



*Moving*  
**In The Right Direction**

## STATE OF THE VILLAGE

Mayor Ralph Estrand  
Deputy Mayor Patricia A. Christiansen  
Trustee Cheryl L. Parisi  
Trustee William Barrett  
Trustee Tom Ryan

Dear Residents,  
I am pleased to report to you that the State of the Village is EXCELLENT. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update of events which occurred in 2014:

### INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

During 2014, we completed the rehabilitation of Village Hall with the repointing of all the brickwork, installation of a new energy efficient gas heating and cooling system, cutting our energy costs by approximately 40%. Additionally the roof was insulated and new lighting installed at our historic building.

A new energy efficient gas heating system was also installed at our DPW building on Ridge Road, replacing an old oil burner.

New playground equipment was purchased and installed at Gergras Park.

### EQUIPMENT

To upgrade the fleet of trucks for our Department of Public Works, we purchased two heavy duty dump trucks for major debris and snow removal. An existing truck with low mileage was converted to a debris truck. We did not have this type of equipment during hurricane Sandy which created a hardship for our Village and DPW workers.

Two pick up trucks with hydraulic lifts and plows were also purchased.

A high efficiency plow specifically designed for parking lots was added to the fleet.

A van and pick up truck with a hydraulic lift gate was purchased for our Fire Department replacing vehicles that were over twenty years old.

### VILLAGE FINANCIAL POSITION REMAINS STRONG

Both bond rating agencies, Standard and Poors and Moody's, rated the 2013 Village Public Improvement Serial Bonds as "high quality and subject to a very low credit risk" and the Village's "capacity to meet the financial commitment on these bonds is very strong."

The audited financial statements for the year ended May 31, 2014, indicated that the General Fund spent more than 95 cents out of every dollar from its budget and the Water Fund spent 92 cents out of every dollar from its spending plan.

These financial statements also indicate that the Unassigned General Fund's fund balance increased \$316,827 for the year due in part to the fiscal responsibility by the Board.

The Village recently received federal funds to study and engineer the two parking lots south of Conklin Street on either side of Main Street. Initial plans indicate that the reconfiguration will yield more parking spaces than its present capacity. The Village needs to study and obtain additional information and clarification on this redesign but hopes to move forward with a reconfiguration after May 31, 2015.

(cont'd)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ST. PATTY'S DAY PARADE

Sunday, March 22nd  
Parade Kicks off at 1:00 pm from Northside School  
Activities on Village Green to follow parade!  
Come enjoy Main Street and all it has to offer!

### EASTER EGG HUNT / VISIT WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Saturday, March 28th at Noon on Village Green

*farmingdale*  
*We've got it All!*



PRESENTED BY  
St. Paddy's  
Parade  
Committee  
Farmingdale  
NY 11734





# STATE OF THE VILLAGE (cont'd)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

The Village was fortunate to be awarded Grants totaling \$375,000 for residential rehabilitation, streetscape on Main Street and \$100,000 for redesign and reconstruction of Parking Lots 2 and 4, south of Conklin Street. The Village has hired engineers to design, regrade and reconstruct these parking areas to improve both lots. These funds enabled the Village to continue with improvements of our streetscape by replacing signs on our storefronts and adding new awnings and lighting thus enhancing the appearance of our Main Street. Through a Grant from Nassau County, curbing was added on north Main Street, drainage in this area was improved and north Main Street was repaved. Brickwork was replaced on the sidewalks from the Post Office to Route 109 eliminating tripping hazards and problematic drainage at Prospect Street as well as Grant Avenue was corrected. The remaining portion of Main Street will be repaved this upcoming year.

Grants were also received in late December from Legislators Rose Walker and Michael Venditto for approximately \$148,000 and \$190,000 for a new generator at our well site on Ridge Road as well as a new state of the art dispatcher booth within the Fire House.

*Our Village has received the highest per capita grant totals in all of Nassau County.*

## SIDEWALK PROGRAM

The 2014/2015 Village Budget included \$20,000 for sidewalk rehabilitation. All homeowners were mailed details on how the program would function with the Village splitting the cost with the homeowner for up to four sidewalk flags. These funds should replace 320 sidewalk flags throughout the Village. A lottery was held on September 30th to determine which flags would be replaced this year. If you applied for the program but were not selected for this year, do not worry because your name was selected in order and put on a list for next year's sidewalk program which will occur in the fall of 2015.

## CELEBRATIONS

We continued with our tradition of Village Pops on the Green every Wednesday evening, showing of seven movies on our blimp screen on Thursday nights, lighting of holiday trees at Village Green and Gergras Park, Memorial Day Parade, Columbus Day weekend festival, and annual holiday parade and Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Our weekly Farmers Markets were moved to Village Green where they were well received by our residents and visitors.

Through the efforts of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, which has been re-formed and renamed the Farmingdale Village Merchants Association (FVMA), we enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Gingerbread House competition, two restaurant weeks and a Winter Wonderland at Village Hall highlighting our restaurants and merchants on Main Street as well as a two day fall Music Festival which attracted over ten thousand visitors to our Village.

The Farmingdale Fire Department had a celebration for Mr. Michael Kelly, Ex-Chief and Ex-Fire Commissioner, who completed 50 years of service to the Department. Congratulations Mike!

Two of our Village employees, Doug Ketcham and Gary Rosenberg were given Proclamations at a Village Board meeting acknowledging their twenty-five years of service to the Village. Congratulations and thank you Doug and Gary!

We look forward to continuing these events in 2015.

## BEAUTIFICATION

The Beautification Committee with the help of many volunteers continued to enhance our downtown with holiday decorations and spring and fall plantings. I am pleased to report that we received many compliments resulting from their efforts.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATIONS

Ground was broken at four major, mixed use projects in 2014 including two projects at Jefferson Plaza, Staller Loft on Main Street and Staller Properties on Eastern Parkway. Phase II of Jefferson Plaza was issued a Certificate of Occupancy in December and many of the apartments are now occupied. We are very pleased to welcome these new residents to our Village.

Several stores on Main Street made some interior alterations, averaging one half million dollars each, to provide for new tenants. We were delighted to welcome Charlotte's Desserts, HUSH, Althea Boutique, Dollar Tree, Paint and Main, Dark Horse Tavern, Village Kitchen and Blue Hawaiian Restaurant. In 2015 we look forward to the opening of The Meetball Place, Creations and a beer garden at the expanded Croxley's Ale House.

In 2012, our Main Street had 23 vacancies. We currently have 3 and look forward to the day when there are none.

Parking Lot 6 located just north of the railroad tracks on Main Street was re-engineered to improve drainage and provide for more parking. It was repaved and currently provides parking for 30 cars and 6 motorcycles.

## WATER DEPARTMENT

The Trustees and I have been spending a great deal of time studying issues relating to our Water Department. These include infrastructure improvements, quarterly billing, rates and future water needs of the Village. We are investigating various options and will make an informed decision that is in the best interest of all Village residents for at least the next ten years. We believe that the future of the Water Department is one of the most important issues currently facing our Village. A presentation on these items will be the subject of a special Board meeting on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 8:00 PM at Village Hall and we welcome your presence.

## SNOW REMOVAL

During 2014, our DPW staff braved 23 snow events and continue to do so during the recent snow storms and extremely cold weather to keep our streets free of snow and ice for the safety of our residents. I want to thank all our residents for heeding my telephone call message and removing their cars from the streets. Snow removal was more effective thanks to your help. With our new trucks, our DPW crew was able to remove the snow from Main Street to allow for easy access to our stores and restaurants. We are very grateful to our DPW staff who endured difficult conditions to keep our streets safe.

We would also ask residents who have a fire hydrant in front of their home to clear the area from snow. In case

of an emergency, every second counts and a buried fire hydrant will take valuable minutes to become functional.

## ACCOLADES!

Our Village was named one of the ten top Villages for economic growth and development by Long Island Business News.

Farmingdale Village was voted the best downtown by the LI Press-Bethpage Federal Credit Union Poll.

Vision LI awarded the Village with the Smart Growth Award for transit oriented development.

The American Institute of Architects honored our Village for transit oriented development.

## A FEW REMINDERS

**Trees:** If you have a tree that is diseased, or is creating a safety issue, please call Village Hall at 516-249-0093 ext. 0 to report the location of the tree so that it can be removed. If you wish to have a tree on the "government" strip in front of your house, please call the same number and give them your address so a tree can be planted this fall.

**Street Lights:** The Village has an intergovernmental agreement with our good friends at the Town of Oyster Bay to replace street light bulbs. If you see a street light that is no longer working, please call Village Hall at 516-249-0093 ext. 0 to report the location. The Town of Oyster Bay Lighting Department will make the necessary repairs on their next visit to the Village.

2014 was certainly a busy year and we have no reason to believe that 2015 will be any different. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all to be part of Village government and invite you to attend Board meetings. Our "formal" monthly meeting is held on the first Monday of each month and work sessions are held on the third and fourth Monday evenings beginning at 7:00 PM. Please join the Trustees and me as we plan for the future of our Village.