

FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2014
www.farmingdalevillage.com



Moving
In The Right Direction

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

Dear Fellow Residents,

It's amazing to me that the summer has come to an end and we are already hearing conversation about the upcoming holiday season. We had a wonderful summer in our Village. The weekly Village Pops concerts were very well attended and provided excellent entertainment for all. How better to spend a Wednesday evening other than enjoying an ice cream treat while listening to the wonderful music. Thanks to Brad DeMilo and the volunteer members of the band as they played another season in the Village. Movie nights were certainly a big hit, especially with our young residents. At the showing of the movie Frozen, over 750 people joined us on the "Green" to enjoy ice cream, popcorn and juice and watch the movie on the big screen. Each of the other six movies shown this summer was well received by the audience.

Another exciting event for Farmingdale was the Music Fest held in early September. While Mother Nature did not cooperate on Saturday and the Movin' On Band had to be moved inside, Sunday was a bright sunny day and it is estimated that over 10,000 people visited Main Street to enjoy the music at three different locations, kids' activities on the Green and Felix Cavaliere and the Rascals on the Main Stage in the early evening. It was a great weekend!

Once again, our Village Fire Department organized the annual Columbus Day Fair. Again, the weather on Saturday did not cooperate but Sunday was a beautiful day. Lots of folks came to Main Street to shop and dine, enjoy the parade, rides and entertainment and end the evening with the traditional fireworks.

All and all, it was a very busy and enjoyable summer and early fall for our Village.

I am pleased to advise that road and sidewalk reconstruction on Main Street is almost complete. Brick pavers have been replaced and new sidewalks installed to eliminate tripping hazards, drainage was improved on the north end as well as curbing installed. The north end of Main Street has been repaved and the remaining portion from the railroad tracks to Route 109 should be completed shortly. This work was made possible through a grant the Village received from Nassau County. The Village has also received additional grants totaling \$225,000 under the Community Development Block Grant program to continue streetscape improvements. Many new signs, awnings and lighting have been installed on the shops and restaurants lining Main Street.

Construction is well underway on the major mixed use projects in our downtown. Jefferson Plaza Phase II is nearing completion and Phase I is expected to be completed in the spring. The rental office for both facilities is open. Staller on Main is progressing and with cooperation from the weather over the winter, should be ready for occupancy at the end of next summer. The Staller project on Eastern Parkway containing 27 units is scheduled to begin shortly.

We are pleased to welcome to Main Street a new restaurant, Hush, at 291 Main Street, a soon to be opened Zumba Studio at 253 Main Street and the addition of a beer garden at Croxley's. Althea's Boutique has been opened at 457 Main Street and Dollar Tree is a new addition to the Village in the Palmer's Shopping Center on Merritt Road and Conklin Street.

The fall and early winter season continues to be busy in our Village. The Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Parade will be held at noon on November 22nd, the Beautification Committee will be hanging wreaths and garland earlier that morning, the Holiday Tree Lighting at Village Green will occur on December 2nd and the Tree Lighting at Gergras Park will be on Friday, December 5th. Both tree lightings will take place at 6:00 PM. The Downtown Implementation Committee will hold its second gingerbread house competition at the Chocolate Duck on December 13th.

I encourage you to attend the Village Board meetings on the first and third Monday's of each month at 7:00 PM. The Trustees and I value your input on the work we are doing for all Village residents.

Enjoy the fall harvest time and all its offerings. I look forward to seeing you around the Village!

Ralph Ekstrand, Mayor



2014 LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE

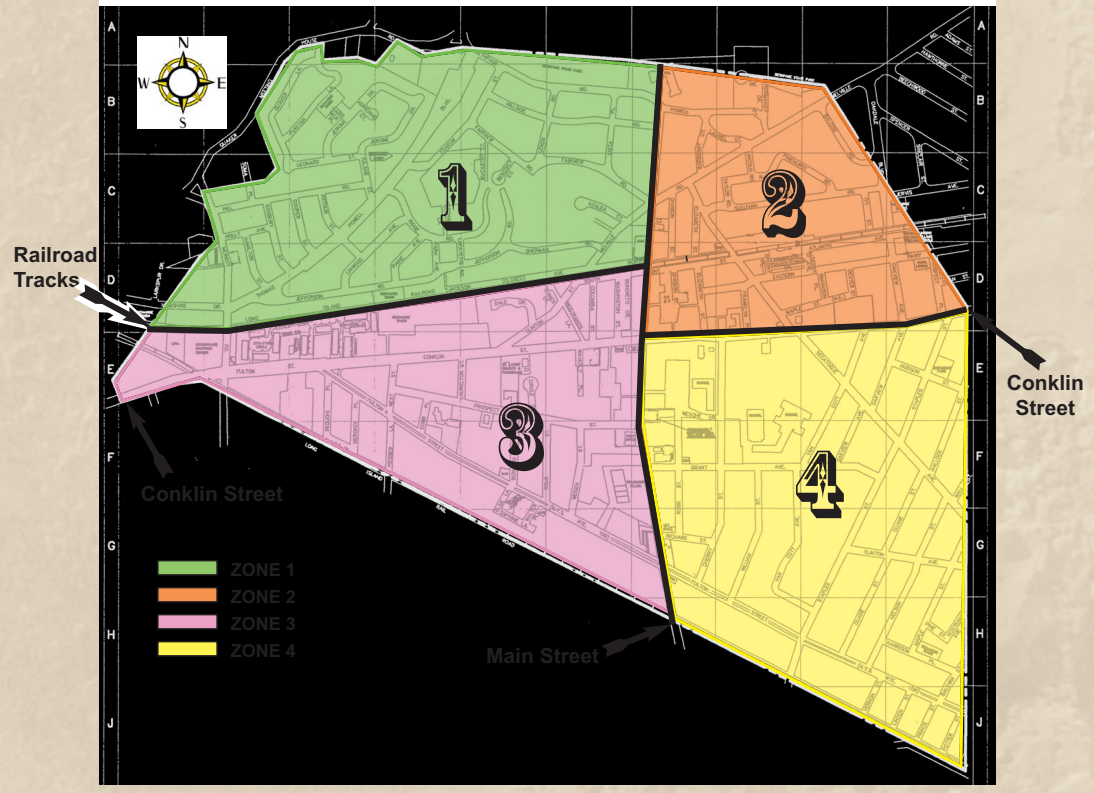
Zone 1:
Oct. 27 - Oct. 31
Nov. 24 - Nov. 28

Zone 2:
Nov. 3 - Nov. 7
Dec. 1 - Dec. 5

Zone 3:
Nov. 10 - Nov. 14
Dec. 8 - Dec. 12

Zone 4:
Nov. 17 - Nov. 21
Dec. 15 - Dec. 19

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE!



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IT TAKES VOLUNTEERS TO BEAUTIFY A VILLAGE

On May 17th volunteers gathered at Village Hall and began the process of spring planting in our Village. Together they hung 110 baskets containing violet petunias on the street lights, planted wave petunias in the pots at six street signs, as well as planting 82 street and park planters with green spikes, yellow marigolds and red and purple wave petunias. In addition, 45 flats of flowers containing 2,160 plants were planted at Village Green, Northside Park, Main Street/Melville Road triangle, and Grengras Park.

The result of these efforts was clearly visible in our Village throughout the summer months. The hanging baskets were an amazing sight as were the fully bloomed pots along Main Street and Conklin Street. The Village Green and the Parks were truly beautiful with the array of colorful flowers.

In anticipation of the many visitors to our Village over the Columbus Day Fair weekend, once again volunteers gathered on September 27th, to plant mums and cabbages in the Main Street flower pots and in the street sign baskets. Fall flowers were also planted at the Main Street/Melville Road triangle, Village Green and Grengras Park. A beautiful display of flowers, pumpkins and gourds adorns our Village Green.

Holiday decorations will begin to appear on November 22nd all in advance of the Tri-Centennial Tree Lighting on December 2nd. Since more decorations are planned for Main Street, many volunteers will be needed to join the committee to help transform our Village into a Holiday Wonderland. Please join us on the 22nd beginning at 9:00 AM at Village Hall with bagels and coffee.



RENOVATION AT GERNGRAS PARK

At the completion of an insurance audit, the Village was advised by the underwriter that playground equipment at Grengras Park was deemed to be unsafe for children and would have to be removed in order for the Village to maintain proper insurance. This equipment had been at the Park for years but was no longer compliant with safety requirements initiated to protect children.

Once the equipment was removed, the Village Board began the process of enlisting the help of landscape and playground specialists to design a new playground. Facilities of similar size on Long Island were visited, suitable equipment was selected and a design for the Park was created. Specifications for the state-of-the-art equipment were sent out to bid. Several bids were received and the project was awarded to the lowest bidder in the spring. The excavation for the new equipment began, followed by the assembly and installation of the swings, slide and tire swing. Once the new equipment was in place, thousands of yards of wood fiber was installed at the base of the swings and slide for the protection of the children. In addition to the playground equipment, electrical work was performed to enhance the lighting of the Park.

As part of the Village's Beautification program, neighboring homeowners of the Park have planted perennial flowers and plants that surround the estate fencing as well as annuals in all the gardens. A wooden picnic table constructed by a neighboring resident was donated and placed in the Park for all to enjoy. These neighbors take special care to ensure that the Park is properly maintained and decorate for all holidays throughout the year.

The cost of this project was paid with funds from the Village's Parkland Fund account. These funds are collected by the Village from a developer when a subdivision is granted. Taxpayer dollars were not used to pay for this renovation.

Grengras Park, located at the corner of Staples and Hudson Streets, was a gift to the Village by the Grengras brothers with the stipulation that it remain a park in perpetuity. With the completion of the renovation this summer, this Park will be enjoyed by old and young alike for years to come. The Park will be rededicated to the Grengras brothers on Friday evening, December 5th at 6:00 PM.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS

Nassau County has initiated a program of installing one red light camera in each school district throughout the county. While a permanent camera has not as yet been installed within the Village, the county's mobile red light van has been situated at Howitt Junior High School and Northside School over the past several weeks. The purpose of this program is to change driver behavior in school zones enforcing school zone speed limits of 15 or 20 miles per hour. The County explains that the goal of the program is to improve safety by persuading drivers to slow down.

Drivers can expect an \$80 fine every time they are caught speeding in a school zone. This fine is collected by Nassau County. The Village does not receive any portion of this fine.

We encourage all drivers to obey the speed limits since excessive speed is a major contributing factor to all motor vehicle accidents.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

What causes Stormwater pollution:

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and across sloped lawns. As it flows, this runoff can collect and transport soil particles, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, leaves and grass clippings, litter, animal wastes, and other potential pollutants. A heavy rainstorm isn't the only time that pollutants are collected and carried towards streams, rivers, wetlands, or lakes. A relatively light rain or flow from a garden hose or lawn sprinkler can start the process by moving the pollutants into the street or storm drain. During the next precipitation event, these pollutants and others are picked up and carried further, eventually being deposited in a stream, lake or wetland. Contrary to popular belief, most storm drains or storm sewers do not carry stormwater to wastewater treatment plants. Instead it flows directly to streams or other water bodies.

MOVIE NIGHT HUGE SUCCESS

MOVIES ON THE GREEN started in the summer of 2008 when the Village borrowed a movie screen! It was a small start with about 20 people "On the Green". Through a grant from Cablevision, the Village purchased their own "blimp" screen. Two additional movies were shown in October 2008. We have continued showing five movies "On the Green". Last summer (2013) we showed six movies. This summer Village Green was the host to hundreds of outdoor movie goers once again!! Many families eat their dinner with their children and view family movies on their lawn chairs or blankets. Some movies have an estimated crowd of more than 800 people. Special thanks to the Farmingdale library for providing the movie, Cablevision who provided the funds to purchase the outdoor movie screen, Long Island Checker Cab that provides Good Humor Ice Cream, McDonald's that provides juice for the children and The Mayor and Trustees that provide popcorn. A good time is had by all and we hope to see you next year for Movies on the Green!!



SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Village budget includes \$20,000 for sidewalk rehabilitation. All homeowners were mailed details on how the program worked with the Village splitting the cost with the homeowner up to four sidewalk flags. These funds should replace 320 sidewalk flags throughout the Village. A lottery was held on October 6th 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. Your name was selected in order for next year's sidewalk program which will occur in the fall of 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Chamber of Commerce
Holiday Parade
Saturday, Nov. 22
Noon**

**Holiday Tree Lighting
Village Green
Tuesday, Dec. 2nd
6:00 pm**

TREES

If you have a tree that is diseased, or you believe is creating a safety issue, please call Village Hall at 516-293-0093 to report the location of the tree so it can be evaluated. If you would like a tree on the government strip in front of your home, please call the same number and give them your address. You will be placed on a list for planting in the Fall of 2015.