



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights

NEWSLETTER - FALL 2012

Message from the Mayor

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

Lynne Aloia
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Mgmt. Officer

Bart Giusto
Emergency Mgmt.
Coordinator

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Finance, Chair

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Historian

I am pleased to report that many important things are moving forward in our Village.

First, we have an enormous amount of infrastructure improvement going on that is largely funded by others. For example MLWD is laying nearly a mile of new water mains, NY State grants are helping us with drainage and road contouring/paving on Bay Driveway and Nassau County plans to pave Plandome Road. All told, this amounts to over \$1.7 million of infrastructure work to manage or coordinate. That's more than 5 times our tax levy; we couldn't afford it on our own.

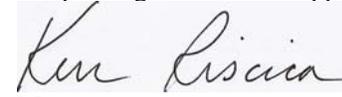
Secondly, we acted to position our Balance Sheet for the future. After I took on Village financial leadership in 2008, my goals included: (a) planning "beyond next year's budget" and (b) rebuilding our reserve funds. In July 2012, we continued that progress when the Trustees approved a plan to increase funds set aside for Capital Projects by 150% and maintain our "rainy day fund" at a healthy five months of spending (vs. 4 months in 2009). See "Planning Beyond Next Year's Budget."

Further, we are plugged-in to substantial positive progress that was made in the County's "Community Policing" program and in the Town, County and LIPA Hurricane and Emergency Management procedures and communications. This is discussed below.

A concern to many of us is the Redistricting Plan by North Hempstead. Together with leadership from the VPH Civic Association, we have been very pro-active on the matter. The issues are summarized below as is our response and activities.

As important as the big issues are the "quality of life" issues. As such, we restored our beautiful light poles and are looking at ways to improve our traffic and street name signs. The traffic signs are "past their prime" and the street name signs are too easily vandalized.

This is a consequential time in our Village. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve.



Ken Riscica
Mayor

Plandome Road – Moving Ahead

As expected, when MLWD opened the street at Plandome Road for the Bay Driveway connection, they recommended the replacement of the 1930's 8" water main to conform to the current 12" standard that exists on other parts of Plandome Road. We have worked closely with all involved governments (County, Town and MLWD) to ensure that this gets done. Therefore, in late September, MLWD plans to replace the water main on Plandome Road in the Village. The two week

project should be complete in time to permit Nassau County to keep its commitment to pave that 1/3 mile of Plandome Road in 2012. Further details will be provided as available.

We are grateful for the continuing efforts of District 6 Town Councilwoman Dina De Giorgio and County Legislator Judi Bosworth. We will keep you informed of road closings on "North Shore Alert." See www.northshorealert.org to sign up.

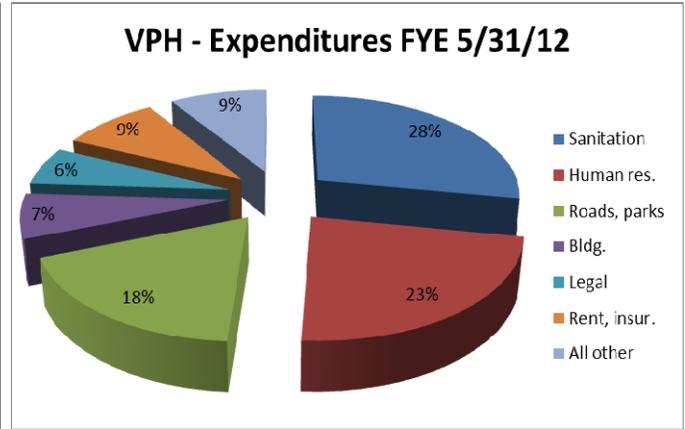
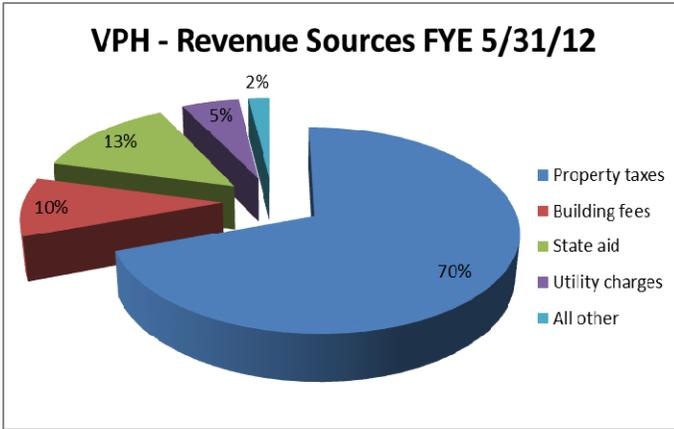
Fiscal Year May 31, 2012 Ends in Surplus

Our fiscal year ended May 31, 2012 in surplus and our independent audit is complete with no adjustments or issues. We ended the year financially strong and our surplus of \$33,000 was used to strengthen our Capital Reserve Fund. The surplus results largely from lower

costs of snow removal and road repair due to the mild winter. A chart of our sources of revenues and the nature of our expenditures follows (see also, www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finances):



Fiscal Year May 31, 2012 Ends in Surplus (continued)



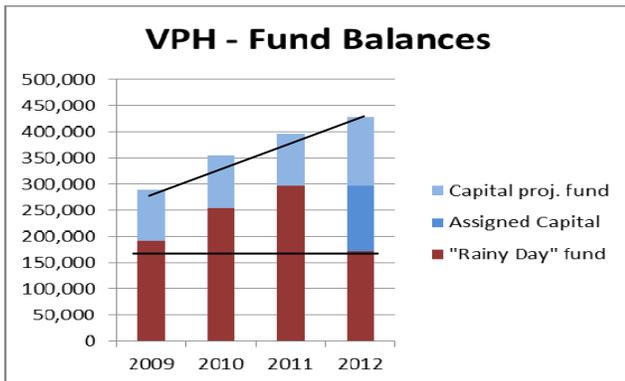
Our tax levy, at \$38.78* is significantly below the \$49.81* we would pay for “outside Village” services (\$38.85), sanitation (\$8.42) and lighting (\$2.54) outside the Village.

Source: TNH website for 2012 budget. * Per \$100 of assessed value.

Planning “Beyond Next Year’s Budget”

We are making progress on our long-term Capital Plan. In that regard, we took two steps to rationalize the Village Balance Sheet for the future. To increase funds available for our near-term needs (5 years), we transferred the current year surplus to our Capital Projects Fund. We

also set aside funds toward longer-term projects (beyond 5 years) by “assigning” some of our General Fund for that purpose. In short, we are planning “beyond next year’s budget” and positioning our Balance Sheet for our future needs. Our Fund Balances now look like this:



The blue reflects funds set aside for Capital Projects (up 150% in July 2012) and the brown represents our “Rainy Day” funds which stand at 5 months of (lower) spending vs. 4 months in 2009. This has our Balance Sheet in compliance with new Government Accounting Standards (GASB #54) and follows guidance from the NYS Office of State Comptroller

Bay Driveway Project - Water Main Done; Plans for October

In September, the Village awarded a public works contract for improvements to drainage and protection of Manhasset Bay including new storm drains, changes to grading and curbing and resurfacing on Bay Driveway. The work is being scheduled for October 2012; the contractor is John McGowan and Sons of Sea Cliff. Because this project was coordinated with the recent water main work, MLWD agreed to provide funding to the Village to help with costs of paving the road.

The Village is receiving significant financial assistance for the project from NY State through grants from the Community Capital, and Economic Development, Assistance Programs. State Senator Jack Martins was instrumental in getting the grants finalized in a challenging budget environment where some grants were cancelled. The grants had been initiated by State Senator Johnson, Senator Martins’ predecessor in the 7th Senate



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District. This project enhances our overall Stormwater Management program. For additional information on

stormwater management, see our website at www.villageofplandomeheights-ny.org.

Town of North Hempstead Proposed Redistricting of our Village

What is Redistricting? Every ten years, when the census is taken, the six TNH legislative districts are reviewed to see if population changes have made them unequal in population. If so, changes are proposed to redistribute (redistrict) the population to preserve the “one person, one vote” doctrine. The TNH Redistricting does not affect your schools, sanitation, snow removal or fire services. It affects who represents our community and advocates for Town resources in town-wide matters on the Town Council. Our Council person is our advocate for our priorities; on Plandome Pond Park, on repair of Plandome Road, on various matters that affect our relationship with the Town.

What criteria are used? The numerical guidelines are: (a) total variation (lowest to highest District) from the ideal population of *less than 10%* and (b) no single variation *greater than 5%*. These are guidelines, not rules. Other criteria include: (a) maintaining “communities of common interest,” (b) keeping communities contiguous, (c) limiting change to affect the fewest number of people and (d) having districts that are “compact,” among others.

What happened in the 2010 Census? With a Town-wide population of 226,322, the “ideal” population for each of the six TNH Districts is 37,720 people with a suggested maximum of 39,606 people (5% variance). District 6 (Manhasset Villages and Port Washington) was right in line with the ideal at 37,167 (1.5% variance). District 4 (Great Neck and unincorporated Manhasset) grew to 40,061 (6.21% variance): 1.21% over the guideline.

What is the TNH Plan to Redistrict? On June 4, 2012, the Temporary Redistricting Committee of the Town of North Hempstead held a Public Meeting on its plans to change the components of the 6 Districts. Despite strong opposition from Plandome Heights (nearly 20% of our residents wrote letters), the Mayor and our Civic Association, the Committee voted to recommend a plan that: (a) moves Munsey Park (2,682 residents) from

District 4 to our District 6 and then moves Plandome Heights (population 1,005) from District 6 to District 4. In other words, by moving Munsey Park to our District 6, our District is now overpopulated by a mere 208 people (0.5%) over the 5% guideline. To solve that insignificant difference, the Committee would move us to District 4.

What do we believe? We believe that we should not be moved from District 6 because: (a) our “communities of interest” include the Manhasset Villages and the Port Washington peninsula, (b) the numerical overage (208 people, 0.5%) if we stay in District 6 is insignificant to a Town of 226,322 people (0.01%), having no discernible effect on “the one person, one vote” doctrine and (c) all of the other criteria for Redistricting would be met if we stayed in District 6.

What are we doing? We attended the meetings and provided input to the Committee; our input was largely dismissed. Therefore, VPH Civic Association President Marion Endrizzi and Mayor Ken Riscica made personal visits to each of the 6 Town Councilwomen/men to advocate for our position to remain in District 6 (Manhasset Villages plus Port Washington) and not move to District 4 (Great Neck and unincorporated Manhasset). We have also requested a meeting with Supervisor Kaiman. In our efforts, letters of support have been sent to the Town from the Manhasset Council of Civic Associations and our neighboring Villages.

What's next and what can you do? This topic will be discussed at our Village meeting on Monday, September 10th at Plandome Village Hall. On September 12th the Town Board is scheduled to meet to propose a Public Hearing on Redistricting for October 2nd. You should consider attending the October 2nd meeting and/or providing input to the Town Officials, or both. Some people are interested in a petition or letter writing drive. Stay tuned to your Civic Association and the Village for further information.

Community Policing, Hurricane Preparedness

On July 1, the conversion of the 6th Precinct into a “Community Policing” center was completed. County Executive Mangano came to the Manhasset Council of Civic Associations on June 27th to discuss the change and

take questions. On July 11th, the new Precinct Commander, Sean McCarthy, met with the Manhasset Mayors to review operations and get our feedback. Commander McCarthy grew up in Plandome and lives in



Village Contacts

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Clerk/Treasurer, Marianne Lobaccaro
Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk, Ann Demeri
Building Inspector, Ed Butt

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Port Washington so he knows our community. One benefit of the change is that the “Problem Oriented Policing” Team (Officers Browne and Churchill) is back on the street.

On Hurricane Preparedness, there has been a lot of progress since Tropical Storm Irene last year. The Town, County & LIPA have held several meetings for Village

Officials and Emergency Managers. In these meetings we have been presented with operational progress, improved communication channels and current year preparations. Trustee Solomon and Emergency Manager Bart Giusto are fully engaged (and showing terrific leadership!) in that effort. We are well prepared and plugged-in to the processes and people we need to access in an emergency.

Clerk’s Corner

The village will be scheduling street sweeping this Fall. Notice will be given by our North Shore Alert system.

With school open and upcoming road projects, please exercise extra caution while driving on our village streets.

Please remove all standing water from your property to prevent the spread of mosquitoes. Plandome Pond Park has been particularly stagnant this year. We are in regular touch with the Town of North Hempstead (maintenance) and Nassau County (mosquito control) about the Park.

The Manhasset Lakeville Fire Department 100th Anniversary Parade and Block Party will be Saturday, September 22 starting at 4 PM. The parade will start on Plandome Road and MLFD will begin staging vehicles for the parade at 2 PM on: Plandome Court, Bournedale Road N., Summit Drive, Cove Drive and Grandview Circle.

As always, please feel free to call the Village or visit the office with any questions, or just to say hello.

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