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## What's New?

This is the first newsletter published by this year's Board of Trustees. We plan to publish newsletters on a seasonal basis, and hope you like the format. Please give us your feedback as well as suggestions for future articles.

Your new Board consists of:

- Diana Merenda, Mayor
- Maryann Grieco, Deputy Mayor
- Lawrence Bourguet, Trustee
- Silva (Aida) Ferman, Trustee
- Kenneth C. Riscica, Trustee
- Alvin Solomon, Trustee
- Norman Taylor, Trustee

All seven members of your Board are volunteers who serve our Village in several ways. All have areas of specific interest or responsibility, but together we are responsible for ensuring that Village matters are tended to in a manner that positively supports our quality of life.

Your Board meets monthly on the first Monday of the month starting 8PM. For now and until further notice, our meetings will continue to be held at the Plandome Village Hall, 65 South Drive in Plandome. Residents are always welcome to attend.

Meetings generally cover financial and other reports. Occasionally "public hearings" are also held and those must be specially advertised to ensure all who are interested are aware. You may have seen recent postings of our Village's Stormwater Report (story to follow), which will be a public hearing on the May 5<sup>th</sup> agenda.

For VPH, April is the first meeting after Village elections. Municipal law refers to this as an "Organizational Meeting" which discusses the Village budget (story to follow) and other items.

At this year's Organizational Meeting, the first order of business of the new Board was to present Dr. John Hunter (posthumously) and Audrey Hunter with a Proclamation from VPH. The well attended audience gave Mrs. Hunter an enthusiastic ovation as the Village thanked her and her belated husband for 40 years of caring for the Village's American flag located on the green at Plandome Road and Plandome Court North. The last time that Mrs. Hunter lowered the Village flag to half mast was for her husband.

In a touching ceremony, Mrs. Hunter then accepted the flag – folded in military fashion – from the Mayor, and turned to present it to Cub Scout Pack 101 who accepted the future responsibility for our flag.

Cub Pack 101 raised Old Glory once again on site, with a crowd at attention as Scout buglers played "Colors" and Officer Garcia of the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct kept oncoming traffic at bay.

The *Manhasset Press* did a great job covering the April 7<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting and subsequent ceremony at our American flag Village green. Be sure to 'read all about it!' □

**INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF  
PLANDOME HEIGHTS**

P.O. Box 1384,  
Manhasset,  
New York 11030  
Tel. (516) 627-1136  
Fax: (516) 627-1393

**Diana Merenda**  
Mayor

**Maryann Grieco**  
Deputy Mayor

**Lawrence Bourguet**  
Trustee

**Silva Ferman**  
Trustee

**Kenneth C. Riscica**  
Trustee

**Alvin Solomon**  
Trustee

**Norman Taylor**  
Trustee

**Valerie Onorato**  
Village Clerk / Treasurer

**Ann Demeri**  
Deputy Clerk  
Court Clerk

**Cye E. Ross**  
Village Justice

**Thomas M. Byrne**  
Village Building Inspector  
Stormwater Mgmt Officer

**Richard Hirt**  
Architectural Review  
Board, Chair

**Marion Endrizzi**  
Planning Board, Chair

**Don Parker**  
Technology Advisory  
Board, Chair

**Eugene O'Connor**  
Zoning and Appeals  
Board, Chair

## **VPH Helps Manhasset Bay Clean-Up**

Plandome Heights continues to participate in New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation Phase II SPDES (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) program. At the end of May our Village will be filing an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) compliance certification. Prior to the MS4 filing, NYS requires our Village to have that report available for review by and discussion with the public. This "public hearing" is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Plandome Village Hall on 65 South Drive, at 8PM.

VPH is committed to help clean up Manhasset Bay by reducing contaminants that run off our streets into the storm drains that then flow into the bay. Your Board knows that people care about our waterways and wants to ensure they are protected for the enjoyment of our residents and future generations.

To comply with DEC requirements our Village must take the following minimum control measures:

- 1) Public Education and Outreach. Through our Newsletter and public meetings, the Village asks all residents to be diligent regarding the following:
  - a) Properly dispose of pet waste (pick up after your dog)
  - b) Maintain your septic system (so that it does not leach into the street)
  - c) Proper use of lawn chemicals and pesticides. (Try not to over-spray or spread onto the sidewalk and/or street, particularly if you have a lawn service, and switch to

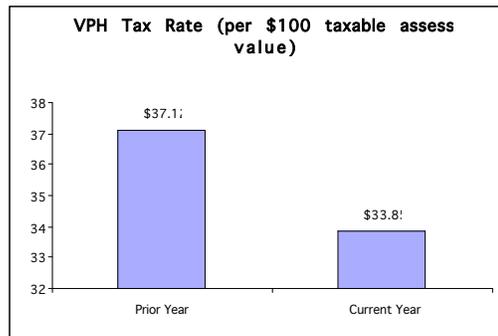
- d) organic products when you can)
  - d) Proper disposal of household hazardous waste and used oil. (Do not pour them down the street drains)
  - e) Do not feed ducks and geese at the park.
- 2) Public Involvement and Participation – public discussion is prominently scheduled on the agenda of the May 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting.
  - 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination – The Village has passed laws against illicit discharge.
  - 4) Construction and Post Construction Site runoff control – when building a new home, or adding to an existing home, the contractor should take measures to control soil erosion that results in runoff to our streets, filling the storm drains, and running into Manhasset Bay.
  - 5) Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations – through outside contractors, the Village accomplishes all municipal services including street sweeping and catch basin cleaning to keep silt/sediment and pathogens (from pets and geese) entering the drainage system. Street sweeping is generally scheduled semi-annually.

As mentioned in #2 above, please join us at our May 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting at which a consultant from the Village's engineering firm, Sidney Bowne & Son, will present further discussion. □

## What's Good About This Year's Taxes?

Your Board met several times before the April 7<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting to fine tune the tax package which was presented for public discussion.

For the 2008-2009 tax year, the Board is pleased to announce a **tax rate reduction of about 9%** from the prior 2007-2008 tax year. The total budget approved as projected is \$338,319.



It's important to remember that VPH has no control whatsoever over the taxable assessed value (TAV) of any home in our Village. **TAVs are set by Nassau County – not VPH.**

Our Village Clerk / Treasurer will soon be filing the public notice for the collection of taxes. As required by statute, "Village taxes are due in one payment between the first day of June and the first day of July 2008. For taxes paid thereafter, the Village is required by New York State law to collect interest of an additional charge of five percent (5%) for the first month or fraction thereof said taxes are past due, and one percent (1%) for each additional month or fraction thereof said taxes are past due until paid." □

## Road Work Grant To Defray Maintenance Costs

Road work maintenance, as determined by the Village's engineers, Sidney B. Bowne & Son, LLP, will be undertaken during the upcoming months.

A grant in the amount of \$50,000 from Nassau County Legislator, Judi Bosworth, will help defray much of the cost of the work. The Village is very appreciative of this generosity. □

## Channel 18 And Website Updates

Many of you have met or spoken with our St. John's University Intern, Patricia Estella as she has earned 3 credits working in our office this semester. Besides helping to prepare for the election and our upcoming office move (see story to follow), Trish has updated Channel 18 under the direction of our Deputy Clerk Ann Demeri. Please "tune in" and see a list of all the people that help run our Village. No fewer than

10% of VPH homes are represented. You will also see continual copy regarding meeting schedules as well as code reminders.

On the website front, many of you have asked us to upload the entire VPH Code. It's done!

Expect more website enhancements in the coming months at: [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov) □

## Office Closed May 7<sup>th</sup> For Move

The building at 37-39 Orchard was sold in Fall 2007. The new landlord is renovating the entire building section by section.

As 39 Orchard nears completion, the landlord will be moving our office from its current location to the adjacent office at 39 Orchard on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The move will permit the landlord to renovate 37 Orchard as safely and as swiftly as possible while simultaneously providing a means for VPH business to continue with as few encumbrances as possible.

Our Clerk / Treasurer, Valerie Onorato, will be at the 39 Orchard temporary address on May 7<sup>th</sup> to set up shop and handle emergencies only.

We very much appreciate your patience and cooperation during this process and the upcoming weeks.

While construction jobs typically take more time than originally anticipated, we sincerely hope that we will be back in our newly renovated office within a month's time.

Our landlord, Lois Silva of Silva Real Estate, will be relocating us at no additional charge to the Village. The VPH is grateful for this consideration.

The VPH new office footprint will be increased relative to our current location in order to keep up with our expanding needs – files are bursting from their drawers – as well as to permit Court and meetings of various VPH Boards to take place at the newly expanded location.

In the future, we will engage the Plandome Village Hall only when a large audience or major public hearing is anticipated or scheduled. We thank Mayor Lloyd Williams of the Incorporated Village of Plandome for the use of the Plandome Village Hall.

Plandome Heights also owes a debt of gratitude to the new members of the VPH Technology Advisory Board: Don Parker, Trey Harragan and Richard Kraft (see *Manhasset Press* article) for their role in critical technological updates that are required for this move. More to come on the Tech Team in upcoming newsletters. □

### UPCOMING NEWSLETTER FEATURES

- Keep Your Eyes On The Board: focus on one VPH Board per newsletter
- "... As Lovely As A Tree ...": all about the VPH tree program
- Village Office Moves (back) To 37 Orchard
- Meeting Location Changes
- What's New With Plandome Pond Park?
- Happy Birthday Plandome Heights

**REMINDER: No Contractor or Landscaping Jobs on Sundays or Federal Holidays**

#### **Incorporated Village of Plandome Heights**

P.O. Box 1384, Manhasset, New York 11030

Tel. (516) 627-1136

Fax: (516) 627-1393

Email: [info@plandomeheights-ny.gov](mailto:info@plandomeheights-ny.gov)

[www.plandomeheights-ny.gov](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov)