



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF  
**Plandome Heights**  
NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2013

**Kenneth C. Riscica**  
Mayor

**Lynne Aloia**  
**Daniel Cataldo**  
**Lawrence Bourguet**  
**Silva Ferman**  
**Alvin Solomon**  
**Norman Taylor**  
Trustees

**Marianne C. Lobaccaro**  
Village Clerk / Treasurer

**Kimberly A. Day**  
Deputy Clerk,  
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

**Marion Endrizzi**  
Planning Board, Chair

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

**Trey Harragan**  
Technology Advisory  
Board, Chair

**Phyllis Sternemann**  
Historian

## Message from the Mayor

This has been a consequential year in our Village. Among the opportunities and challenges we faced were:

- Successful opposition to the plan to redistrict us away from Manhasset,
- A 100-year weather event in Super-Storm Sandy,
- Over \$1.5 million of capital projects,
- An unusually high level of resident building activity,
- Strengthening our finances and keeping our taxes low,
- Improving neighborhoods by renovating our decorative light poles and our signs
- Transitions in several key people.

In our Annual Meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, I gave a presentation about these developments that is contained on the "News and Events" page of

our website at [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov). I have summarized that on these pages.

We are fortunate to have so many highly qualified and motivated long-term residents in our Village willing to serve on our Boards and do the work of the Village. Our Village is a great place to live *because* our volunteers make things happen.

Last year was a challenging time to take on the responsibility of Mayor. I appreciate the support and encouragement that so many of you have given to all of our efforts, and to me, over this past year. Thank you for that!

It is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

Mayor

## Plandome Road – Take Two

With the MLWD water main project followed by Hurricane Sandy, the plan for Nassau County to pave the 1/3 mile of Plandome Road that they own in our Village did not get done. As such, I have been your forceful advocate in contacting the County and Town, repeatedly, to get this done this year. I am now told that the County is contracting with the Town to do the work in "late spring or early summer."

We appreciate the continuing efforts of our Town Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio, our County Legislator Judi Bosworth and our *new* County Legislator Richard Nicoletto in this effort. We will keep you informed of road closings on "North Shore Alert." Sign up on [www.northshorealert.org](http://www.northshorealert.org).

## Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 - 14

After three years in which our taxes decreased 15% and then stayed constant, our costs have now caught up and we need to raise taxes modestly in the current year. In setting the tax levy, we decided to limit the increase to 1.95% and stay within the "tax cap." The average home will see an increase in tax of \$18 for the year. The 2013 – 2014 Village Budget continues the path of fiscal restraint as follows:

- 2011: Tax decrease 15%
- 2012: No tax increase
- 2013: No tax increase
- 2014: 1.95% increase

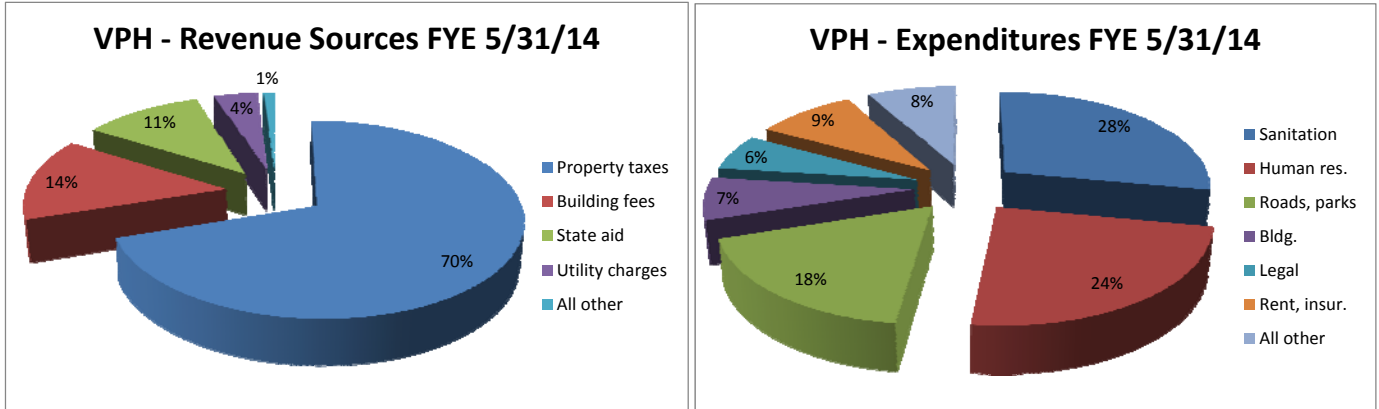
Further, it is worth noting that your property taxes would be higher if you lived outside the Village and paid the Town for sanitation, lighting, roads and building that the Village provides. *That's right, it costs you less to live in our Village.* You can see detail on that in our "Budget Message" on the "Finance" page of our website at [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov) which has the following information:

- 2013 -14 Budget message and tax analysis
- 2013 – 14 Budget detail
- 2012 Annual financial statement
- 2013 Interim financial report



You can also receive hard copy of the budget information by contacting Clerk-Treasurer Marianne Lobaccaro at 627-1136.

In summary, our budget is \$428,525 and looks like this:



### Our “Planning Beyond Next Year’s Budget” Initiative

Our “*Planning Beyond Next Year’s Budget*” initiative involves three critical elements that we implemented this past year:

- Modeling our operations over multiple years,
- Capital planning to identify short-and long-term needs with help from our consulting engineer and
- Adopting a reserve fund policy that sets the parameters of “rainy day” and “capital” reserves.

By understanding our needs, setting reserve levels to address them and modeling our operations to help us

attain those goals, we are more likely to keep taxes more stable, eliminate or reduce surprises and have resources in place when we need them. These are “best practices.”

With reimbursements expected, our rainy day fund continues to be strong. We also have capital funds set aside for all our short-term projects (5 years). In addition, we have set aside some of our general fund for projects beyond five years. In time we can think about strengthening the funding, or finding grants, for longer term projects.

### Capital Projects: “More work with less money”

More than \$1.5 million of infrastructure projects were done in the Village in the past year. Most of that, about \$1.2 million, was done by MLWD in installing new water mains on Bay Driveway, Bayview Circle, and Plandome Road. The Village sponsored a project on Bay Driveway to improve drainage, protect Manhasset Bay and re-contour and resurface the road. In coordinating our sponsored work with the water main work, MLWD agreed to provide \$35,000 of grant money to reflect their avoided costs of paving. This is in addition to the \$200,000 NY State grant we were awarded 4 years ago. Furthermore, with careful management of the project, the

actual costs came in *better than* our budgeted costs. As such, we are expanding the project to include Bayview Circle and getting additional funding from MLWD there too. So are doing “*more work with less money.*”

The NY State grant funds came through the Community Capital, and Economic Development, Assistance Programs with the support of Senator Jack Martins (and his predecessor Senator Johnson). This project enhances our overall Stormwater Management program. For additional information on stormwater management, see our website at [www.villageofplandomeheights-ny.org](http://www.villageofplandomeheights-ny.org).

### Hurricane Sandy: A hundred-year event

Hurricane Sandy was a 100-year event packing drenching rains, record tides and high winds that brought down the power to 90% of LIPA’s 1+ million customers. On the Port Washington/Manhasset Peninsula, the damage from

downed trees was massive. That damage cut the main power sources to the Village so our restoration could not begin until major repairs and rebuilds of the electric distribution system further “down the tree” from our



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electrical “branches.” As a result, it was 6 or 8 days before LIPA crews even worked in our Village. During that time we were pro-active in: (a) assessing our damage and communicating that to LIPA, (b) clearing our own trees and (c) relentless follow-up with LIPA operations calling for action.

Our Village was without power for 8 days for some, 11 days for most and 13 days for others. Trees fell on power lines, roads or Village property at 30 sites. Light poles and the Village Flagpole were also impacted. Village contractors cleared trees from lines at a dozen locations in the Village in addition to clearing roads, rights-of-way and other issues. Village contractors carried away 72 tons (144,000 pounds) of debris in 32 dump truck loads. It took more than a month to clean up. We spent approximately \$50,000; we had money in our “rainy day”

### “Principled Opposition” to Town Redistricting

In May and June 2012, the Town of N. Hempstead held hearings on a plan of redistricting that separated our Village from all the other Manhasset Villages and the Port peninsula. We would have been grouped with Great Neck.

After discussing this with the community we decided to oppose the plan. Our opposition included many facets. First, we partnered with VPH Civic Association President Marion Endrizzi who organized a series of meetings to inform the six Town Council members individually of the reasons for our opposition. To develop our argument, we studied the consultant’s reports recommending redistricting and developed the basis for principled opposition. Our opposition was twofold: (a) we were

fund and we expect to be reimbursed for much of it. Thanks are due to our emergency management volunteers, Trustee Alvin Solomon and Emergency Manager Bart Guisto who worked tirelessly with the Mayor and others to assess damage, resolve problems and supervise work crews. Trustee Aida Ferman spent countless hours manning our comfort station and giving aid to residents. More than 350 volunteer hours were spent by the Village. We spoke daily with PWM-OEM and LIPA, we hosted our sister-Villages in our office when they had no lights or internet and we had frequent dialog with the Town and County. In short, we were aggressive and pro-active and communicated what we learned to residents though daily updates on our North Shore Alert emergency management system. Village residents kept us informed of their issues and remained calm and helpful throughout this difficult situation.

being separated from our “communities of interest” and (b) by leaving us in our current district, the plan would exceed the target population by only 206 people, an insignificant number in a Town of 230,000. We then sought support from others including the Greater Council of Manhasset Civic Associations, the Nassau County Village Officers Association and Port Washington/Manhasset Office of Emergency Management. Then we took that “principled opposition” to the Town in a Petition solicited by Village and Civic volunteers with 618 signatures including 243 from outside the Village. Finally we met with Supervisor Kaiman before the scheduled public hearing in which the community showed up en masse. Principled opposition, argued in a determined but friendly way, won the day.

### Small things matter....

We have taken on several initiatives to brighten up our neighborhoods. First, we refurbished the *beautiful decorative light poles* in the Village last fall with great care. The Civic Association generated the idea, the ARB provided input on color and finish and Trustees Bourguet and Taylor provided input on methods.

In addition, some of our *traffic signs* are in very poor repair. So we initiated an effort to refurbish the rusted sign posts and oldest signs with new, reflective signs. Further,

we have a problem with vandalism of our *street name signs* on Plandome Road. So we are “hardening” the signs. The new signs have a solid core, are anchored in cement and raised up to be less accessible to vandals. They look the same but are stronger. In addition, we’re sprucing up our “Stop” lines with fresh paint and reflective beads.

Finally, we are removing the outdated, rusted, khaki green “relay” mail boxes in our Village. The relay mailbox is an unused vestige and we have asked USPS to remove them.

### Clerk’s Corner

Sidewalk and overnight parking is prohibited. If you need an exception to park overnight, please contact Village Hall. Village tax bills will be mailed in May and are payable

June 1, 2013 through July 1, 2013. Dog leashes should be a maximum of 6 feet in length. Please make sure to clean up after your pet. Contractors are permitted to work

# Plandome Heights

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### Clerk’s Corner (continued)

Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. No work is permitted on Sunday and federal holidays. If you are considering doing any work on your property, please contact Village

Hall to ascertain whether a building permit is required. As always, please feel free to call or visit Village Hall with any questions, or just to say hello.

### Comings and goings

*We welcome....*

*Trustee Daniel Cataldo* - Dan brings a background in technology and accounting, community service and has been Treasurer of the VPH Civic Association since 2010.

*Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk Kimberly Day* – Kim’s family lived in the Village from 1960 until 2012. Kim has a background in accounting, banking and controls.

*ARB member George (“Chuck”) McCarthy* - Chuck grew up in Manhasset and moved back from Baxter Estates and their Zoning Board. Chuck has 30 years in real estate.

*We say thank-you and farewells to...*

*Trustee Don Parker* - Don served as Trustee from 2008 – 2012 focused on technology and environmental matters including the Village Preserve and Plandome Pond Park.

*Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk Ann Demeri* - Ann served as Deputy Clerk since 2003 and Court Clerk since 2008. As a resident, Ann served with caring and skill.

*ARB member Martin Soja.* - Martin Soja served as a thoughtful and important member of the ARB board for more than 4 years.

### Village Contacts

Mayor, Kenneth C. Riscica  
Clerk/Treasurer, Marianne Lobaccaro  
Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk, Kimberly Day  
Building Inspector, Ed Butt

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www.plandomeheights-ny.gov

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