



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights

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May 15, 2020

RE: Update for residents

Dear Resident:

First, thank you for doing your part at this unprecedented time. If you are a medical professional or first responder, a special thank you. If you are a parent doing triple duty, thank you. Be assured that I am in regular contact with federal, state, and local officials, as well as our 9 Mayors on the peninsula.

I write to give you an update on important developments in, and affecting, the Village including:

- ✓ Landscaping – The Governor has lifted restrictions, state-wide, on landscaping effective today. So landscaping projects can be done in addition to maintenance. He also lifted restrictions on tennis.
- ✓ Building permit extensions – The Village will extend the time to work under existing building permits due to the delays caused by the shutdown of non-essential residential construction.
- ✓ Continuous Improvement; New LED Lights for Plandome Road – Our new LED lights for Plandome Road have been received and plans are being made for installation. This is “essential infrastructure” and the work will be done by a single installer in a bucket truck.
- ✓ Construction - I am pleased to see that residents understand and are following the restrictions and guidance on construction, and yet, work for basic maintenance of our homes continues.
- ✓ County Executive Curran to meet with Peninsula Mayors – County Executive Curran has agreed to meet with the Peninsula Mayors to discuss reopening, particularly residential construction.
- ✓ Elections - The Governor moved Village elections from March 18, to September 15, 2020,
- ✓ Budget adopted - On April 27, 2020, we approved our 2020 – 21 Budget. We made adjustments to deal with COVID-19, but we did not increase taxes beyond the March 5th Tentative Budget.
- ✓ Tax bills – Our tax bills go out by June 1, 2020. We are making two changes: (1) to reduce “touch” traffic to Village Hall, we will include a return envelope and (2) we believe the Governor may provide additional time-to-pay Village tax bills. If he does that, we will follow that guidance.

The times are challenging but the Trustees & I are committed to keep the Village moving forward.

Since “*the end of the beginning*,” the dialog has moved to reopening safely as well as federal aid. Residents are frustrated that the current rules permit a landscaping crew of 4 to work week after week, but a painting, or roofing, crew of 2, working 30 feet apart can’t work. Residents are frustrated that our fate is tethered to NYC on a “one size fits all” basis. So, the Mayors are advocating for residents.

I see frustration levels growing; some suggest we may be building to a “*Howard Beale*” moment....

As this unfolds, be patient, be safe, practice social distancing, help others.

Sincerely,
INC. VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS

Ken

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

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Mayor

Daniel Cataldo
Silva Ferman
Gus Panopoulos
Dianne Sheehan
Alvin Solomon
Norman Taylor
Trustees

Arlene Drucker
Clerk -Treasurer

Lisa Fanuka
Deputy Clerk

Lenore “Lee” Regan
Court Clerk

Cye E. Ross, Esq.
Village Justice

Mary Breen Corrigan
Prosecutor

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

Bart Giusto
Emergency Mgmt.
Coordinator

Maryann Grieco
Architectural Review
Board, Chair

Eugene O’Connor
Zoning and Appeals
Board, Chair

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Planning Board, Chair

Trey Harragan
Technology Advisory
Board, Chair