

VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

WWW.VILLAGEFLOWERHILL.ORG

VILLAGE CREATES STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

When you think of Flower Hill you think of winding roads lined with beautiful, leafy trees. Unfortunately Hurricane Sandy did a great deal of damage to this picture. Thanks to Trustee Karen Reichenbach, the Tree Committee and the Board of Trustees we will be starting a program to replant trees along the Village's right-of-way so we can bring back the Flower Hill feeling to our streets. The Board has allotted \$10,000 from the Park budget for purchase and planting of trees.

The planting will be by resident request only. Residents interested in having a tree planted in the ROW in front of their home must notify the Village office and complete a form to be placed on the request list. Depending on number of requests we will be able to determine how many trees we can purchase and then either plant trees for all submissions or if necessary we will hold a lottery among all those interested to determine who will be selected to have a tree planted. Only one tree per property owner is permitted.

Code Enforcement Official Robert Rockelein and Village Arborist Ann Frankel will do a site visit to each home that requests a tree to determine whether the planting is feasible, the best location and to select the most suitable species for the site in consultation with the homeowner. Each resident selected will be offered a choice of three species of trees. The Village will request a utility mark out to determine proper placement of each tree so that it will not interfere with gas or water lines. Once selected, the property owner will be required to sign an agreement promising to care for the tree by watering and providing whatever typical tree care is necessary. The homeowner agreement will also waive any liability for damage to sprinkler lines, landscaping or other property during the planting. If the tree should fail within a reasonable period of time because of neglect the property owner will be responsible for the cost of replacement. Planting will take place during the fall planting season. Mr. Rockelein will maintain a spreadsheet on all trees planted to allow him to follow up on tree care.

Once planted the homeowner assumes all responsibility for the tree, the Village will not do any future maintenance on the newly planted tree or any other trees that currently exist in the ROW per Village Code 195-11. You can fill out a tree request form at the Village Hall, download the form from the Village website or complete the form below and return to the office:

TREE REQUEST FORM

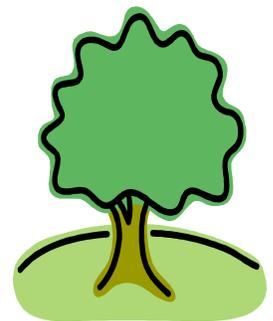
DATE _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT #: _____

EMAIL: _____



NEW DEFINITION FOR SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATION OF TREES

After Hurricane Sandy the Village experienced a huge increase in tree removal and trimming. For the most part this work was done with thoughtful care to ensure that the remaining trees would come back to health. In a few cases however we found that some trees had been "topped", which is the cutting of the leaf bearing branches of a tree down almost to the top of the trunk. When this is done, the tree is more susceptible to damage from the elements and insects and re-growth can result in weak limbs. The Tree Committee did a great deal of research and consulted with Village Arborist Ann Frankel to come up with a definition of substantial alteration of a tree:

"Any cutting or drastic pruning or altering the grade around the habitat of a tree or specimen tree which impairs, destroys or endangers the life of such tree or specimen tree or destroys its natural symmetry, including but not limited to heavy or unnecessary cutting of top branches or of major lower limbs of a tree or specimen tree. In any event, the removal of more than 50% of a tree's crown or limbs, or any cutting or trimming that would be deemed substantial by industry standards (ANSI - American National Standards Institute) shall be a substantial alteration."

The following section has been added to the Village Code to deal with this issue:

"Where substantial alteration of a tree is undertaken, the property owner shall be required to submit an affidavit stating that he or she is aware that such alteration may be detrimental to the health of the tree and that if upon review by Village personnel following the next growth season the tree does not survive, the property owner shall be subject to a fee for the removal of a live tree and must replace the tree in accord with section 219-9."

As always, any removal of a tree requires a permit but now substantial alteration requires a permit as well. Please help us save as many viable trees as we can by following all Village tree regulations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VILLAGE ARBORIST

Our resident Ann Frankel, who has been serving as a landscape design consultant to the Village for many years, has been awarded certification by the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture).

She passed a rigorous multi-day examination and has the following credentials required by the organization: 3 or more years of full-time, eligible practical work experience in arboriculture and a degree in the field of arboriculture, horticulture, landscape architecture or forestry. She is also subject to the rules of ethics for ISA Certified Arborists and the standards of the American National Standards Institute.



Ann was appointed Village Arborist by Mayor Phillips. She is responsible for consulting on all tree permit applications and is also the landscape designer of the Village Park. She is also working with the Park Committee on the landscaping for the new basketball court as well as all new plantings in the park.

PSE&G TO REPLACE LIPA

As of January 1, 2014 LIPA will cease to be our local electricity service provider and PSE&G will take over. The new name will be PSEG LI with a ten year contract to provide electric utility service to the 1.1 million customers on Long Island. Officials of their transfer team have been meeting with local officials to go over the details of the transition. National Grid will continue to be the local gas service utility provider and LIPA will cease to exist except as a very small holding company.

PSE&G Officials have told us that they are revamping the existing LIPA' customer service operations and updating their system for reporting outages. They hope to provide a huge improvement over the service we have been previously receiving.

Although they have no plans to bury wires here on the Island, they claim they will have a better service record than what we are accustomed to. We can only hope for the best!

PARK USE REGULATIONS

One of the first signs of spring are the youth soccer players in Flower Hill Park. In year's past, we have allowed organized groups to use the park free of charge as long as they filed insurance documents with the Village. As word of mouth spread, the park has become so popular with these groups that we need to impose some regulation. The Board of Trustees has imposed a registration form and use fee for all commercially operated sports groups using the park. This does not apply to informal pick up games, local residents or their children, only to those companies that charge a fee to coach soccer and use our park without compensating us. The extra cost to the Village for clean up and re-seeding the lawn will be covered by the fee and we lessen our municipal liability by requiring these groups to file their insurance documents with us. We also feel it is necessary to regulate their time on the field as they are monopolizing the area during times when we would like it to be available for our own Village resident's use. If your child participates in one of these coaching sessions, please let the coach know that they must file with the Village or they will be subject to a summons and fines imposed by the court.

COMFORT INN TO OPEN IN VILLAGE

The owners of the Gold Coast Inn have contracted with Comfort Inn to completely renovate the hotel on Northern Blvd. at Middle Neck Road in accordance with the standards of the Comfort Inn group. The hotel size will remain the same but a total interior and exterior renovation is in the works. The site plan has been approved by the Village Board and work should begin soon.

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE—BE PREPARED!

Village Deputy Mayor Tab Hauser serves as our Villages Emergency Manager as well as the Deputy Commissioner of the Port Washington/Manhasset Office of Emergency Management. He has put together a wonderful article on storm and hurricane preparedness that is available on our Village website. The link is <http://www.villageflowerhill.org/documents/HUURICANEPrep2.pdf>

DEMATTEIS ORGANIZATION GIFT



Mayor Phillips accepted a ceremonial gold plated scissor from the principals of the DeMatteis Organization, owners of the shopping center located at 1085 Northern Blvd. in the Village. After being present at the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the Wild Fig restaurant at the center they noted that we were using regular office scissors. To remedy the situation they gifted the Village with the beautiful engraved scissors shown in the photo.

VILLAGE ARBOR DAY EVENT A BIG SUCCESS



Under the leadership of Trustee Karen Reichenbach and the Village Tree Committee, the 2013 Arbor Day Celebration was a wonderful event. The Trustees are shown here with Legislator Wayne Wink (far right), planting a beautiful Kousa Dogwood tree donated by Committee member Zachary Mankes and his family. Thank you to Howard Bernstein, Ann Frankel and the Village staff for all their help.

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VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Flower Hill Village Administrator Ronnie Shatzkamer was the recipient of Registered Municipal Clerk status awarded by the New York State Association of Village and City Clerks on July 1, 2013. The award is the culmination of achieving over ten years of service and over fifty hours of continuing education. Presenting the award to Ms. Shatzkamer (on the right) is Association Vice President and Sands Point Village Administrator Randy Bond.

A major goal of the Association is to promote public awareness of the wide-ranging job that municipal clerks do to improve the quality of life of their residents. In addition to



over ten years of experience as a village clerk, Ms. Shatzkamer is also an attorney admitted to the New York Bar. She is constantly seeking new learning opportunities to better the Village. She will be attending the Cornell Municipal Clerk's Institute for the second year in a row. This is a five day, 12 hour a day, intensive education experience solely geared to the professional development of municipal clerks.

RECYCLING REMINDER

The Village requires you to recycle your trash. The rules can be complicated so please go to http://www.villageflowerhill.org/rules_regulations/RecyclingRules.pdf to learn what is recyclable and how it must be prepared. These rules were promulgated by the Town of North Hempstead as our Village trash company, Meadow Carting, uses their dump.

We often get complaints that the garbage crew is throwing recycling in with the regular trash. When cans and bottles are not washed out with labels removed, the Town dump will not accept them. They will also not accept any plastics except those with a 1 or 2 symbol on the bottom. If the recycling rules are not followed, the entire can of trash will be put in with regular garbage. The garbage men will not sort it.

Please remember that whatever goes into the garbage and is not recycled ends up in a landfill where it breaks down and eventually finds its way into the aquifer and then into your drinking water. Plastics, metals, cleaning supplies and pharmaceuticals are all potentially carcinogenic. Please help us help ourselves to a future with sufficient clean water for all.

The Village is planning an informational meeting on how and why we should recycle sometime this fall. You will be notified as soon as the date is set.