



VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FLOWER HILL

SUMMER 2020

Mayor

Brian Herrington

Deputy Mayor

Randall Rosenbaum

Trustees

Jay Beber

Mary Jo Collins

Frank Genese

Kate Hirsch

Gary Lewandowski

Village Justice

Hon. Dennis Reisman

Susan Williams, Court Clerk

Village Attorney

Jeffrey Blinkoff

Village Administrator

Ronnie Shatzkamer

Village Treasurer

Suzanne Tangredi

Building Superintendent

Peter Albinski

Heather Lanci, Asst. to Building Dept.

Code Enforcement Officer

Robert Rockelein

Highway Superintendent

Richard Falcones

Highway Department

Elmer Guzman

Brandon Hughes

Kevin Kothe

Board of Zoning Appeals

Michael Sahn, Chair

William Clemency

Peter Cotelides

Dr. Arnold Goldman

Diane Turner

Alt: Dr. Glen Rubin

Alt: Norman Glavas



Office of the Mayor

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. The last few months have challenged our community and our nation in ways we never expected. It has reaffirmed my belief we live in the best village in the state and the nation.

It has been great to see the community come alive again through phased reopening and the unity expressed in the community marches for peace and justice. As this newsletter goes to press we have made tremendous progress in fighting the COVID-19 outbreak. However, without a vaccine or herd immunity, risks are still present and that is why we must all continue to take the proper safety precautions.

In this newsletter we will highlight some of the wonderful efforts to help out during the crisis by our local community members, introduce Mary Jo Collins our newest Trustee, provide an update on the budget, give an overview of some new quality of life and environmental laws, remember our friend Mayor McNamara and much more. Please remember that Village taxes are due no later than July 21 due to a special extension we secured from the state for this year.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Village staff who all continued to support our residents in these challenging times. The work changed but our staff rolled with the punches and remained flexible to ensure your needs were met in a safe and responsible way. Please know that our staff is working diligently to support the community as we move forward with recovery and plan out next steps through the reopening process. Do not hesitate to contact them with any questions.

Once again thank you to all the medical professionals, police, fire department, EMT's, and other essential workers who sacrificed so much to help those in need during this crisis. We are indebted to you for all that you did during the crisis as well as what you do day in and day out.

Finally, I want to congratulate all of our graduates! Your hard work and dedication has paid off and we are all so proud of all you have done under very difficult circumstances. This is a reflection of your resilience and a sign of how you will be able to excel in your future endeavors. Good luck wherever your next step may be!

I hope you all have a great summer!

*Sincerely,
Mayor Herrington*

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR



At the May 4th Board of Trustees meeting, the Board appointed Deputy Mayor Brian Herrington to serve out the remaining term left vacant by the death of Mayor Robert McNamara last month, by a vote of five ayes and one abstention. Herrington served as McNamara's Deputy Mayor for his entire time in office.

"I was deeply honored that the Board voted to appoint me Mayor, filling the vacancy created by the untimely death of our beloved Mayor Bob McNamara. Bob was an exceptional and respected man who was dedicated to our Village up until the very end. I am going to honor



Bob's memory by continuing his work of making our Village the best in New York State. Right now we are focused on protecting our residents, preparing to restart the economy, and maintaining fiscal stability" said Herrington.

Herrington's first action was to appoint 20-year Roslyn resident and eight year Trustee, Randall Rosenbaum as his Deputy Mayor. Randall is a member of the Finance Committee, helping to craft the Village budget. He is the Village's Emergency Management Officer and the liaison to the Roslyn Fire Department. He also served as a volunteer member of the Zoning Board before he was elected to the Board of Trustees.

McNamara was stepping down from the position of Mayor but was running for Trustee when the March Village Election was postponed by the COVID-19 outbreak. Herrington will serve as Mayor until the rescheduled Village Election on September 15, 2020 authorized by Executive Order.

RESIDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



When the state went into lockdown for the pandemic many Flower Hill residents stepped up to meet the challenge. Meet just a few of them:

Dr. Rikki Lane lives in the PW section of our Village and has been an ER physician at Elmhurst Hospital for over 20 years, during which she never has seen anything like the overwhelming demand for healthcare caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Rikki took extra shifts and on her rare day off read everything she could about the virus to try to help her patients. Rikki also advocated for help from the State to transfer some patients to less stressed hospitals to ease the burden on hard hit Elmhurst so that it could meet the community's urgent needs.

Julie Kozinn is a resident of Manhasset. When our community shut down, she realized many families would be in financial stress. Working with local businesses, Julie began a program she calls "One Warm Meal" which provides hot meals to the PW community dependent on our local food pantries. Julie raised so much money that her group also was able to provide food that the pantries otherwise would not be able to supply such as meat, milk, eggs, and butter.

Manhasset resident **Alessandra Faglione** and her friends set up a program that organized ordering food and scheduling food drop offs to our nurses, doctors, medical staff and aids in NYC, Long Island and Westchester called "Feed Our Frontline" that was featured on News12 Long Island.

Together with friends, **the Balinsky family** in Manhasset organized Sunday night Bingo games over zoom. The community loved the idea and at one point there were over 150 people in the game! While the community connected with a fun game, they also raised over \$15,000 which has been donated to the PW Parent Resource Center, PW Community Chest, and local food pantries.

Danielle Dayan is a Manhasset resident and talented seamstress. Through her connections with Boy Scouts (Troop 7) Danielle sewed and donated masks to the Community Chest of Port Washington.

Silvia Khurram lives in the Roslyn section of the Village. As soon as the pandemic hit Silvia realized many in the community could be isolated and in need. She distributed a flyer to her neighbors offering assistance. That generosity morphed into the Flower Hill Volunteer Corps. which is a team of more than a dozen people who have created a neighborhood network that provides a safety net for some of our more vulnerable residents.

Kudos to these Flower Hill residents for going the extra mile to care for their neighbors in times of need.



IN MEMORY OF MAYOR ROBERT McNAMARA

It is with great sadness that we inform the community of the untimely passing of our beloved Mayor Robert McNamara on Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

Bob was an exceptional and respected man who was dedicated to our Village up until the very end. He participated in the Board Meeting the week before his passing and was working with the staff and Board through the end of the week despite being ill. We have had an outpouring of messages of support from the community and elected officials recognizing our loss and his tireless advocacy for our Village.

Mayor McNamara was elected as a Village Trustee in the beginning of April 2012 after serving as a member of the Architectural Review Committee. He was appointed Deputy Mayor in 2013 serving under former Mayor Elaine Phillips. He was appointed by the Board of Trustees to become Mayor in 2016, replacing outgoing Mayor Elaine Phillips as she

assumed her State Senate seat. Bob was elected Mayor in 2017 and was instrumental in making Flower Hill the first-class Village it is today.

He led the Village through the ongoing building boom and was the leader behind instituting building impact fees which protects residents from the negative effects of large construction in their neighborhoods. Bob's strong financial leadership kept Village taxes flat despite increasing operating costs across the board. Under Mayor McNamara's leadership the Village is well on its way to acquiring Middle Neck Road from the County after years of fighting for much needed renovations.

The Mayor leaves behind his loving wife Ginny and their three children Susan, Keith and Tim. He will be deeply missed by his fellow Board members, staff and fellow Mayors but he will always be fondly remembered. After the current public health crisis has ended, the Village will be working with the McNamara Family on a community celebration of his life.

MARY JO COLLINS APPOINTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES



At the June 1st Board of Trustees meeting, Mayor Brian Herrington announced that he had appointed Mary Jo Collins to the Village Board of Trustees. Mary Jo Collins is an eight year resident of the Village of Flower Hill, having previously lived in Munsey Park and Plandome since 1995. Collins currently is a fixed income salesperson with Imperial Capital LLC. She has a Bachelors of Science from Douglass College, Rutgers University and a Masters of Arts from Teachers College at Columbia University. She is married to Sean Collins and has two sons, Sean Jr. who is an accountant with Price Waterhouse Cooper and Matthew who is presently serving in the United States Navy.

"I am honored to serve the Village and give back to a community I care so much about. I believe my experience working in the private sector and as a mom who has raised two children here will provide valuable insights to how we manage the Village. I really appreciate Mayor Herrington giving me this opportunity" said Trustee Collins.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Over the past weeks, our everyday reality has changed dramatically and we are in uncharted waters. You are all aware that the state, county, and town have all declared a State of Emergency in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We must all do our part immediately to reduce the spread of this virus. We would like to take a moment to first thank the doctors, nurses, emergency personnel, food service workers, delivery people and many others who are putting their lives and the lives of their families at risk by responding to this crisis.

All residents should continue to practice social distancing, use face masks, and wash hands frequently. If you feel ill you should stay home and contact your doctor. Note that you can still have the virus without exhibiting symptoms and thereby pass the virus on to others. Even if you feel fine, you can put others at risk.

STATUS OF VILLAGE OPERATIONS

In response to this public health crisis we have modified Village operations (until further notice) to continue providing necessary services as follows:

- Village Hall will operate by appointment only. This is to protect our staff and the public from exposure. Contact Village Hall at 516-627-5000 or email Info@VillageFlowerHill.org with any inquiries.
- Documents can be dropped through the mail slot anytime. If they do not fit, leave them outside during normal office hours and call Village Hall to confirm pick up and receipt.
- The playground equipment, sports courts, and dog park are now open as long as masks are worn and social distancing is practiced in accordance with CDC guidelines. The basketball court is still closed as basketball is still on the list of sports that is not yet permitted because of close contact. The walking paths and other areas remain open, but visitors must avoid congregating in large groups.
- The dog park is open. Dog park hours, when dogs are allowed off the leash, are from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. every day. All other times dogs must be on a leash.
- All Board of Trustees meetings are being held via telephonic/web conference until further notice. Residents can find details for participation and minutes at our website or call Village Hall.
- Architectural Review Committee, Village Court and Zoning Board meetings are starting to begin again utilizing web and teleconference. Contact Village Hall with any questions.
- Village Elections have been postponed by the State to September 15 and we will share more information about the voting procedure once we have more details.
- The Village Emergency Management Team is meeting and communicating on a regular basis to assess the situation and determine next steps.
- We are working with our community businesses, like restaurants, to permit operations per the state orders.

In closing we ask that we all practice a little extra humanity, patience and kindness. We live in the best village in New York and we will get through this together.



VILLAGE BUDGET PREPARES FOR COVID-19 IMPACTS

In light of COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board of Trustees adopted a fiscally responsible budget anticipating potential economic impacts.

The Village of Flower Hill Board of Trustees adopted the proposed tentative budget prepared by the Village Finance Committee on April 6, 2020. This is a balanced budget and cuts spending by 6% and kept taxes flat. Any increase or decrease residents are experiencing in their tax bills was due to Nassau County's reassessment process which the Village has no control over.

Significant revenue decreases were anticipated due to the Coronavirus impacting construction projects and real estate transfers. Cuts were made across most departments with summer staff being eliminated, major projects like a new computer server and a laser fiche system for electronic record storage being put on hold and removed from the budget.

The Board achieved a balanced budget that keep taxes flat year over year by tapping into the Village's Reserve Funds. Reserve Funds are a legal mechanism that municipalities can use to fund capital projects or provide financial stability preventing increases in taxes or cutting services. The Village established a policy under previous Mayor Elaine Philips, recognizing the importance of these reserve funds and limiting the reserve fund to 25-50% of the annual Village budget (less Fire contract costs) to be retained as an annual fund balance.

Thanks to smart financial planning, we are prepared to weather a downturn in revenues if they continue to materialize. The Village planned for the worst but left flexibility to make adjustments. With the state allowing for reopening of businesses we are seeing a recovery in the construction and real estate industries which generates most of the non-tax revenue for the Village.

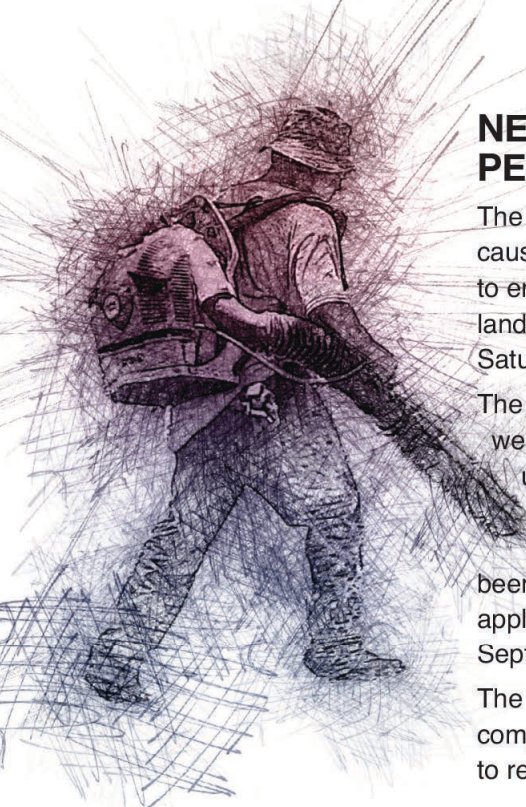
While expenses were reduced, the Board made sure to protect essential services that keep the Village a great place to live, like park and street maintenance, road paving and neighborhood beautification. A \$70,000 mandated increase in the Roslyn and Port Washington Fire District Tax Collections will also be impacting Village residents in those districts.

Highlights of the budget include:

- Revenues projected to decrease by 6%, primarily in Building Permits, Business Permits, and Mortgage Tax collections.
- Slashed expenses accordingly to reflect the revenue decrease with cuts as high as 20% across most departments.
- Non-essential projects were put on hold (i.e. new CPU server, new highway equipment).
- A \$70,000 mandated increase in the Roslyn and Port Washington Fire District Tax Collections

The Finance Committee consisting of the late Mayor Bob McNamara, current Mayor Brian Herrington and Trustee Randall Rosenbaum, also prepared an austerity plan which elements of have been implemented.

This is probably the most challenging budget the Board will ever have to put together because of the unknowns. The focus was on protecting services to residents and not increasing taxes, hopefully there is upside after the crisis and its effect on our Village will not be as bad as we planned.



NEW LANDSCAPER REGULATIONS PROMOTE PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT OF THE OUTDOORS

The Board of Trustees received numerous complaints about landscapers using noisy odor causing equipment on Saturdays throughout the Village when residents are home and want to enjoy their outdoor spaces. Village regulations currently allow construction and landscaping work to take place from Monday to Friday between 8 AM and 6 PM and on Saturdays between 9 AM and 5 PM.

The new regulations will limit commercial landscapers to gas powered outdoor work on weekdays only, excluding gas blowers from June 15 to September 15. We have limited the use of commercially operated gas-powered landscaping equipment on Saturdays year round and will only permit “quiet” landscaping activities on that day. Homeowners will still be allowed to do their own landscaping work on Saturdays. An amendment has been proposed to allow for a resident to apply for a waiver to prepare for social events upon application to the Village. The Board also limited the use of gas blowers from June 15 to September 15th mirroring what other jurisdictions have implemented.

The Village requires all landscapers to be licensed to do work in the Village to ensure compliance with our local code. Our code enforcer has warned all non-licensed landscapers to register. Residents can call Village Hall to check if their landscaper's license is up to date.

NEW POOLS

Questions about new swimming pools are now a hot topic, with many regular summer group and youth activities on hold for this season. The N.Y.S. Codes and the Village Code both define a swimming pool as any vessel which is capable of containing 24 inches or more of water (even if you don't fill it that high). Keeping that definition in mind, family and public safety measures are paramount, and almost identical whether you have an Olympic Size Inground Pool, or a Kiddie Splash Pool.

Regardless of your choice, any inground, semi-inground, or above ground pool requires a permit from the Village, to ensure all zoning and safety regulations are met. There may be some additional requirements, or possible exceptions, and “trade-offs” options, based on your proposed type of pool, along with its proposed location. The most important of these requirements have to do with fencing or other types of barriers, and electrical supply if warranted. Accidental drownings are still far too common on Long Island each summer to even consider circumventing any of these requirements, and many homeowners insurance policies may not cover any accidents which were not legalized by a Village Permit, and Final Inspection for the issue of a Certificate of Completion and Compliance.

Please do not hesitate contact us first before placing any order for purchase or installation, as we are happy to provide an onsite assessment in your rear yard, so you can make an informed and safe decision.

EXISTING POOLS

If you have an existing swimming pool, you may wish to also have an assessment of any safety requirements that you presently either have, or may not have on your property. New York State and Village Codes always require maintaining any and all life safety measures for the life of your pool ownership. These include fences, gates, covers, doors, and other possible hazards.

The Village is offering a free “check-up” for these provisions, and any deficiencies encountered will be requested to be repaired or updated, without any formal enforcement orders or violations, if attended to in a reasonable timeframe. Please call us to schedule a day and time that works for you, and remember that most prevention eliminates the need for a cure!

NEW RECYCLING REGULATIONS

PLASTICS #1, 2, 4, 5 & 6

BOTTLES • FOOD CONTAINERS • DETERGENT BOTTLES
PERSONAL CARE BOTTLES • CLEANING SUPPLY BOTTLES

NO PLASTIC BAGS, WRAPPINGS OR BULK ITEMS (TOYS/LAWN FURNITURE)

PAPER & CARDBOARD

NEWSPAPER • MAGAZINES • PHONE BOOKS • LOOSE PAPER • FOLDERS
CORRUGATED CARDBOARD • CLEAN PIZZA BOXES • FOOD BOXES • MAIL

NO STYROFOAM

METAL & GLASS

CANS • CLEAN ALUMINUM FOIL & TINS • BOTTLES • JARS

NO BATTERIES, AEROSOL SPRAY CANS OR LIGHT BULBS

Board Moves To Enact New Recycling Regulations Requiring Carter to Separate Recyclables

The Village has received many complaints over the years about the Village's garbage carters' failure to separate recyclables from the rest of the garbage. Many residents complained that their carefully prepared and sorted recyclables were being thrown into the main hopper with the rest of the trash.

Mayor Herrington reached out to the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to inquire whether there was anything we could do as a village outside of our contractual remedies. He was informed that comingling of recyclables and trash is a violation of the NY State General Municipal Law Section 120AA which requires that recyclables left out for collection must be separated from the general trash at collection. The DEC informed us that if we were to pass a local version of 120AA we could then enforce those state rules locally and issue fines for noncompliance. This law will be receive final review at the July Board of Trustees Meeting.

The Village has put both Meadow Carting and the Town of North Hempstead's Solid Waste Management Authority on notice that we are going to enforce this newly enacted law. If there is a failure to separate recyclables by the carter or the receiver of trash we can issue a summons to Meadow Carting and report the Town to the DEC for further enforcement.

ARBOR DAY 2020

Flower Hill has always been a leader in environmental and community beautification projects. As part of our commitment to keep our status as a Tree City USA, Flower Hill annually holds an Arbor Day event. We were afraid we would have to cancel this year because of the Covid-19 crisis, however our staff came through and we were able to hold a contactless free tree giveaway.



On May 7 and 8, we gave away 300 tree seedlings at the Village Hall parking lot. We had our residents drive up, remain in their cars and our Public Works Department staff distributed up to 3 seedlings to each resident by placing the tree directly into their cars. Our staff wore masks and gloves and there was no contact.

We were fortunate to receive seedlings from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation tree nursery in Saratoga Springs, NY at a nominal cost to the Village. We had ten varieties of both deciduous and evergreen trees, all native species and geared to the conditions here on Long Island. We sent an email and posted on our website the best practice for caring for and planting these tree seedlings. All of the seedlings that were not distributed have been planted throughout the Village, mainly in the park to replace trees lost to storms or disease through the years.

VILLAGE PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DUE DATE EXTENDED TO JULY 21 WITHOUT PENALTY

Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.32 which extends the interest-free period for the payment of property taxes for 21 days for those local governments whose chief executive officer made such a request to the Governor. Mayor Brian Herrington reached out to Governor Cuomo's office early in May to request this extension for Flower Hill taxpayers. At that time there was no indication that the relief would be granted, but the Mayor wanted to try and do his best to obtain a break for our residents. Fortunately this relief was granted.

Tax payments are normally due no later than July 1 without penalty. However, this year only, taxes will be accepted until July 21 without penalty. Late payments made after July 21 will incur a 5% penalty for the first month unpaid and will accrue another 1% for each month unpaid thereafter.

ESTABLISHING FH VOLUNTEER CORPS & FOOD DRIVE

Are you in need of assistance with your errands or shopping due to health concerns during the coronavirus pandemic?

The FLOWER HILL VOLUNTEERS CORPS is here to serve you! Trustee Lewandowski and Mayor Herrington have established the Flower Hill Volunteer Corps to help our neighbors in need. The program has been running since late March and we have assembled a formidable team of volunteers who represent the various neighborhoods in the village.

The goal of the program is to identify those who may not be able to get their own food or supplies, or who may need other help, and to provide assistance with the proper safeguards to protect and care for those who are vulnerable during this crisis. The team of volunteers includes a couple of retired doctors who have offered their medical expertise and counseling skills. At the very least, our volunteer outreach provides a friendly voice to hear over the telephone.

We have been pleased with the response to our call for volunteers. Our neighbors have demonstrated their generous spirit and a desire to serve the greater community, which is especially appreciated during these challenging times. However, even after we surmount this crisis, we see this network continuing to help serve the community.

We are looking for:

- The home address or contact info for those that may be in need.
- A block captain for every block in the Village to coordinate activities.
- Volunteers to check in by phone or with a note with those in need.

If you or someone you know are homebound due to the public health crisis and are in need of volunteer assistance, please contact us.

And if you are interested in becoming a member of the Flower Hill Volunteer Corps, we would love to hear from you.

CONTACT the Flower Hill Village Hall: Call 516-627-5000 or email Volunteer@VillageFlowerHill.Org

Village of Flower Hill

1 Bonnie Heights Road
Manhasset, NY 11030

Flower Hill Continues To Defend the Board's Rejection of ExteNet's Application for New Cell Antennas

The Village has retained Edward Ross of the firm Rosenberg Calica & Birney of Garden City to represent us in our rejection of ExteNet's application to install 18 cell nodes for a Distributed Antenna System within the Manhasset residential portion of our Village. We are in Federal Court on this matter and are in the discovery phase of the proceedings. The Village and Board continue to maintain that ExteNet's application was properly rejected, and that ExteNet's proposal failed to appropriately recognize or preserve the Village's residential setting.