



Village of Flower Hill Newsletter Spring 2012

VILLAGE ELECTS NEW MAYOR AND TRUSTEES

At the March 20, 2012 Village election a new slate of Officers was elected to the Board of Trustees with the following results:

Mayor: Elaine Phillips—136 votes; Trustees: Karen Reichenbach—151 votes, Randall Rosenbaum—155 votes and Scott Siller—145 votes; Village Justice: J. Bruce Byrne-150 votes.

Remaining on the Board are Trustees Tab Hauser and Aviva Pinto. We are grateful to our outgoing Mayor and Board members, Charles Weiss, William Clemency, Norman Glavas and Avery Ryan and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

MESSAGE FROM NEW MAYOR ELAINE PHILLIPS

Dear Residents,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express our appreciation and thanks to all of those residents who came out to vote last month. We look forward to working with you and are devoted to maintaining the high quality of services that this Village is known for as well as running a fiscally responsible local government. We hope that each and every one of you will come to one of our monthly meetings. Although our Village is small, we make many decisions that influence the lives of our residents; the monthly meeting is an excellent way of staying informed. Knowing that you may not be able to attend all of our meetings we have reinstated the mailing of our quarterly newsletters. We felt that the need for greater communication outweighed the benefits of being “green.” As always, the newsletter will also be posted on the Village website, www.flowerhill.org. Our office does an amazing job of keeping it up to date and it is a tremendous resource to each and every one of us.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am a rather recent resident of Flower Hill. My husband Andy and I moved here two and half years ago from Munsey Park where we lived for fourteen years. We have three teenage daughters, one is a freshman in college and the other two attend Manhasset High School. Professionally, I spent 24 years in the financial services sector, with the last 16 years in institutional sales at Goldman Sachs. I have served on numerous not-for-profit boards. I currently serve as a member of the Development Council of The Pennsylvania State University and as the Executive Vice President of the Manhasset SCA. In addition to my volunteer work, I teach martial arts and a women’s fitness class at Kwon’s Karate in Manhasset where I am a third degree black belt in the traditional Korean Martial Art, Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan.

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HEMPSTEAD HARBOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE TO VISIT FLOWER HILL

Eric Swenson, Director of HHPC, will be at the **May 1 Board of Trustees Meeting at 8 pm** to explain the important things the Committee does to ensure we have clean and safe waterways. Anyone interested in being the Village’s representative to this valuable group, as well as to the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee, is urged to attend the meeting.

FORMER MAYOR WEISS' FAREWELL TO VILLAGE

It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that I am ending my seven years as Mayor of the Village of Flower Hill. I will be sad to leave the many wonderful people with whom I have worked these past years. I am, however, extremely grateful for the honor of having served my friends and neighbors in the Village.

After serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals, I joined the Board of Trustees in 1998, became Deputy Mayor in 2004 and Mayor in February, 2005. During my tenure, the Board has put together an impressive string of accomplishments. Among them:

We completely revamped the Village Code, a process that took several years. This work resulted in, among other things, building and zoning controls to balance the need for growth and progress with maintaining the beauty of our village and the many different building styles found here.

We oversaw extensive renovations and the expansion of St. Francis Hospital as well as the construction of the new Landmark Diner, the Capital One shopping center and the American Car Wash.

We successfully obtained Flower Hill Park from Nassau County and converted it from an eyesore into a park that is widely used by our residents. We landscaped, built a stage and a playground and created a centerpiece to our Village. We held two block parties in the park, as well as events such as concerts, movies and children's entertainment. As part of the deal with the County, we also took ownership of Stonytown Road.

We undertook the renovation of the Village Hall, which was transformed from a cramped, leaky, out-moded building to a state of the art facility, enabling the office, highway department, Board of Trustees, Zoning Board of Appeals and Village Court to function as they should.

We established an Office of Emergency Management which developed a protocol along FEMA guidelines for dealing with natural and man-made disasters. In addition, we developed a Village-wide communications system so that Village officials can notify residents quickly when the necessity arises.

We discovered and obtained over \$100,000.00 in grant money overlooked by previous administrations.

We instituted many changes within the Village Hall so that the Village government operates more efficiently and in compliance with state and Federal requirements. The changes included upgraded computer systems and new reporting and oversight protocols.

We established a Village website, an extremely useful tool for our residents, complete with forms, the entire Village Code and up-to-the-minute information about the Village.

We negotiated cable franchises with Verizon & Cablevision.

With the help of a local Eagle Scout, we began the restoration of an ancient cemetery in the Village which we will seek to open to the public and preserve as a piece of our history.

We saved the Village thousands of dollars per year in outside consulting fees by acting as Storm Water administrator and preparing DEC mandated MS-4 Annual Reports & Storm Water Management Plans.

We played a leadership role in the success of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee's work which led to the reopening of Hempstead Harbor to commercial shell fishing for the first time in over 30 years.

We forged new lines of communication with our non-residential property owners to balance their business needs with the practical realities of our Village.

We successfully negotiated an agreement with North Hempstead Country Club to open their doors to Village residents for their annual 4th of July fireworks.

The Village faces many trials ahead. The uncertain economy combined with lower tax revenues and reduced sources of income will make maintaining the present level of services a challenge. The current New York State administration has made it clear that it considers local governments to be expendable. Our village supplies essential services, including garbage removal, snow removal, road maintenance, building and zoning permitting, ombudsman and liaison with other governments, vital statistics, emergency management and the village court, efficiently and at an extremely low cost. It takes a great deal of time, dedication, effort and thought on the part of the Trustees and staff in order to keep this village operating in the manner which the residents have come to ex-

The job of Mayor is a demanding one. I could never have performed my duties without the assistance of a lot of wonderful people. There are too many to thank everyone individually; however, I do want to thank the Trustees who have worked with me over the past seven years and I particularly want to single out those trustees who are also retiring from the board.

Deputy Mayor Bill Clemency shouldered far more than his fair share of the work which needed to be done and he always performed his duties diligently and enthusiastically. He served as our representative to the North Shore Cable Commission and the Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay Protection Committees, he prepared our annual MS-4 reports, he served on the Building Permit Review Committee and usually was the first to volunteer whenever a job needed doing.

Trustee Norman Glavas, who, like Bill Clemency, joined the Board of Trustees in 1994, has served with honor and distinction. His trademark fuchsia – colored pen has been used to markup many architectural submissions to the Board, usually resulting in improvements both for the applicant and for the Village. Perhaps Norman's finest achievement was as chairman of the hugely successful Flower Hill 75th Anniversary celebration in 2006 – 2007, which created indelible memories for all of us lucky enough to be there.

Trustee Avery Ryan has served on the Board of Trustees since 1999, filling many important roles, including budget committee, liaison with the Roslyn Fire Department in negotiating the firefighter service award programs and recording secretary of the Building Permit Review Committee. She has often helped to find a middle ground during Board debates on issues and her rational and thoughtful counsel has been invaluable to me.

I wish all of these Trustees the very best in their future endeavors.

The staff of the Village government is, for my money, the best in the State of New York. Administrator Ronnie Shatzkamer, Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Kathy Wade, Court Clerk Ann Lauria-Smith, Secretary Susan Williams, Building Inspector Jim Gilhooly and Code Enforcement Officer Robert Rockelein each do a terrific job in what are increasingly complicated circumstances. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with them and I will miss them.

Village Highway Superintendent Scott Hislop and his crew, Marvin Calderon, Jim Barton, Joe Kelly and Rich Falcones do a superb job of maintaining the Village's 22 miles of roads, removing debris after storms, plowing snow, cleaning the streets, maintaining the islands and landscaping the park. Their work directly affects each and every one of us who live in Flower Hill. Scott and the Highway Department richly deserve the thanks and admiration of our residents.

I am grateful as well to Village Attorney Jeff Blinkoff for his wise counsel and insightful suggestions.

Throughout my time as Mayor I have been lucky to have worked with, and received tremendous help and support from, our elected officials. Many of our achievements could not have come to fruition without the backing of North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman, Town Clerk and Flower Hill resident Leslie Gross, Nassau County legislator Wayne Wink, State Senators Mike Balboni, Craig Johnson and Jack Martins, former Assembly representative Tom DiNapoli, now the State Comptroller, and present Assembly representative Michelle Schimel.

George Washington, in his farewell address, said "Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors." My tenure as Mayor has not been perfect; I no doubt could have done some things differently or better. But I am proud of my record and secure in the knowledge that everything I have done in this position has been motivated solely by the desire to leave the Village of Flower Hill a better place than when I first took office.

As the saying goes, one door closes and another one opens. I wish you all the best.

Charles W. Weiss

Seeing You In the Dark

by Deputy Mayor Tab Hauser

With the warm weather upon us many Flower Hill residents are taking to the outdoors and walking the streets of our pretty village. For safety's sake when walking outdoors please wear a light colored shirt or jacket so you can be seen better. At night avoid wearing dark colored clothes and bring a flashlight to shine in a circle so drivers can see you. One thing I do when I am out and have forgotten a flashlight is use my smart phone. All smart phones have free "flashlight" applications you can download. You may find this not only handy while walking around but can be critical if you are in a place with a black-out.

VILLAGE TAXES MAILED OUT JUNE 1, 2012

Due by July 1, 2012

Please look for your tax bill in the mail during the first week of June. If your mortgage company receives the bill, it would be wise for you to check on whether or not it was received. If you have not received a bill by the week of June 7th, please call the Village Hall to obtain a duplicate bill. Village taxes must be paid on time. Late charges begin to accrue on July 2nd. By New York State Law there is no excuse or exemption from late fees. If you are new to the Village, please be sure we have the correct address for your tax bill. Please be aware that we may not accept cash for payment of taxes.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES 2012—13 BUDGET

On April 2nd, after an extensive budget hearing, the Board of Trustees approved the budget for the coming fiscal year. The \$3,345,655.00 budget is 0.2% lower than last year. Property taxes are essentially flat with a reduction of .009%. Most Village residents will not see a change in their taxes. The entire budget is available on the Village website, www.VillageFlowerHill.org, by clicking on the tab marked "Tax Info".

REMINDERS FROM THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD

RECYCLE THE RAIN

The Town Board announced a new environmental initiative that aims to protect the environment and conserve water thereby reducing water bills. The "Recycle the Rain" program offers residents 50-gallon rain barrels at a discounted rate of \$50. This can save residents as much as 1,800 gallons of water in one season. Residents can call 311 to participate in the "Recycle the Rain" program, which includes a free tutorial at Clark Botanic Garden on how to use the rain barrels.

2012 S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) Dates

The S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) program offers residents of North Hempstead the opportunity to dispose of their household hazardous waste in an environmentally friendly manner. Many people do not realize that ordinary household products, such as aerosols and cleaners, can be corrosive, explosive, or toxic if mixed indiscriminately with regular household garbage. Please take an extra moment to check labels for warnings, and please take advantage of the 2011 S.T.O.P. dates to ensure safe disposal. Call 311 for more information.

Saturday, June 9th. 9:30—3
Solid Waste Management Authority
802 West Shore Road, Port Washington

Saturday, September 8th. 9:30 —3
Michael J Tully Park
1801 Evergreen Ave, New Hyde Park

Please Clean Up After Your Dog

We know most Village pet owners are very responsible but unfortunately there are a few of you who are not. We take this opportunity to remind you to clean up after your dog on the streets, your neighbors lawns and in the park. Besides being a nuisance, pet waste ends up in the storm sewers that flow out into Hempstead Harbor and is a major cause of pollution. When you leave home with your dog, please make sure you are carrying a plastic bag. There is no need to purchase special bags, any type will do whether from your newspaper or the supermarket. We provide special waste bags at the entrances to the park. It's always a good idea to carry a spare in case your dog decides he wasn't quite finished the first time he stopped. You can always use the spare bag to clean up some one else's pet waste, after all none of us are perfect. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Karen Reichenbach

Karen lives in the Port Washington area of Flower Hill with her husband, Herb and her two college age daughters, Samantha and Jenna. She has lived in Port Washington for 33 years, 20 of those years in Flower Hill. Her children attended Port Washington schools. Karen has a BFA from the University of Georgia and was born and raised in Atlanta. She worked in the home furnishings industry in retail and manufacturing and her last position was as Vice President of Marketing for Guilford Home Fashions. Karen is a Master Gardener intern for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County and a Board Member of the Port Washington Education Foundation. She is also a prospective member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In her free time, Karen enjoys quilting and has won many awards from the Long Island Quilters Association.

Randall Rosenbaum

Randall has been a Roslyn, Flower Hill resident since 2000. He and his wife Eileen are parents to Sara who attends Roslyn Harbor Hill Public School. Randall works on Long Island in the communications field. He attended SUNY Albany as an undergrad and holds an MBA from the Whitman School of Business at Syracuse University. Prior to being elected Trustee, Randall was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals since 2005.

Scott Siller

Scott lives in the Manhasset area of the Village since 2003, having been a resident of Manhasset since 1971. He and his wife Eszter, a physician, have two young sons Alexander and Nicholas who both attend Salem School in Port Washington. Scott is an attorney in private practice since 1988. He got his B.A. from New York University, a Masters Degree from Hofstra University and his Law Degree from New York Law School. Previous to serving on the Board of Trustees Scott served as a member of the Village's Zoning Board of Appeals and prior to that was the Village's Acting Village Justice. He is very active in local politics in Nassau County and is currently serving as a Democratic Party Committeeperson.

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The opportunity to serve as a Trustee both here in Flower Hill and for several years in Munsey Park has provided me with insight needed to oversee our Village. However I cannot run this Village without your help. Please let me know if you have a special interest or expertise that you would be willing to share. It would be wonderful if more members of our community became involved. I look forward to working closely with our new Board of Trustees. We are fortunate to have a great group of individuals who are willing to give their time and energy to our Village. I am very fortunate to have such a terrific group of employees who work for the Village. I am both impressed and thankful for their dedication and hard work.

Please call me at 627-5000 or email at mayor@villageflowerhill.org if you would like to get involved or have any concerns.

I am honored to serve as your Mayor and promise to do my best towards the betterment of the Village of Flower Hill and its residents.

Respectfully,

Elaine R. Phillips

SWIMMING POOL SEASON REMINDER

As summer approaches all of our residents with swimming pools in their backyards will begin to prepare their pools for the season. We want to remind you that it is illegal to discharge your pool water into the street, it must drain into a separate dedicated drywell. Water that is discharged onto the roadway is subject to a fine of up to \$5000. Water that runs into the street sewers is discharged into Long Island Sound. Your chlorinated pool water is toxic to marine life. We are very serious about this and will be on the lookout for violations.

NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING— TUESDAY, MAY 1 AT 7 PM

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

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ELAINE PHILLIPS

DEPUTY MAYOR

TAB HAUSER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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RANDALL ROSENBAUM

SCOTT SILLER

VILLAGE JUSTICE

HON. J. BRUCE BYRNE

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JOHN WALTER

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ANN FRANKEL

VILLAGE STAFF

Village Administrator

RONNIE SHATZKAMER

Treasurer

KATHY WADE

Building Superintendent

JAMES GILHOOLY

Code Enforcer

ROBERT ROCKELEIN

Court Clerk

ANN LAURIA-SMITH

Secretary

SUSAN WILLIAMS

Highway Supervisor

SCOTT HISLOP

Highway Dept.

JAMES BARTON

MARVIN CALDERON

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