



Moving
In The Right Direction

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

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

Dear Residents,
We hope everyone enjoyed a happy holiday season and look forward to a new year filled with health, prosperity and happiness. I am pleased to report that the state of the Village is **EXCELLENT** and would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a summary of events which occurred in 2015.

GRANTS

In the calendar year 2015, our Village received grants in excess of \$500,000. These grants allow the Village to purchase needed items that cannot be included in its annual budget due to New York State's real estate tax levy cap. \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the federal government allowed the Village to continue its Main Street streetscape program and redesign the two parking lots south of Conklin Street. In addition, Nassau County Legislator Rose Walker secured a \$190,000 grant to replace the outdated Fire Department dispatcher's booth and \$60,600 for park improvements were received from a grant from former Nassau County Legislator Joe Belisi. Did you know that from 2012-2015 the Village received nearly \$1,800,000 in grants? We are fortunate to have Nassau County Legislators Walker, Venditto and Belisi, New York State Senator Kemp Hannon and United States Representative Peter King looking out for and helping our Village during these difficult times. The Village has received the highest per capita grant totals in all of Nassau County.

BUDGET

Our Village has always complied with the New York State Law that limits the annual increase in the real estate tax levy to the lower of 2% or the annual rate of inflation. For the upcoming year, the law limits the real estate tax levy to .12 of 1% which is basically 0%. It is very difficult to maintain our Village services, and pay for required increases in general insurance, health insurance for our employees, mandated increases from New York State in pension costs, increases in electricity costs, fund our modest defined benefit costs for our Village firefighters and comply with the tax levy cap. However, besides maintaining all Village services at the level all residents expect and deserve before the tax cap was implemented, your Village Board with the help of many volunteers have been able to maintain and improve its Beautification Program, Summer Musical Pops, movie nights on the Village Green, start a fall music festival, implement a street paving program, purchase much needed Department of Public Works (DPW) and Fire Department vehicles and equipment, refurbish the Village Hall building and roof, update Village Hall lighting and convert our Village Hall and the DPW buildings to gas heating. In 2016, look for both parking lots south of Conklin Street to be redesigned, regraded and repaved, street lights to be converted to energy saving LED bulbs and a new ambulance that complies with ever changing regulations. Once again, we received the highest rating for a Village from Standard & Poor and Moody's rating agencies.

ROADS

In 2015, the Village had the following roads repaved: Duane and Nelson from Route 109 to Secatogue Avenue, Heisser Lane from the Railroad trestle to Route 109, Eastern Parkway from Elizabeth Street to Secatogue, Elizabeth Street from Eastern Parkway to Conklin Street, Oakview Avenue and Prospect Place from Conklin Street to the railroad parking lot, Franklin Place, Richard Street and Ridge Road at our DPW yard, and Clinton Street from Staples to the Village boundary. The developers of Jefferson Plaza paved South Front Street and Elizabeth Street from South Front Street to Eastern Parkway. Your Village Board approved bond resolutions totaling \$6 million for road and parking lot improvements south of Conklin Street. These bonds will be paid from the retirement of the \$8 million road bond issued in 2001.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM

Work was completed for those residents, selected by lottery, for sidewalk replacement. The Village split the cost of replacing up to four sidewalk flags per resident. This program will be continued in 2016.

WATER

In April 2015, the Village had a public meeting to explain that, at the present time, it was in the best interest of the Village residents to maintain our own Village Water System. The Bethpage Water District (BWD) and the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) had

UPCOMING EVENTS

WINTER WONDERLAND at Village Hall
February 25 - 6:00 PM
VILLAGE ELECTION at Village Hall
March 15 - Noon - 9:00 PM.
All Village residents are encouraged to exercise their right to vote.
ST PATRICK'S PARADE down Main Street
March 20 - 1:00 PM
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE and SERVICES at Village Green
May 30 - 10:00 AM

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STATE OF THE VILLAGE (cont'd)

submitted proposals to maintain and operate the Village Water System. SCWA would make necessary improvements to our water system that is estimated to be \$3.15 Million and the Village would compensate SCWA for its improvements and its services to maintain and operate the water system and maintain our fire hydrants at the same service charge and water usage rates that SCWA charges its own residents. After a thorough review and consultations with our expert water consultant and our water engineers, it was decided that for the near term it was in the Village's best interest to operate and maintain its present water system. The Village has pure, unfiltered water and our DPW employees can immediately react to a water main break or water emergency.

During this review process, the Village learned that it could not economically deliver 20,000 gallons of water at an annual cost of \$50. The Village also learned that almost all water suppliers levy a water line privilege charge as well as a usage charge to its water customers. The Village also knew that its residents did not like receiving one annual bill but would prefer quarterly billing. Other residents disagreed with a tiered water system where the rates increase as the usage increased. They suggested that the price of gasoline per gallon was the same whether they purchased one gallon or 50 gallons and the purchase of water should be no different.

After this review process, the Village Board decided to implement quarterly billing, charge residents a quarterly line privilege charge of \$24 and a usage charge of \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons used. Should a resident use more than 300,000 gallons on an annual basis, the resident will pay \$3.75 per thousand gallons in excess of 300,000 gallons.

Lenox Hill area residents have suffered for many years with low water pressure. This spring the Village will solve this long outstanding problem with the installation of booster pumps and hydraulic pressure valves so that these residents will be afforded the same water pressure as all other residents of our Village.

ONLINE PAYMENTS

The Village offers the convenience of paying your Tax and Water bills online for a nominal fee. Please visit our website at www.farmingdalevillage.com and follow the links on the right side of the Home Page. Tax bills are currently being paid using the Munitrax portal and Water bills use the link marked Online Payments of Water Bills. You will need to register for both systems so you should have your most current bill handy. Should you incur any problems or questions with either system, please call Village Hall for help.



DEVELOPMENT

TDI Bartone, CVS, The Lofts. These are new sites that have opened in 2015 or will open in 2016. The building adjacent to the railroad station parking lot has 39 units and has been fully occupied since May. The larger building across Seacogue Avenue received its certificate of

occupancy in November 2015. It has 115 residential units and it is expected that all these units will be occupied by May 2016 (it is presently 70% occupied). Starbucks has been approved to be one of the three commercial tenants and we understand that George Martin Burgers has signed a lease and one other restaurant is negotiating a lease with the building owner.

450 Main Street

On December 7th, the Village Board approved a drive-in window at the south end of the building for CVS who will be relocating to the former Waldbaum's site. The drive-in will be located in that portion of the building formerly occupied by the stationery store and take out restaurant. The Village as well as the new owner of the premises are trying to lease the remainder of the building to a grocery provider. However, with the A&P bankruptcy, there are plenty of empty supermarkets ready for immediate occupancy that are not near Stew Leonard's at Airport Plaza or Stop & Shop.



NEW STORES ON MAIN STREET

In 2012 our Main Street had 26 vacancies. We currently have 4 and look forward to the day when there are none. We welcomed Vine and Barrel, Creations, Vintage Wine, Treasure Box, and an expanded Croxley's Ale House. We look forward to the opening of GTE Sports Bar and The Meetball Place in 2016.

MAIN STREET TURNING LANES

It finally happened! After years of discussion and planning, left hand turning lanes are now on Main Street (a Nassau County road) and Conklin Street (a New York State road). These turning lanes vastly improve the flow of traffic moving North and South on Main Street.

AWARDS

For the second year in a row, Farmingdale Village was voted the best downtown by the LI Press-Bethpage Federal Credit Union Poll.

Vision Long Island awarded their 2015 Smart Growth Award to the Village for the mixed use project, The Loft at 231 Main Street.

A FEW REMINDERS

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 to report the location.

Snow Removal: In the event of snow, we would ask all residents to remove their cars from the street in order for our DPW staff to keep our streets free of snow and ice. Also, if you have a fire hydrant in front of your home, please clear the area of snow. In case of an emergency, every second counts!

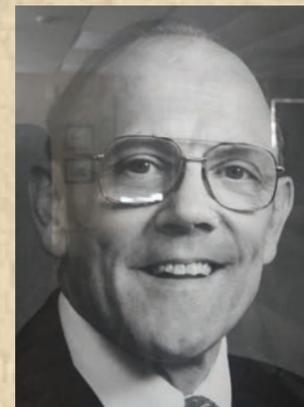
2015 was certainly a busy year and we have no reason to believe that 2016 will be any different. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all to be part of Village government and invite you to attend Board meetings. Our "formal" monthly meeting is held on the first Monday of each month and 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.

In Memoriam

During the past several years, we were saddened by the deaths of former Village elected officials and employees. We are grateful for their service to our Village.



MILDRED DeMARCO
Planning Board - 1962-1975
Zoning Board - 1975-1987
Fire Commissioner - 1987-1994
Trustee - 1984-1994



WILLIS CARMAN
Planning Board - 1961-1962
Trustee - 1962-1980
Deputy Mayor - 1980-1984
Mayor - 1984-1992



LILLIAN KOWALSKI
Secretary - 1964-1974
DC Treasurer - 1974-1986



KENNETH 'LUKE' SCHERER
Maintenance - 1954-1956
Highway Foreman - 1956-1971
Deputy Supt. PW - 1971-1976
Supt. of Public Works - 1976-1984



PASQUALE ROMANELLI
Zoning - 1972-1977
Trustee - 1977-1985
Deputy Mayor - 1985-1995



DR. BENJAMIN GIMINARO
Member & Chairman - Zoning
Trustee - 1987- 006
Deputy Mayor - 1996-2005



JOSEPH TRUDDEN SR.
Lifetime Member Fire Department
Zoning - 1988-1992
Mayor - 1992-2004