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Happy Holidays Plandome Heights!

On behalf of our entire village government, your Board of Trustees wishes you and your family a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Very best wishes!!!
 Diana Merenda



Ho Ho Ho



Happy Chanukah!

Pe Joe

Sam Page



Merry Christmas!

Don De

Aida Ferran



Anna Taylor
Kenneth C. Rescigno

The BZA meets on an as-needed basis. Feedback from surrounding neighbors is always considered.

Changes on the BZA

After serving on the Zoning and Appeals Board since 1995, and living among us for 23 years, Dr. Paul Baard and his family have sold their home and moved out of state. Paul was a valuable addition to the BZA. We thank him for his service and will miss him and his family.

In consultation with BZA Chairman Gene O'Connor, the Mayor appointed Vincent (Vinny) Hauck to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Paul Baard.

In January 2010, Vinny will have lived in Manhasset for 30 years with 15 of them at his current residence in Plandome Heights. He is a retired federal law enforcement officer with 34 years of experience, and is currently working as a consultant in the airline security industry.

Vinny will complete the existing five-year term ending March 31, 2010 and we hope will continue into the next term (no pressure Vinny ☺!). He will be joining Chairman Gene O'Connor and fellow BZA members Joanne Anderson, Lucille Van Baaren, and Keith Geismar.

This seems to be a good opportunity to remind everyone of the BZA's vital mission: to protect and preserve the character and integrity of our neighborhood.

The BZA is typically engaged after the VPH Building Inspector disapproves a particular plan or structure related to a residence and/or the resident requests a variance from the VPH code (available on the website at www.plandomeheights-ny.gov).

As the BZA is a quasi-judicial body, the petition process is rigorous and exacting. Village Counsel and a court reporter are present at hearings, and parties are sworn in prior to giving testimony.

Applicants are reminded that the BZA interprets but does not enact code – that is the purview of the Board of Trustees in its capacity to represent the electorate.

The BZA meets on an as-needed basis. Each case must be properly and publicly noticed, and Counsel's input and reflections are actively sought. Feedback from surrounding neighbors is always considered.

Each Board member is asked to vote and give her or his opinion. Very often the Board collaborates with applicants to help achieve their desired objective within the constraints of the VPH code.

Hearings are typically held at the Village Hall, 37 Orchard Street, in the evening hours. Exact venue details are always noticed. You are welcome to attend, even if your residence is not within the immediate proximity of the applicant residence. ■

Storm Drains are always important, even in the winter months.

Reminder that we need your help to keep all debris away from the storm drains near your homes.

Thank you for your help in keeping our Bay clean.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

We love the snow for its beauty but we aren't so happy with the side effects: dangerous, slippery traveling conditions and of course, snow shoveling!

This is the perfect opportunity to remind everyone that last spring there was an amendment to the Sidewalk Maintenance section of the VPH Code and you are urged to re-acquaint yourselves with it now.

Please refer to the Supplemental Code section of the website (http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/code_supplemental.html) and review the code enacted April 6, 2009. Your property may be located on streets that have "Insufficient Curb Elevation Differential from Paved Roadway" and, if so, your requirements are different from the requirements set forth for residents whose curb elevations are within normal range.

Your Board has entered into a new multi-year contract with Cow Bay that is financially beneficial to the Village, allowing for better budgeting for the costs involved with snow removal on a year-after-year basis. Trustee Norman Taylor is working closely with Cow Bay to help ensure that an appropriate distance is reserved to protect our curbs, and we are indebted to him for the tremendous knowledge he brings to this aspect of self-governance.

Be reminded that Cow Bay will soon be inserting brightly colored curb markers, as they do every year. These markers serve as guides for the equipment drivers to watch out for curbs when they can't see them buried under snow and/or while driving at night.

Trustee Taylor is also working with Cow Bay to identify and use a new product called "Magic Salt" – safe for people, pets, lawns, bushes, the environment and will reduce the amount of sand necessary to spread on the roads. This will ultimately benefit both our environment and reduce the amount of (heavy) sand that must be swept up in the spring.

Several other seasonal reminders are timely as well:

- 1) try to keep your vehicles off the street during snow storms
- 2) please keep your sidewalks free of debris, snow and ice for safety's sake (see 4/6/09 code referenced earlier)
- 3) if you are close to a fire hydrant, you must keep it clearly visible and snow free
- 4) do not shovel snow from your sidewalk or driveway into the street; please shovel it onto your own grass area
- 5) report all unsafe or hazardous conditions by calling the Village Clerk at 627-1136 during business hours; for any noteworthy weather-related issues after hours, contact the Mayor 263-7086 or one of the Trustees for guidance; for urgent matters call 911
- 6) use your camera: Cow Bay does a good job but occasionally damage a curb or bush now and then. If you see damage clearly attributable to snow removal efforts, please take a photo of the site and email it to Clerk Valerie Onorato at clerk@plandomeheights-ny.gov by the spring. Val will submit to Cow and, once aggregated, Cow Bay will handle all repair requests. ■

**MACC Salutes
PATV – a
celebration of
the Arts!**

All About MACC, Creativity By One Of Our Own

Last month, Trustee Aida Ferman represented Plandome Heights at the 25th Anniversary of Public Access Television (PATV) and presented Executive Director Shirley Bruno with a Proclamation in appreciation and acknowledgment for their achievements.

In the Fall Newsletter, we highlighted the significant participation that VPH and its residents have enjoyed with PATV over the last quarter century, including an interview of renowned author David Paterson who highlighted the Manhasset Arts & Cultural Center (MACC).

VPH resident David Paterson and Ida Miletech, MACC co-founders, noted that in a world where art seems to be continually squeezed out and marginalized in many communities, PATV is a shining example of community support for an essential program that celebrates and promotes art in all of its forms.

We asked Dave to help us better understand what MACC is all about.

The mission of the Manhasset Cultural and Arts Center is to establish a permanent arts facility within the Manhasset community. Manhasset has strong, vibrant, enthusiastic and extensive financial support for sports within the community. In contrast, it seems that the arts, in all forms, has not enjoyed the same attention.

Parents must take their children to Great Neck, Port Washington, Roslyn and other towns for their children's music and theatrical classes. Seniors and adults must travel for painting and art classes. In short, we

effectively outsource our art! Thus, MACC was founded. Its mission is to:

1) support the performance and delivery of the arts in order to enhance the quality of life for all segments of the population in the unincorporated village of Manhasset and the surrounding communities

2) serve as a venue for cultural and educational programs that include classes, workshops, seminars, conferences, concerts, art exhibits, dance performances, and theatrical productions.

3) establish a home for arts organizations in an environment that promotes, supports and facilitates the expression of the visual, creative and performing arts, including but not exclusive to theater, music, art, dance, and film.

The Manhasset Arts and Cultural Center Inc. was founded as a not for profit organization under section 402 of the Corporation Law of the State of New York. MACC also holds 501c federal tax exemption status.

For further information, and to offer contributions or volunteer your time please consult the MACC website: [www. mymacc.org](http://www.mymacc.org).

MACC proudly celebrates PATV's milestone and hopes to become a part of Public Access Television's on-going programming in the very near future. ■

The 2010 VPH Annual Meeting will have a change in venue, so please note:

**April 6th
Tuesday at
the Manhasset
Public Library
Community
Room, 7pm**

VPH 2010 Elections Update

At the November meeting, the Board of Trustees approved that the VPH annual election will be held on Tuesday, March 16th 2010 at Plandome Hall, 65 South Drive.

The Board also approved that the offices to be filled at that election, each for two-year terms, are for Mayor (one) and Trustees (three). Current candidates are: for Mayor, Diana Merenda; for Trustee, Aida Ferman, Ken Riscica and Alvin Solomon. Candidates will be ringing doorbells, weather permitting, to secure the necessary signatures required to be on the ballot. Anyone interested in running for office should contact the VPH

Election Officer, Valerie Onorato, at the VPH office Monday – Friday from 9AM to 4PM.

As a reminder, the Annual Organizational Meeting to be held in 2010 will have a change in venue both as to location and date. The meeting will be held at the Manhasset Public Library, in the Community Room (lower level), on the evening of Tuesday, April 6th, starting at 7pm.

For any additional information or questions regarding the Annual Meeting, please contact Clerk Valerie Onorato by email at clerk@plandomeheights-ny.gov. ■

Kids' Corner

*"Girl Scout Troop 549",
by Nandita Desikan*

My name is Nandita Desikan. I am in 5th grade in Shelter Rock School and have lived in Plandome Heights my whole life. I am a member of troop 549 and I am a junior in Girl Scouts. We do many projects and activities, and after completing them, we earn a badge to put on our vest. Our vest shows all the hard work and effort we put in.

In our first aid project, we learned how to treat people who were choking with the Heimlich maneuver. We also learned many other first aid treatments. One of the parents in our troop showed us what to do if bitten

by a snake. You should wrap your skin where the snake bit you so the poison will not spread around your body. We earned two badges, "First Aider" and "First Aid."

We earned a badge called "Creative Solutions" for making a Chinese Tangram. It is made of five triangles, one square and one rhomboid or parallelogram. The seven pieces can create over three hundred different figures such as a cat, an apple, or you can even create your own tangram.

I enjoy being a girl scout and cannot wait to become a senior girl scout and earn awards. I love going to my meetings and going on field trips. ■

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www.plandomeheights-ny.gov