



# FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

GEORGE J. GRAF, Mayor

November, 2006

## A Message From Village Mayor GEORGE J. GRAF

**D**uring the past few weeks I have had the pleasure of attending grand openings of two new businesses on Main Street. Both **InfiniteYARNSinc** and **George Craytons LooangFooPai Kung Fu School** have chosen our Main Street for their growing businesses. Both owners Anne Schneck and George Crayton are thrilled to become part of our fair town and welcome everyone to their establishments. Both have transformed the recently vacant stores into beautiful establishments that certainly will enhance the business mix of our town. While Main Street has become well known for its "restaurant row", InfiniteYarns and LooangFooPAi Kung Fu will bring customers/clients from other areas to our town.

If you have driven down Main Street at night recently, you can't help but notice the new yarn store. The vast colors and selection of yarn is amazing. They offer everything you need for knitting and crocheting including classes for all levels. LooangFooPai Kung Fu also has classes for beginning to experts, for serious martial arts enthusiasts to people who just want a great cardio workout. As I spoke with Grand Master Crayton, I was amazed to learn about his following and the growing popularity of his martial arts school. Both these businesses are going to bring many new visitors to our town. Visitors who will want to eat, shop and bank after their classes. We hope to bring more businesses like this to our town. It was rewarding to hear both Anne and Grand Master George tell me how happy they are to



be open in Farmingdale. They both had the opportunities to open elsewhere and they both chose here. I urge all of you to stop into both places to learn more about their businesses. Whether you like to knit or kick, stop in and welcome them to Farmingdale. Our shopping district is undergoing additional changes. The Farmingdale Plaza, with the addition of Starbucks, is almost complete. I also attended the ribbon cutting for Papa John's in the shopping center. Wings over Farmingdale will soon be opening in what was the old Mane Event. Building Department Supervisor Ron Craig constantly works with the new business owners to take into consideration the aesthetics of the Village when designing their storefronts. Many times

businesses are just taking over a store front and we really do not have any opportunity to change anything. There are times, however, that the new owners must obtain permits or variances to operate their businesses. When this happens, the Village can and does suggest signage, awnings, landscaping and facade changes that will keep the architectural look of the area. While I am probably beating the proverbial "dead horse", please plan on shopping in Farmingdale this holiday season. Make the time to meet the owners of the businesses that truly make our village unique. I hope you will all join me for another wonderful holiday tradition, the lighting of the Tricentennial Tree on November 29 at 6PM. Please come and help us usher in the 2007 Holiday Season.



Mayor Graf and Trustee Christiansen with Grand Master Crayton (front row, third from left) and his staff.



The Mayor and Trustee Patricia A. Christiansen with InfinteYARNSinc. owner Anne Schneck.

**Next Trustee Meeting-December 11 at 7:30 PM**



# VETERANS DAY 2006



Village Officials help commemorate Veterans Day. L-r: Village Trustees Tom Langon, Village Trustee Patricia A. Christiansen, VFW 516 Commander Doug Makoski, NY National Guard Colonial Neidich Ryder, Retired Command Sergeant Major Robert Bucaria, NY National Guard Deputy Commander Stephen Bucaria, Village of Farmingdale Mayor George Graf, VFW NY Vice Chairman Bob Fullum.



Our local veterans and Cub Scouts joined together to remember and honor all those who have served and are serving our country.



## Moody's Upgrades Village Credit Rating

Village Mayor George Graf is pleased to announce that Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the village's credit rating to "A3" from "Baa1". This bond rating upgrade allows the Village to take advantage of more favorable interest rates offered in the municipal bond market. Moody's cited the vastly improved financial position of the Village since its last rating in 2001 and particularly the last 2.5 years. The implementation of improved cost controls, purchasing practices, management changes, conservative budget practices and a commitment toward continuing to grow the Village's general fund balances were all major issues cited for the favorable rating.

### Farrell Appointed Acting Village Justice



law firm of Agoglia, Fassberg, Holland & Crowe, PC from 1990- 2003. She presently is a trial attorney with the firm of White, Quinlan & Staley, LLP in Garden City. Ms. Farrell was originally appointed as the Acting Village Justice by Mayor Willis Carman in January 1989 remaining in that position for 14 years. The Acting Justice fills in when the sitting Justice is not available.

Mayor Graff recently appointed Eileen Farrell as acting Village Justice. Ms. Farrell, her husband Tom Lavelle and their two children Billy (25) and Patrick (24) have lived in the Village of Farmingdale for 24 years. Ms. Farrell graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1987. She worked in the litigation bureau of the Nassau County Attorney's Office from 1988-1990. She was a partner in the Mineola

### FBHS Installation Dinner



Mayor George J. Graf (second from left) and Trustee Patricia A. Christiansen (fourth from right) recently attended the 43rd annual Installation Dinner of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society. Dr. John Staudt (far right) of the Department of History, Hofstra University was the speaker and installing officer. Others shown (left to right) are James McCullagh, FBHS trustee; Jo Ann Krapp, FBHS trustee; Frank Bondietti, treasurer; Dolores McAfee and Jo Anne Bihary, FBHS trustees; Mildred Johnston, FBHS vice-president; and William Johnston, village historian.

### Kiwanis Rag-a-muffin Parade

Despite the winds and on and off drizzle, more than thirty Rag-A-Muffins took part in the Annual Kiwanis Rag-A Muffin parade. Because of the weather conditions the parade was limited to the Village Green instead of the customary march down Main Street. The spirit and enthusiasm was still there as the little tikes paraded around the Village Green sidewalks oblivious to the blustery conditions. The parade ended under the gazebo where the judges made their final decisions for the various costume winners. The Village would like to thank the Kiwanis Club, its members and its President Rosemary Trudden for organizing this event.



### Village Grants Verizon Franchise

On October 16th, 2006 the Board of Trustees adopted a local law granting to Verizon a franchise to permit them to supply cable television as part of their FIOS system to residents and businesses in Farmingdale. Verizon's FIOS system is their fiber optic transmission of cable and telephone lines to their customers. The franchise and the cable television contract signed with the Village allow Verizon to compete directly with Cablevision within the Village. A number of municipalities within the State have now given a franchise to Verizon with the belief that additional cable television carriers will enhance competition, reducing rates and improving services to customers. The public hearings were well attended by residents who strongly supported the Board's action. Mayor Graf commented, "While we were not the first municipality to be able to bring choice in cable television to our residents, we were right up there. Once Verizon was able to demonstrate that their installation of their fiber network was well under way, the Board of Trustees knew that we should move quickly to get the competition between Verizon and Cablevision under way. We owed this to our residents. I wish to thank my fellow Trustees and staff in making choice a reality in Farmingdale." The franchise and contract must be approved by the New York State Public Service Commission at their November meeting.



Village of Farmingdale Mayor George Graf (back L) and Village Trustee Patricia A. Christiansen (back r) are shown with Kiwanis President Rosemarie Trudden (back 2nd left) and some of the marchers.



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## The Village Tricentennial Tree

**By William J. Johnston-Village Historian**

In 1987, Farmingdale commemorated the 300th anniversary of its settlement by Thomas Powell and his family back in 1687. The year-long celebration, which was sponsored by 36 community organizations, was called the Tricentennial of Settlement. When it concluded, there was an amount of money remaining. The consensus of the Coordinating Committee was that this fund the purchase of an evergreen tree, to symbolize continuing growth, progress, and vitality of Farmingdale in its fourth century. A fine Colorado blue spruce was selected, and with the permission of the Village Board, planted on the Village Green. A bronze historical marker was placed at the foot of the tree.

Suggestions were soon made that the tree be lighted during the holiday season. The committee agreed to this with the firm guidelines that the spirit of the lighting ceremony be historical, secular and civic, and that the event be inclusive to all. The first lighting took place on November 30, 1989. Numerous historical occasions have been celebrated at the Tricentennial Tree, including Thomas Powell's 350th birthday anniversary (1991), and the 100th anniversary of the village's incorporation (2004). The tree when planted was a modest size, but over the years grew much taller and wider. In October 2006, it was moved to another location on the Village Green near the gazebo/bandstand, to allow it more adequate growing space.



**The Tricentennial Tree is shown in its new location.**



### **Tricentennial Tree Lighting November 29**

On Wednesday, November 29 at 6 PM, the 18th Annual Holiday Lighting of Farmingdale's Tricentennial Tree will take place at Gazebo on the Village Green. Much tradition surrounds this joyous event. The South Shore Brass Ensemble has provided seasonal music for all 18 years, a gift of the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce. The Farmingdale Bethpage Historical Society has funded the publicity throughout and the Kiwanis Club of Farmingdale has provided refreshments. A chorus from one of the Farmingdale Public Schools has participated each of the 18 years also. The Village is proud to be part of this festive occasion. Please come and join with our community to usher in the holiday season.

**Village of Farmingdale  
361 Main Street  
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