



FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

GEORGE J. GRAF, Mayor

March, 2007

A Message From Village Mayor GEORGE J. GRAF

As the third year of this administration comes to a close, I am pleased to report that your Board of Trustees is completing their most productive year yet. Our sights have expanded from repair and rehabilitation of DPW sites, Village Hall, and restoring fiscal stability, integrity and discipline to the budgeted expenditure process to preparing for the future. In highlighting the past year, your Board of Trustees has:

- Completed a resident participated Master Plan visioning process that will provide guidance to future development in keeping with the principles of Smartgrowth.
- Approved a building moratorium giving the Board and residents the opportunity to study the results of the visioning and make informed recommendations resulting in new local laws.
- Approved the next phase of the roadway resurfacing project with minimal impact to the taxpayer.
- Initiated the replacement of the current outdated water meter billing process by replacing every residential water meter with a new wireless transmitting meter that will enable the implementation of quarterly billing. This will completely eliminate the frustrations and inaccuracies of estimated billing.
- Committed to renovate all parkland and acquire new open space for conversion to parkland.



Last month I wrote of assisting the individual resident to become the best they can be as an important component in providing *good government*. This month I will demonstrate another important component of *good government*, one that this administration has stood for since assuming office, that of *accountability*. Your elected officials chose to run for the positions of Mayor and Trustees to be part of the solution to what has ailed our village for so long. To that end, progress on many fronts must be demonstrated. As my father would tell me when I was young

and I talked of a grand plan such as becoming an Eagle Scout or the other passion of my youth, distance running, "George, don't tell me what you're going to do, show me". Below and on the following pages, I will follow that advice with an expanded version of the "**Project updates and other goings-on**". In this version, I have divided the Boards accomplishments into four sections:

- Master Plan update / Moratorium (bottom of page 1)
- Administrative / Departmental (page 2)
- Redevelopment / Renovation (page 3)
- Parkland Beautification and Acquisition (page 3)

The breakdown by section will help you, the taxpayer resident; more easily review and also appreciate the diverse as well as complex nature of your proactive local government.

PROJECT UPDATES AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

Master Plan Update / Moratorium

- July 2006 - Vision LI presents initial recommendations based on February 2006 public meeting.
- Fall 2006 / Winter 2007 - Board reviewed, analyzed and formulated revisions.
- Winter 2006-07 – **New local laws passed:**
 - Control and planning of residential home sub-division.
 - Expansion of office residence / commercial areas along Conklin & Fulton (Rt. 109).
 - Illegal housing - Increased fine to \$3,500 and increased enforcement.
 - Parkland fund – Fee per building lot to be utilized for park and village green improvement.
 - Architectural Review Board – Planning Board will assume new responsibility.
- February 2007 – Complete Visioning Plan and zoning map added to website. (Visit www.farmingdalevillage.org website to view entire documents).
- March 2007 – Building moratorium extended to June 2007.
- Village code revision expected to be completed by Summer 2007.

PROJECT UPDATES AND



The following update is provided to help keep you abreast of administration projects and other projects of significance within the Village boundary:

Administrative / Departmental Finances

- November 2006 – Moody's Investors Service upgrades credit rating to A3 from Baa1, citing vastly improved financial position (i.e. increasing equity reserve, elimination of water revenue transfer and improved cost controls)
- Fall 2006 – Successfully completed \$2.6 million roadway bond to fund Phase IV road construction.

Code enforcement

- Calendar 2006 – 2 Part-time (P-T) positions eliminated due to reduction in contractor enforcement along Conklin Street. Currently 2 P-T evening and 3 P-T morning / afternoon officers employed.
- Winter 2006 - Began enforcement of new illegal housing law.

Courts

- Winter 2006 – Hired firm to streamline ticket response and reduce court appearance.

Water Meter Automation

- July 2006 – Installation of new software system for wireless reading completed.
- Wireless meter replacement proceeding on schedule.
- Quarterly billing - projected to start in November 2007.

Fire Department

- February 2007- Completed purchased of a new rescue ambulance (cost \$163,000).
- Fall 2006 - Red Alert system (to speed rescue response time) activated.
- October 2006 – Purchased new Chief's car.
- February 2007 – Decommission and proposed sale of pumper truck 922.
- Winter 2007 – Discussion of long-term capital plan for equipment replacement under the direction of Deputy Mayor Joseph Rachiele.

Village Hall Renovations, Technology Initiative & Contracts review

- On-going technology upgrade to streamline and improve productivity and communication.
- March 2006 - Vehicle fuel monitoring system installed.
- October 2006 - Personnel time monitoring system installed.
- November 2006 - Building Dept. software to streamline the permit construction process implemented.
- July 2006 – Partial gutter replacement (funded by \$25,000 grant from Nassau Legislator Dave Mejias).
- Fall 2006 / Winter 2007 – Under the direction of Trustee George "Butch" Starkie, review of service contracts (new and established yearly renewals) involving Village engineering firm, Administration, and DPW, resulting in savings of thousands of dollars. His expertise complements the detailed expense review established when this administration took office under the direction of Trustee Thomas Langon.

Dept of Public Works (DPW)

- January 2007 – Purchase of 3 new multi-purpose trucks to replace aging / high maintenance fleet.
- Upgrade of Ridge Road facility improving safety, electricity and extending the life of the building.
- Proposed the purchase of a new street sander vehicle for new budget year (est. cost \$180,000).

AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

Redevelopment / Renovation

130 and 150 Secatogue Avenue apartment complexes (private project)

- August 2006 - Purchase of property by Fairfield properties Inc.
- Interior renovations of the building to be completed by Spring 2007.
- Rehabilitation of exterior facade of the building to be completed by Summer 2007.

Roadway Construction (Phase IV) (public project)

- August 2006 - Water main replacement completed.
- Roadway replacement employing state of the art traffic calming technology (funded by an \$180,000 grant from State Senator Kemp Hannon) on Prospect Street scheduled to commence in March 2007. Project expanded to include Puritan and Quaker lanes (funded by an additional \$300,000 grant from State Senator Kemp Hannon).

Farmingdale Plaza Storefront (private project)

- December 2006 – Opening of Starbucks completes restoration of the Plaza.

675 Conklin Street apartment complex (private project)

- Purchase of property by Fairfield properties Inc. completed in Spring 2006.
- Rehabilitation of exterior facade of the building and parking lot completed in Fall 2006.

Parkland Beautification and Acquisition

Village Green Renovation

- Secured \$25,000 grant from Nassau Legislator Dave Mejias for new handicap accessibility, landscaping and additional estate fencing.
- Tricentennial tree moved next to the Gazebo under the direction of Trustee Starkie.
- Winter 2007- Gazebo area portion of brick walkway completed.
- Center portion of brick walkway to be completed by Spring 2007.

Acquisition of new “Northside pocket park” property at Bethpage road and North Main street

- Secured with the assistance of Nassau Legislator Dave Mejias the purchase of County property for \$1,000 for the express purpose of preserving the land as a pocket park.
- Secured \$40,000 grant from Nassau Legislator Dave Mejias for materials and equipment.
- Expected completion by Summer 2007. *(Look for article in the April Newsletter)*

Grengras (Staples/Hudson Street) park

- Secured \$25,000 grant in 2006 and \$10,000 grant in 2007 from Nassau Legislator Dave Mejias for new playground equipment and replacement of fencing.
- Expected completion by Summer 2007.

Beautification Committee

- Street light Holiday decoration on Main Street provided by the Mayor and Board. Village Green and Street decorations installed under the direction of Trustee Patricia A. Christiansen.
- Decision made for placement of Village Green water fountain and donation of funds by Fire Dept.





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Village Departments Mobilize to Help Residents at Ivy St. Fire

On Saturday, February 17, 2007 at 6:00 a.m. the Village Fire Department responded to a major fire at the Ivy Street Apartment complex. The Farmingdale Fire Department extinguished the blaze in less than forty minutes. Neighboring South Farmingdale, East Farmingdale and Bethpage Fire Departments also responded to provide mutual aid. Their fast and skilled response prevented the fire from spreading to any of the neighboring buildings (six in total) and ensured the safety of the residents in the complex. The fire caused major damage to two dwelling units and the common hallway in building #26 as well as significant smoke and water damage to eight other units. Following protocol established under New York State law the Fire Department alerted Village Building Department Superintendent Ronald Craig who responded to the scene at 7:30 AM and began coordinating the first stages of recovery and restoration.

Mr. Craig notified Donald Ott, Superintendent of the Water Department, to shut off water to the building because pipes were damaged during the blaze. With the fire out and all utilities shut off the Building Department went to work helping the representatives of the building coordinate the immediate cleanup and securing of the site. The building's insurance company was notified and within hours of the fire board up crews was on site securing the building and cleaning up debris. An electrician was called to the scene to inspect the building's electric and isolate all affected units. A plumber was also called to the scene to isolate the unaffected units so that water service could be restored and heat supplied. The affected tenants were assisted by the Red Cross. Village Representatives were on hand throughout the whole day to work with the residents and management staff.

Over the next few days the Building Department worked closely with the property owner, architect and contractor to fast-track the submission of a permit application for the restoration of the building. By expediting the plan review process and issuance of the permit for the fire restoration the Building Department has continued to work tirelessly to get the residents back into their homes as quickly as possible. A process that could take up to six months was streamlined, by the diligent work of the building department enabling the units to be occupied in just about a month's time. While we hope we never have to see our Village Departments put to work in this way, it is rewarding and reassuring to see first hand what they can do.



Farmingdale's Bravest start to extinguish the fire.



What the Farmingdale FD confronted upon their arrival.



The inside of the apartment that was gutted by the fire.

Photos by Phillip LoNigro

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING:
Monday, April 9, 2007 7:30 PM

** please note: the meeting was originally scheduled for April 10**

Village of Farmingdale
361 Main Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735

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