



# FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

GEORGE J. GRAF, Mayor

January, 2006

## A Message From Village Mayor GEORGE J. GRAF

As your elected officials, the Village Board of Trustees and I, are committed to a providing a successful strategy for the future of the Village by improving the quality of the Village services and providing them in a more efficient manner and cost. We want to maximize the value of our assets, tax revenues and infrastructure purchased with tax dollars, for the benefit of our core constituents, the Village taxpayers. Our goal is not just to do more with less, but to do so without sacrificing any quality of service. This administration is dedicated to taking this concept one step further, to improve quality of service at a reduced cost. This persistent pursuit of excellence has led your elected officials to undertake a thorough review of the job functions of every Department of Public Works (DPW), administration, and courts personnel positions. In achieving this goal, this administration will have positioned the village to prosper for years to come.

As this administration completes our second year we continue to move forward with the repairing and modernization of the Village infrastructure. Take a drive down Eastern Parkway to the Water Tower and you will see the results of long time Water Supervisor Donald Otts clean up efforts. Various materials are now segregated for efficient use; unkempt shrubbery has given way to a sharp clean look that would make any village homeowner envious. Dangerous conditions such as a capped well that seeped a steady stream of water within feet of heavy electrical wiring and the collapsed barbed-wire fencing separating the backyard area from the LIRR tracks have been fixed. The process of water meter reading and the corresponding administrative billing procedure to both residential and commercial addresses is about to take a giant technological leap forward as this administration implements an automated wire-less sys-



tem that requires minimal manual input. Gone will be the days of numerous homeowners receiving estimated bills only to find out one or more years later that they had underpaid and now owe a tremendous bill. This streamlining will allow the Board to plan for the eventual implementation of semi-annual or quarterly billing. Which at this time is impossible to accomplish since the current 1970's technology requires the labor-intensive task of house-to-house readings, in addition to the manual compiling and distribution of billing notices. Replacing this antiquated system

will be phased in over the next three years.

The main DPW facility at Ridge Road underwent a massive clean-up effort costing village taxpayers over \$100,000 to remove hazardous waste and material in addition to yards of refuse (10- ten yard dumpsters) that was allowed to build up over the past decade plus. The main garage because of the years of neglect is in need of a complete electrical overhaul, installation of heating, and a new roof. The Board will be carefully reviewing the most economically feasible ways to make these repairs while taking into consideration the future needs of the department and what new technology exists to make the building more efficient. The board also, after reviewing the department, instituted changes that resulted in an annual savings of over \$200,000. You can rest assured that we will continue to monitor and evaluate the needs and performance of every department to assure that they are performing up to par, within budget while providing the highest level of service.



Water District entrance on Eastern Parkway.



One of the many dumpsters of debris removed from the Ridge Road facility.

## Village Welcomes New Clerk



The Village is pleased to announce that David Smollett has been appointed new Village Clerk/Treasurer. Mr. Smollett most recently was the Deputy Administrator for the Village of Lynbrook. He also served as their Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer during his tenure there. He was previously a Senior Budget Analyst for the New York State Financial Control Board overseeing New York City's finances. His experience includes serving as an Information Technology Security Systems Consultant for ATT, Control Data and Axent Technology. Dave holds a degree in Public Administration & Finance from Baruch College. "Dave brings years of municipal management experience to us, we are confident his vast knowledge will help us to continue to reduce costs while providing the best possible service to the Village", stated Mayor Graf. He lives in Lynbrook with his wife Eileen. He has two daughters, a son and 2 grandsons. He is Vice President of the Lynbrook Little League and serves as VP of the Lynbrook Excellence in Education Foundation.



### Reminder

Village code requires all residents to clear their sidewalks within four hours after the snow fall ceases.

Code is not in effect between the hours of 9PM -7AM

## Palmer's American Grill Opens



Mayor Graf (center) and Nassau County Legislator Ed Mangano (right) perform the ceremonial ribbon cutting for Palmer's American Grill. Palmer's is located at 123 Fulton Street (in the newly renovated Farmingdale Shopping Plaza). They are open for lunch and dinner. Chef John Catalanotto brings over 35 years of experience to the restaurant specializing in steaks, seafood and pastas. Their facility is available for private parties and business functions. Pictured l-r: Chef John Catalanotto, Village Clerk Dave Smollett, Kristina LaBarbera, Deputy Mayor Joe Rachielle, Harrison Graf, Mayor Graf, Owner Jerry Rossi, Owner Ron LaBarbera, Legislator Ed Mangano.



Owners (l-r) Ron LaBarbera, Robert Gebbia and Jerry Rossi proudly display their citation.



# Village Enters Into “Mutual Aid Agreement”

The Village of Farmingdale has entered into an agreement with the Villages of Massapequa Park, Lindenhurst and Amityville to provide and receive aid in case of an emergency. The “Village Public Works Mutual Aid” agreement allows the Village of Farmingdale to get additional services and help in case of a storm or catastrophe. In turn, our Village would help the other three locations if they needed so. The agreement includes the use of manpower as well as vehicles. Each of the Villages will still be able to claim money for damages from the federal or state government in the event that the government declares a state of emergency, such as from a storm. Under normal circumstances the villages would not be reimbursed if they worked with another municipality. With this agreement the villages are entitled to still receive funds from the government. Hopefully it will not have to be used, but it’s good to know that it exists. The Village also has an agreement with the Village of Amityville to share specialized equipment. We loan them our sewer cleaning and hydro vacuum equipment and they loan us their bucket truck (allowing us to put up various seasonal decorations and remedy other situations requiring that type of equipment). Another agreement the Village has is with SUNY Farmingdale. The Village stores road salt and sand on their property and in turn we loan them our street sweeper for special campus events such as their commencement ceremonies. The Village Board and the Superintendents are constantly investigating all opportunities to reduce costs and expand our services by cooperating with our neighboring villages as well with the Town of Oyster Bay and Nassau and Suffolk counties.

## New Holiday Lights For Main Street



One of the things that makes our village so festive each year is the decorations on Main Street and the surrounding roads. Over the last two years the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce has donated over 40 candy cane lights (at a cost of \$16K) to the Village. These beautiful lights have certainly brightened the Village and the Village graciously thanks the chamber for donating them. While these new additions have spruced up the area, the hanging decorations that cross Main Street have seen many winters and are in need of replacement. The garland light strings were originally purchased by the Chamber of Commerce in the 1980’s. Mayor Graf and Deputy Mayor Joe Rachielle visited some neighboring towns that recently purchased new decorations. Like everything else these days, the technology and styles have dramatically changed. The new lights are better made and easier to install. The Board is reviewing the lights now because the companies that manufactured and sell street decorations offer substantial discounts (at least 30% savings) for purchases made in January. The Board has already approved the funds to purchase new lights and have circulated catalog pages to the attendees at recent trustee meetings to receive input from any interested residents. Dept. of Public Works Superintendent Fred Zamparelle has been reviewing the options and styles and will be making a recommendation on which type of lights the Village should purchase (keeping in mind installation and removal costs, durability and the unique dimensions that exist on Main Street). Our intentions are to purchase new non-sectarian decorations such as snow flakes that will continue to enhance the unique ambiance that our village has.



## WHEN IT SNOWS



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 Village Department of Public Works (DPW), there are some major thoroughfares that are maintained by other agencies. Main Street, Melville Road and Merritts Road are maintained by Nassau County while Fulton Street (Route 109) and Hempstead Turnpike/Conklin Street (Route 24) are maintained by New York State. All Designated snow emergency routes are sanded, salted and plowed first. Next are feeder streets to allow access to main roads followed by dead end streets and cul-de-sacs. Any cars parked on a snow emergency route (designated with red street signs) **MUST** be moved off the street when the snow begins to fall. It is imperative that every effort is made to remove cars from the streets. This will help get your road plowed more quickly and efficiently. Please remember that Village law requires that residents must remove parked cars from the street for a minimum of 8 hours after a snowfall of two or more inches. Please do not blow or shovel snow from driveways or sidewalks into the street. It is a hazard to all vehicles.



**For information regarding snow clearing operations please call the proper agency:**



**Village Maintained Roads: Department of Public Works: 516-249-0111**

**Nassau County Maintained Roads: NC DPW: 516-571-6900**

**New York State Maintained Roads: State Transportation Department: 631-952-6778**

**Town of Oyster Bay Maintained Roads: Highway Department: 516-677-5757**





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PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN

## FARMINGDALE'S FUTURE

Visioning meetings being held to update the Village of Farmingdale's Master Plan February 9, 11 & 15



Thursday, Feb. 9th 7:00-9:00 PM Opening Presentation (Auditorium)  
Saturday, Feb 11th 8:30-10:00 AM Walking Tours-Locations TBA  
10:30-12:00 PM Q & A , Visual Preference Survey  
1:00-4PM Table Designs  
Wednesday, Feb 15 7:00-8:30 PM Closing Presentation

**Workshop Location: Weldon E. Howitt Middle School, 50 Van Cott Ave.**

**For more information on these meetings, please call Village Hall at 516-249-0093**

**For more information on Vision Long Island visit [www.visionlongisland.org](http://www.visionlongisland.org) or call 631-261-0242.**

Village of Farmingdale  
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