



FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

GEORGE J. GRAF, Mayor

December, 2004

A Message From Village Mayor **GEORGE J. GRAF**

There is something special about our Village during the holiday season. To see our Main Street come alive with our holiday decorations and watch the spirit of the season take over is truly a great feeling. The holiday season kicked off with the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday parade down Main Street. Despite blustery weather a great time was had by all. Thanks to the Chamber for putting together the parade each year and setting the tone for the upcoming holidays.

The Village held its sixteenth annual holiday lighting of the Village's Tri-centennial Tree. Our Village and the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society sponsored this year's event in cooperation with the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Farmingdale. It was very fitting that on our Village's 100th anniversary, we started a new tradition, holding the festivities at our recently completed Gazebo. The Gazebo was beautifully decorated with lights and garland earlier in the week by Deputy Mayor Joe Rachiele, Village Attorney Gregory W. Carman, Jr., and his son, Gregory, III, DPW Superintendent Fred Zamparelle and Village residents



Olga & Bob Romano and Paul Leo. Many thanks to them for giving up their time on the weekend to help add that special holiday touch to the Gazebo.

Our Village Historian, Bill Johnston did a masterful job of organizing and emceeing the program and of course, adding a little history lesson along the way. Thank you, Bill. As always the South Shore Brass Ensemble entertained us with a variety of holiday music. Each year, my personal favorite part of the ceremony, is the performance by our local elementary school chorus. This year, the Fifth Grade Chorus of Albany Avenue performed

wonderfully under the direction of Catherine Martin. Deputy Mayor Rachiele, with help from the choir, was able to yell loud enough (for Santa to hear the signal!) to light the tree in the Village Green. I would like to thank the Kiwanis Club of Farmingdale for supplying the very welcome and much needed hot chocolate and donuts after the event.

Also deserving special thanks are the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce and its President Pete Yovine and Executive VP Ralph Ekstrand, for not only sponsoring the event, but for the donation of the new candy cane lights now hanging throughout the Village. Their efforts have certainly added some more cheer to our Village streets. Our final thanks have to go to The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society and Larry Jorgenson, their President, for their continued support of the Gazebo project and their tradition of giving back to the community.

As we celebrate the holidays please think about all that we have to be thankful for, in this community and this country, and to remember those among us who may be in need of some assistance. Please donate a toy, clothing or food to anyone of the many organizations collecting at this time of year or better yet donate your time assisting them. On behalf of the Village Board and myself I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and a healthy, prosperous New Year!

Holiday Tree Lighting



Pictured: l-r. Village Historian Bill Johnston, Deputy Mayor Joe Rachiele, FBHS President Larry Jorgensen, Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce President Pete Yovine, Village Trustees Tom Langon and Ted Dorfmeister.
Photo by: Ed Cox

Farmingdale Residents Decorate Village Gazebo



Farmingdale Residents (l-r) Bob Romano, Village Attorney Greg Carman Jr, Gregory Carman, III, Village of Farmingdale Department of Public Works Superintendent Fred Zamparelle, Farmingdale Village Deputy Mayor Joe Rachiele and Paul Leo (missing from photo) volunteered their time to decorate the new gazebo for the recently held Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Their efforts added that special holiday touch to the gazebo.

Village Honors Olga and Bob Romano



Farmingdale Village Residents Olga and Bob Romano received proclamations from Village of Farmingdale Mayor George Graf at the November Village Board Meeting. The Romano's have worked tirelessly on the gazebo and the Columbus Day Fair projects. According to Village Mayor George Graf, "Bob and Olga give unselfishly of themselves and never hesitate to assist our committees in any way. It was a distinct pleasure to present them their proclamations". Mayor Graf went on to say, "We need more residents like them to step forward and get involved with the things that really do make a difference in our Village".

Village Presents Proclamations to Fire Commissioner Kelly and Chief Tortoso

The Mayor and the Village Board were on hand at the Farmingdale Fire Departments Inspection dinner to present proclamations to many of the departments members for their years of service to the community.



Mayor Graf is shown here presenting Mike Kelly a proclamation for his service as a Board of Fire Commissioner, Village Trustee and for volunteering his time and expertise in providing electrical service to the new Gazebo.



Farmingdale Fire Department Chief Rich Tortoso is shown being congratulated by Mayor Graf upon receiving a proclamation for his dedication and service to the Village as Fire Department Chief and in recognition of his handling of the difficult Secatogue Avenue Apartment evacuation.

Let It Snow

Please remember that Village law requires that residents must remove parked cars from the street for a minimum of 18 hours after a snowfall of two or more inches. Try to arrange with your neighbors to make use of their driveways that are not being utilized.

This will ensure that the DPW staff can quickly clear the roadways and facilitate safe traveling throughout the Village. Violators are subject to a \$100 fine. Residents are also responsible for keeping their driveways and sidewalks that surround their homes snow, ice and debris free. Please clear any fire hydrants by your home and do not blow or shovel snow from driveways or sidewalks into the street. If you have elderly or special need neighbors, please check on them to see if they need any assistance.



Fulton Street (Route 109) to get new planting boxes



Village Mayor George Graf (right) Trustee Ted Dorfmeister, DPW Superintendent Fred Zamparelle and a DOT Supervisor inspect the new “brick” aprons along Fulton Street (Route 109).

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) road contractors have been working on repaving and replacing the medians on Fulton Street. The end of the construction is in sight and we know the final result will have made the minor inconveniences worthwhile. The portion of Route 109 from Hempstead Turnpike East to the Suffolk County border, while in the Incorporated Village, is a State road and its maintenance falls upon the NYS DOT. The original plans had called for the grass medians to be replaced with the current “fake brick” concrete that many sections of Hempstead Turnpike currently have. Many village residents have contacted us voicing their concern and displeasure over the concrete medians. We are pleased to announce that due to the diligent and tireless work of Fred Zamparelle, our Department of Public Works Superintendent, a good portion of the medians will now have planting beds instead of the concrete. Mr. Zamparelle met with the NYSDOT officials and asked them to consider the Villages concerns. The State agreed to put in the planting boxes in the sections where they will not interfere with sight visibility, turning lanes or future roadway plans. The new planting boxes will be landscaped similar to the areas on Hempstead Turnpike (by Sarant Cadillac). This is all being done at no cost to the village. The NYSDOT will also be responsible for their maintenance. In the future, with the assistance from our Beautification Committee, we hope to plant perennial bulbs in these areas.

Mr. Zamparelle, also asked the NYSDOT, if it was possible, since their contractors were already working on Route 109, to resurface Staples Street. They reviewed the request and agreed to redo Staples Street from the Village line to route 109. This was done at a substantial cost savings to the Village.

It's this type of creative initiative that members of your Village government are performing to continually assure that our Village is a better place to live work and play.



We Get Letters.....

A Note Of Thanks

On Wednesday evening, December 1, the Village conducted the sixteenth annual holiday lighting of the tricentennial tree, a tradition which grew out of the Tricentennial of Settlement observance.

This year's program took place at the new gazebo on the Village Green. This was especially appropriate in view of the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Village's incorporation this year.

As coordinator of this event, I would like to thank the many individuals and groups, which made this joyous ceremony possible despite the blustery evening.

- Deputy Mayor Joe Rachiele for his special role in lighting the tree.
- Fred Zamparelle, DPW Superintendent and his crew; their role was critical to the program! The tree and the gazebo are beautifully decorated for the season.
- John Giordano, Village Clerk/Treasurer and the Village Hall office staff for their help.
- Dr. Roberta Gerold, Superintendent of the Farmingdale Public Schools, Director of Fine Arts Rita Padden, Catherine Martin, Choral Director at Alabany Avenue School, the talented youngsters of her chorus, and Mi Hee Hwang, their accompanist; Barbara Pandolfo, Director of the library/audio-visual service, and Jeffrey Pritzker, District A-V Technician who set up and manned the excellent public address system, another vital role!
- The Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society for funding the publicity ads and fliers.
- The Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce for presenting the South Shore Brass Ensemble again, a holiday gift to the community for all 16 years of the event. This ensemble always adds a special sparkle.
- The Kiwanis Club of Farmingdale for providing refreshments as they have for so many years in the past. This was a most welcome service on a cold windy night!
- And the throng of local residents who came out for this brief but joyous occasion at the beginning of a special time of year for all. Again, many thanks to all who made it possible. Happy Holidays!

Bill Johnston
Historian, Village of Farmingdale

November 5, 2004

Dear Mayor Graf,

I have lived in Farmingdale for the past thirteen years. I cannot tell you how pleased I am since you took office. It is a pleasure to read the Farmingdale Village Report and see the positive changes that have taken place in the community. As I walk in town I can see the programs first hand.

Thank you for you and your staff efforts in taking on such a monumental challenge. I thank you for caring about our community.

*Sincerely yours,
Robert J. Esposito
Farmingdale, NY*



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Chamber Holiday Parade



Mayor George Graf and Village Trustee Ted Dorfmeister join Chamber of Commerce President Pete Yovine (holding banner) and Chamber members Ruth Tarlow, Santa Claus (aka Dr. Walter Priestly), Angela Cowen and neighborhood residents and children who participated in the Chambers annual holiday parade.

Photo by: Ed Cox

Village of Farmingdale
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