



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF FLOWER HILL

SPRING 2018

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
Peter Albinski

Code Enforcement Officer
Robert Rockelein

Highway Superintendent
Richard Falcones

Highway Department
Kevin Kothe
Elmer Guzman
Alex Falcones

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

BUILDING BOOM



Over the past two years over 50 new homes have been built in Flower Hill and real estate prices are on the rise, confirming that our Village is one of the most desirable places to live on the North Shore.

SOUND FINANCIAL PLANNING LEADS TO NO TAX INCREASE IN 2018-2019 BUDGET

The Village is proud of our financial condition and our new budget. The new Village Budget shows a .08% decrease in the tax line which should result in a slightly lower or flat village tax. The Village has worked hard to continue to be able to provide excellent service while not increasing any cost to our residents. We understand that we are responsible to you, the residents, and do everything we can to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars.

Some cost savings changes we have recently made include replacing our previous auditor with Abrams & Co., specialists in government accounting. Abrams was recommended by many other villages and their cost is lower than we have previously been charged. We have also switched banks from Capitol One to The First National Bank of Long Island. This change will net the Village at least an additional \$21,000 in interest.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Village has hired a new Building Superintendent. Peter Albinski is a registered architect who also works for the Villages of Old Brookville & Lattingtown. Peter has been working for the Village as a consultant up to now, chairing the Architectural Review Committee. He will remain as chair and in addition has adjusted his schedule to give Flower Hill the time needed to perform all Building Superintendent functions as well. As an architect, Peter will be a great addition to the Village team. In his role as chair of the Architectural Review Committee, he is leading a really well qualified team of residents consisting of Trustee Gary Lewandowski, architect; Kevin Nasello, architect; Anthony Faglione, builder and Robert Soviero, builder. Peter is also consultant to our wonderful Zoning Board of Appeals consisting of the

following residents: Chairman Michael Sahn, a well-regarded zoning attorney; attorney Peter Cotelides, a real estate law specialist; William Clemency, architect, Dr. Arnold Goldman, pediatrician and long-time resident; Diane Turner, longest serving member of the Board and alternate Dr. Glen Rubin, dentist practicing in Port Washington. The Village is honored to have such outstanding volunteers as part of our team. We thank them all from the bottom of our hearts for their service.

IN MEMORIAM Former Village Mayor and long-time resident John Walters recently passed away. John was a treasured resource for knowledge of all things Flower Hill. He served as Village Historian from the time he left the office of Mayor until his passing. Mayor McNamara reached out to Planning Board member and also long-time resident Rhoda Becker to serve as our Historian and she was delighted to take up the position.

Flower Hill History – by Rhoda Becker

On March 13, 1931, the land now known as Flower Hill officially became an incorporated village. 16 residents signed the petition requesting that this area be made a village. At election time, 23 people voted. At that time the village population was 288, according to the 2010 Census our population is now 4,665.

The first Mayor was Arthur G. Elvin who served briefly and then turned the responsibility over to W. John Logan. The first official meeting was held at the real estate office of Carlos Munson, located where Village Hall stands today. At that first meeting 15 ordinances were approved. The first five ordinances were related to: "Hunting and Shooting", "Hawking and Peddling", "Motor Vehicles" (speed limit 20 mph, fine for exceeding \$25.), "Picnicking and Parking" (only with the permission of the property owner) and "Swimming and Bathing" (bathing attire is required in a public place)!

The next meeting was on May 12, 1931 where committee appointments were made and zoning was under discussion. The Zoning Commission made recommendations that the Village be zoned into two classes A & B however, one of the Trustees felt that "B" was a detrimental designation so they assigned the zones as A-1 and A-2.

OUR ROADWAYS



MIDDLE NECK ROAD

The Village is currently in negotiations with Nassau County for Village take-over of this County owned road. This heavily travelled road is entirely within our Village's borders and we believe we can take better care of the road than the County. Middle Neck Road is a gateway to our Village and its current condition is an embarrassment. We will only take the road if the County commits to bringing it up to our Village standards. The agreement, which is still being hammered out, is that the County will repave and repair the drainage. The Village will then acquire the road for \$1. We will do a thorough clean up, replace old dead trees and shrubs and generally beautify the road. Once the agreement is signed, the Village will be wholly responsible for the road.

PORT WASHINGTON BOULEVARD

The State Department of Transportation (DOT) owns Port Washington Blvd. The Village has been trying to get the state to address the issues of traffic and safety, particularly at the intersection with Middle Neck Road, since 2013. We are finally seeing some forward action from the DOT. There are two projects in the planning stages for this road.

The first project will be a repaving from Northern Blvd. north to Harbor Road. The DOT anticipates this will take place in the fall of 2018. This project will also address drainage, new signage, curb repair and correction of deficiencies in pedestrian facilities such as crosswalks and curb ramps.

The second phase will correct the problems caused at the intersection of Middle Neck Road, Port Washington Blvd. and St. Francis Hospital. We have been working with the DOT and St. Francis to come up with a solution to the Middle Neck Road turning lane back-ups, the high number of traffic accidents at this intersection and easing of traffic further south on Port Blvd. The DOT has assigned engineers to this project and they are studying several different scenarios to determine which will work the best. The DOT has a funding commitment from the state. Although at this time there still remains a great deal of work to be done and no timetable can be projected, we have assurances that this project will take place.

Many thanks go to former Mayor, now State Senator, Elaine Phillips for initiating this improvement and supporting it as our Senator.

NEW TRAFFIC ISLAND ON NORTHERN BOULEVARD AND RIDGE DRIVE WEST

In order to create a safer ingress and egress to Ridge Drive West, the Village will be constructing a traffic island that will extend from the current island all the way down to Northern Blvd. This will prevent traffic cutting through the Dunkin Donuts lot to get to Middle Neck Road.



2018 ROAD PROJECTS

Our Village Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works has recommended that the 2018 Road Improvement project include the following roads: Dogwood Lane, Knolls Road, Center Drive, Sunset Drive, a portion of Chestnut Road, a basin on Knollwood Road and a very large pothole on Birchdale Lane. The Village consistently improves our roads each year and we do so without outside funding, special assessments or bonding. We utilize long range financial planning to ensure that each year we can upgrade the oldest and poorest roads in the Village each and every year.

NEW CONSTRUCTION & LANDSCAPE WORK HOURS

We have new hours for landscapers and construction in the Village. Previously work was permitted from 9 am to 6 pm on Saturdays however we have shortened that to 5 pm to allow a bit more quiet enjoyment of your property.

REMINDER

We contract for rear door pick up so your trash cans should not be at the curb. The only curbside items should be yard waste or large items, otherwise the sanitation workers will take your trash from the rear or side of your home.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Summer office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 4:30 except on Fridays when we close at 2 pm from Memorial Day till Labor Day.

INCREASED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Summer brings the kids outside and more residents walking our beautiful neighborhood. There will be increased Police enforcement in our ongoing efforts to keep our streets safe. Stop signs mean stop and coasting through may cost you a ticket!

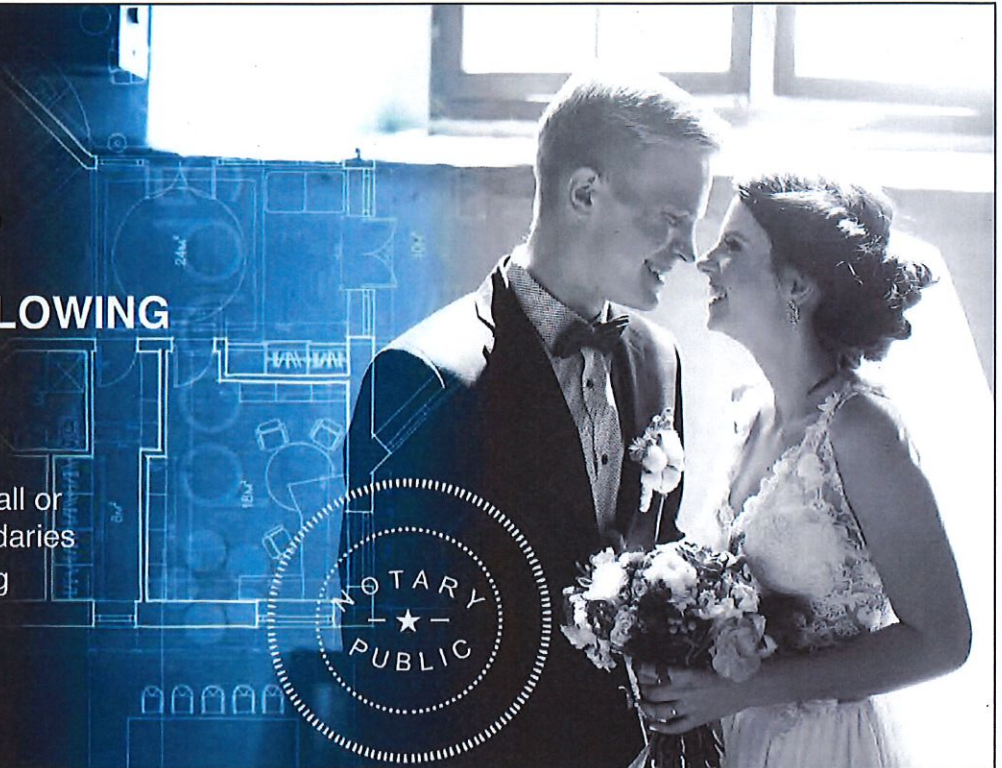
NO OVERNIGHT PARKING

Please remember there is no overnight parking in the Village (2 am to 6 am). You may obtain an "FH" sticker at the Village Hall that will identify your vehicle as belonging to a resident. You can stop in or call and we will send you a sticker. PLEASE NOTE: A sticker will not prevent you from getting a ticket for overnight parking but will identify your vehicle to the police as belonging to a Village resident.



WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES

- Notary (no charge for residents)
- Wedding ceremonies at Village Hall or anywhere within the Village boundaries
- Blueprint and large format copying (\$5 per page)
- * Park rental for special events



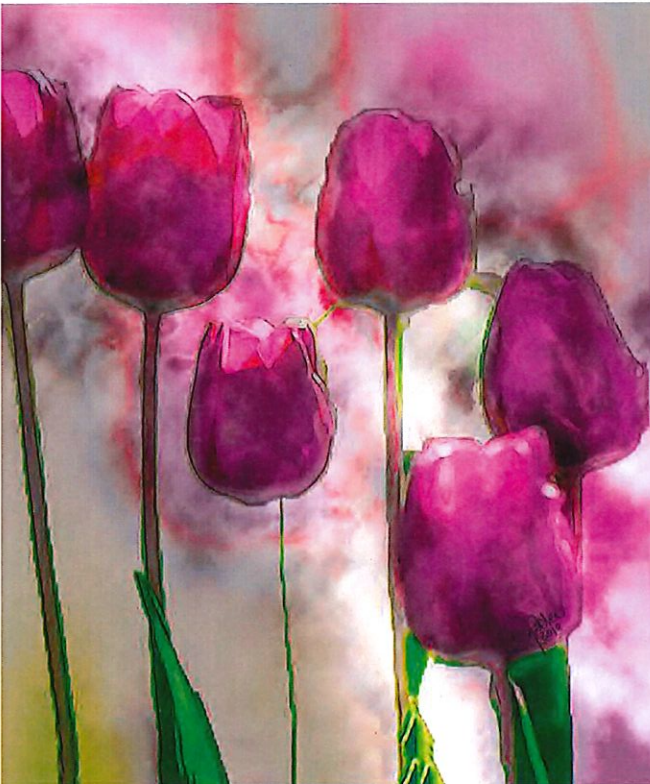
SUMMER SEASONAL REMINDERS

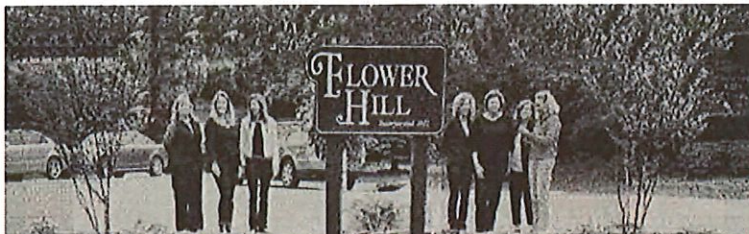
Lawn watering follows the odd house, water on odd days; even house, water on even days schedule. Check with your local water district for restrictions on hours of watering.

If you are having an outdoor party please remember that a **tent permit** is required.

Please be a good neighbor and **restrict outdoor noise** after 10 pm.

If you are travelling, put your **lights on a timer** so it appears as if someone is home and notify your mail carrier and newspaper delivery to stop service until you return.





WOMEN'S CLUB OF FLOWER HILL

Many newer residents are unaware that this club exists but you can see their good works all over the Village. The WCFH sponsors fun events for women and families and fundraises at the same time. One of their biggest events is the annual Winter Light the Night. In December the WCFH sells light kits that consist of a safety candle and a white paper bag. People buy multiples and on the designated night everyone in Flower Hill, Munsey Park and Plandome set out the lights along their front curb. The effect is dazzling! With their fundraising dollars the WCFH has donated many improvements to our Village:

- 2014 – Reconstruction and replanting of the Bridge Road traffic island.
- 2015 – A much needed bench at the center of the park field
- 2016 – A water fountain near the playground
- 2017 – The Village logo painted on the sports wall
- 2018 – A bike rack at the playground

If you are interested in learning more about the club, visit their website: <http://www.womensclubflowerhill.com/>
Or contact Deanna Durso about membership: DDurso@aol.com

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

FLOWER HILL TREE CITY USA

Flower Hill has been a Tree City USA since 2013. This year the Urban Forestry Program of the Division of Lands and Forests of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has honored our Village by asking us to be a keynote speaker at their annual recognition ceremony. The event coordinator was particularly impressed by our informational tree mailing piece and our annual tree planting program. Deputy Mayor Brian Herrington represented the Village.

For this year's Arbor Day celebration, an integral part of the Tree



City USA status, we will be honoring what we believe is the oldest tree in the Village.

Also new this year is a Village tree trimming program. The demand for street trees has dropped a bit (we will plant again next year) however many trees along our roads are in dire need of attention. We will be trimming the trees along the roads in the rights-of-way during the late spring/early summer.

Summer is a great time to trim the trees on your property, in advance of hurricane season which starts August 1. After seeing the amount of dead wood and compromised trees that fell during the four Nor'easters we had in March, it is apparent that tree trimming is the best way to control the fall of dead wood. Falling limbs during a storm are a danger to life and property, proper trimming can reduce the risk. You do not need a permit to have your trees trimmed however be sure that your contractor is licensed with the Village.