



# Village of Flower Hill Newsletter Spring 2011

## LAST PAPER COPY OF NEWSLETTER

This will be the last mailed Village newsletter that you will receive. The Village, which is always looking for ways to save money, can save several thousand dollars each year by not printing and mailing paper newsletters. We will continue to publish a quarterly newsletter that will be available on line at the Village web site. If you do not have access to the internet and would prefer to continue to receive a newsletter by mail please call the Village office and ask to be put on the newsletter mailing list. We will continue to mail the newsletter only to those who request it.

**CALL THE VILLAGE HALL AT 627-5000 IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL**

## FLOWER HILL PLAYGROUND COMING SOON

The playground planned for Flower Hill Park will soon be a reality. The Village has approved a design and issued a Request for Proposals from contractors for installation of the play equipment and protective ground material. The cost of the equipment will be provided through a grant from the Nassau County Legislature. We are grateful to Legislator Wayne Wink for making this grant possible. The playground will be located on the northern side of the park, on the Stonytown Road side. The Village will be striping Stonytown Road to provide parking spaces along the park for the convenience of playground visitors. The equipment will be geared towards younger children but of course all ages will be welcome. The playground will have benches for seating and be fenced for security. We are hoping to have a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in the early summer and look forward to seeing you there. See page 3 for a sneak peek.

## NEW WEB ADDRESS, NEW LOOK

We have changed our web site address to [www.villageflowerhill.org](http://www.villageflowerhill.org) and all village e-mail addresses will have the ".org" suffix, for example, [Administrator@villageflowerhill.org](mailto:Administrator@villageflowerhill.org). We wanted our web site and e-mail addresses to reflect the fact that we are a not for profit, government agency. We hope the new look of the web site will make it easier for you to get the information you need and keep you better informed of what's going on in the Village.

## VILLAGE TAXES MAILED OUT JUNE 1, 2011

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 7<sup>th</sup>, please call the Village Hall to obtain a duplicate bill. Village taxes must be paid on time. Late charges begin to accrue on July 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

## WE WILL NOW BE ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS FOR ALL PAYMENTS

SEE STORY ON PAGE 2



## **PROJECT INDEPENDENCE EXPANDS TO ROSLYN AREA**

The Town of North Hempstead has established Project Independence to support senior citizens by providing services so they may remain in their own homes and continue to live independently. Until recently the services were only available in Port Washington, Great Neck and New Hyde Park. The Town has recently inaugurated this service for all residents of the Roslyn areas of the town. Project Independence Roslyn is based at the Sid Jacobson JCC.

Some of the services provided include discounted taxi service for doctor's and medical appointments, free taxi service for shopping, social worker and nurse services including counseling, support groups and blood pressure check-ups, and more.

Seniors must be registered with Project Independence. You can get all the registration material by Calling the Town Information line at 311 or by dropping into the Village Hall.

## **VILLAGE NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS**

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The Village of Flower Hill will soon begin accepting credit cards for all forms of payments. Please be aware that we will only accept Master Card, Visa and Discover cards. All payments must be made in person with the card present; we cannot accept telephone charges. A small convenience fee, which has not yet been determined, will be added to the charge. Credit cards will be accepted for building fees, court fines, vital statistics fees, licenses and any other charges that are payable to the Village of Flower Hill.

We will be interfacing the Village web site with a new tax payment program that will allow users to look up their Village property tax amount and pay on-line. A service fee (to be determined) will be added to the charge. This program will only accept tax payments; all other payments by credit card must be done in person, at the Village hall.

## **VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL REACTS TO FISCAL REALITIES**

All of us have been personally affected by the current financial crisis. The Board of Trustees wants you to know how we, as a Village, are responding to these challenges. The Board has been diligently looking for alternate sources of revenue so that we will be able to keep your Village real estate taxes to a minimum.

The State fiscal crisis has impacted local municipalities across the state because as the legislature is decreasing aid to towns and villages, they are also increasing our liability for contributions toward unfunded, required state mandated expenses. Villages can no longer rely on state and county funding to supplement our budgets in the form of aid and grants as those entities are struggling to balance their own budgets.

We were very cautious in our budgeting process for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. We are anticipating decreases in areas of licenses and permits, interest and earnings and grant reimbursements. We reacted to these anticipated decreases by decreasing expenditures on most of the supply and material lines across all departments and by reducing special items such as the MTA payroll tax and the line for judgments and claims.

Some examples of the alternative revenue source funding we have instituted were recently seen in the Manhasset and Port Washington parts of the Village where two films and one television show were produced. The Village charged these production companies considerable fees for the use of our Village. Another new revenue source is from fees generated by charging title companies and other commercial ventures for searches of our property files.

We will continue to think outside of the box to create alternative revenue sources and find ways to reduce expenses without reducing essential services.

## COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS WORK TOGETHER

The Village would like to publicly thank Mr. Yeheskel Elias, owner of the American Car Wash on Northern Blvd., for innovating and leading the formation of a group of Village commercial property owners. Mr. Elias' vision is to create a consortium aimed at the beautification of the commercial strips of Flower Hill. His idea is for all property owners to participate and thus help each other to promote their businesses in the Village.

The group held its inaugural meeting at the Village Hall. The majority of property owners were represented and Mr. Elias plans to reach out to those who were not. Some great ideas were suggested including concepts for landscaping, lighting and signage.

The Village is very supportive of this initiative as Northern Blvd., Port Washington Blvd. and Middle Neck Road are the gateways to our Village. Outside of our immediate area, there is very little awareness about Flower Hill. The type of improvements suggested by this group will serve to put our Village "on the map" as a great place to live, work and do business.

## VILLAGE SURVIVES WORST WINTER IN YEARS

The Village of Flower Hill's Highway Superintendent and Department are to be congratulated on the outstanding job they did this past winter. December through March was one of the snowiest seasons ever on the record books in our area and our crew did a great job of getting our roads cleared and passable throughout every storm that hit us. Our roads were in great shape especially when you compare them to what the situation was like in New York City and many of our neighboring Nassau County areas.

Village Highway Superintendent Scott Hislop and Department Crew Members James Barton, Marvin Calderon, Joe Kelly and Richard Falcones were at the Village on holidays, weekends and all through the night when necessary to be ready to roll out the plows.

We would also like to thank all the residents of the Village who did such a great job of keeping the snow cleared from their driveways and walkways out of the public roads, making the clean up so much easier for us. Your patience and understanding was really appreciated as the piles of snow grew higher and higher.

## PLAYGROUND PREVIEW



**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

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Code Enforcer

ROBERT ROCKELEIN

Court Clerk

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