



# Newsletter

WINTER 2011/2012

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**Goodbye from the Mayor and Editor**  
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## Village Elections March 20<sup>th</sup> 12 noon to 9PM 65 South Drive, Plandome Village Hall; Annual Organizational Meeting April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7PM Manhasset Library Community Room

On Tuesday March 20, registered voters are urged to vote for a new Mayor and three Trustees for the Board of the Village of Plandome Heights.

Potential candidates must file their bona fide petition(s) with the Election Clerk (who is also the Village Clerk, our own Marianne Lobaccaro), during business hours between February 7<sup>th</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup>, at our own Village Office at 37 Orchard Street.

Our current Mayor, Diana Merenda, announced at the January Board meeting that she would not be running for another term. The Mayor's current term expires at noon on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Board of Trustees will meet at its Annual Organizational Meeting at the Manhasset Library Community Room starting at 7PM until 10PM. At this

meeting, the newly elected Mayor and Trustees will be sworn in, the entire Board will acknowledge receipt of the Code of Ethics, numerous vacancies on the various other boards (eg, BZA, ARB, Planning, Technology) will be filled and sworn in, and the proposed budget (crafted by the Board of Trustees during the Budget Sessions in February/March) for the new fiscal year beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> will be put forth for a Public Hearing for any modification and subsequent adoption as required by law.

Those who serve Plandome Heights in any of these capacities due so at great expense of their time and effort, and the sacrifice of family time, and without anything other than psychic compensation. Please consider doing your share; but if you can't, please participate by voting on 3/20 and attending the 4/2 Annual Meeting. ■

## Update on Election "Mechanics"

Our own Senator Jack Martins and Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel are both trying hard to get the voting machine law changed. As a small village we would like to revert to the old lever machines or paper ballots. Larger villages are being held hostage

to lease Nassau County BOE optical scanners at \$1500 each. Our Mayor urges all to complain in solidarity. Please click on the VPH website "Government" tab to register your comments to Sheldon Silver, Dean Skelos and Governor Cuomo. ■

**Welcome to Newly Elected Town of North Hempstead District 6 Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio.**

**Your Village Board met with Councilwoman-elect last month and secured her promise to work with Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth to secure repaving of the part of Plandome Road within the borders of Plandome Heights in 2012.**

**Please support this effort by clicking on the VPH URL links of both elected officials and send your “thank you for your effort” message.**

## **Village Code Now Electronically Accessible**

Fantastic news! The Village Code for Plandome Heights is now finally electronically accessible on the Village of Plandome Heights Website for the convenience of all homeowners as well as their architects and contractors. The URL is: <http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/>.

Anyone who has ever had difficulty accessing information on our Village Code in the past will be happy to hear that the Plandome Heights Village Code is now available to you on a much more user-friendly platform. As you know, the old system was to “attach” a PDF of our Village Code. This was not really searchable in any kind of modern expectation. The old technology was absolutely better than the Village’s original system (“hard copy”), but woefully behind the time-saving approach made possible by search engine technology available today.

The new technology we have obtained is called “eCode360” and is available through the same trusted vendor (General Code) that has handled the Village of Plandome Heights Code for years. eCode360 makes municipal codes more accessible on a wide selection of digital platforms including PCs, Macs, notebooks, and smartphones with speed and efficiency. To access the code from the VPH Website just click on “Codes and Regulations” then “click here to see Village Codes”. This link will take you directly to our Code.

The eCode search field is a joy to use relative to the old technology. All you have to do is enter a word or phrase related to the subject for which you are searching, and *voila!*

Both our Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk participated in a webinar training session to gain a more thorough understanding of the various features the program offers with the most significant being our enhanced ability to keep residents informed and current regarding pending legislation and budget information. If you have questions give them a call at our office 516-627-1136. If enough people want a tutorial, the Clerks can schedule a demonstration at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Organizational Meeting.

We owe enormous thanks to Technology Advisory Board member and VPH “Webmaster”, Lisa Carlin, for working with our vendor General Code to establish the link.

We also give thanks to our Deputy Clerk, Ann Demeri, who has been working with the vendor at the direction of the Mayor for over a year to get this done, as well as to Clerk Marianne Lobaccaro who picked up the baton from former Clerk Valerie Onorato – now Clerk at the Village of Roslyn Harbor – who started the process with Mayor Merenda. Many thanks to all. ■

## **Updated VPH Website Link: Town of North Hempstead District 6**

Former Councilman Fred Pollack’s URL has been replaced by new District 6 Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio’s URL on the VPH Website “Government” tab. Your Board of Trustees welcomed our newly elected Councilwoman at the December VPH Board meeting.

Many thanks again to Webmaster Carlin for the “link”! ■

## ***Kids' Corner***

***With some disappointment we note that there were no submissions to the past four seasonal VPH Newsletters.***

***As a result, there will be no Citations given to a Plandome Heights child at the upcoming Organizational Meeting, in contrast to recent years.***

***We hope to see some new submissions (maximum 350 words please) soon, from any VPH resident under the age of 18. Parents must approve content.***



## **A Memo from Your Village Clerk**

With the winter snow season upon us, we remind all residents to refrain from parking any cars on the street in advance of and especially during a snow event. Additionally we ask that when clearing snow from your property, avoid directing the snow back onto the street and most of all, please do not disturb the plow operators while they are working. If you have any issues, please contact the Village Clerk. Reports of property damage allegedly caused by the Village's snow removal effort are best accompanied by emailing your digital photo to [clerk@plandomeheights-ny.gov](mailto:clerk@plandomeheights-ny.gov), along with an explanatory email. Reports should be submitted within a reasonable time related to the alleged damage.

In recent years, the Village has lost several trees due to storm damage and disease. As reported in the last Village Newsletter, we are continuing our shade tree planting program again this year. If you would like to purchase a tree through this program, to be planted on the Village "Right of Way", the Village will pay half the cost. Please email or call us at 516-627-1136 to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to enhance the park-like atmosphere of our Village.

As homeowner, you have an important responsibility to maintain your property's trees, shrubs and

vines so the power lines are kept clear. Trees are a major culprit for power outages here on Long Island, as we were well reminded during last year's tropical storm "Irene". Even a small branch interacting with electrical wire can cause an outage. That's why LIPA's Line Clearance Program trims tree branches away from electric wires, helping to ensure public safety, minimizing electrical interruptions and outages, and limiting damage from severe storms. It also provides a zone of safety in which line workers can do their jobs. It is imperative that these tree-trimming crews are given access to trees on private property to prevent severe damage to power lines during a storm.

If you are thinking about planting new trees around your home, being mindful of the type, location and eventual height of the trees you choose is another way to improve safety and electric reliability for you and your surrounding neighborhood. In fact, this is LIPA's preferred, long-term solution to trees interfering with electric wires. Visit [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org) for more information.

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

-- Marianne Lobaccaro ■

**INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF  
PLANDOME HEIGHTS**

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**Diana Merenda**  
Mayor

**Alvin Solomon**  
Deputy Mayor

**Lawrence Bourguet**  
Trustee

**Silva Ferman**  
Trustee

**Don Parker**  
Trustee

**Kenneth C. Riscica**  
Trustee

**Norman Taylor**  
Trustee

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

**Ann Demeri**  
Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk

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

**Mary Breen Corrigan, Esq.**  
Village Prosecutor

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

**Richard Hirt**  
Architectural Review  
Board, Chair

**Marion Endrizzi**  
Planning Board, Chair

**Trey Harragan**  
Technology Advisory  
Board, Chair

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

## Savings from New Gas Program Offer

You may recall from the Spring 2010 Newsletter that we announced an offering – through VPH’s membership in the Nassau County Village Officials Association (NCVOA) – from “Gateway”, a gas delivery vendor that gave subscribing VPH residents an opportunity to receive a \$50 rebate and potentially lower their gas bills. (See “Gateway Gas Program”, Spring 2010 Newsletter, posted on the VPH website.) At a recent NCVOA monthly meeting in 2011, we learned that another vendor has since bought Gateway. As a result, NCVOA is terminating its arrangement with Gateway, and has entered into a new arrangement with a different supplier, East Coast Power and Gas.

As you know, gas involves two components: delivery and supply. You may get one invoice from National Grid, but the two components are separate and distinct, thus allowing the consumer to select competing vendors.

NCVOA’s arrangement with East Coast Power and Gas includes a

guaranteed reduction of 8% in monthly fees. Because VPH is a member of NCVOA, there is an opportunity for VPH residents to avail themselves of this offer and lower their gas supply bills. Residents cannot sign up until the VPH Board of Trustees authorizes the transaction at the upcoming monthly meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Passage is expected as there is no downside to the Village, and only upside for our residents.

By joining the NCVOA group, any village can make this option available to their own village residents, and NCVOA would secure a small percentage back from East Coast Power and Gas, thus helping to keep annual dues from member villages as low as possible.

We prepared the enclosed letter that explains the new program more fully. As a reminder, we are not making a recommendation about East Coast but merely advising our residents about NCVOA’s offer. ☐

## Snow, Finally ... Fire Hydrant Reminder

The Village of Plandome Heights thanks snow-removal vendor Cow Bay for a good job in removing the first snow of the 2011/2012 season. Our multi-year contract provides a consistent and easy-to-budget sum for a certain number of storms. If too few, we pay a little more. If too little, we get a refund. This arrangement continues to serve the Village and the vendor well ... just like the “partnership” relationship we strive to foster with all our vendors.

Many thanks to Trustee Norman Taylor for his on-going relationship with Cow Bay and to our Emergency Management Team, Coordinator Bart Giusto and Deputy Mayor Alvin Solomon who also help monitor problems related to storms.

*Please also remember to keep all fire hydrants free from snow and ice. It's the law! ■*

Email Contact:  
Website:

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