



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights
NEWSLETTER - FALL 2013

Message from the Mayor

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

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Clerk - Treasurer

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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

With our capital projects behind us and our new staff in place, the Village has been working on our “continuous improvement” program (described below). Our building department continues to be very busy as residents advance a high level of home & improvement projects. For perspective, residents are investing nearly \$3 million in private building activity in the Village this fiscal year. This compares to a little over \$1.1 million two years ago. With so much activity, please be sure to observe our permitted working hours if you are doing work, or call violations to our attention if you see them. This is very important to your neighbors.

Our financial year ended May 31, 2013 with a small surplus and we expect to devote that to future road and capital work. We continue to be in solid financial condition with a clean report from our independent auditors.

The Village is in great shape and it can be better; we work toward that every day.

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

Mayor



North Shore Alert

Is your contact information up to date?

Now is a good time to check if the contact information for your family is complete and accurate in our North Shore Alert (“NSA”) emergency notification system. The system is peninsula-wide through the Port Washington/Manhasset Office of Emergency Management. Through NSA, you can elect to receive messages by phone, cellphone, text,

email, business phone, etc. You should check your settings at www.northshorealert.org to ensure that you have the contact information you want used to reach you and your family members in an emergency. You will receive emergency messages that affect the entire peninsula and just our Village. You choose the options on how you want to be contacted.

Continuous Improvement

Through the summer and into the fall, our *continuous improvement* program has included “refreshing” the beautiful green carved Village entrance signs on Plandome Road and Webster Avenue. Additionally, we continued our replacement of worn out traffic signs by adding 6 additional signs to the 46 signs already replaced. We also continued our program of replacing various rusted sign posts. And we worked with homeowners to trim back overgrowth that obstructed signs or street

lights. In September, we trimmed back the overgrowth on the Webster Avenue bridge that was obstructing our “Stop Ahead” and “Stop” signs for improved safety at the Webster Ave. Village entrance. For additional visibility we added reflective posts to those signs on Webster. Further, we helped residents plant 3 new trees to replace trees downed by storms or construction. We also completed a “sidewalk survey” and are working with residents to get certain “flags” of sidewalk replaced.

Plandome Pond Park – Town Approves Study

In a meeting with Town officials in August, the Town agreed to engage an engineering study to determine the reasons behind the stagnant water and buildup of algae in Plandome Pond Park. Bids for the work were received in September. The results of the

study will provide insight into solving the stagnant water problem. Thanks go to Marion Endrizzi, our liaison to the Town for Plandome Pond Park and President of the VPH Civic Association, for her persistence in representing us with the Town.



Contractor Working Hours

The good news is that residents are investing in their homes in our community. We estimate that more than \$3 million of private building will be completed in the current fiscal year including three complete homes and many extensions. Additionally, many residents are widening their driveways as a result of the recent change in our code and many have added generators.

Building activity, however, can be noisy and disruptive to the surrounding homeowners. This is one of the reasons that our Village code, and the Building Permits that we issue, restrict contractor work to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. No work is permitted on Sundays or Federal holidays. The reason for

the code is simple; our residents want peace and quiet in the evenings, Sundays and holidays.

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in working beyond permitted working hours. Neighboring residents are understandably upset. The offending parties have been issued violations and will spend time in our Justice Court facing significant fines. Further, we are also reminding contractors of our working hours to encourage compliance.

If you are doing work, *please* ensure that your contractors observe our Village working hours. It is our law and your neighbors expect this courtesy from you.

Sidewalk Repairs

The Village will be working with residents in October to make sidewalk repairs. To facilitate efficiency, the Village has arranged for a contractor to be available to

homeowners who need to replace sidewalk “flags” as a result of our sidewalk survey. Others who may wish to join the program can contact Village Hall at 627-1136.

Emergency Management and Preparation

We have continued our meetings with LIPA, PSE & G, Nassau County, Town of North Hempstead and PWM-OEM and are fully plugged-in to emergency management preparation for Manhasset/Port Washington.

Are you ready? We remind residents to follow FEMA guidelines for emergency preparation including:

- Make an emergency kit & a communications plan,
- Learn the elevation of your property,

- Be sure your trees and shrubs are well trimmed,
- Clear rain gutters and downspouts,
- Secure outdoor furniture and objects,
- Stock up on batteries and essential foods/medications,
- Plan for possible evacuation (route and location),

Sign up for alerts at www.northshorealert.org and also see <http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.

2014 STAR Exemption Requires Action by December 31

To maintain your existing Basic STAR property tax exemption for 2014 and subsequent years, all eligible taxpayers need to re-register. Registration must be done

prior to December 31, 2013 and can be done by calling the NY State tax department at 518 457-2036 or going online at www.tax.ny.gov/.

LIPA Electric Transmission Upgrade

LIPA has advised the Village that it will be installing a new five mile overhead electric transmission line from Great Neck to Port Washington with one additional mile of underground transmission. The objective of the project is

to “significantly improve reliability and meet the growing needs of residents.” The project is expected to start in November 2013 and continue through June 2014.

Village Contacts

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