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# VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL

## VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FLOWER HILL

FALL 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

Rich Falcones

### Highway Department

Kevin Kothe

Elmer Guzman

### 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

Jay Silverman

Alt. David Silverstein



The Board of Trustees recently passed a law granting amnesty to residents who may have expired permits and/or work done without a permit. These permits or building projects become an issue when you sell or refinance your home as the mortgage company will do a title search that will reveal the deficiencies of your property. To avoid holding up a closing or losing a favorable interest rate, you are encouraged to take advantage of this program now. The program runs through December 31, 2017. Normally you would be required to reopen the permit at the original fee which may run into thousands of dollars, however during Amnesty, permits can be reopened for either \$100 for a regular permit or \$50 for a miscellaneous permit. Upon completion of all requirements to legalize the permit such as inspection, smoke detectors, etc. the Village will issue a certificate of Occupancy or Completion. If you know that you have work done without a permit such as a deck or finished basement, you can legalize the work without incurring any penalties. You still have to submit the paperwork required for a permit but you will realize a cost savings and avoid a summons by acting now. Please visit Village Hall to review your file for open permits and to make arrangements for legalizing work done without a permit.

**IMPACT FEES:** As is evident to anyone living in or simply passing through Flower Hill, there has been and continues to be a significant amount of home building and renovation taking place. All of this construction activity requires permits, architectural plans, landscaping plans, decisions on tree removal for new projects and the list goes on. Additionally, construction projects are taking a toll on our village's infrastructure – large trucks carrying heavy loads are commonly traversing the roadways and at a minimum creating dust and debris requiring additional sweeping and at worst at times damaging our roads. Simply put, all of the construction is creating issues that continually need to be addressed by our office staff, Architectural Review Committee and mostly by our highway, building and code enforcement departments, which has resulted in increased administrative and maintenance costs.

To address this, the Board of Trustees passed a local law creating a schedule of "impact fees" for construction projects in the Village. This fee is limited to new home construction only, improvements or additions are not affected. The law creates a sliding scale whereby the impact fee is determined by the square footage of new construction, \$1,000 + \$2.50 per square foot. The fee is in addition to the regular building permit fee (\$500 + \$2.50 per square foot). It is anticipated that the collection of these fees will help to offset the expenses the Village is incurring due to construction in the Village.



# House Numbers



**In an emergency**, first responders depend on house numbers to find you as quickly as possible. Please make sure your house number is clearly marked and visible from the street. House numbers generally should be:

- In plain, block numerals on a contrasting background
- Large enough (at least 3") to be seen from the street
- Unobstructed by trees, decorations or vehicles
- Facing the street named in your address
- Displayed at your driveway entrance if your house is not visible from the street
- Reflective or lit up to be seen at night

## FOLLOW THE CODE FOR A SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD

Our Village Code contains numerous provisions with which all residents should be familiar. For example, if your property has a pool, there are strict regulations with regard to maintenance of the property to ensure the safety of all persons who may visit your property. If you have any questions about what is required under our code (and state law) please contact our Code Enforcement Officer

Robert Rockelein by calling the village office or emailing Robert at [codeenforcer@villageflowerhill.org](mailto:codeenforcer@villageflowerhill.org).



**Please be reminded that if you plan to hold a tag sale or estate sale you need to obtain a permit. Similarly, a permit is required any time a resident has a tent erected on their property.**



## Village Speed Limit Concerns

Due to overwhelming concern about speeding in our village, before the May Board of Trustees meeting there was a public forum held with acting Nassau County police commissioner Thomas Krumpter. Commissioner Krumpter listened to our concerns about speeding on village roadways and promised that we would see enforcement measures in place within days. True to his word, the patrol cars were out enforcing the speed limit over several weeks following the meeting. Many tickets were issued but more importantly it is our hope that drivers took notice and slowed down!



# Be A Good Neighbor

**FALL SEASON REMINDERS:** Here are some things to keep in mind this time of the year:

Schools will be open and school buses will be back on the roads. Generally, drivers approaching the bus from either direction must come to a complete stop. Slow down and use extra caution whenever you drive near a school bus or you pass a bus stop where children are waiting for the bus. Keep the following in mind when schools are open:

- *Drive with your headlights on to be more visible.*
- *Look for clues indicating that children might be in the area (for example, school safety patrols, adult crossing guards, bicycles, school buses, or playgrounds).*
- *Watch for school buses flashing their lights, which means that students are entering or exiting the bus.*

Flower Hill does not provide leaf removal. All residents or their landscapers are required to remove and properly dispose of the leaves on their own property. Please ask your gardeners and landscapers to avoid blowing and raking leaves onto adjacent properties, into storm drains or into the streets.

Autumn is hurricane season. Although we do not regularly experience hurricanes or other tropical storms we all know that they are possible. Visit the American Red Cross web site for tips on how to prepare your family for the worst. With that in mind don't forget that Flower Hill has implemented a new community notification system called CodeRED. See the box on page 4.

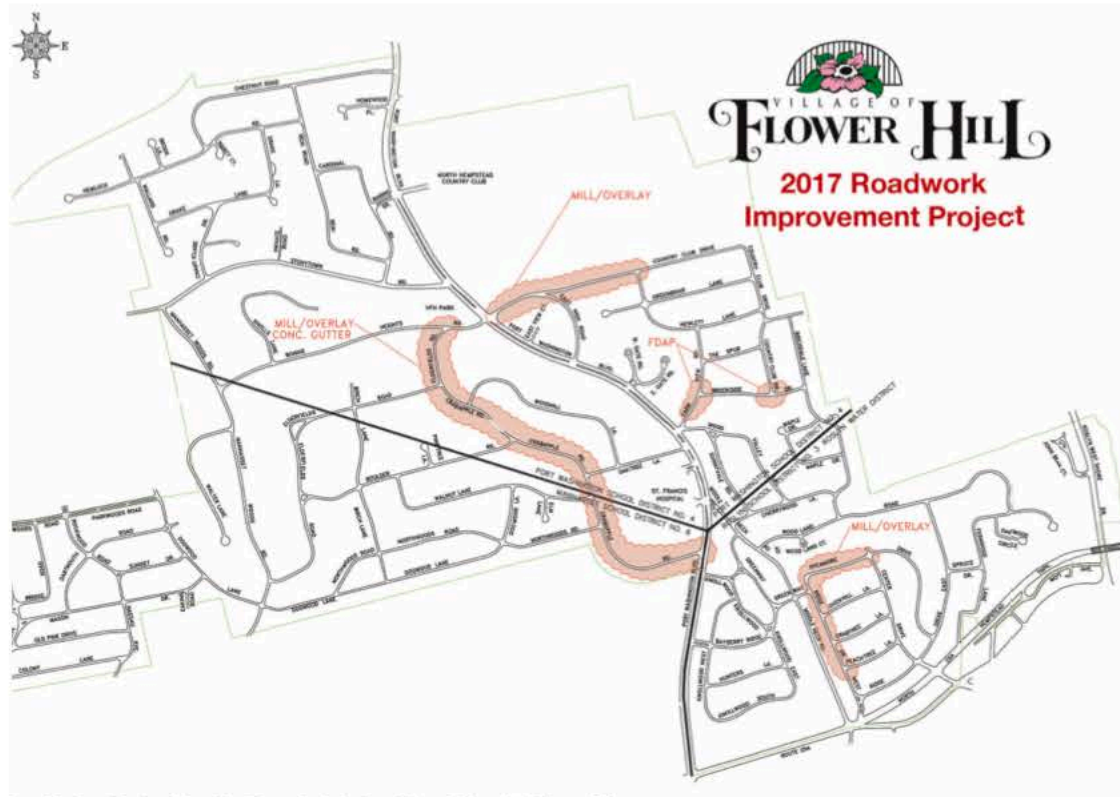


## There are many reasons to pick up after your dog – here are five!

- \* It's the law and the neighborly thing to do
- \* It pollutes our waterways
- \* It may contain parasites and other germs.
- \* It's bad for the lawn – really!
- \* Makes you unhappy when you step in it







## ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Repaving and drainage improvement projects are near completion with just some punch list items to be completed. This year's contract included Country Club Drive and parts of Farmview Road in Port Washington, Ridge Drive in Roslyn and Crabapple Road in Manhasset.

The Village is committed to keeping our roads in top condition. We appreciate everyone's patience during the project, all of which were completed in a timely fashion and within budget.

## TRAFFIC PROJECTS

For the past several months Mayor McNamara has been working with the New York State Department of Transportation on a traffic calming project. This project was started by former Mayor and now Senator Elaine Phillips several years ago. As part of this project the State has undertaken a study of the traffic patterns at the intersection of Port Washington Boulevard and Middle Neck Road as well as all of Port Washington Blvd. from Northern Blvd. up to Harbor Lane. The State will do a repaving and restriping of the entire length of the road sometime between fall of 2018 and summer of 2019. They are also actively studying options for the improvement of the Middle Neck Road/Port Washington Blvd. intersection. This project could take as long as three years before implementation however it is an active ongoing project. Assuming that State funding is available, this improvement will move forward.

The Village also has a commitment from Nassau County to repave and improve Middle Neck Road after which the Village will acquire the road. We have been in contact with the County's attorneys so we may legalize this commitment and move forward. Currently there is no time line for the project however we anticipate completion and acquisition to be finalized within the next two years.

## 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, CodeRED will be used by the Village to communicate with residents by phone, email or text. If there is an emergency such as a storm targeting our area, snow emergencies, etc. the Village can send an alert to residents with essential information. You can choose whether you want all local notifications such as road closures or emergency notifications only. You can also choose the method of communication you prefer. You can do so by visiting our website at [villageflowerhill.org](http://villageflowerhill.org) and clicking the CodeRED link; if you don't have computer access, call the Village office at 627-5000 and provide your contact information to one of our staff members and we will register for you.





# Flower Hill Park

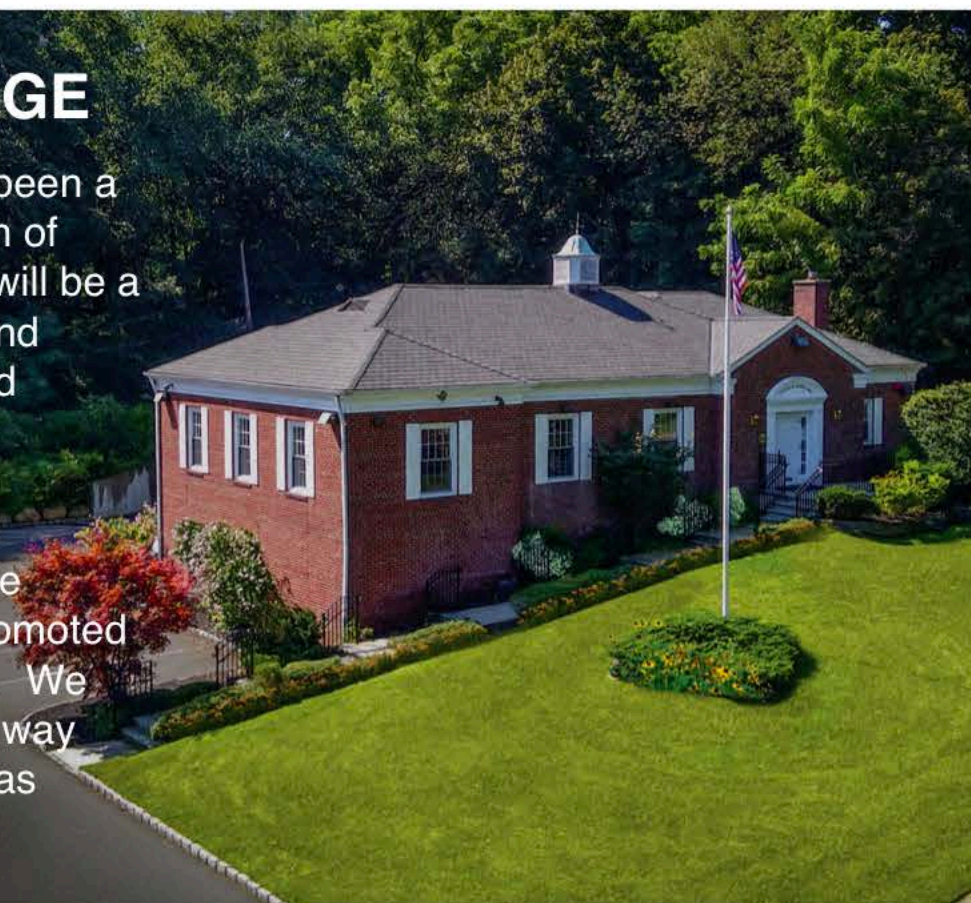
Flower Hill Park is our village's best kept secret! In 2006 the Village purchased Flower Hill Park from the County of Nassau. At the time the land was overgrown, untended and had little to offer residents. Since then the Village has steadily improved the property so that it now is one of the highlights of our community. Anyone who has visited recently will see firsthand what has been accomplished: beautiful plantings line the shady paths that are perfect for a peaceful stroll; tall trees surround an open area that is perfect for a dog walk, frisbee toss or a lacrosse/soccer/football game with friends. We have installed an incredible play area for young children with a jungle gym, playground equipment and our most recent addition - swings! There also is a fantastic basketball court and a brand new sports wall. If you haven't been down to the park in a while take a walk through - you will not be disappointed!



## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE VILLAGE

Our new Village Architect is Peter Albinski. He has been a NYS licensed architect since 1981 and has a wealth of building and design experience. We believe Peter will be a most welcome addition and that he will provide sound professional guidance to builders, home owners and architects on building projects in the village

Our new Superintendent of Public Works is Richard Falcones. Richard has been a valued member of the highway department for many years and he was promoted to Superintendent upon the passing of Scott Hislop. We wish Richard success in his new position. The highway department staff also includes Kevin Kothe as well as recent hires Elmer Guzman and Chris Bacalles.





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



## TREE CITY USA®

### Flower Hill takes Trees Seriously

*In 2015 Flower Hill officially was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA community program which recognizes a community's commitment to maintaining forestation and promoting environmental*

*awareness. We are pleased to report that the Arbor Day Foundation once again recognized our village for this commitment. Flower Hill would not be the same without our trees - they define our village and make for a beautiful setting in all seasons.*

### Tree removal requires a permit!

**Our village code requires that permits be obtained before any tree is removed from any property in the village. In order to better enforce this ordinance the Board of Trustees recently passed a local law significantly increasing the penalties for unauthorized tree removal.**

**Please contact the village office before commencing any tree removal on your property!**

## VILLAGE STATISTICS

Believe it or not the 2020 decennial US Census is gearing up right now. Census data is really fascinating and gives us a great snapshot of the Village.

In 2010 the population of the Village was 4,634 but the 2016 estimate was 4,817. We are growing! We have 1,473 households. 47.1% are families with children under 18.

For more really fascinating information, visit <https://factfinder.census.gov> and enter Flower Hill, NY.

