



FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

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DECEMBER 2012
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Moving In The Right Direction

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

Beginning on October 25th, the Village's Department of Public Works commenced preparations in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy. Personnel worked through the weekend removing flags, flower pots, trash cans and securing that which could not be removed. All trucks were filled with gasoline as were the emergency generators. Gasoline and diesel oil tanks were filled. The Village Fire Department similarly prepared for the forecasted storm. Cots and food were brought to the DPW Headquarters as well as the Fire Department since personnel would be remaining on site throughout the storm.

On the morning of October 29th, the Village Administrator and Superintendent of Public Works drove throughout the Village making note of some leaning utility poles and reporting same to LIPA in the hopes that they would be secured before the onset of the storm. They also confirmed that all preparations were completed.

Village Hall staff began receiving calls of power outages at 1:30 PM. Tree limbs were falling and taking utility wires with them. The DPW personnel manned Village equipment and continued to work clearing trees as they fell until midnight when wind gusts exceeded safety limits. They remained at the DPW garage throughout the night and resumed work at daybreak. The Village Fire Department personnel remained in the fire house to answer all emergency calls. They also sent a truck and firefighters to assist Massapequa where there were 12 working house fires.



At daybreak, our DPW Superintendent, Administrator and several Board members drove throughout the Village to assess the damage – it was extensive! A list was compiled of all downed trees, utility poles and structural damage. Thankfully, there were no personal injuries. Our DPW staff began by clearing debris from streets to provide access for first responders. Our Village Administrator and the Mayor and Trustees sought assistance from LIPA by participating in conference calls twice daily for ten days. The Mayor reached out to officials of the Town of Oyster Bay and our Nassau County Legislator for additional supplies of diesel and gasoline fuels to supplement our resources. One of the most pressing issues was to restore electricity to the water wells on Ridge Road. Two of the three wells were running on generator power and in the event it failed, we would have had a water emergency affecting all of our 9,000 residents. Through persistence, electricity was restored to the wells on Thursday, October 31st.



The Hurricane was followed by the nor'easter which required snow plowing in addition to the work already being performed by our staff.

DPW personnel worked from daybreak to sunset through to November 10th and are still continuing with the removal of debris from residents' curbs. Over 800 tons of debris has been collected at our Jackson Avenue location ready for the chipping machine.



The Mayor and Village Administrator visited the two substations in the Village multiple times each day to report where outages still existed. As more out-of-state electrical workers became available to work in our area, we opened the doors of Village Hall and the Fire House to house these men. They remained through November 15th. Power to 99% of the Village was restored by November 8th.

While we did not suffer the severe devastation as has some other portions of Nassau County, the Village and its residents were greatly affected by Hurricane Sandy. The efforts of our DPW personnel, first responders and Village Staff were extraordinary. Special thanks are also due to former Mayor Starkie for the use of his dump truck – it was our only method to collect large amounts of debris. Hopefully, we will never have a reoccurrence of an event of this nature.



HURRICANE SANDY CRIPPLES FARMINGDALE



A Message from Andrew Fisch, Superintendent of Department of Public Works

Now that winter is around the corner and we've seemed to dodge the bullet last year, our VOF DPW team is ready for whatever old man winter has in store for us. Our equipment has been tuned, the salt and sand has been purchased and the snow emergency plans drawn.

There are over 18 miles of roads in the Incorporated Village of Farmingdale. The responsibility for plowing and maintaining these roads lie within different jurisdictions (Nassau County, New York State and the village). While the majority is the responsibility of the VOF DPW, there are some major thoroughfares that are maintained by other agencies. Melville Road and Merritt Road are maintained by The Nassau County DPW while Fulton St (Route 109) and Hempstead Turnpike/Conklin Street (Route 24) are maintained by New York State DOT.

All designated snow emergency routes are sanded, salted and plowed first. Next are the feeder streets to allow access to the main roads followed by dead ends and cul-de-sacs. Any cars parked on a snow emergency route (designated with red signs) **MUST** be moved off the streets before any snow storm. ***It is imperative that every effort is made to move cars from the streets.*** This will help get the roads plowed more quickly and efficiently. Please remember that Village Law requires that Village residents must remove parked cars from the streets for a minimum of 18 hours after a snowfall of 2 inches or more. If your household does not have adequate off street parking please make arrangements with a neighbor, who does have space if available. This will enable our DPW staff to clear the roadways and to facilitate safe traveling throughout our village. Residents are also responsible for keeping their sidewalks free from ice and snow. Please do not blow or shovel snow from driveways or sidewalks into the street. It is a hazard to all vehicles. If you have a fire hydrant in front or near your home make it visible and free of snow, it could mean life or death...

If you have elderly or special needs neighbors, please check on them to see if they require any assistance. Please take extra care when driving in bad weather. If we all follow the rules we can get through whatever Mother Nature brings us this winter..

For information regarding snow clearing operations please call the proper agency:
Village maintained roads: DPW: 516-249-0111
Nassau County Roads: NC DPW: 516-571-6900
NYS DOT: 1-631-952-6778
Town of Oyster Bay Highway Dept: 516-677-5757

