



VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FLOWER HILL

WINTER 2017

Mayor

Robert McNamara

Deputy Mayor

Brian Herrington

Trustees

Jay Beber

Frank Genese

Kate Hirsch

Gary Lewandowski

Randall Rosenbaum

Village Justice

Hon. Dennis Reisman

Ann Lauria-Smith, Court Clerk

Village Attorney

Jeffrey Blinkoff

Village Administrator

Ronnie Shatzkamer

Village Treasurer

Suzanne Tangredi

Building Superintendent

Drew Lawrence

Code Enforcement Officer

Robert Rockelein

Highway Superintendent

Scott Hislop

Highway Department

Richard Falcones

Kevin Kothe

Alexander Marra

Board of Zoning Appeals

Michael Sahn, Chair

William Clemency

Peter Cotelides

Dr. Arnold Goldman

Diane Turner

Alt: Dr. Glen Rubin

Planning Board

Rob Seiden, Chair

Rhoda Becker

Howard Miller

Larry Lioz

Jennifer Rimmer

Jay Silverman

Alt: David Silverstein

MAYORS OFFICE

Dear Fellow Village Residents,

It is my honor to write to you as your new Mayor. As most of you know our former mayor, Elaine Phillips, was elected in November to the New York State Senate for the Seventh District. At the December 5, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting the Board voted to approve my appointment as Mayor Phillips' successor. Although Mayor Phillips will be a tough act to follow, I will do my best to continue steering Flower Hill in a positive direction.

I was born and raised in Munsey Park and had a wonderful career (from which I now am retired) in the credit card industry working at Citi Bank, First Data Resource and then as a private consultant. My wife Virginia and I have lived in Flower Hill (Manhasset) for 35 years and had the pleasure of raising our three children here. I first was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2011 and served as Deputy Mayor for the past two years.

As your Mayor I intend to continue working hands on with the Board and residents to make Flower Hill the best Village in which to live in New York State. Serving on the Board of Trustees, and especially as Mayor, involves working with all of our residents to ensure the smooth function of Village services and implementation of positive changes for all. I intend to be transparent with all actions by the Board of Trustees and look forward to constructive discussions with as many residents as possible to hear feedback on what we can do to make the Village even better.

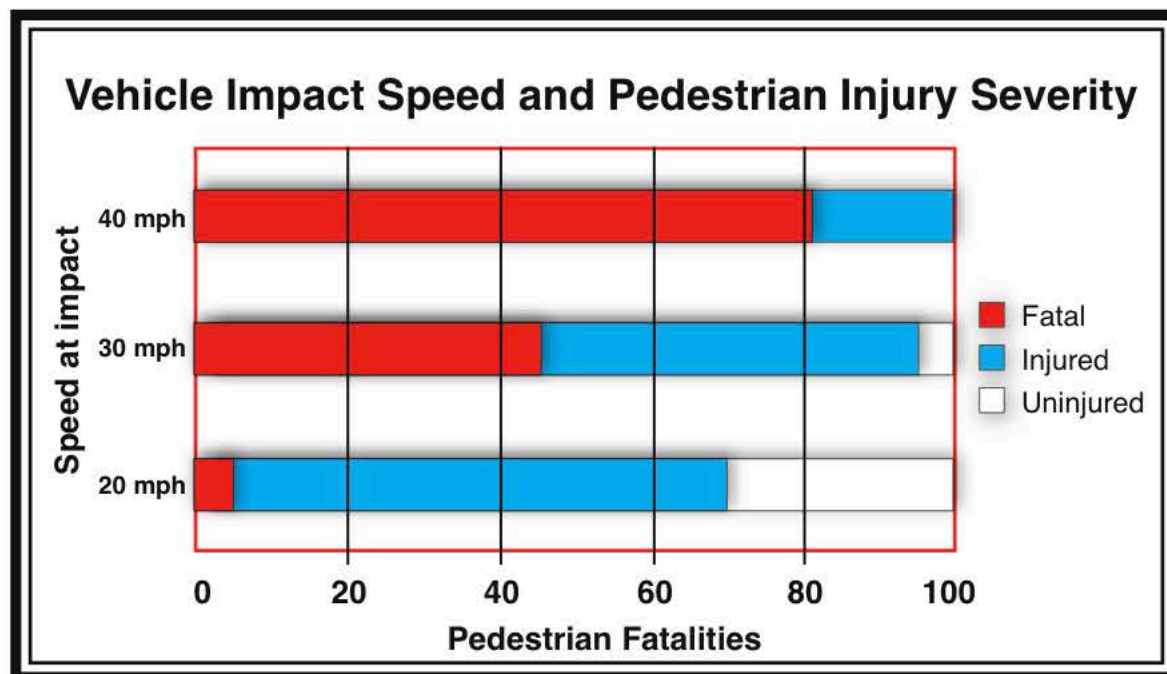
Thank you for your confidence.

Sincerely,

Robert McNamara

SNOW SEASON REMINDER - Although snow season is (hopefully) coming to an end, there still is plenty of time for an end of winter snow storm to blanket our area. With that in mind, the Board of Trustees would like to remind residents that when two or more inches of snow fall, or is forecasted to fall, parking will be temporarily suspended on Village roadways. After the snow has stopped and the roads are cleared, parking in the street is again allowed. Please also be considerate of your neighbors and our road maintenance crew and refrain from shoveling or plowing snow from your property into the plowed street. Lastly, if you have a fire hydrant on your property, please keep it clear of snow and ice. If you cannot maintain the hydrant during snow events please notify the Village office staff.

HOW FAST IS TOO FAST?



SPEEDING IN OUR VILLAGE

This chart represents just how important it is to watch your speed. Take a look at how much more damage you do for each additional 10 mph or speed.

(check the red bar)

We get feedback from our residents on a regular basis. Thoughts on how we might improve the Village, problems that need to be addressed, suggestions, general comments and once in a while, a call from a resident grateful for a job well done. But the one topic that seems to always be on the list is speeding and cut-through traffic. With the advent of navigation apps like WAZE, cutting through a neighborhood to save a minute or two on a commute is often suggested. We have made some changes to stop signs and one way street postings that we believe have helped.

No one wants more traffic on their streets, but studies have shown that cut through traffic actually makes up only a small percentage of our traffic problems. The majority of the cars on our residential streets are residents coming and going from their homes.

Our Village speed limit is 30 mph and a recent traffic study commissioned by the Village showed that for the most part, the speed limit is adhered to. In response to residents concerns, the Trustees will consider the possibility of lowering the speed limit. We would certainly like to know how you feel on the topic. In the near future we will hold public meetings and welcome your input.

Remember that the “they” driving through our Village going too fast is mostly our own residents. Slow down, stop at stop signs and watch out for our beautiful children. Sometimes we forget so as a gentle reminder we have asked for more enforcement of our Village traffic rules by the officers that patrol our Village.

The Village holds elections every year and there is a reason for that.

Our elected positions have terms that are staggered to give voters the opportunity to elect a representative government that reflects both the long term and immediate needs of the residents. Yet each year only about 1% of our residents cast their vote for Village Officials.



Compared to our National Election, local elections may seem unimportant, but it is one of the strongest tools residents have to influence government. Please Vote March 21 at the Village Hall from 12 noon till 9pm. If you will not be present in the county during the hours of election, or unable to vote due to illness or disability, you are entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Call the office to obtain the ballot.

Be A Good Neighbor

Being a good neighbor is an art which makes life richer
Gladys Taber

It is often the little things that make our neighborhood that much more enjoyable. With that in mind we offer these tips on the art of being a good neighbor – of course the list is not exhaustive and some residents will think of their own ideas for what would improve their quality of life. If you do we would love to hear them and we will print them in the next edition of our Village Newsletter!

- Pick up after your dog
- Don't plow snow from your driveway into the street
- Wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight when walking/running at night
- During construction ask contractors to park on your property – not the street
- Remind your contractors that work hours are 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday and 9 am to 6 pm on Saturdays and that there is no work on Sundays and observed holidays
- Obey the speed limit!
- Do not leave your car on the road overnight
- If you see something unusual say something – Village safety is important!

Stop by the office and pick of a VFH car sticker to show your Village pride



BEST PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY

Niche.com has ranked Flower Hill #3 on its list of top places in New York State to raise a family.

Rankings are based upon a number of factors

including public schools, family amenities, crime and safety and cost of living. We are proud of our Village and believe it is well deserving of this honor!





NEW TRUSTEES

The Village is pleased to introduce you to our newest Trustees, Kate Hirsch and Frank Genese.

At the October 17, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting Kate Hirsch was sworn in as a new Trustee. Kate was appointed to the Board to replace former Trustee Karen Reichenbach who passed away last summer. Kate and her husband Jonathan have lived in the Village for 16 years. They have two children, Hannah and Karl, who attend the Port Washington schools and a dog Max who regularly explores Flower Hill Park. Kate has practiced law for over 20

years and has served as a member of the Village Ethics Board since its inception three years ago. Kate has been an active member of the Port Washington community, serving as a Cub Scout leader in Pack 77 as well as on the Board of the South Salem Elementary H.S.A.

Frank Genese was appointed to the Board of Trustees at the December 5, 2016 meeting to fill the seat vacated by Bob McNamara when he became Mayor. Frank has been an active member of our community having volunteered his time to serve on both the Architectural Review Committee and the Planning Board. He is an architect and principal of N2 Project Management in Port Washington. Frank also is a Commissioner on the Town of North Hempstead Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission and serves on the Boards of both the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association/United Spinal Association and the North American Wheelchair Athletic Association. Frank lives in the Village with his wife Carol. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Trustee Brian Herrington has been appointed Deputy Mayor to replace Bob McNamara. Brian is an attorney who has served on the Board of Trustees for 3 years and has been actively involved in both the Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay Protection Committees on behalf of the Village as well as numerous special projects.

STAFF CHANGES

It is with best wishes and great sadness that we bid farewell to two long time Village employees.

Our building inspector, James Gilhooly, announced his retirement at the end of 2016. Jim was the Building Inspector for Flower Hill for over 20 years. He also was an advisor to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Architectural Review Committee. Jim and his wife will be relocating to Massachusetts to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Jim's presence and dedication to the Village will be greatly missed.

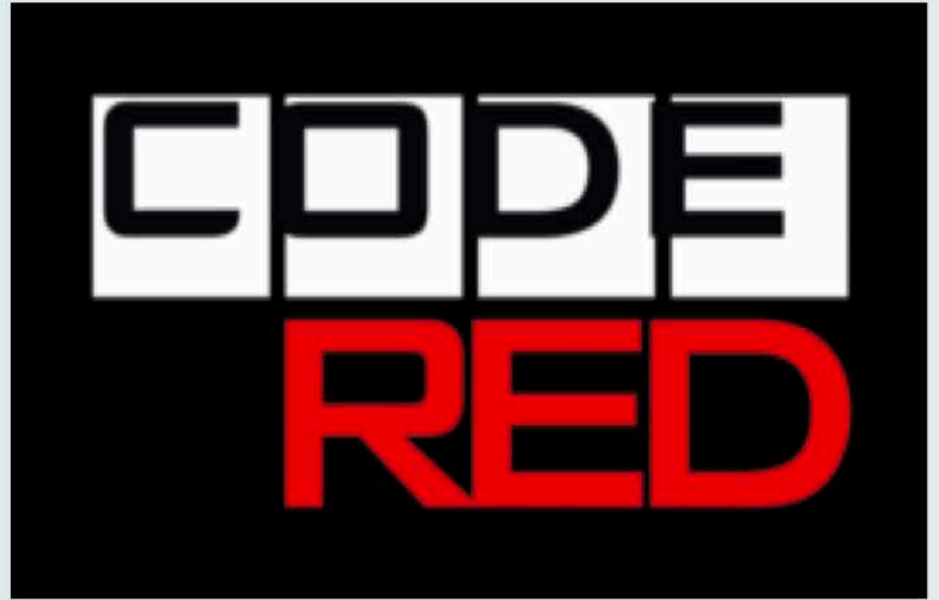
Village Treasurer Kathy Wade worked for our Village for over 9 years. In that time Kathy demonstrated a strong work ethic and loyalty to our Village as well as an extraordinary knowledge of government process. Kathy's skills were recognized and appreciated so much by our former Mayor that Kathy was appointed Chief of Staff to Senator Phillips.

Drew Lawrence has been named as our Building Inspector replacing Jim Gilhooly. Drew has extensive experience in carpentry, electrical and plumbing systems, HVAC and pools. He is a NYS Certified Code Enforcer and has many other certifications from various organizations related to home inspection. Prior to joining Flower Hill, Drew served for 6 and a half years as Superintendent of Buildings for the Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff.

Suzanne Tangredi has been hired to replace Kathy Wade as our Village Treasurer and also will serve as Deputy Clerk. Previously Suzanne worked for 8 years as the Village Clerk/Treasurer in Bellerose. Suzanne is a Certified Municipal Clerk.

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

As part of our efforts to improve communication with Village residents, Flower Hill has implemented a new community notification system called CodeRED. This system provides essential information to Village residents either in targeted call areas or Village-wide. In situations where information must be communicated to residents in a timely fashion, such as an impending dangerous storm or a traffic incident resulting in closed roadways, CodeRED will be used by the Village to communicate the necessary information to residents by telephone or email. In order to ensure that all residents receive this vital information when it is sent, we are requesting that all residents and businesses within the Village register for this service. You can do so by visiting our website at villageflowerhill.org and clicking the CodeRED link or by calling the Village office at 627-5000 and providing your contact information to one of our staff members.



SPRING PLANTING TREE REQUEST

The Village was named **Tree City U.S.A.** by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the National Arbor Day Foundation. Following Hurricane Sandy, when the Village lost many trees to the storm, we offered residents a free tree provided it was planted in the Village right of way. We have continued this program almost every year since Sandy. The Village offers trees from a list of preapproved species considered likely to succeed in our climate. Since its

inception, Flower Hill has given away over 55 trees. This Spring the Village will be continuing the practice of encouraging tree planting in our Village by providing free trees to residents. If you request a tree, a member of the tree committee will visit your home to find a feasible location. Once all of the details are worked out and the tree is planted, it will be your responsible to properly care for, water and maintain the tree. Watch for our mailing for more details on how you can get a free tree and more information and tips on how to care for your trees.

Sports Wall

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

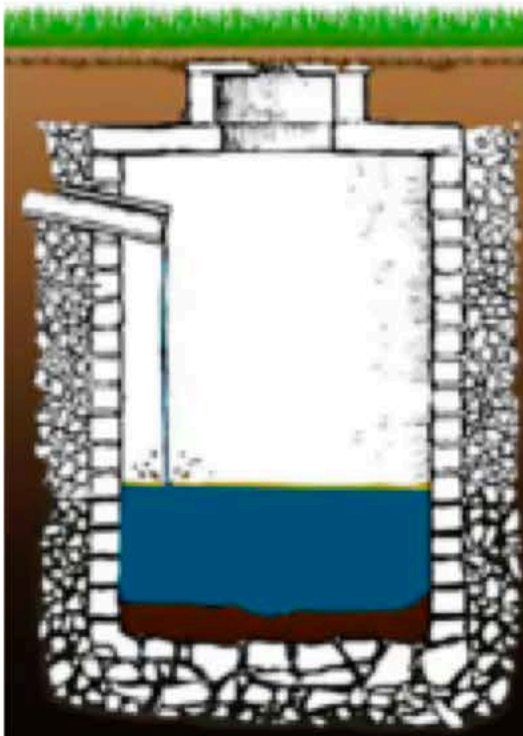


Some of the most significant and obvious improvements to our Village over the past several years have been to Flower Hill Park. Foot paths have been created, a basketball court has been built, playground equipment has been erected and the overall condition of the park has been improved with beautiful landscape design, lush plantings and attentive maintenance by our highway department employees. These improvements are evident in the increased usage of the park by our residents and neighbors. It is not unusual to see groups of friends and neighbors congregating in the park and taking advantage of these wonderful amenities.

In March, the Village will seek bids for construction of a Sports Wall near the basketball court off Stonytown Road. When it is completed the wall will be used for handball games or for practicing lacrosse or tennis. The Board of Trustees is excited to be adding yet another feature to our already amazing park. The Board is grateful that financing for the Sports Wall has been made possible by a grant obtained by former Senator Jack Martins.

EXTENSION OF THE STONYTOWN PEDESTRIAN PATH

Last year the Village created a pedestrian path along the south side of Stonytown Road. The path runs from Manhasset Woods Road to Flower Hill Park. Plans are underway to extend the path from Manhasset Woods Road through the adjacent Village of Plandome Manor to the Plandome Train Station. This extension will ensure that our residents have a safe place to walk when they are on their way to the train, walking the dog or simply strolling through our beautiful Village.



CESSPOOL MAINTENANCE

Most areas of Flower Hill are not connected to sewers and homeowners must rely on cesspools and septic systems, also called home waste water systems. All homes generate waste water via sink drains, dish and clothes washers and flushed through toilets. The waste water must be treated to remove bacteria before it re-enters the environment. Cesspools must be properly maintained or homeowners run the risk that their system may contaminate the ground and nearby surface water. For residents with home waste water systems there is a new initiative called “Get Pumped! Long Island” that educates homeowners on how to properly maintain their cesspools. This initiative is a joint effort by a number of groups including the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee and the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee. For more information – and a \$50 coupon toward future cesspool maintenance. Visit getpumpedli.org.