



# Village of Flower Hill Newsletter Winter 2010 - 11



Dear Residents:

I want to wish you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season and best wishes for the coming new year.

All of our Boards have been meeting and accomplishing a great deal of work. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the members of the Village Boards all of whom serve on a volunteer basis. My recognition and appreciation go to the members of the Board of Trustees, the Zoning Board, Building Permit Review Committee and Planning Board for taking time away from their families and personal lives to serve our Village.

Foremost in the news and on all of our minds these days is the state of our economy. We are all finding ways to cut our expenses and be economical in our homes and businesses. Here at Village Hall we are also making a concerted effort to reuse and recycle, cut costs and make do without.

We would love to see you at our monthly Board meetings (check the calendar inside) which are always open to the public. It is the perfect opportunity for you to bring us any questions or concerns you may have, and to learn about what is going on in the Village. I hope to see many of you there in the coming year.

*Mayor Charles W. Weiss*

## **SNOW SEASON REMINDER**

Please remember that the snow plows are unable to plow properly when cars are parked on the roads. **Parking is prohibited on Village streets when two inches or more of snow has fallen or is forecast by the National Weather Service.** This will allow all streets to be plowed curb to curb. **Parking may be resumed when the snow has stopped falling and the roads are cleared.**

Please be courteous to your neighbors and **DO NOT shovel snow from your driveway back into the plowed street.** We receive many complaints that the plows block driveways with snow, this is because there is nowhere else for the snow to go. You must plow out your own driveway.

**VILLAGE  
ELECTION DAY  
TUESDAY,  
MARCH 15, 2011**

Polls will be open from noon to 9 pm. Up for election are four Trustee positions each for a two year term.

## **THANK YOU SENATOR JOHNSON!**

The Village of Flower Hill has been awarded a \$50,000 legislative grant (from the New York State Dormitory Authority) thanks to the efforts of State Senator Craig Johnson. The funds were used to offset the Village's out-of-pocket cost for the 2009 Paving and Drainage Contract within the Village. We also received Consolidated State Highway Improvement funds toward the project, lessening the tax burden on our residents.

## **VILLAGE TO CEASE PASSPORT SERVICES AS OF JANUARY 31, 2011**

The US Department of State is initiating new security measures to prevent fraud in issuing passports. They are discontinuing to allow any facility that is authorized to issue birth certificates will no longer issue passports. Although the Village rarely issues birth certificates, we have the responsibility for issuance in the case of home births or an emergency birth at St. Francis Hospital. We will still maintain a supply of necessary forms but you will need to use another acceptance facility. The nearest facilities are the Port Washington and Manhasset Post Offices. It has been a pleasure serving the public in this capacity. We hope this change will not cause any inconvenience.

## 2011 MEETING DATES

The **Board of Trustees** holds a monthly public meeting on the first Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at 8 pm:

Jan. 3	Apr. 4	Tues., July 5	Oct. 3
Feb. 7	May 2	Aug. 1	Nov. 7
Mar. 7	June 6	Tues, Sept. 6	Dec. 5

The Board also has a monthly work session on the last Monday of each month. The public may observe these meetings but they may not speak or address the Board.

The **Board of Zoning Appeals** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, when there are cases to be heard:

Jan. 19	Apr. 20	July 20	Oct. 19
Feb. 16	May 18	Aug. 17	Nov. 16
Mar. 16	June 15	No Sept. meeting	Dec. 21

The **Building Permit Review Committee** meets on the third Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at 7 pm, when there are cases to be heard:

Jan. 24	Apr. 11	July 18	Oct. 24
Tues, Feb. 22	May 23	Aug. 22	Nov. 21
Mar. 21	June 20	Sept. 19	Dec. 19

The **Planning Board** does not schedule regular meetings but meets as needed. All Planning Board meetings are noticed in the local press and on the Village bulletin boards.

The **Village Justice Court** is held on the second (arraignments) and fourth (conferences) Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at 6:30 pm for conference, 7 pm for arraignment:

Jan. 12 & 26	Apr. 13 & 27	July 13 & 27	Oct. 12 & 26
Feb. 9 & 23	May 11 & 25	Aug. 10 & 24	Nov. 9 arraign/conf.
Mar. 9 & 23	June 8 & 22	Sept. 7 & 21	Dec. 7 arraign/conf.

### VILLAGE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

When there is a legal requirement to publish a notice in a newspaper, the Village of Flower Hill uses the following local papers:

Manhasset Press

Port Washington News

Roslyn News

You can find Village notices in the legal advertisement section of each of these papers.



### ENERGY AUDIT

Have you considered getting an energy audit of your home? Homes in the United States are the single largest energy consumer in the world. Over 65 percent of U.S. homes are currently under-insulated, not insulated and/or leaking an excessive amount of air and energy. Due to the air your home leaks every hour, over two-thirds of the oil and/or gas you purchase goes towards heating your backyard. There are several independent companies that will perform a home audit and make recommendations on how you can save. You can locate these firms by searching for "energy audit" on the internet or yellow pages.

### VILLAGE PARK NEWS

There is now a bi-level drinking fountain located in the park for the convenience of human as well as canine visitors. The drinking fountain was a gift to the Village from the past officers of the Flower Hill Civic Association. It is currently being stored for the winter to prevent the pipes from freezing, however, we hope to have it back in place by early April.

County Legislator Wayne Wink has gotten approval from the Nassau County Legislature for a \$25,000 grant to build a playground in Flower Hill Park. The playground, which will be geared towards children ages 2 to 6, will be located on the Stonytown Road side of the Park. We are currently putting the equipment and construction out to bid and hope that by this coming spring, the playground will be ready for its grand opening. We are indebted to Deputy Mayor Bill Clemency and Trustees Norman Glavas and Aviva Pinto who worked so hard in putting together a comprehensive plan for us.

### VILLAGE COMPLETES TRAFFIC STUDY

There has been a good deal of discussion regarding the location of stop signs within the Village, particularly in the westernmost part of the Village in the area around Mason Drive. In order to determine whether the placement of the existing signs are correct and whether any additional signs are needed, we engaged a leading traffic engineering firm to conduct a study.

Dunn Engineering studied the area for over two weeks in order to observe traffic patterns and then used that data to extrapolate a recommendation. They found that upon "evaluation of existing conditions including those volumes and the roadways in the area, indicates that further control of traffic...is not warranted at this time". They further stated that "The public often requests the installation of stop signs on roadways as a perceived means of controlling speed through residential neighborhoods...A proliferation of stop signs leads to driver frustration and disobedience of the regulations. Studies have shown that excessive use of stop signs for speed control can lead to an increase in accidents."

### COUNTY CLERK WARNS OF DEED SCAM

Nassau County Clerk Maureen O'Connell wants to caution homeowners about mass mailings being sent out claiming "The U.S. Government Federal Citizen Information Center website recommends that property owners should have an official or certified copy of their deed." These letters urge homeowners that it is necessary to purchase a certified copy of the deed to their home.

All deeds for property located in Nassau County are recorded and maintained at the County Clerk's Office and **only** the Clerk's Office can issue certified copies of these records, which are equivalent to the original. Once processed the original deed is returned directly to the owner or their attorney. These private companies continue to solicit the purchase of a deed on behalf of the homeowner sometimes for more than 800% over Clerk's Office fees.

County Clerk O'Connell, concerned by these deceptive practices, advocated along with County Clerks throughout the state for the passage of legislation requiring these solicitations to disclose that certified copies of deeds are available directly from the County Clerk for a nominal fee. However, many homeowners continue to be victimized by these scams.

It is **not** necessary to retain a service to get a copy of your deed. Certified copies of deeds can always be obtained from the County Clerk's Office for \$5 to \$10. **Anyone wishing to request a certified copy of their deed can contact Clerk O'Connell's office at 516-571-2664 for further information.**

### WINTER SAFETY TIPS

The effect of a winter storm on your home and property can be significant. Addressing storm exposure in advance is the best way to reduce loss potential. The following guidelines may be beneficial in reducing the negative effects of winter conditions:

- Inspect and repair roofs.
- Ascertain the ability of roofs to withstand possible heavy snow accumulation to prevent collapse.
- Inspect roof drains. Clear all debris that could cause clogging.
- Check sump pumps for proper operation to prevent flooding.
- Check that exposed pipe has been properly insulated.
- Check that sprinkler system has been drained and winterized.
- Check that generators are operational.
- Ensure that temporary heaters are UL listed and approved and have adequate clearance from any combustible materials.

### TAX ROLL INFO UPDATES

In order to avoid late payment penalties, please make sure your tax bill is going to the right place. If you refinanced, paid off your mortgage, or are new to our Village, you may need to update your tax roll info. Please send a written change request to Treasurer Kathy Wade here at the Village Hall.

**VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL  
ONE BONNIE HEIGHTS ROAD  
MANHASSET, NY 11030  
(516)627-5000  
FAX: (516) 627-5470**

POSTAGE PAID  
PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
PERMIT NO. 73  
MANHASSET, NY  
11030

# FLOWER HILL VILLAGE OFFICIALS

**MAYOR**

CHARLES W. WEISS

**DEPUTY MAYOR**

WILLIAM CLEMENCY

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

NORMAN GLAVAS

AVERY RYAN

TAB HAUSER

AVIVA PINTO

ELAINE PHILLIPS

**VILLAGE JUSTICE**

HON. J. BRUCE BYRNE

HON. DENNIS REISMAN  
*Acting Justice*

**VILLAGE ATTY/PROSECUTOR**

JEFFREY BLINKOFF

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

MICHAEL SAHN, CHAIR

PETER COTELIDIS

PETER CRISTOPHER

HOWARD MILLER

DIANE TURNER

RANDALL ROSENBAUM

**PLANNING BOARD**

GRACE MAHLER, CHAIR

JENNIFER RIMMER

RHODA BECKER

KAREN REICHENBACH

MARGIE SUGA

**REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS**

JOHN WALTER

**VILLAGE STAFF**

Village Administrator

RONNIE SHATZKAMER

Treasurer

KATHY WADE

Building Inspector

JAMES GILHOOLY

Code Enforcer

ROBERT ROCKELEIN

Secretary

SUSAN WILLIAMS

Court Clerk

ANN LAURIA-SMITH

Highway Supervisor

SCOTT HISLOP

Highway Crew

JIM BARTON, MARVIN CALDERON, JOE KELLY,  
RICHARD FALCONES