



*Moving*  
**In The Right Direction**

## STATE OF THE VILLAGE



Dear Residents,  
We hope everyone enjoyed a happy holiday season. The Village Trustees and I wish you 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 2016.

Mayor Ralph Ekstrand  
Deputy Mayor Patricia A. Christiansen  
Trustee Cheryl L. Parisi  
Trustee William Barrett  
Trustee Walter Priestley

## GRANTS

In the calendar year 2016, our Village received grants in excess of \$450,000. 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. \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the federal government enabled the Village to continue its Main Street streetscape program providing new signs, awnings and lights on many store fronts. In addition, Nassau County Legislator Rose Walker secured a \$150,000 grant for the gas generator to provide power to our Ridge Road wells in the event of a power outage which was our experience during Hurricane Sandy. Did you know that from 2012-2016 the Village received nearly \$2,250,000 in grants? We are fortunate to have Nassau County Legislators Walker and Kennedy, New York State Senator Kemp Hannon, Assemblyman Michael Montesanto and United States Representative Peter King looking out for and helping our Village.

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 2016-2017 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. We will begin the 2017-2018 budget process within the next several weeks for our fiscal year beginning in June. Our final budget will be adopted after a Public Hearing prior to the end of April.

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 has been able to maintain and improve its Beautification Program, Summer Musical Pops, movie nights on the Village Green, music on Main Street several evenings over the summer, provide a Cultural Arts Day in the fall, implement a street paving program, purchase much needed Department of Public Works (DPW) and Fire Department vehicles and equipment. We have also replaced our Village Green Christmas Tree with a Norway Blue Spruce and installed new fencing around the Gazebo.

On May 9, 2016, Moody's reaffirmed our Aa3 credit rating.



2016 was certainly a busy year and we have no reason to believe that 2017 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.

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



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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our volunteers at the Village Fire Department responded to 1,227 calls during 2016. To assist them in their duties, the Village purchased a new ambulance with state of the art equipment and a new Chief's vehicle.



The Fire Department also sponsored the Annual Columbus Day Fair as well as the Spring Fair along Main Street. They continue to hold educational programs for the children in our Village during Fire Prevention Week. We are very grateful to our firemen and women who protect and assist our residents each and every day.

## INFRASTRUCTURE



In our efforts to improve and preserve our infrastructure, new steps were installed at the entrance to the Fire House and the rear entrance to Village Hall. The aluminum and glass door at the entrance to the Fire House was replaced with a new mahogany door replicating that which was originally constructed in 1932.

## ROADS

In 2016, the Village had ongoing drainage problems resolved and repavement work done on the following roads: Thomas Powell Boulevard, Arthur Street, Hynes Court, Prospect Street, North Front Street, Ketcham Lane, Yoakum Street, Ridge Road, Fairview Road, Linden Street, Vernon Street, Powell Place, Van Cott Avenue, Dale Drive and the South Railroad Parking Lot. Drainage work was completed on Normandy Drive and Stern Court; final paving will be completed in the spring. The Board plans to continue with repavement work on our Village roads in 2017.

The Village has entered into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with Nassau County whereunder we received \$150,000 towards the rehabilitation of the sidewalks, government strip, drainage and repaving of Main Street from South Front Street to Conklin Street in 2017.

## STREET LIGHTING

A total of 598 street lights were replaced with LED bulbs. These energy saving bulbs have a guaranteed life span of ten years. The Village expects to realize a savings of approximately \$40,000/per year once the initial costs have been discharged.

## 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 2017.

## WATER

Lenox Hill area residents have suffered for many years with low water pressure. Last spring the Village embarked on a solution to this long outstanding problem with plans for the installation of booster pumps and hydraulic pressure valves. We had anticipated that the installation would be completed by late fall but when bids were received, the Trustees and I, in consultation with our engineers, determined that the bids were excessive and over our budget. We revised the bidding procedure by dividing the project and having each portion bid separately. This proved to be successful and when rebid, the costs were substantially lower and within our budgetary plans. Initial piping work was completed in the fall and the remainder of the work will commence in the spring. We anticipate having the entire project completed by July 4th enabling the residents in the north quadrant of the Village to experience the same water pressure as all other residents.

Construction of the enclosure for the gas generator for our Ridge Road Wells will also be completed in the spring as well as the electrical upgrades required for our water plant. During the past year the Village has purchased a new truck for the Water Department as well as refitted the Fire Department's old ambulance into an emergency water truck able to carry equipment necessary for water main breaks as well as other water emergencies.

Geary Gerhardt has been promoted to Water Department Supervisor and has obtained his 1B license to fulfill all requirements of the position. Congratulations Geary!

As we discussed during our long range planning meeting in April 2015, the Board is now investigating several alternatives for the rehabilitation of our elevated storage tank at Eastern Parkway. We will keep you advised as to our progress.

## DEVELOPMENT

The Cornerstone at North Front Street containing 42 apartments opened in 2016 and is fully occupied. The Loft at 231 Main Street is expected to welcome new residents beginning in May and The Loft at 285 Eastern Parkway will be completed in early Fall.

Robinelle Gardens (site of the former Vitamin Store) on Fulton Street is nearing completion and ground has been broken on The Hearthstone, which will consist of 24 owner occupied, two bedroom townhouses.

Jefferson Plaza is now home to Starbucks, The Green Cleaners, Fantastic Day Spa, Hi Dental and we look forward to welcoming George Martin Burgers and MoCa Asian Bistro to this site in the next several months.

### 450 Main Street

Construction is underway at 450 Main Street for the drive through window at CVS as well as the Goldfish Swim School.

## NEW STORES ON MAIN STREET

In 2016, Vespa, That Meetball Place and Croxley's Beer Garden joined our other popular restaurants on Main Street. We look forward to Flux Coffee and LaCole Salon & Spa opening soon.

Main Street Turning Lanes became a reality providing smoother traffic flow in both north and south directions.

## PARKING

With the increased vibrancy in our downtown, we listened to your concerns about parking and purchased the vacant parcel of land at 137 North Main Street providing approximately 50 parking spaces. The land was cleared, paved and fenced prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Final paving will be completed when weather permits in the spring. Additionally, the Village's property at Jackson Avenue and Melville Road (just north of the railroad tracks) was paved and fenced, adding 40 spaces for Village parking. The small vacant lot (former taxi stand) on Conklin Street was also purchased by the Village to allow for rear access to the adjacent stores.

## AWARDS

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



## BEAUTIFICATION

We would be remiss if we did not thank all the men and women who volunteer with our Beautification Committee planting thousands of flowers in the spring and fall, hanging hundreds of feet of garland, over 80 wreaths and, decorating eleven Christmas trees with lights along Main Street, and at the Village Green Gazebo, Main & Melville Road, Gergras Park and Northside Park. All work was completed with the help of volunteers from the Farmingdale Women's Club, Farmingdale Fire Department and Beautification volunteers and our Village DPW staff.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26, 2017 – St Patrick's Parade down Main Street beginning at 1PM

May 29, 2017 – Memorial Day Parade and Services at Village Green 10AM

## A FEW REMINDERS

**Street Lights:** The Village has an intergovernmental agreement with 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.

**Good Neighbor Courtesy:** Please bring your recycle and garbage cans in as soon as possible after pickup. Please try to park in front of your home, as your neighbor may be expecting company and the need the space in front of theirs.