



# FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

GEORGE J. GRAF, Mayor

March, 2006

## A Message From Village Mayor GEORGE J. GRAF

Assuring that the quality of life that we enjoy in Farmingdale is the highest it can be is a commitment that the Village Board and I take very seriously. Increased code enforcement has allowed the Village to more effectively address quality of life and safety issues. Working alongside police officers from Nassau County's 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct, our code enforcers help ensure compliance with the Village Code. These codes protect our residents and visitors, while enhancing our quality of life. The code enforcement officers can issue notices of violations for parking offenses and Village code dealing with property maintenance. Parking codes prevent illegal parking and stopping on busy roads which interfere with traffic flow and present dangers to pedestrians and motorists. Building codes ensure that homes, apartments and stores comply with safety regulations intended to prevent overcrowding, fire hazards, ground water contamination and other serious problems. Violators of the Village code and moving violations (issued by Nassau County Police Officers within the Incorporated Village) must appear before the Village Court Justice.

The Village of Farmingdale's code enforcement staff consists of 1 full-time supervisor and 7 part-time officers (2 patrol evenings/weekends and 3 patrol the Conklin Street vicinity in the AM). These code enforcement officers have worked diligently to restore the quality of life that residents have come to expect. Over the last two years residents have requested increased enforcement of the codes that affect their health, safety and welfare. These are just a few that have been addressed:

**Safety issues on Conklin Street – RESULT** – No stopping fines increased from \$75 to \$125 and number of tickets written to violators rose to 2,000 in 2005 from 600 in 2003.

**Lack of security in the evenings and on weekends – RESULT** – Instituted evening



and weekend patrols to provide increased safety in our parking lots and our streets. **Illegal apartments in absentee landlord houses – RESULT** – 68 absentee landlord houses prosecuted for illegal multiple apartments in the past 2 years vs. only 14 in 2003.

**Requests for changes to our parking lot restrictions– RESULT** – A Trustee meeting held last summer with village merchants resulted in 2 hr parking restrictions changed to 3 hrs.

**Health & Safety issues at Secatogue Apts. – RESULT** – 177 summonses issued to the landlord resulting in \$22,000 in fines collected.

Having our Code Enforcement Officers working with our local police helps assure that our streets are not only safe but maintained to the village's high standards. Their increased presence ensures that our good neighbor regulations are adhered to and any unsafe conditions are addressed and corrected promptly. *The question you have to ask yourself is whether or not the Village is a cleaner, safer community than it was two years ago.*



**Result** – Instituted evening Pictured: Daytime code enforcement officers with Supervisor Joann Edling (r).

# Village Welcomes New Deputy Clerk



**Village Mayor George Graf swears in new Village Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Kaye.**

The Village is pleased to announce that Elizabeth Kaye has been appointed Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Ms. Kaye most recently was the Village Clerk/Treasurer of the Incorporated Village of Roslyn Harbor. She was previously an Assistant Budget Director for St. Christopher-Ottolie in Sea Cliff. Her experience includes serving as an Assistant Controller for Fidelity New York Savings Bank, Budget Director for Pan American World Airways and a

Senior Auditor at Arthur Anderson. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Hofstra University and is a Certified Public Accountant. "We are thrilled to have someone with Elizabeth's experience join our administrative team" stated Mayor Graf. Ms. Kaye lives in Glen Head. She has seventeen year old twin boys. She enjoys cooking, reading and gardening.

## Thank You!



The Village Board of Trustees would like to thank all the residents who moved their vehicles from the streets during the February blizzard. Your extra effort enabled our DPW crews to properly clear the streets from side to side. If your street was not cleared because vehicles were left on them, please contact your neighbors and see how you can work with them to move the vehicles when it snows again.



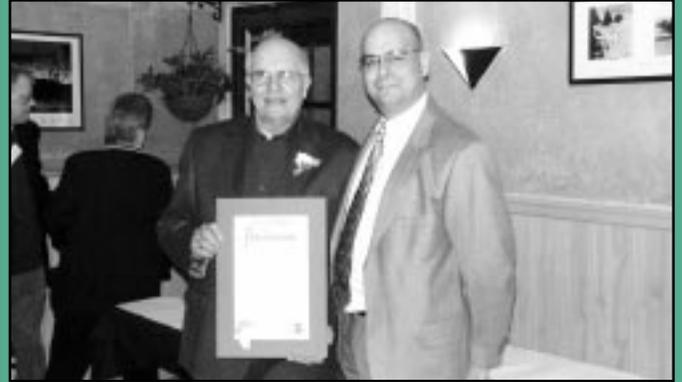
## Mid Term Update

During the past two years the current board has worked very hard to restore fiscal responsibility, repair and update the Village infrastructure, improve the quality of life and keep Village government open for all interested parties to participate in. The Board is proud of the many accomplishments since taking office. Some of the many initiatives implemented:

- Restored fiscal responsibility
- Implemented State Controllers corrective action plan (eliminating Village credit cards, implementing policies for cell phones and vehicle use)
- Implemented across the board cost reductions (DPW, Legal, Admin) of approx \$500,000
- Signed Attorney Retainer Agreement that specifies services covered
- Cleaned up and repaired DPW and Village Hall buildings
- Completed Gazebo project and initialized plans to complete the landscaping
- Implemented a 10% water bill reduction and approved a new automated water meter billing system
- Created new web site ([www.farmingdalevillage.org](http://www.farmingdalevillage.org)) that includes Trustee meeting minutes dating back to 2002, copies of monthly newsletters, Mayors Columns and Village meeting dates
- Stopped the building of multiple apartment complexes and substantially reduced illegal apartments.
- Added additional code enforcement man-hours, increasing the safety on Conklin Street and adding weekend and night patrols
- Initiated the Vision process to help update the Villages Master Plan
- Increased funding to seniors and youth organizations
- Installed Crosswalks and signs to make the Howitt Middle School area safer
- Started the Phase IV roadway improvement process (to be paid for through expense reductions, revenue enhancements and grants)
- Instituted a full review and update of the village codes.

The Board looks forward to welcoming two new Trustees (at the end of this month) to the Board and continuing with their efforts to make the Village of Farmingdale the best place to live, work and play.

## Garofalo Honored



Deputy Mayor Joe Rachiele (right) is pictured with Frank Garofalo (left) at Terry G's Steak & Seafood Grill where he presented Mr. Garofalo with a proclamation for his many years of service to the Farmingdale Youth Council, its member organizations and the children of the Farmingdale Community.



## SOLD ON EBAY

Thanks to the efforts of Deputy Mayor Joe Rachiele, the three thirteen year old code enforcement cars were sold on Ebay for \$4825. The old large V8 engine cars were replaced with more fuel efficient 4 cylinder cars last year. Deputy Mayor Rachiele said, "listing the cars on Ebay reached more potential buyers, resulting in almost twice the amount we expected."



## VILLAGE ELECTION DAY:

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21st**

**Polls Open Noon to 9PM**

**Vote at Village Hall**



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## Assisting our Seniors

**G**iving back to those who have given so much over the course of their lives has always been one of the goals of the Village Board. During the past two years the current administration has passed a number of initiatives that expanded the benefits our seniors depend on to assist them in their daily lives. The Village Board would like to remind our seniors to take advantage of these programs:

**Taxi discount program.** When the Yellow Taxi Corp. contacted the Village Board to inform them that due to insurance, gas and maintenance increases they were canceling the discounts-for-seniors program, the Board negotiated a new deal with taxi company that not only saved the program, but also streamlined it. Under the new program, the taxi company no longer requires the coupon books each senior had to carry with them. Instead, Village seniors only need to show an identification card with a Village address in order to qualify for the discount. The Board was able to preserve the discount program and at the same time to eliminate the red tape for our seniors.

**Tax relief.** When the current Administration took office, seniors were entitled to a real estate tax exemption based upon their income levels. These levels had not been adjusted for 15 years, during which time market

conditions and social security cost of living adjustments increased our senior's incomes. In many cases, this increase caused their income to exceed the threshold for the tax exemption disqualifying them for the intended tax relief. The Village Board, with the desire to ease the tax burden on our seniors, increased the income level required to qualify for the tax exemption by sixty percent, enabling more seniors to qualify for the exemption.

**Farmingdale Seniors organization.** Like all organizations and households, the increasing costs of utilities and transportation have forced the curtailment of many activities. The Seniors Citizens of Farmingdale Club is no different -- they too were feeling the effects of escalating costs. The Village increased our contribution to them enabling them to continue to provide the same level of support they've always provided in the past.

**Woodbridge apartments** – Responding to the concerns and frustrations of the senior residents, the Board aggressively pursued the owner regarding enforcing the agreement to provide an on-site superintendent. The result is the facility now has an on-site superintendent for the first time since the apartment complex opened in 1997.

You can be assured that the Village Board will continue to look for additional ways to assist our seniors.



### Sorry For the Delay

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the February Issue of the Village Report was delayed within the US Postal Service System. The Postmaster and the Village apologize for the inconvenience.

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