



## BEAUTIFICATION NEWS

At 10:49 AM, Saturday, September 22nd, Fall arrived in the northeast. At that same time, volunteers began to prepare Main Street for the season for our residents and in anticipation of the many visitors to our Village over the Columbus Day Fair weekend. Towards that end, they planted mums and cabbages in the planter boxes, hung straw wreaths along Main Street, planted the street sign baskets as well as planting mums at the Main Street/Melville Road triangle, Village Green and Gerngras Park.

During the summer months, the Committee met and discussed additional decorations on the east side of Main Street and lit wreaths within Village Green. With the replacement of the light poles in the Green, through the Nassau County Grant received by the Village, we will now have the ability to utilize wreaths with lights since these poles are equipped with exterior outlets.

Holiday decorations will begin to appear on November 17th and 24th all in advance of the Tri-Centennial Tree Lighting on November 27th. Since more decorations are planned for Main Street, many volunteers will be needed to join the committee on those Saturdays to help transform our Village into a Holiday Wonderland. Please join us on the 17th and 24th beginning at 9:00 AM at Village Hall with bagels and coffee.

All residents of the Village are welcome to become part of the Beautification Committee 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 fund. New volunteers are encouraged to leave their name at Village Hall or email Deputy Mayor Pat Christiansen at [pchristiansen@farmingdalevillage.com](mailto:pchristiansen@farmingdalevillage.com).

The Committee wishes to congratulate James Keenan, June 2012 graduate of Farmingdale High School. James was awarded the Farmingdale Youth Council Scholarship. To be considered for this scholarship, the applicant is required to participate in community service. James has been a faithful volunteer with the Village Beautification Committee during his high school years. James has begun his college studies at Boston College and we wish him all the best!

## FARMINGDALE VILLAGE FLAG

Two troops from Farmingdale, Troops 601 and 57, were recently recipients of a village flag. They are pictured flying the Village flag along with their troop flag on separate camp outings.



## YELLOW RIBBONS ADORN TREES ON VILLAGE GREEN



Serina Iserino is making Yellow Bows to remember our troops overseas. Her grandson, Bobby (pictured above) is serving in Afghanistan.

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Throwing pet waste into storm drains is illegal. Federal, New York State and Local Municipal regulations prohibit illegal or "illicit discharges" to storm sewer systems and are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. Bagged or unbagged, pet waste thrown in storm sewer grates, openings, drains, or manholes is an example of an illicit discharge, which is a major cause of water pollution. The best way to get rid of pet waste is to flush it down your toilet (without the bag) or to throw the bagged waste out with your regular household waste.

## A LABOR OF LOVE

Have you ever seen a fire truck or an ambulance responding to an emergency and think about the individuals on those vehicles? Have you ever passed the Farmingdale Fire Department and wonder why someone would volunteer to become a firefighter or Emergency Medical Service provider?

The Farmingdale Fire Department has a long and proud history dating back to the 1880's as Farmingdale was starting to develop and expand. Although Farmingdale and the fire service have seen many changes, one constant has been the commitment and dedication of the members of the Farmingdale Fire Department. We are, and always have been 100% volunteer and come from various walks of life. No one receives monetary compensation for protecting the lives and property of the residents of Farmingdale.



Some members join because they have family members involved, some which go back several generations. Others join because they are looking for something interesting and challenging to do. Regardless why they initially join, their common thread is love of community and wanting to make a difference. Our members have deep connections to the community in which they live. Because of this they are willing to find the time and make the sacrifices it takes to give back to the town that has given them so much. I firmly believe that in life you should give more than you take. Being a member of the Farmingdale Fire Department gives someone the opportunity to make this town a better place to live.

When a member joins the Farmingdale Fire Department they are put on a probationary period, typically for one year. During that time they are expected to respond to emergency calls, in house trainings, meetings, work details and training at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy. After completing their probationary period and become a class A firefighter, they are still expected



to respond to emergency calls, trainings, meetings and work details. Their training at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy goes from basic classes to more advanced and challenging classes such as hands on firefighting, vehicle extrication and confined space. Emergency Medical Personnel are expected to complete an EMT class, which may take up to 6 months to complete. After several years, members may take classes that will prepare them to be an officer within the department. The Chiefs and Officers not only control emergency scenes, but also have administrative duties such as overseeing response percentages, training compliance, equipment maintenance, budget and purchasing responsibilities. In addition to the above, the members of the Farmingdale Fire Department are involved with community events such as parades, fairs, Santa patrols, and most recently hosting car shows on Main Street. These events strengthen the bonds with the community in which they serve.

There are many qualities that firefighter or EMS provider must possess. One quality is that a member must enjoy new and challenging work. They must be able to work as a team and as an individual, sometimes under stressful conditions. They must demonstrate enthusiasm, be innovative and maintain a positive attitude at all times. It is important that a member is honest, non judgmental and driven by strong values. They must be selfless and willing to put the best interest of the organization before themselves.

The success of the department is dependant upon the commitment and dedication of our members. In order to be successful it requires that members are hard working and be willing to make sacrifices. This may mean responding to alarms at a moment's notice, usually when dinner is on the table, in the middle of the night or during a thunderstorm. As you can see there is a lot of time devoted into being a volunteer firefighter. So why do people do it? As stated before it comes from love of community, but there are other benefits. It is difficult to put into words the emotions you feel after helping someone in need. It is very rewarding to know that you helped someone's bad day become a little bit better. Being a volunteer firefighter is about neighbor helping neighbor, friend helping friend. The members you work with become like family and that is why firefighting is called a brotherhood. The friendships you develop as a volunteer firefighter will last a lifetime. There are also tax breaks and college scholarships available by being a member of the Farmingdale Fire Department. After serving the required time, members may be entitled to a Length Of Service Awards Program. Some members have also chosen careers as firefighters or EMS providers.



Being a firefighter or EMS provider can be a mixed blessing. We get to see people at the worst time of their lives. We also get to see people at their best. The more dire and intense the situation, the better we must be. This is when all of the preparedness and training takes over and falls into place to achieve a positive outcome, or at least preventing a bad situation from getting worse. Being a firefighter is sometimes dangerous, difficult, dirty and tough work. That is why we encourage all of our members to engage in a physical fitness program. Vince Lombardi, famous coach of the Green Bay Packers, once said "I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle-victorious". Once a member truly understands the importance of being a firefighter or EMS provider it is difficult to hold them back. They keep coming back for more. They have a passion for what they do and it runs through their veins. That is why I call being a volunteer firefighter a labor of love.

Having been a member for almost 36 years and serving as Chief for my second time, I am not only honored, but privileged to be working with a group of talented, dedicated and committed individuals who enjoy being involved in the fire service.

If you think you have what it takes to help out and give back to your community, we would like to hear from you. If you are at least 18 years old, male or female, and a U.S. citizen, please stop by the firehouse on any Sunday morning or Wednesday night to see what it takes to become a member. We also have a junior firefighter program for teenagers who are at least 13 years old.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." Marjorie Moore

Frank Romano, Chief, Farmingdale Fire Department

## PROCLAMATIONS GIVEN TO EX-CHIEF KEN TORTOSO and NICK CUPAS



At the September 4th Village Board meeting, Ken Tortoso was presented with a Proclamation from the Mayor and Board of Trustees for his service as Chief of the Village Fire Department.

On September 21st at a Retirement Party, Nick Cupas was honored for his 25 years of service to the Village.

We thank them both for their time.



### VILLAGE GREEN BENCH DEDICATION

On August 27, 2012, the Mayor and Trustees dedicated a bench in Village Green in memory of Arthur Crespo which was donated by his family. Pictured are Mrs. Crespo, his mother, and his brothers and sisters with the Mayor and Board.



# FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

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

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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

Dear Fellow Residents,

I am amazed that the summer has come to an end and the talk of the town is already about the upcoming holiday season. But, we had a wonderful summer in our Village. The weekly Village Pops concerts were very well attended and provided excellent entertainment for all. How better to spend a Wednesday evening enjoying an ice cream treat while listening to wonderful music? Thanks to Brad DeMilo and the volunteer members of the band for playing their 30th season in the Village. Movie nights were certainly a big hit, especially with our young residents. At the showing of the movie *Lorax*, over 500 people joined us on the "Green" to enjoy ice cream, popcorn and juice and watch the movie on the big screen. Each of the other four movies shown this summer was well received by the audience. We were also fortunate to feature the play, "The Andrew Brothers", produced by Studio Theatre of Lindenhurst. Another great evening in the Village!

Another exciting event for Farmingdale was the PGA's Barclays Tournament at Bethpage Black. Village officials worked closely with representatives of the PGA and LIRR to facilitate transportation of all the golf fans to the Park and minimize any inconvenience to our residents. It was a great week for the golfers and spectators alike.

Our Village Fire Department also provided entertainment in the form of three car shows on Main Street during August. It was fun to see all the cars – old, new and luxury – and meet our neighbors as we walked along our Main Street and enjoyed all it has to offer.

All and all, it was a very busy and enjoyable summer!

I am pleased to advise that the Village has received a Park Improvement Grant as part of the Nassau County Environmental Bond Act in the amount of \$200,000. This Grant has been appropriated to Village Green (\$62,500), Main Street/Melville Road Triangle Park (\$62,500) and the new Park to be constructed on Secatogue Avenue in front of the Hilton Hotel. The Village Green plans, begun in 2010 with the construction of the Memorial Walkway and installation of the Civil War monument, will be completed. These plans include the replacement/addition of energy efficient light poles (replicating those on Main Street), a new flag pole adjacent to the Gazebo and proper lighting for the flag pole at the entrance to the Green. Paul Fogelberg, the landscape architect engaged to design and draw up the plans for Village Green, will be working with us on landscape plans for the renovation of the Main Street/Melville Road Triangle. This work should be complete by Spring 2013.

Two new local laws are currently in the process of being presented to the Public. One concerns the Business "D" District whereunder permitted uses would be expanded to include apartments, condos and co-ops in addition to the already permitted use of town houses; and the second local law would lower the age requirement for senior citizen housing from 62 to 55.

The fall season promises to be as busy as the summer with the Fire Department's Columbus Day Fair on October 5th through the 8th, the Rag-A-Muffin Parade, sponsored by the Rotary Club, on October 27th, the Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Parade on November 17th, the Beautification Committee's decorating schedule and the Holiday Tree Lighting on November 27th. We hope you can plan to attend these events.

I encourage you to attend the Village Board meetings. The Trustees and I value your input on the work we are doing for all Village residents.

Enjoy the fall harvest time and all its offerings including our new Farmers' Market being managed by A Taste of Long Island. Open every Wednesday and Sunday in Parking Lot 7 located at South Front Street, you'll find a variety of Long Island's best produce, wines and desserts.

I look forward to seeing you around the Village!

Mayor Ralph Ekstrand



**PLEASE REFER TO THE VILLAGE WEBSITE FOR FALL LEAF COLLECTION**