



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights
NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2013

Message from the Mayor

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

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

Arlene Drucker
Village Clerk / Treasurer

Elizabeth Vera
Deputy Clerk, Building

Nicole Rhodes
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

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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

This season has continued to be very active. We completed the Bay Driveway project with paving of Bayview Circle. Under our *continuous improvement program* we improved our signs, restored our flagpole and repaired various roads and curbs. And the Town completed the paving of Plandome Road in our Village.

In June, we made adjustments to our Village Hall staff based on my recommendation to the Trustees that we make changes. The changes were designed to align our resources with the current needs of the Village. We have an enthused and engaged staff and things are moving forward.

Our fiscal year ended May 31, 2013 is being finalized for reporting to N.Y. State at the end of July. We expect to end the year with a

small surplus; we are in solid financial shape and expect a clean report from our auditors.

In short, it's been an active period in our Village. The Village is in great shape and it can be better; we work toward that every day.

I am so grateful to our volunteer Board of Trustees for their wise counsel and support in all that we do. I am also thankful for all of our Board volunteers (Tech, BZA, ARB, Planning, Historian). Our Village is a great place to live *because* our volunteers make things happen.

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

Mayor



Plandome Road – Done

We appreciate the efforts to get Plandome Road paving to the “finish line” by our Town Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio, our County Legislator Judi Bosworth and our *new* County Legislator Richard Nicoletto. The road is

County owned, and Town serviced. County Executive Ed Mangano approved the work last year but the MLWD water main replacement and Hurricane Sandy delayed the project. Now it is done.

Welcome to our New Staff

Please welcome Arlene Drucker, Elizabeth Vera and Nicole Rhodes to our Village staff.

In June I recommended to the Board changes to our organization. This was to respond to changes in our operations that are driven by a continuing high level of: (a) homeowner building activity and (b) Village activity. To align our resources with our current needs, I recommended: (a) designating a specific, part-time hourly person as Deputy Clerk for Building and (b) outsourcing the Court Clerk position to an experienced Court Clerk. The new Deputy Clerk, Building position is scalable to the level of building activity, involves skills that are not as costly as our clerk needs, and is funded by user fees. The Court work is highly technical, non-repetitive and low volume; it is ripe for outsourcing to an expert working a few hours a month. These

changes will enable the Clerk to spend less time on building and other activities and more time serving the broader needs of the Village for all residents.

In June, we hired Elizabeth Vera as part-time Deputy Clerk, Building. Elizabeth will support Building Inspector Ed Butt in serving residents with such needs. Nicole Rhodes joined us in June as part-time Court Clerk to work 10 hours a month to support our Justice Court operations. Importantly, also in June, Arlene Drucker joined us as our Clerk-Treasurer to work with me to provide leadership to Elizabeth and Nicole and to our day-to-day operations.

Arlene, Elizabeth and Nicole are in place, enthused and working to serve the Village and its residents.



Capital Projects Update

The paving of Bayview Circle this spring and Plandome Road in July, completes more than \$1.5 million of infrastructure projects 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 work involved substantial grant money and those projects ran a

little better than budget. So the good news is that our large projects are largely done and our capital reserve fund remains at a healthy level for new projects.

Going forward, MLWD has a water main replacement to do on Grandview Circle. They have moved this project out from 2013 to 2014, so stay tuned for information.

Plandome Pond Park

VPH Civic Association President Marion Endrizzi is our Village liaison to the Town and County for Plandome Pond Park. The Park is owned by the Town and the adjacent sump is owned by the County. Mrs. Endrizzi reports that the sump has been cleaned out thanks to help from Legislator Judi Bosworth. Further, regular testing has shown there is no West Nile Virus. Residents can help prevent West Nile by eliminating any standing water that can breed mosquitoes.

Recently, the Pond is frequently marred with algae. A variety of solutions have been proposed to eliminate the algae including dredging and aerating. The Town has

recently decided that action on the pond must involve the Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”). The Town Planning Commissioner has indicated the cost for a consultant to come up with a long term design solution for the pond is approximately \$50,000. If the Town approves this expenditure, it would then go about the process of selecting a consultant to design a solution and apply to the DEC for the permit. The cost of the actual improvement project is not known. The Town would have to allocate capital funds for the project. Realistically a long term solution is more than one year away, provided that the Town allocates funding for the project. In the meantime, some short term solutions will be considered by the Town.

Emergency Management; Hurricane Preparation

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. We hope it doesn’t occur again. Hope is not a plan.

Your Village is ready for emergencies. We are plugged into all the communication resources of LIPA, Nassau County, Town of North Hempstead and PWM-OEM. Further, since Hurricane Sandy we have followed up aggressively with LIPA to replace poles, transformers and wires and to trim trees away from wires. All of the work we requested has been done plus some more including transformers and wires on Bourndale Road North on the lines we share with Plandome Village. We have also met, twice, with the president of Public Service Electric &

Gas, the firm that will take over from National Grid for LIPA on January 1, 2014 to plan for the transition.

Are you ready? With Hurricane season coming up, Trustee Alvin Solomon and Emergency Manager Bart Giusto recommend that residents follow FEMA guidelines for 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> .

Small Things Matter...Continuous Improvement

Since refurbishing the *decorative light poles* last fall we moved forward with a “continuous improvement” program in our neighborhoods. So far, we have replaced 46 rusted traffic sign posts and 20 worn out traffic signs. The new signs are brighter and reflective. We also

replaced three street name signs (finally!) and are working on the worn village entrance sign by Flower Hill. On our roads, we painted white reflective STOP lines to encourage compliance. We also made road repairs on



Cove, Shore and Bourndales and repaired various curbs on Plandome Court.

Finally, our flag pole, which was down for more than 8 months, has been restored with a new, sturdier base.

Manhasset Bay Protection & Storm Water Management

With proximity to the bay, our Village belongs to the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee (“MBPC”). Trustee Lynne Aloia, our Village liaison to the MBPC, reminds residents that we can reduce our impact on the water quality of the Bay in a number of ways including:

- 1- *Septic Systems* - Avoid unnecessary grease, household hazardous products and solids to your septic system. Inspect your tank annually and pump it out every 3 to 5 years depending on its use,
- 2- *Fertilizer* - Avoid the unnecessary use of fertilizers and do not apply them before a heavy rainfall when they will be carried into the bay by runoff,
- 3- *Pesticides* - Many household products made to exterminate pests are also toxic to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants,

- 4- *Household Hazardous Products* - Many common household products (paint thinners, moth balls, drain and oven cleans) contain toxins. Do not discard with the regular household trash and use less toxic alternatives whenever possible,
- 5- *Pet Waste* - Pet owners should use newspaper, bags or scoopers to pick up after pets and dispose of wastes in the garbage or toilet,
- 6- *Storm drains* - Never place litter or other waste in storm drains which may drain to the bay.

Please take care to reduce some of the affects we have on our Bay. See our website at www.plandomeheights-ny.gov and see storm water management.

Change in Village Code

In July, we amended our Village code to permit driveways of homes with one car garages to be 20 feet wide at the

curb. This is intended to be helpful to homeowners that have two car wide driveways but only a one car garage.

Summer Intern

Joe Batista joined us in July as a summer intern. Joe is a senior in the Zarb School of Business at Hofstra studying

finance. Joe is spending six part-time weeks with us working on office, operations and technology matters.

Clerk's Corner

Sidewalk and overnight parking is prohibited. If you need an exception to park overnight, please contact Village Hall. Dogs need to be walked on leashes.

work, do contact us about whether you may need a building permit..

Contractors are permitted to work 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 past these work hours or on Sunday and federal holidays. If you consider doing any

We pay to have your garbage picked up from the side of your home; there is no need to bring trash to the curb. Bulk items for pick-up should be put out the night before, not sooner.

Village Contacts

Mayor, Kenneth C. Riscica
Clerk-Treasurer, Arlene Drucker
Deputy Clerk, Building, Elizabeth Vera
Court Clerk, Nicole Rhodes
Building Inspector, Ed Butt

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