

FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

APRIL 2011

www.farmingdalevillage.com



Mayor George "Butch" Starkie
Deputy Mayor Patricia A. Christiansen
Trustee Cheryl L. Parisi
Trustee William Barrett
Trustee Ralph Ekstrand

Moving In The Right Direction

Dear Fellow Residents,

Your Village Board has been busy meeting every week to work on many important issues including a much needed new master plan, updated sign regulations, and new building codes to bring our Village into the 21st century. We want to keep and preserve the positive things we love about living in the Village while looking at necessary changes, particularly in our downtown Main Street area, to keep it relevant and viable for future generations. Please try to attend some of the many upcoming outreach sessions (scoping) to join in the discussions. Your input is valuable to us.

One of the pressing issues presently facing the Village Board now is the need to fund new fire trucks. One possible solution we've discussed involved cutting one of the three 8-hour shifts from our staff of full time, paid dispatchers and using the money saved on salary and benefits to help pay part of the debt service on a bond. The shift to be eliminated would be determined by the Commissioners and Chiefs of the Village Fire Department. The funds raised from the bond would be used to pay for the much-needed new safety equipment. The duties of the one full-time dispatcher eliminated would then fall upon the Nassau County 911 system (FireCom) which is already included in your Nassau County real estate taxes. Surrounding communities, including South Farmingdale, have relied on the Nassau County 911 system to provide these services on all shifts for many years now.

We have discussed this option because it affords us the ability to provide the needed fire-fighting apparatus for our volunteers and the safety of the community, and fund that purchase by eliminating what could be argued as a duplicated service, thereby minimizing the impact on your Village tax bill.

Recognizing that this is a sensitive issue, we had planned on placing the decision to either retain or eliminate all dispatchers on the ballot as a referendum for March 2011 so that all Village residents would have the opportunity to vote on this issue. Unfortunately, we have since been informed by the State of New York that using taxpayer funds to vote on this referendum is illegal.

Raising taxes, even to pay for needed safety equipment is always a tough decision, especially when we are dealing with numerous financial issues. For example, we are faced with substantial increases in the cost of Health and State Retirement, the need to continue with the repaving of roads to protect our infrastructure, and a pending short fall of approx. \$800,000.00 in the Village Fire Department Length of Service Award fund. These are just some of the reasons we are working so hard to come up with ways to do more with less.

While it seems that the elimination of a paid fire dispatcher on one shift at the Village Fire Department to help pay for needed Fire Trucks might be an obvious choice, especially when these services can be supplied by the Nassau County 911 system during that shift anyway, we recognize that this is a sensitive issue and the residents of this community should have the opportunity to be heard. Quite honestly, it has become a sensitive issue among the board members as well as we are split on this decision. That said, we stand together in our desire to do what's best for our tax payers. That is why we are asking you to attend future meetings (first Monday of the month) and join in the forum as we consider all options before making this important decision.

BOARD MEETINGS: 1st Monday of the month
May 5th: 8:00 pm
June 6th: 8:00 pm
July 5th: 8:00 pm



#924 & #926 - New Trucks

Pictured below are the two newly purchased fire trucks - #924 Heavy Rescue Pumper and #926 Ladder truck. The Village has been able to sell two of the three trucks no longer in use.



#926 and #924 in their new home!



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Inc. Village of Farmingdale
361 Main Street
Farmingdale, New York 11735

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Farmingdale
We've got it All!





FireCom - 911

There are 71 fire departments in Nassau County. FireCom presently handles 40 fire departments full time and 4 ambulance corps full time. The list of those being served by FireCom is below.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Bellerose
Bellerose Terrace
Floral Park
Floral Park Centre
Garden City Park
Mineola
New Hyde Park
South Floral Park
Stewart Manor
Freeport
Point Lookout-Lido
Inwood
Meadowmere Park
Valley Stream
Woodmere

East Rockaway
Lynbrook
Malverne
Rockville Centre
Bayville
East Norwich
Glenwood
Oyster Bay Atlantic Steamers
Oyster Bay Fire Co. No. 1
Roslyn Rescue
Roslyn Highlands
North Merrick
Elmont
Franklin Square
Roosevelt
South Hempstead

Uniondale
West Hempstead
Albertson
East Williston
Plandome
Port Washington
Williston Park
Carle Place
South Farmingdale

AMBULANCE CORPS

Mineola VAC
Bellmore-Merrick EMS
Wantagh-Levittown VAC
Atlantic Beach Rescue

VILLAGE PREPARES TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF MAIN STREET

This probably comes as a surprise to many of you but the Village does not own Main Street, Nassau County does. I don't know how that came to pass but it is a fact. Nassau County has approached the Village many times over the years asking to divest itself of the road and the responsibilities associated with that ownership. The prior proposals never seemed to be to our advantage. The Board and I believe the latest proposal, which will return Main Street to excellent condition by correcting the flooding issues in numerous locations, create new curbs and aprons north of the RR tracks and completing the remainder of brick and concrete walks, is beneficial to the Village. This would complete a large portion of our "Streetscapes" project.

Owning Main Street allows us local control of the heart of our Village. With our soon to be released updated Master Plan, the Board will be considering some parking changes, traffic calming and other traffic measures to make Main Street safer for car traffic and pedestrians alike. As a County owned road, we were required to "Ask Permission" for even the simplest request. This is one of the reasons why we never painted stalls after the repaving work two years ago. The County requires 23' stalls while we wanted to retain the existing 18' stalls. We would have lost a significant number of parking spaces if we did what the County required.

I personally want to thank Legislator Joe Belisi and County Executive Ed Mangano for this latest proposal. We will keep you informed after we get the final plans and details.



Sign up for "CONSTANT CONTACT"
at www.farmingdalevillage.com

As this very, very long winter finally draws to a close, we will all be delighted to see flowers on our Main Street, Village Green, Melville Road Triangle Park, Northside Park and Grengas Park. The Beautification Committee, comprised of volunteers whose efforts are geared toward beautifying our Village, is preparing to plant flowers in our planters as well as hang Balcom Geranium baskets from our lamp posts along Main Street and in our park areas. Planting is scheduled for two Saturdays, May 14th and May 21st at 9:00 AM at Village Hall beginning with coffee and bagels. Our DPW staff will rehang the American Flags and our Village will be ready to celebrate Memorial Day on May 30th followed by a summer filled with lots of events at our Village Green. Since, in addition to Main Street, we are now planting in all our park areas, many more volunteers are needed and welcome. Please bring your gardening gloves and trowels.

The goal of the Beautification Committee is to retain our small town charm, create a pleasant atmosphere for all our residents and visitors and provide a unique environment which will help us maintain a thriving downtown business climate. During the past year, the Committee has assisted the Village Board and Historical Society with a planned redesign of the monument area at Village Green. A new monument honoring those who fought in the Civil War will be dedicated at Village Green on Memorial Day and the existing War monuments will be relocated within the Green creating a "Memorial Walkway". The "hardscape" portion of the work will be paid for from parkland fees paid to the Village by funds generated from new development. There will be no cost to the Village taxpayers. The Historical Society has raised funds for the new monument.

Please join your friends and neighbors on these two Saturday mornings. For any additional information, kindly contact Deputy Mayor Pat Christiansen at Village Hall (249-0093) or pchristiansen@farmingdalevillage.com.

SCOPING - 4/13/11 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION - BOA

The idea of "scoping" is the opportunity to re-view ALL studies and make sure we have left no stone unturned. If it was believed that we needed to study noise, it would be up to the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee to decide yes or no to that request. It is important that we confirm that there are no other issues, specific to our Village, which would require additional study.

As part of the scoping process, several meetings will take place; the first of which will be held at the Library on April 13th at the Farmingdale Public Library at 7:00 pm. We hope to see many of our residents at this meeting. Come be part of the solution.

SAND REMOVAL FROM ALL OUR ROADS

This is just a friendly reminder that street cleaning has begun. Please try to remove all vehicles from the street during the early morning hours. This enables our street cleaning crew to clean curb to curb and not have to go around parked cars.

Please report all potholes in the Village to Village Hall at 516-249-0093.

THANK YOU TO THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

This has been a very cold and snowy winter. Our DPW staff has done an outstanding job of clearing our roads and keeping them safe and passable. Thanks guys for a great job! It is much appreciated.