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February 24, 2015

Dear Neighbor,

As we welcome the new year and our first major snow storms, the Board of Trustees and I want to share with you a brief summary of the issues that the Village of Flower Hill is addressing in 2015.

Taxes: The Board of Trustees anticipates no reason to override the 2% property tax cap in the next fiscal year. This is particularly important for the next two-years as New York's Property Tax Freeze program is about to begin. New York State will reimburse eligible residents for any increases in your village, town, county, and school taxes as long as these governing bodies do not go over the property tax cap or override the cap via resolution. Residents must also qualify and sign up for the STAR program to get reimbursed. We anticipate that almost 70% of our residents will receive tax reimbursements through this program. Reimbursements will be made in the fall of 2015 and 2016. A presentation of the Property Tax Freeze program is posted on the Village website.

Safety: In February 2013, we made a request to the NYS Department of Transportation to conduct a traffic study of Port Washington Boulevard. The Village provided data that shows every month approximately 20 accidents occur on the Boulevard, particularly at the Middle Neck Road intersection. The speed and volume of traffic has created serious problems on many of our Village roads. We have been told that the findings of the study are forthcoming. Our goal is to update a Village traffic study that was done in 2007 once we have the findings and recommendations from the State.

New **DRIVE LIKE YOUR CHILDREN LIVE HERE** signs have been ordered and will be replacing the standard yellow "children at play" signs. We noticed a few similar signs popping up on lawns and think that they will slow down drivers. They may not be the long-term solution, but we do believe that they will have a positive effect. The new signs will be installed as soon as the ground thaws. If we don't place one on your street and you would like one, contact

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VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR **RONNIE SHATZKAMER, ESQ.**, TREASURER **KATHY WADE,**
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Department of Public Works at 869-1350. Once the signs are up, we ask that existing lawn signs be removed as soon as possible as the signs violate Village code.

Please remember that a universal truism of traffic research is “We have met the enemy and the enemy is us.” Take a moment to slow down and help make our neighborhood a safer place.

Emergency Preparedness: Are you someone that would like a call or knock on your door during emergencies or storms? We would love to have you on our check-in list. Robert Rockelein, Village Code Enforcer, will either stop by or call to make sure that you are okay and have everything that you need. This is one benefit of living in a small village, so please take advantage of it and call Robert at 627-5000 or email him at codeenforcer@villageflowerhill.org to place yourself on the list.

In the next few weeks we will be introducing a new emergency contact system. The system allows the Village to contact you via home phone numbers, email, smart phone app, or text messages. Residents will receive a notification when we begin using the new system and be given directions on how to update your contact information so we can notify you through your preferred device. Please take the time to let us know how to best contact you.

Environmental: As cesspools and septic systems are the biggest polluters of our aquifers and the Long Island Sound, we are considering regulations to ensure the safety of our residents’ systems. As a precursor to these new regulations, we are going to test a state-of-the-art pre-treatment system for waste at Village Hall, sponsored by Nassau County. Our system will be used as a model that homeowners and businesses can adopt that will reduce the impact of wastewater on the water we drink and use for recreation in Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay. We are also doing an internal audit of the Village Hall and our practices to evaluate where we might be more energy-efficient and environmentally responsible.

Our Tree Committee has reviewed our policies and practices governing trees. One of the outcomes of this review is that our Village Arborist is now state certified. This ensures that our decisions regarding tree permits are informed, using the most current knowledge available on tree health. Another outcome has been our Resident Tree Planting Program. This spring, we will plant additional trees in the Village right-of-way at 27 residences. In the past two years, we have planted 52 trees in the Village right-of-way, three trees on the Bridge Island, and sponsored the planting of 20 trees on the center islands on Port Washington Boulevard. Our efforts resulted in Flower Hill being named a Tree City USA by The Arbor Day Foundation. We are planning the celebration of this distinguished designation at our annual Arbor Day celebration in the spring

Community: The beautification of the islands on Port Washington Boulevard was a major accomplishment that required collaboration with PSEG and the NYSDOT. Although it does not look like much right now, we are confident that we will all enjoy the look once the trees and

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bushes start flowering. The cost of the landscaping was underwritten by PSEG. The Village has taken on the responsibility of maintaining the islands from now on, as this will allow us to make them much more pleasing to the eye than in the past.

Our plan for 2015 is to redesign the landscape of several of the traffic islands throughout the Village until all have been upgraded.

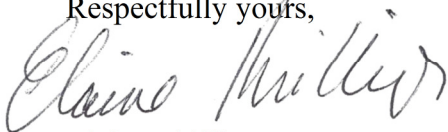
We are in the early stages of planning for a pedestrian path along Stonytown Road. Working with the Village of Plandome Manor, we hope to have a path from Port Washington Boulevard to the Plandome train station by the end of the year.

We are working with the Town of North Hempstead to promote their outreach program for senior citizens. They have an extensive list of services that we hope that our senior residents will utilize. Details of this exciting program will be forthcoming.

Strategic: The Trustees, staff, and I have been working on a three-year strategic plan for the Village. We expect to be finished sometime in the spring. Once completed, the plan will be presented at our monthly meeting, and a summary will be sent in the mail.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. There is a lot going on in the Village, and we want you to be well informed. We understand that your time is precious, but please make the effort to update your contact information when we launch the new emergency management system and don't forget to vote in the village election on Wednesday, March 18th.

Respectfully yours,



Elaine Phillips

Mayor