



# Newsletter

SPRING 2010

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Village Tree Program....1

Gateway Gas Program.1

Capital Project  
Preserve Bay .....2

PATV Women Producing:  
Quality TV .....3

Dollars & Sense .....3

Manhasset Bay Health..4

North Shore Alert .....4

Welcome Newbies! ....5

Kids' Corner.....5

**Reminder to Vote –**

**Library Budget  
4/21**

**School Budget  
5/18**

**Happy Spring  
One & All!**

## Village Tree Program

Spring is here! And there are many ways to be and celebrate 'green'.

As expected, this year the Village lost several trees to disease, storm damage, and construction. Trees are part of VPH's beautification program and improve air quality and property values.

Once again, the Village is offering the successful "50/50" tree-planting program for right-of-way areas. Homeowners who lost trees on the Village right of way during the past season recently received a letter about the VPH program, to help residents replace the many trees that were lost. The Village underwrites half the cost of replacement for a new tree. Our Village Arborist, Harder Trees, has studied the bio- and eco-diversity of trees in Plandome Heights and has a new list of recommended trees: honey locust, red maple, and zelkova. In addition, Japanese lilac was added to the 'recommend list' as the flowering tree this year.

Anyone who is interested in planting a tree on the right of way at your location, whether it is being replaced or simply adding a new one, please call the Village Deputy Clerk, Ann Demeri, at 627-1136.

Our Village Arborist is working closely with Trustee Aida Ferman and the Mayor to come up with an inventory and management plan that can be worked up as a grant proposal. We are investigating opportunities and hope to have a positive report soon.

In addition, our Arborist is identifying technology that can be used to assist in the inventory and management plan as well as electronically "tag" trees in the right of way. ■

## Gateway Gas Program

When you turn on the burner on the stove, do you think twice about the gas? Did you know that it involves two components: the delivery and the actual supply? You may get one invoice from KeySpan, but the two components are separate and distinct, thus allowing the consumer to select competing vendors.

To that end, the Nassau County Village Officials Association (NCVOA) recently entered into an arrangement with Gateway Natural Gas for a rebate plan. Because VPH is a member of NCVOA, there is an opportunity for VPH residents to receive a \$50 rebate and potentially lower their gas supply bills.

By joining the NCVOA group, any village can make this option available to their own village residents, and NCVOA would secure a small percentage back from Gateway. The corresponding village would then receive an even smaller percentage back from NCVOA.

Gateway has prepared the enclosed letter and form that explain more fully. Just complete and return the form in the enclosed envelope. If you have further questions, please call Gateway at 877-296-1641. ■

## ***Protect Our Environment!***

***Dogs must be leashed and droppings discarded properly.***

***All debris (even organic) should be swept away from the storm drains near your homes. Leaves clog the drains, causing water build-up on the street, OR, they go down the drain and end up in our Bay. VPH is a member of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee and we all must do our small but critical part to keep our Bay clean.***

***Please help keep our Bay and Public Lands clean.***

## **Capital Project Preserve Bay**

Project Preserve Bay, funded through a grant from Senator Craig Johnson, should be ready to be executed this summer. Per our engineers, Sidney Bowne and Son, we should expect the project to start this August and will take about 30 calendar days. The actual start date is dependent on the funding agreement with the NYS Dormitory Authority finalizing the "disbursement agreement" which allows the village to draw on the funds needed for the project.

The project has three main parts:

- 1) Drainage:
  - a) The existing catch basin at the south west corner of Plandome Road and Bay Driveway is deteriorated and will be replaced.
  - b) The two double inlet catch basins, one on the north side and the other on the south side of Bay Driveway will have new adjoining catch basins installed to improve inlet capacity for storm drainage. These new basins will be fitted with filters that will catch debris and filter pollutants that would otherwise drain to Manhasset Bay.

- 2) Repavement of Bay Driveway:

The pavement is in severe distress and is rated poor. There is significant block and alligator cracking. The existing asphalt pavement and some of the granular base will be removed and replaced with 2 layers of hot mix asphalt. The remaining granular base will be recycled in place. This will reduce trucking and material and is therefore cost effective.

- 3) Regrading, reconfiguration and alignment of the area between Waterside Drive and Shore Road:

Creating a uniform pavement width with new curbs -- Due to the current lack of curbing along the northwest side of Bay Driveway between Waterside Lane and Shore Road vehicles encroach on the grass/dirt shoulders creating instability and thence erosion each time it rains. The installation of the new catch basins and curbs will correct this condition.

Project Preserve Bay will be coordinated with the new water main installation by the Manhasset Lakeville Water District (MLWD) under Bay Driveway, thereby eliminating the possibility of removing a newly paved section of road to excavate for the water main installation.

The Bay Driveway main replacement is part of MLWD's ongoing capital improvement program to upgrade old four-inch water mains. The new main will allow for greater fire protection in the area, eliminate future main breaks, and provide increased water availability for residents. The project includes new mains, valves, and fire hydrants. MLWD will also be inspecting water services as they get switched to the new main. Any old iron or lead service pipes will be replaced with a new copper main up to the property line. Beyond the property line is the homeowner's responsibility.

The Clerk will notify residents impacted directly before construction starts. The engineers report that residents' cars should likely not be cut off from access to the streets for any length of time. ■

**All Village Newsletters are posted under “News and Events” link on the website, at [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov)**

**Newsletters are published seasonally. Usually a postcard is mailed announcing their availability.**

**Because of the Gateway natural gas enclosures (see page 1), Gateway paid for the first-class mailing of this edition of the Village Newsletter.**

## **PATV Women Producing Quality TV**

For years, the Village of Plandome Heights has been represented on the Board of Public Access Television (PATV), most recently through the efforts of Trustee Silva ('Aida') Ferman.

Trustee Ferman reports that PATV wants to be sure we know about their “Women in Technology” initiative. This exciting project was specifically developed to bring women from our communities together to produce innovative television programs.

At the Public Access Television studio, members learn to operate technical equipment, create, direct, and edit shows to be aired on Cablevision channel 20 and Verizon channel 37.

PATV is looking for new members to become part of this extraordinary initiative. It's a way to have fun, learn something new, and meet new and interesting people.

Executive Director Shirley Bruno describes two of the programs for us:

- *“Let’s Talk”* presents the ideas and opinions of women of different ethnic, economic

and social backgrounds. It addresses social issues of concern and interest, as well as the current events that affect our lives.

- *“Women in Technology Presents”* Is a program for our members to interview people and to discuss topics of interest.



*Senator Craig Johnson, Pam Parker (seated) and PATV crew for “Women in Technology”*

PATV is an organization of 15 incorporated North Shore villages, coming together to create non-commercial community programs.

For more information contact Erica Bradley at 516 629-3710 x15, or email PATV at [Womenintech@gmail.com](mailto:Womenintech@gmail.com) ■

## **Dollars & Sense**

**Bottom Line: “Tax Decrease”**

At the recent Annual Organizational Meeting, the Board of Trustees adopted a budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2010 that will result in a decrease of about 5% for village taxes relative to the current fiscal year. In this economic environment, especially, this is something to celebrate.

The Board of Trustees worked very hard to keep expenses down in the current fiscal year. In addition, we fostered deep and long-term partnerships with many village vendors to share sacrifices with us.

The multi-dimensional collaboration resulted in a budget that reduces tax levy appropriations without diminishing the quality of service our residents have come to expect. ■

**INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF  
PLANDOME HEIGHTS**

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

**Diana Merenda**  
Mayor

**Alvin Solomon**  
Deputy Mayor

**Lawrence Bourguet**  
Trustee

**Silva Ferman**  
Trustee

**Don Parker**  
Trustee

**Kenneth C. Riscica**  
Trustee

**Norman Taylor**  
Trustee

**Valerie Onorato**  
Village Clerk / Treasurer

**Ann Demeri**  
Deputy Clerk  
Court Clerk

**Cye E. Ross, Esq.**  
Village Justice

**Edward P. Butt, AIA**  
Village Building Inspector  
Stormwater Mgmt Officer

**Richard Hirt**  
Architectural Review  
Board, Chair

**Marion Endrizzi**  
Planning Board, Chair

**Trey Harragan**  
Technology Advisory  
Board, Chair

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

## Manhasset Bay Health

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has identified pathogens as a pollutant of concern in Manhasset Bay. Pathogens are disease causing bacteria or viruses being transported to the harbor by stormwater runoff. Within our Village the transport system are the street drainage system (gutters and catch basin inlets). Sources of pathogens are animal wastes including pet and goose droppings, and human waste from failing septic systems.

The NYSDEC through its Phase II Stormwater Program has asked the Village to reach out to its residents to make you aware of these potential pollutants, and as a reminder to do the following:

- Never never never dump anything down the storm drains
- Carefully pick up after your pet and properly dispose of pet wastes so they are not transported by way of the Village storm system (in the street)
- Please do not feed geese because it creates additional waste
- Cut down on the use of lawn chemicals and use them only as directed (and direct your landscapers accordingly)
- Remember to inspect your septic system to ensure that it is functioning properly, and it is not overflowing

Together, we can help clean up our waterways. ■

## Plandome Heights Joins “North Shore Alert”

For both emergency and important non-emergency communications, the Village and members of the Port Washington-Manhasset Office of Emergency Management (PW-M OEM) have implemented the North Shore Alert (NSA) mass notification platform, supported by Blackboard Connect. You may have read about this recently in the *Manhasset Press*. The NSA service enables officials from participating villages, the town, and police, fire, and other special districts, to quickly reach residents and businesses with voice, text, and email messages.

North Shore Alert covers the Port Washington peninsula, north of Northern Blvd. Now with North Shore Alert, the citizens, as and if they desire, may be contacted anywhere, anytime, through their multiple cell phones, home phones, e-mail, and TTY/TDD devices (for the hearing impaired).

Residents are strongly encouraged to go to [www.NorthShoreAlert.org](http://www.NorthShoreAlert.org) to register and update their telephone and email information. You can add as many contacts as you require for any email address or telephone number in the United States. Of course all information will be kept confidential and not be used for commercial purposes.

If you have any questions about NSA or PW-M OEM, please contact Bart Giusto, the VPH Emergency Management Coordinator. The best way to communicate is by email at [emergency@plandomeheights-ny.gov](mailto:emergency@plandomeheights-ny.gov) or contact the village office at 516-627-1136, and Bart will get back to you.

As Bart says, “We are a great community, and want to always stay that way -- even in an emergency situation.” ■

**\*Chrissy Maccaro, Nandita Desikan and Kathryn Timmerman, recent "Kids' Corner" contributors, all received Citations for their journalistic entries at the Plandome Heights Annual Meeting, on April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Graphics are optional, and the child's parents must approve the article.**

**Please send submissions of fewer than 300 words to [newsletter@plandomeheights-ny.gov](mailto:newsletter@plandomeheights-ny.gov)**

## Welcome Newcomers!

The Village is happy to welcome all these families into our community:

- Lou Madia and his wife, Nonna, have recently purchased the 6 Cove residence after living in Soho for the last 5 years. They have one child and are very excited to raise her in Manhasset. Lou, originally from Manhasset, has lived here most of his life; Nonna is originally from Brooklyn.
- Tim and Sharon Glauner moved into 81 Bournedale Road South. with their son Benjamin who is in the first grade at Shelter Rock.

## Kids' Corner\*

*"Abraham Lincoln", by Kathryn Timmerman*

Abraham Lincoln has been dead for more than 140 years. Each year we celebrate his birthday on February 12. He was one of our most famous Presidents because he kept our country united. If he didn't live, our country might have been two countries today instead of one.

On February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. "Abe" was Abraham's nickname. Later it became "Honest Abe" because he believed in doing what was right. Abraham went to a one-room school house. His school was called a "blab" school because they studied out loud without books and it sounded like "blab", "blab", "blab"! He could not go to school that often. Sometimes he had to stop school to help work on the farm and sometimes he had to stop to get money for his father. In the school, children from every grade learned in one class. All the schooling Abraham ever had added

They rented in Plandome Heights for three years and loved it so much they decided to stay!

- Michele and Marijan Bernic and their children recently moved on to The Waterway.
- Jennifer and Jeffrey Amato, and their 18 month old son Vincent moved from their co-op in Great Neck into 882 Plandome Road last month.

Congratulations and welcome all! ■

up to a year. But Abraham wanted to learn. Abe loved to read so he would borrow books from people.

In 1860, there was an election for President. The North and South were angry at each other over slavery. Not one Southern state voted for him for President but Lincoln won on Election Day. Between November and March, seven states in the South broke away from the United States. The seven states started their own country called the Confederate States of America. They started a Confederate army and the war began! Lincoln asked a lot of men to join the army. He said that the United States was a country of liberty. The war lasted for four years. Finally the Civil War was over! On the night of April 14, 1865, the Lincolns went to a theater to see a play. At the play, an actor named John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln. The next morning he died. We still remember him by going to Washington D.C. and visiting the Lincoln Memorial – as I just did! ■

Email Contact:  
Website:

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