite, Plus...

In May 2015 we received the final approval for a \$50,000 road grant from NY State to help us repair The Waterway/The Neck. While we are very anxious to move this project forward, when we looked at the competitive environment for this work over the summer, we became concerned.

Our concern is that the availability and pricing for small projects like ours, at this particular time, is at a premium for a variety of reasons.

Since the road is worn but not dangerous, we concluded that we can and should review our alternatives, including possible changes to the (a) scope and (b) timing of the project, as well as other possible alternatives.

Among the items being considered is expanding the project to include Cove Drive. While Cove Drive is not on our replacement calendar for a few more years, two harsh winters and additions to our capital resources have caused us to reconsider.

On July 8, 2015, at our invitation, Senator Jack Martins joined Mayor Riscica and Trustee Aida Ferman to receive



Waterway/Neck Jobsite visit

our thanks for the grant and to review The Waterway/The Neck jobsite. In that meeting, we shared with Sen. Martins our thinking on Cove Drive. On August 27, 2015, Sen. Martins called to indicate that he was putting us forward for an *additional*

\$100,000 of road grant to help us move ahead with Cove Drive (or elsewhere). So,

with new needs coming into view (Cove Drive) and new grant money being processed, as well as other factors, we need to consider our alternatives in moving forward in the best way.



Senator Martins, Mayor Riscica and Trustee Ferman review Village road plans on July 8, 2015 in Village Hall.

### Summit Drive and Grandview Circle Water Main Project “In Design” - Spring Launch Planned

In June 2015, we met with the leadership of the Manhasset Lakeville Water District regarding their planned capital project to replace the 2” water mains on Summit Drive and Grandview Circle with 4” water mains. We are told that the project, originally included in their 2014 Capital Projects Plan, is now on their calendar for Spring 2016. The project has been moved to the “engineering design” stage. Similar to the water main project on Bay Driveway in 2013, 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. As we plan for Waterway/Neck and possibly Cove Drive (above), we need to be mindful of this need and the need to coordinate and work closely with MLWD.

### Plandome Pond Park – On Schedule For This Fall

We previously reported that the Town of North Hempstead plans to do 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. On July 9, 2015, we were advised by Supervisor Bosworth that the project had completed engineering and environmental reviews (including the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers) and was moving forward to contract award (see [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov)). On August 25, 2015 the Town Board voted unanimously to award the contract to perform this work this Fall. When we have more details on

timing and other issues, we will advise you via our North Shore Alert notification system.

There is, however, one matter we want residents to know.

In addition to the *disruption of the dredging*, the project plan calls for “*dewatering on-site* [drying of the sediment] prior to transporting to a landfill.” This is estimated to be “...an area of *approximately 3,400 square feet*...” So this work will involve some disruption at the Park for a period of time, likely weeks. Again, we will know more when the Town tells us; this is simply a “heads up” for you on what to expect.

### Continuous Improvement Program – Focus on Trees

Our “continuous improvement” program this summer has focused mostly on the health of our trees and overgrowth impacting public safety.

After our “Board level, fresh look” at our tree policies last fall, we moved forward with several initiatives. After extensive trimming and pruning in the fall, this summer the Village engaged our Village Arborist to conduct the periodic inspection of trees on Village properties and right-of-way. After receiving the Arborist report, we then worked with residents to remove 8 trees that we considered to be deteriorating. This included 2 dead trees near power lines. Several more trees are in process of removal including 2 near power lines. In addition, we separately identified approximately 30 situations where trees or bushes encroach on

signs, sidewalks, safety lights or roads. Then we partnered with residents to take corrective action.

We greatly appreciate the help and cooperation of residents. By partnering with residents to consolidate needs, we can facilitate getting this work done at favorable costs to what homeowners would incur on their own.

All told, since the Fall 2014, we have worked, collaboratively, with residents to remove approximately 25 deteriorating trees and over 50 instances of trees or bushes interfering with public safety. This is important for the safety of all in the Village.

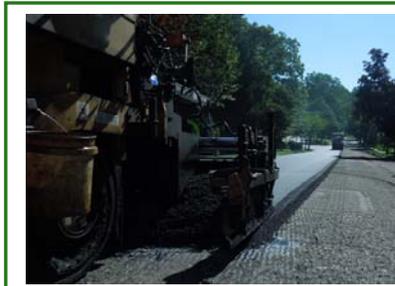
Now we are looking at “holes in the tree line” so we can work with residents to plant new trees under the tree program; since 1994, over 200 trees have been planted under the program.

## Town Paves Webster Avenue & Orchard Street Thank you, Supervisor Bosworth, Councilwomen DeGiorgio and Kaplan

In June 2015, we thanked Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth and Councilwomen Dina DeGiorgio and Anna Kaplan for accelerating the work to pave Webster Avenue in our Village and Orchard Street which houses our Village Hall.

A year before, on May 12, 2014, Mayor Riscica partnered with Richard Bentley, President of the Greater Council of Manhasset Civic Associations in a request to the Town of North Hempstead to pave Webster Avenue (a Town road that is in our Village in District 6) and Orchard Street (a Town road that houses our Village Hall in District 4). We learned that Orchard Street was scheduled for repair in 2016 and Webster *wasn't even scheduled* at all. Then we asked that these plans be reconsidered and that these roads be assigned a higher priority (see [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/news-events/](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/news-events/)).

We appreciate that our voices were heard and that these two roads were both paved this June 2015, well ahead of their original schedule. Thank you Supervisor Bosworth and Councilwomen Dina DeGiorgio and Anna Kaplan!



Town pavers laying inches of asphalt on Webster Avenue in June 2015



Town Rollers, rolling the asphalt smooth on Webster Avenue in June 2015.

Our Village enjoys a great relationship with the Town on many levels. As a small Village, we work at, and appreciate, this relationship and the response to our request.

### Summer Shorts.....

**“Galleries de Plandome Heights”** – We have advanced our program to replace worn *street name signs* with new *reflective signs* under a new design that is *hardened against vandalism*. So far, 2/3 of our signs have been replaced and the rest will be done this coming year. At the suggestion from residents, we decided to recycle our old signs as “art.”

As such 35 street name signs have been provided to residents for use as “garage art” or “dormitory art.” The sign replacement program is described on our website at [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finance](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finance) and the final phase will be “Phase 4.” Residents can request a used sign by contacting the Clerk.



Right: “Art” from “Galleries de VPH”

**164 Plandome Court** – This blighted home was sold to a North Shore developer in March 2015 and demolition took place in May. Now plans are moving quickly for the approvals and permits needed to build a 5,000 sq. ft. home.



**Putting Your Garbage Out? – We have “Side Yard 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*. The reason? The Village looks better without trash cans on the street. So please, we pay for this benefit, take advantage of it!

**Fiscal Year End Summary** – Summary financial results for the year ended May 31, 2015 follow:

	Budget	Actual	Better	
Income				
Real Property Taxes	314,000	<b>314,000</b>	-	
Building related fees	50,000	<b>128,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>	a
Other earnings	35,000	<b>32,000</b>	<b>(3,000)</b>	
Grants and aid	33,000	<b>31,000</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	
Prior year item	-	<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	
Total Revenue	432,000	<b>517,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	
Expense				
General Gov. Support	188,000	<b>162,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>	
Public Safety	40,000	<b>44,000</b>	<b>(4,000)</b>	a
Transportation	55,000	<b>70,000</b>	<b>(15,000)</b>	b
Parks	15,000	<b>17,000</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	
Community Service	138,000	<b>159,000</b>	<b>(21,000)</b>	a
Total Expense	436,000	<b>452,000</b>	<b>(16,000)</b>	
Surplus(Deficit)	<b>(4,000)</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>69,000</b>	

a = Building and Zoning related costs and revenues,  
b = Snow related costs

A complete/transparent presentation of year end results is on our website at [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finance](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finance) together with our 2015 – 16 Budget; 13 pages of analysis and detail.

