

FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

Mayor George "Butch" Starkie
Deputy Mayor Patricia A. Christiansen

SPRING 2008

Trustee Cheryl L. Parisi
Trustee William Barrett
Trustee Ralph Ekstrand

Keeping You Informed

1. Make Every Tax Dollar Count

One of the first responsibilities your Village Board assumed in April 2008 was to approve and adopt the General Fund budget. Special thanks go to your Village Administration and Departments for working together and justifying their needs to the Board. Some appropriation items such as debt service on previous borrowings, lighting, heating oil, fuel for village vehicles and health insurance become more expensive every year. It's a difficult balancing act to maintain essential services and properly serve our residents while maintaining the tax rate at a time when assessed valuation of our Village is decreasing.

Your Village Board made the following decisions before approving and adopting your Village General Fund budget:

- a. Mayor reduced his salary by \$3,000
- b. Deputy Mayor refused the \$1,000 stipend
- c. All elected officials and part time appointed positions are contributing 20% of the cost of their health insurance saving the Village \$16,500
- d. Eliminated two positions at a savings of \$85,000
- e. Reduced the Farmingdale Village Report from 12 issues (monthly) to 4 issues (quarterly). Trustee Cheryl Parisi is doing the design, layout, and typesetting (at no cost to the Village) saving \$15,000 that is reflected in the approximately \$30,000 savings over the 2007-08 budget
- f. Reduced expected revenues from nuisance fines by \$89,000

2. Simplify Parking Regulations and Signs

Easier to understand language on signs as you enter our parking lots as well as additional signs in all areas to inform you of the parking regulations in that area in an effort to reduce tickets and make more spaces available for parking.

3. All Contracts Out for Bid

We are asking all Department heads to adhere to the law and get three quotes or bids for any item that costs more than \$1,000.

The Village Board is continually working on all of these issues. If you have suggestions, questions or comments please attend a Village Board meeting. The dates are posted on the sign in front of Village Hall and on our website.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been a very eventful few months in office. It was very important to the Board to work as a team and lead by example. The Board was unanimous in reducing the cost of Government. All elected and part time appointed positions will be contributing 20% towards their health benefits. We have reduced the size of the Building and Code Department by eliminating one full time position and determined that only one prosecutor is required for our Village Court. Even with all the cost saving measures, it was necessary to impose a modest tax increase upon our residents. Costs are up for all commodities just as they are for you. We will work hard to keep the cost of government under control.

It was our commitment to keep Main Street clean and the DPW staff has done a wonderful job doing just that. Pat Christiansen and the Beautification Committee have already started with the spring flowers with many more surprises as summer progresses. Thank You to the many who volunteer. If you want to get involved, please call Village Hall and get on the e-mail list for upcoming projects. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and take pride in our community.

Please come down to the Board meetings when the discussions start on revitalizing our downtown. Be part of the solution. Be assured that the Board is aware of everyone's concerns and we promise that all proposed changes to our code will be properly studied to know what the combined impacts will be to our Village.

I personally look forward to seeing you at our parades and summer events or just hanging around Main Street.

Butch Starkie

Beautification Committee

In its effort to devise and implement ways and means of continuing to enhance the beauty of our Village, several weeks ago the members of the Village Beautification Committee met to discuss plans for the spring and summer as well as review that which was done last fall and winter. The Committee agreed that the holiday trees in the Gazebo as well as the roping on all the signage looked great and further decided that next year larger trees would be placed in strategic places along Main and Conklin Streets thereby increasing the ability to see the trees even when cars are parked. They also decided it would be best to hang the lit wreaths perpendicular on the lamp posts, facing both north and south, in order that the wreaths are visible to pedestrians and drivers alike. All decorations will be put in place prior to the Annual Tree lighting ceremony, the first week of December.

The Committee, whose responsibility includes mapping out the details regarding the planting of flowers and choice of hanging baskets, discussed and finalized plans for the spring and summer planting.

Baskets containing balcom geraniums have been hung from the street lamps on the west side of Main Street and the planter boxes have been filled with complimentary flowers on the east side. Flowers have been planted in the Village Green planters and surrounding the monuments.

Once the sprinklers are installed at the Northside Park, discussions will be held as to the landscaping that still remains to be completed. Further discussions will also be held regarding additional plantings at Village Green, purchase of park benches and new planters.

The Beautification Committee is entirely a volunteer effort. They work hand in hand with the Department of Public Works who maintains all the plantings that are done. Updates of their work are now included on the monthly Agenda of the Board of Trustees meeting. The goals of the Committee include retaining our small town charm; creating a unique environment which will help us create a thriving downtown business climate.

All residents are welcome to help in one or more ways: Attend our meetings, help with preparation and planting on designated days; donate supplies and refreshments on "beautification work" days; contribute to the Village Beautification Account. Notices of events will be contained in the Observer and on our website.

Did You Know...

The Village does not own Main Street. It is a Nassau County road. Thank you to Legislator Dave Mejias and Commissioner of Public Works Ray Rabero for repaving Main Street.



Mayor George "Butch" Starkie, Legislator Dave Mejias, Trustee Cheryl Parisi, and Commissioner of Public Works Ray Rabero.

FIRE DEPARTMENT and D.P.W. Respond Quickly

Within minutes of a tree being uprooted and a utility pole snapping from the recent storm on Sunday June 8th, the Fire Dept. restored safety while the D.P.W successfully cleared Prospect St. by early Monday morning.

Worn, Torn, Flags

Did you know that you could place your worn, torn flags into a collection box located at the VFW at 635 Main Street? That's right, you can just deposit them in the collection can and they will be disposed of properly. Thanks!!



New Arrivals On Main Street



Been on Main Street lately? New arrivals are happening! The newest - Postal Serv, Victorian Tea Room, VanKemenade Benjamin Moore, and Croxley Ales. Main Street's viability depends upon people shopping often.



Residential Rehabilitation Program

The program was designed to provide low income families with access to funding to enable them to have work performed on their owner occupied homes. Items repaired under this grant are determined on an individual case basis and may vary from job to job. Please stop at Village Hall for an application and income guidelines.

Village Pops and Eve Foundation

Village Pops will once again be performing on the Village Green. Their first concert will be on Wednesday, June 25th and continue for the next six weeks beginning at 7:30 pm. There is one exception to this. The concert on July 9th will move to Sunday, July 13th. Everyone is encouraged to come early, bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the Village Green. In conjunction with this, the Eve Foundation will be sponsoring a Christmas in July Food Collection, in an effort to recognize that hunger exists all year not just during the holidays.

KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR VILLAGE

CONSTANT CONTACT...

"Blast" news reports informing you of Village emergencies, what's happening on Village Green, continuous updates on Main Street events, and the Farmingdale Village report all via email. Visit our website and look for the button for "Constant Contact". Sign up your email and the Village will keep you informed.

REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S OFFICE

From Jan.1, 2008 to May 7, 2008 the Farmingdale Fire Department has responded to a total of 331 calls for assistance. 228 of these were ambulance calls and 103 were general alarms (building fires brush or car fires, and motor vehicle accidents). The Department responded to 6 Signal 10's (working fires) 2 were mutual aid calls to the East Farmingdale Fire Department 2 were mutual aid calls to the South Farmingdale Fire Department and 2 were in the Village. On January 20, 2008 we gave mutual aid to East Farmingdale for a call on Melville Rd. and just after been released we responded to a working fire of our own at 21 Stratford Circle that is the condominium complex on Hempstead Turnpike just east of Merritts Rd. Both working fires that were in the Village were contained to the buildings of origin and damage was kept to a minimum more importantly there were no civilian or firefighter injuries. The Farmingdale Fire Department received mutual aid assistance from both the South and East Farmingdale Fire Departments at these fires, in keeping with the spirit of cooperation between all Departments.

I would like to remind everyone about the safety of having smoke detectors on every floor of the house and to have an evacuation plan.

Thank you for showing your support for those who served at our Memorial Day parade and for those who attended the Wreath Ceremony afterward.

Jack Scherer
Chief of Department

PUBLIC HEARING JULY 7TH 8:00 PM

to discuss a proposed law on mixed use in the downtown area

The Visioning process allowed residents to come together and work toward the end result of an updated Master Plan for our village.

Since the elections in March, we have been meeting with small committees of residents and business people to better understand the process and events that need to take place before we can consider changes in our code to allow new higher density development. We have had a number of meetings with invited guests that were the "experts" in this field. Pearl Kamer and Terri Elkowitz attended our last meeting. Pearl is the Chief Economist for the Long Island Association and Terri is an expert in planning. With the committees help and our Village attorney Kevin Walsh, we have drafted a law to change our Building Code in our Business D Zone. That zone encompasses our Main Street business district and along our Fulton Street and railroad corridor.

The process that was laid out for the Board was to draft the code change to allow for mixed use development, set height limits, and maximum density and then initiate a public hearing to get our residents feed back. The Board would then adopt the law but not enact it. The Board would declare a "positive declaration" under NYS Environmental Law that would trigger a full study of the law and its impacts on schools, taxes, water usage, traffic, etc.

When the study is complete we would make changes to the law that the Board deemed necessary to protect our Village. The start of this process is the public hearing July 7th at Village Hall. Please come down to see and hear what is going on. We will keep you informed with the Village newsletter, our website, and our new "Constant Contact" email program.

CLARIFYING WATER ISSUES

Understanding The Billing Cycle

The Village is presently in the middle of a water meter upgrade process which will require that meters be replaced and electronic sensors installed to read the meter via radio waves. This process will allow the Village to more accurately read and bill for water consumption. Old meters can run slow and do not accurately record usage.

If you believe there is something wrong with your meter, please try these steps before calling the Water Department. Read your meter, do not use any water, go back in five minutes and see if the meter has moved. If it does, you may have a leak. If you believe the meter is moving too fast, record the meter reading, fill a 5 gallon bucket to the 5 gallon mark and then re-read the meter. It should have only recorded 5 gallons.

Home Water Audit Kit

Now Available At Village Hall

Residents may come to Village Hall and request a Home Water Audit Kit. It is a guide to Home Water Conservation that can help find leaks, measure shower and faucet flow rate and help you conserve water. The chart above shows how even the smallest of leaks can add up.

Leaks Are Costing You Money Does Your Home Have Hidden Leaks?

Leak This Size	Loss Per Day	Loss Per Month
•	120	3,600
●	360	10,800
●	693	20,790
●	1,200	36,000

FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT



The Village of Farmingdale in conjunction with the *Farmingdale Public Library* Present

“**MOVIE NITE**” **Movie Night - July 10, 2008* - 8:30pm**

FEATURE PRESENTATION SELECTED FROM A NEW RELEASE

***RAIN DATE - JULY 11**

ARTISTS who are interested in participating in the

1ST Annual September 13th - 14th, 2008

“**ART in the PARK**”

Register Now

CALL : 516 - 694 - 0173

516 - 752 - 7493



Movie night - Tom and Jerry Cartoons
Start at 8:30

Family movie at approximately 9:00pm

Come Early. . . Bring a Picnic
Basket Dinner

Popcorn Served

SIGN- UP for “CONSTANT CONTACT” ON
THE VILLAGE website to be notified about
future *“on the Village Green”* Events

Village Green on the

Village of Farmingdale
361 Main Street
Farmingdale, New York 11735

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