



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights
NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2014

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

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Alvin Solomon
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Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to share with you news of events, activities, progress and plans in our Village this winter. It has been an active winter as you will see below.

Certainly we have had our share of snow events and, given the extreme cold, they have been more difficult events. So we have adjusted methods and procedures.

During this winter, we had the opportunity to share in personal celebrations with residents (see below). And we represented the Village at the January inauguration celebrations of our new Town Supervisor and of our re-elected County Executive.

We received great news (see below) from the NYS Comptroller that our “fiscal stress test” shows a strong rating. With solid financials, we can handle emergencies, capital projects and budgets with strength

and confidence. In that vein, the Trustees have approved the first steps in moving forward with a new capital project described below. We are working on an opportunity for some grant money for that project.

And as we begin the 2014 – 15 Budget process, I see expenses, other than snow removal, running a bit favorably to plan. So I currently believe we should expect no surprises in the 2014 – 15 Budget.

The Village is in great shape and it can be better; we work toward that every day.

It is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

Kenneth C. Riscica

Mayor



New Village Flag Flies on Plandome Road



In October 2013, our Trustees approved the design for a Village Flag bearing the white emblem of the Village on a forest green background with the words

“Village of Plandome Heights” above and “Incorporated 1929” below. On December 7, 2013 the new flag was hoisted on the

Village Flagpole on Plandome Road at Plandome Court, respectfully below the American Flag, by Village Flag Master Michael Riscica. The new flag was designed and produced with the help of Manhasset’s Minuteman Press.

Based on favorable community reaction, a second flag was produced and hoisted on the Flagpole at the Village Preserve at Bayview Circle in January 2014.

Plandome Pond Park Study: 500 Cubic Yards of Dredging Needed

In our last Newsletter we reported that the Town agreed to engage an engineering study to determine the reasons behind the stagnant water and buildup of algae in Plandome Pond Park. That study has been completed and in January 2014 our Town Councilwoman, Dina DeGeorgio, reports that the Town has concluded that 500 cubic yards of dredging is required. The estimated

total project cost is \$300,000. The next step is for this to move through the Capital Projects process at the Town and up to the Town Supervisor. The Village/Town liaison for the Park is Marion Endrizzi, President of the VPH Civic Association and we have support from Greater Manhasset Civic Pres. Rich Bentley. Deputy Parks Commissioner Kevin Kelly is our Town liaison.



Wedding Bells – A Rare Village Nuptial

On November 26, 2013, Mayor Riscica officiated and Trustee Ferman and Clerk Drucker witnessed as Brooke and Anil Wadhvani renewed their wedding vows in the Village on their 25th wedding anniversary. Attending the wedding were their children Brittany, a freshman at Barnard College and Alec, a sophomore at Manhasset High School, as well as the bride's mother Jeet Madan. Brooke and Anil have resided in Plandome Heights since 1995. They purchased the land in 1994 and built the home in which they have raised their children.

No one seems to know when the last time a wedding was officiated in the Village, but it has surely been a long time; a rare joy indeed.



Anil & Brooke Wadhvani renewed their vows with Mayor Kenneth Riscica

Strong 2013 Fiscal Stress Test Results

In February, we received the results of the NYS Comptroller's "fiscal stress test" for our Village for 2013. For context, the scale is as follows:

- "Significant Fiscal Stress" = score of 65% +
- "Moderate Fiscal Stress" = score of 55% +
- "Susceptible to Fiscal Stress" = score of 45% +
- "No Designation" = score less than 45%

The Comptroller advised us: "This letter is to notify you that as of December 31, 2013 our review of the Annual Update Document (AUD) for the Village of Plandome Heights indicates that the Village is currently classified as No Designation with a score of 3.3%." This result reflects the solid financial footing we have in the Village. From this strength, we can face emergencies, capital projects and budgeting with confidence.

Continuous Improvement & Capital Project

Our continuous improvement projects included working with residents to replace 35 broken sidewalk sections, replacing 3 street name signs with new, reflective and more vandal-resistant signs, and the new Village flags.

In addition, pursuant to the long-term Capital Plan we began last year, the next project under that Plan is the resurfacing of The Waterway/The Neck. We requested and received proposals for engineering services for the project and in December 2013 the Trustees authorized

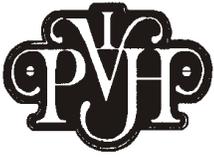
the first step in the project, the retention of engineers to specify the work so that it can be bid.

In January we got information on our request for grant money to support the Waterway/Neck project. A request has now gone up to Albany and we expect to hear something back in March. We are planning this as a 2014 capital project but the receipt of a grant could delay our plans. We will keep you posted as this moves along.

Building Code – Consideration of "Sky Exposure"

Several residents have expressed concern about the size of building additions in various parts of the Village. In discussions with the Building Inspector and Village Attorney, we noted that our building code does not contain "sky exposure" provisions. Such provisions are

common and intended to mitigate the "look of largeness" in second story additions. In February the Trustees began a discussion. We plan to discuss it further at the March meeting with a view toward a possible Public Hearing for this topic in the Spring.



Village Honors Lawrence J. Kaplan at 98

In December 2013, Mayor Riscica presented a Proclamation by the Trustees of the Village to longtime resident Lawrence J. Kaplan honoring his 98th birthday. Lawrence and Jeanne Kaplan have lived in Plandome Heights since 1977.

Mr. Kaplan is one of the oldest residents of the Village and one of its WWII veterans. In addition to decorated service in WWII, Mr. Kaplan went on to receive a Ph.D. from Columbia University and then became an economics professor at Baruch College and then John Jay College. As an active citizen, Mr. Kaplan organized the Manhasset WWII Memorial, was in the PATV documentary about local WWII veterans and was named a *Hometown Hero* by North Hempstead. Larry and Jeanne have been married for 67 years and have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and another on the way.



Trustees Alvin Solomon & Aida Ferman, Mayor Kenneth Riscica and Jeanne and Lawrence Kaplan

November Election Results

Several important local elections were decided in November. In Nassau, County Executive **Mangano** and Comptroller George **Maragos** were reelected to second four year terms. In the Town of North Hempstead, Nassau Legislator Judi **Bosworth** was elected to succeed Jon Kaiman who retired as Town Supervisor, and Nassau Legislator Wayne **Wink** was elected Town Clerk. Further, Rich **Nicolello** was reelected Nassau County Legislator in the 11th District which includes Plandome Heights as of January 1, 2014.

We congratulate Executive Mangano, Comptroller Maragos, Supervisor Bosworth, Clerk Wink and Legislator Nicolello on their strong results. Our Village enjoys cordial relationships with our County and Town officials. As such we attended the inaugurations of both Executive Mangano and Supervisor Bosworth and we

attended the new Supervisor's "State of the Town" address in January. We look forward to a continuing positive relationship.

We offer our thanks to outgoing Town Clerk Leslie **Gross** for her 6 years of service and of course to Supervisor **Kaiman** for his 10 years of service. We also acknowledge our Councilwoman Dina **DiGiorgio** who will continue to represent us in the 6th District on the Town Council.

*Interesting.....*Trustee Norm Taylor notes that according to the Manhasset Press, Plandome Heights residents had the *highest voting participation* of any other group in Manhasset with 33.3% of our residents voting compared with an average of about 29% for the rest of Manhasset.

Emergency Management and Preparation

On January 1, 2014 PSE&G Long Island took over electric operations for LIPA from National Grid. Trustee Solomon, Clerk Drucker and Mayor Riscica have participated in several calls and meetings designed to acclimate the Villages to the new "storm process" employed by PSE&G. So far, so good. In our recent

storms, we had a transformer fire and some tree limbs on wires and all was handled quickly and efficiently. We have continued our meetings with LIPA, PSE&G, Nassau County, Town of North Hempstead and PWM-OEM and are fully plugged-in to emergency management preparation for Manhasset/Port Washington.

Snow Removal

This snow season has been particularly vexing with 10 snow events by the beginning of February. Many events have had low snowfall but included arctic cold temperatures that prevent road salt from working and make the roads extra slick. We have been working with Cow Bay to adjust processes and methods to be more

effective and service has improved. There are a few things you can do to help, including: (1) do NOT deposit your snow back into the street, (2) keep cars off the street until the plows are through, (3) keep fire hydrants accessible to fireman and (4) contact the Village for road safety issues.

Contractor Working Hours

We have seen an improvement in the observance of our permitted working hours. Thank you. As a reminder, our Village code restricts contractor work to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

No work is permitted on Sundays or Federal holidays. If you are doing work, *please* ensure that your contractors observe our Village working hours. It is our law and your neighbors expect this courtesy from you.

Village Contacts

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Clerk-Treasurer, Arlene Drucker
Deputy Clerk, Building, Elizabeth Vera
Court Clerk, Maura McMullan
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Sign up for **Village Emergency Notifications** at www.northshorealert.org

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