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VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FLOWER HILL FALL 2021

Mayor
Brian Herrington

Deputy Mayor
Randall Rosenbaum

Trustees
Mary Jo Collins
Claire Dorfman
Max Frankel
Frank Genese
Gary Lewandowski

Village Justice
Hon. Dennis Reisman
Damien Pieper, Assoc. Justice
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
Norman Glavas
Dr. Arnold Goldman
Alt: Jeremy Shao

VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL Office of the Mayor

Be a Safe Neighbor!

One of the best parts of Flower Hill are our beautiful residential roadways and the walking, running and biking our residents utilize them for. In order for that enjoyment to continue we must dedicate ourselves to improving traffic safety.

In order to tackle this problem, the Village commissioned a traffic study last year. As part of our after-action efforts, we will be piloting a speed reduction device program. The Village recently purchased three speed tables that will be deployed over the next several months in strategic locations as recommended by the traffic engineers. If successful we will look to acquire and deploy more of these devices.

Too often we get reports from residents that cars from neighbors are rolling through stop signs or ignoring them at high rates of speed. In addition, we have requested the local precinct increase enforcement of our stop signs. Please take the time to stop to avoid an accident or injuring someone. The extra second you save is not worth it.

We are calling on all residents to help us increase our community safety with a renewed awareness toward driving behaviors. Please take the following steps:

- *Drive slowly, Village speed limit is 30 mph.*
- *Stop at Stop Signs! Make complete stop at all stop signs. No rolling through.*
- *Give pedestrians the right of way and give them room! Allow 3 feet when passing pedestrians or bikes.*

The biggest scofflaws are ourselves! We are familiar with the roads and are often distracted while making the same trip we've made hundreds of times before, to the schools, the store, the station. This familiarity causes inattention, we believe we can make that phone call or check that text because we know where we are going.
PLEASE do not take driving for granted!

Thank you,
Mayor Brian Herrington

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TRUSTEES

Claire Dorfman joined the Board in October 2020. She currently works at JP Morgan Chase as Manager of State and Local Government Relations for the Northeast Region.

Prior this she worked for a combined 11 years in the Government Affairs departments of Madison Square Garden and Cablevision, where she managed the company's public affairs portfolio, and provided support for state and local government related activities in NY, NJ and CT. This included lobbying and developing grassroots and government strategies to support business priorities, as well as managing the respective political action committees.

Before joining the private sector, Claire worked for the New York State Senate as a Press Secretary and later as Chief of Staff for members in New York City and the Hudson Valley.
Claire earned an MBA from Cornell University and a BA from Adelphi University. She currently lives in Flower Hill with her husband and 3 young children. She is a Board Member of the Twin Pines Community Outreach and Thrift Store in Port Washington, and active with the Association of Women MBAs (New York Chapter), ATHENA leadership Long Island, and her local school system.

Max Joined the Board in April of 2021. Max Frankel was born and raised in Flower Hill and resided in the Roslyn section from 1983 to 2001. After obtaining a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and History from Franklin & Marshall College ('05), Max worked for Citigroup's Troubled Asset Loan Sale/Syndication Group. During his tenure with Citi, Max also received Formal Credit Training. In 2012, Max returned to Flower Hill with his wife Kristen, making him a 26-year resident. Max currently works as a Senior Commercial Underwriter for Bethpage Federal Credit Union's Commercial Real Estate Group. Max is an avid basketball player and enjoys spending his free time outdoors with his three children, Hunter (6), Ella (4) and infant son Parker.

ON-LINE PAYMENTS NOW ACCEPTED

The Village is now accepting credit card payment for permits, fees and traffic court. There is a 2.5% convenience fee but you can also pay by check for a flat $2.50 fee. There is a link on the web page under the Finance tab that will lead you to the on-line payment forms. If that is not convenient, you can also call us and we will enter the payment information for you.

ExteNet Lawsuit Update

Like many of you, the Village has been monitoring the developments of lawsuits brought by Extenet against other municipalities. The community should understand that each case has a different set of facts, and the Board continues to maintain that ExteNet's application was properly denied for aesthetic reasons and due to additional failures with respect to ExteNet's application. At the current time, our legal team has finished discovery, and the Village and ExteNet recently initiated steps to file motions for summary judgment (which could eliminate the need for a trial). We do not anticipate a ruling on our case until well into late 2021 and will continue to update the community as new information is available. In addition, the Village's insurance carrier has continued to pay for the Village's defense costs since the Village's outside counsel successfully obtained a reversal of the insurance carrier's initial declination of coverage for defense costs.

THE VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL IS NOW A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY

Our Village adopted the Climate Smart Communities pledge back in December 2020! The Village of Flower Hill has joined a network of over 315 local governments representing over 8.8 million New Yorkers throughout the state who are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and save taxpayer money. The Climate Smart Communities Certification program provides a framework for climate action at the local level. We adopted a resolution pledging to implement the following:

1) Build a climate-smart community.
2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
3) Decrease energy use.
4) Shift to clean, renewable energy.
5) Use climate-smart materials management.
6) Implement climate-smart land use.
7) Enhance community resilience to climate change.
8) Support a green innovation economy.
9) Inform and inspire the public.
10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program began in 2009 as an interagency initiative of New York State. The CSC program is jointly sponsored by the following six New York State agencies: Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC); Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); Department of Public Service; Department of State; Department of Transportation; Department of Health and the Power Authority (NYPA). DEC acts as the main administrator of the program.

The original focus in 2009 was on encouraging local governments to commit to act on climate change by passing a resolution containing the 10-point CSC Pledge. Announced in 2014, the certification program represents the next step in the evolution of the program; it provides specific guidance on how to implement the CSC pledge. In order to be designated a Certified Climate Smart Community, a municipality must go beyond the CSC Pledge by completing and documenting a suite of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level.

The CSC Certification program was developed in partnership with six pilot communities and with funding from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and in cooperation with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. On Earth Day in 2014, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the launch of the certification program.

2021 VILLAGE ROADWORK PROJECTS

We will be doing paving and drainage work on the following roads:

Country Club Drive (Hewlett Lane to Hewlett Lane)
Greenbriar Lane
Hewlett Lane
Bayberry Ridge
Woodland Road

Please do not park on the street during construction. For questions or complaints please call the Paving contractor, American Paving at (516) 609-2109.

ARE YOU GETTING ALL THE LOCAL NEWS?

The Village has two methods of keeping you informed:
Code Red is our emergency phone and Email alert system. We use this for urgent messages and information. To sign up go to the village website www.villageflowerhill.org. Scroll down about half way and on the right you will see the black and red Code Red logo. You can sign up there or go directly to https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFE7EA49CADF

Constant Contact is the system we use for monthly newsletters and other announcements of interest to our Flower Hill community. You can sign up by emailing info@villageflowerhill.org or calling the office.

CAN ENGLISH IVY KILL A TREE?

The answer is yes, eventually. Ivy damages the bark as it climbs and will eventually overtake even a mature tree, weakening branches through its weight and preventing light from penetrating leaves. Weakened plants and trees are more susceptible to problems like pests or disease.

1. *Trees and ivy rely on the same supply of water and nutrients. Because ivy can be more aggressive there's a chance your tree isn't getting its fair share of nutrition.*
2. *Ivy growth crowds tree branches, blocking sunlight trees need to make food.*
3. *Vines can weigh a tree branch down, putting it at a higher risk of breaking in a storm.*
4. *Over time an ivy invasion weakens a tree, making it a target for opportunistic pests.*

Ivy's only source of nutrients are the vines growing in the ground, so once they are cut off, the ivy will die.
To remove ivy from a tree, using a hand pruner cut theses vines at ground level and again a few feet up toward the canopy, removing the pieces in between so that the ends of the vine cannot reattach to one another and heal.
Leave the ivy that remains on the tree to dry out and die off within a month or so.

DO YOU HAVE AN OUTDATED CESSPOOL?

Grants for Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Did you know outdated septic systems are the number one cause of nitrogen pollution in Long Island Sound?

Nitrogen pollution causes harmful algae blooms thick mats of seaweed, fish kills and is responsible for the overall decline of the shellfish industry. Swapping outdated septic systems with clean water septic technology can remove 90 percent of nitrogen pollution from wastewater.

You can learn about nitrogen-removing septic technology and how to apply for reimbursement (up to $20,000) to upgrade your existing septic system through Nassau County's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program at www.nassaucountyny.gov/SepticReplace or call (516) 364-5861 or email SepticSWCD@optimum.net

SHOW YOUR CIVIC PRIDE ON YOUR BUMPER

The Village has "VFH" stickers for your automobile bumper. Although this sticker will not get you any privileges, it's a fun way of letting other motorists know where you're from. Call the office and let us know how many stickers you need and we will mail them to you.

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

We wanted to say a special thank you to Milan Doshi for making our food drive a reality and to Stella Binaris for her wonderful expertise in landscaping our traffic islands. They both went above and beyond just to make our Village the really special place to live that it is.

NEW PATIO ADJACENT TO THE VILLAGE HALL

The Village has completed a new patio adjacent to the Village Hall parking lot for use as an outdoor meeting space. It will also serve as a space for residents to meet with staff outside if needed due to COVID-19. Thanks to resident Stella Binaris of Stella Binaris Florals for her assistance in designing and installing the beautiful landscaping. There are benches available for the peaceful enjoyment of the patio which is directly across from Flower Hill Park. On September 17th the Village will dedicate the space in memory of former Mayor Robert McNamara who passed away in April of 2020 during his second term as Mayor.

STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Many residents have asked the Village to reinstate the free street tree planting program. This spring the Village will be continuing the practice of encouraging tree planting in our Village by planting free trees on Village rights-of-way. This is the property between the front of your home and the road. In past years we have planted between 20 and 25 trees annually.

If you are interested in having a street tree planted in front of your home, please email us at info@villageflowerhill.org or call the office at (516) 627-5000. We will maintain a list of interested parties and evaluate sites on a first come first served order.

Our Village Arborist will evaluate the site and determine whether planting is feasible. We will offer a selection of appropriate trees which will be planted at no cost to you. Once all of the details as to species and location are worked out and the tree is planted, it will be incumbent on the homeowner to properly care for and maintain the tree. You will be required to sign an affidavit promising to water and care for the tree.

VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL

FOOD DRIVE

The Village is continuing the Food Drive into the spring. Many food pantries are very low on supplies as there are so many families in our community who are food insecure as a result of the economic downturn caused by the Covid crisis.

We had a wonderful response during the holiday season for food as well as Toys for Tots donations and thank you all for it.
We are continuing to collect food and other items at Village Hall for distribution to local food pantries. Thank you for your generous contributions.

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRIES NEED YOUR HELP!

Food donations needed for the JCC of Rosyln and Our Lady of Fatima food pantries.

WHERE? If you wish to donate, please email FHfooddrive@gmail.com and we will arrange to have a safe and socially distant pick-up. You can also drop items at Village Hall between 8:30 and 4:30, or the residences of either of the Co-Chairs (to be arranged via email).

WHAT ITEMS ARE NEEDED?

Canned Protein (Chicken, Salmon, Sardines, Tuna) – Peanut/Nut Butter – Jelly-- Cooking Oil -- Rice -- Canned Vegetables -- Canned Beans -- Canned Fruit in Juice/Applesauce -- Low Sodium Soups – Pasta -- Cold Cereal -- Hot Cereal (Cream of Wheat, Farina) -- Pancake Mix -- Pasta Sauce -- Canned green beans -- Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise – Flour – Cornmeal -- Paper Towels -- Toilet Paper Rolls – Tissues -- Laundry Detergent

QUESTIONS? E-Mail FHfooddrive@gmail.com OR call 516-627-5000

Village of Flower Hill
1 Bonnie Heights Road
Manhasset, NY 11030

HELP IMPROVE SIGHT-LINES FOR DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS

Ensuring good visibility and safety for both pedestrians and drivers is behind the Village of Flower Hill's renewed call to residents to please look after and maintain trees and shrubs along roads and street corners.

Concerns continue to be raised around overgrown hedges and low hanging tree branches blocking vehicle sight-lines at some intersection. Please take some time and examine all of your trees and shrubs on your property along your street and ensure they are not blocking foot traffic or could be a visibility issue for drivers. Under the Village's Code, residents are to make sure that all trees and shrubs are properly trimmed and cut back, so they don't cause any physical obstruction or visibility issues to pedestrians or drivers on the streets, especially at intersections.

The Village remains committed to the safe mobility of our residents and visitors either on foot, on bicycle or in vehicles. By keeping sightlines clear and unobstructed through maintaining trees and shrubs, we can continue to keep our streets safe and accessible.

Please be aware that trees and shrubs located in the Right-of-Way are technically on Village property however our Village Code requires that the adjacent landowner has the responsibility for caring for and maintaining these plantings including watering, pruning and when necessary, removal.