

Village of Flower Hill Newsletter Spring 2010

SUMMER 2010 PARTY IN THE PARK

Once again, we will be hosting a series of shows and events in our beautiful Flower Hill Park. We will kick off the summer season on Sunday, June 13th at 4 pm with a family show and BBQ featuring entertainer Mark Rust. Mark's show is a fun collection of American music on a variety of instruments with audience involvement on every tune. For a grand finale, Mark will teach everyone how to play spoons and end with a great group spoon solo.

On Friday night, July 16 at 9 pm we will have a family movie on the lawn featuring Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark. Bring your own blankets and chairs, we provide the popcorn!

We are proud to present an evening of unplugged rock and roll with Ron Rizzo and James Ryan on Saturday night, August 7 at 8 pm on the lawn stage. Ron and Jimmy appeared at last year's block party and were a smash hit.

Our final movie night of the summer will be held on Friday, August 20 at 9 pm, the film to be shown will be announced at a later date.

Mark Rust and Ron Rizzo and James Ryan will be held rain (in the Village Hall meeting room) or shine. In the event of rain, we will reschedule the movie nights.

Please tell your friends and neighbors, we look forward to seeing you there.

VILLAGE TAXES DUE JUNE 1, 2010

Please look for your tax bill in the mail during the first week of June. If your mortgage company receives the bill, it would be wise for you to check on whether or not it was received. If you have not received a bill by the week of June 7th, please call the Village Hall to obtain a duplicate bill. Village taxes must be paid on time. Late charges begin to accrue on July 1st. By New York State Law there is no excuse or exemption from late fees. If you are new to the Village, please be sure we have the correct address for your tax bill.

TRAFFIC CHANGES AT MIDDLE NECK RD & NORTHERN BLVD INTERSECTION

If you've ever driven down Middle Neck Road during the morning or evening rush hours, you know what a mess it is. Cars get backed up on Northern Blvd when a car waits to turn into the Bryant & Cooper parking lot and the line up at Middle Neck Road waiting to turn onto Northern is excruciatingly long.

We instituted a traffic study of the intersection and submitted the results to the State Department of Transportation (because Middle Neck Road is owned by the County and Northern Blvd. by the State, we cannot make any changes ourselves). The DOT has notified us that they agree with the study recommendations and will make the following changes. The traffic light signal timing at Middle Neck Rd will be changed so there will be no other traffic other than the Middle Neck Road cars moving at that time. A left turn eastbound arrow will be added to Northern Blvd for the turn onto Middle Neck. Pavement marking and signage will indicate that the right lane southbound on Middle Neck is for Old Northern Blvd, The Locusts and Northern Blvd. west. White dotted lines will guide left lane traffic onto eastbound Northern Blvd.

This work has been added to an existing state traffic signal contract, so we hope it will be completed soon. Thanks go to Mayor Weiss and Deputy Mayor Bill Clemency for bringing this important safety improvement to the Village.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UPDATE**

Uncontested Village elections were held in March with a disappointingly small voter turnout. Re-elected to office for two year terms were Mayor Weiss and Trustees Clemency, Glavas and DiSanto.

A new stop sign was installed on Knolls Road and Bonnie Heights Road. The Board continues to study other area in need of regulation.

The Board approved a site plan for Limani Restaurant so that they may construct an outdoor seating area.

The Board passed the 2010/2011 Village Budget at \$3.3 million, last year's budget was \$4.4 million. Thanks to Mayor Weiss and Trustees Pinto and Ryan for working so hard to make this year's conservative budget a reality. There will be a minimal increase in the tax rate made necessary by a decrease in overall Village assessed values). Due to cautious spending and budgeting within the Village. The actual impact on tax bills will be negligible. The budget is available for inspection at the Village Hall.

THANK YOU TRUSTEE DI SANTO

With much gratitude and sadness we must say goodbye to Trustee Anthony DiSanto as he retires from the Board of Trustees. Tony has been a Village Official since 1999 when he joined the Planning Board. In 2001 he became a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and in 2005 was elected a Trustee of the Village. Tony's expertise as an architect made him an invaluable member of the boards he served. His insight, kindness and wise counsel will be sorely missed. We wish him and his lovely wife Virginia many years of good health and happiness.

WELCOME TRUSTEE PHILLIPS

The Village is fortunate to welcome a new member to our community. Elaine Phillips has recently moved to the Village. Elaine was a long time resident and trustee of our neighboring Village of Munsey Park. Mayor Weiss has appointed her to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees caused by Trustee DiSanto's retirement. Her knowledge and expertise will be a welcome addition to the Board.

**WELCOME TO
JUSTICE DENNIS MARC REISMAN**

At the April Village Organizational meeting, Mayor Weiss appointed Dennis Marc Reisman as Acting Village Justice. Mr. Reisman is a long time resident of the Roslyn portion of our Village and a well respected attorney whose practice is in Great Neck. The Acting Village Justice serves when the Village Justice is unavailable. This position has been vacant since Hon. Francis Hone retired and left the Village in 2008. We are honored to welcome Justice Reisman to the bench.

WHAT IS THE VILLAGE RIGHT-OF-WAY?

There seems to be a common misunderstanding about what constitutes the Village right-of-way (ROW). The legal definition is "an easement or servitude over another's land conferring a right of passage". When the roads within the Village were dedicated to public use, the village was granted ownership of the bed of the road. The road bed is the prepared location of a road including its foundation. The foundation extends the roadway ten feet on either side of the road. The Village grants a right-of-way to each property owner along its roads. Although this ten foot strip appears as part of your property and by law you are responsible for its maintenance, the land actually belongs to the Village. The reason the Village retains ownership is so that public utilities and the Village can do repairs and maintenance without having to gain permission from every property owner. While the Village favors homeowners beautifying the strip along the roadway with plantings, we are not responsible for any damage that may be caused during snowplowing and street sweeping because the value of the services to the general public outweighs the remote possibility of individual property damage. This is why we do not permit any structure, such as fences to be placed in the ROW and require Board of Trustee permission for planting and removing trees in the ROW. Occasionally a Village vehicle will cause some damage to the grassy areas, and when this occurs our Highway Dept. will re-seed the area but any other type of improvement in the ROW is there at your own risk.

AMANDA'S LAW

On February 22nd, Amanda's Law takes effect. Amanda's Law mandates the installation of carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in all homes in New York State. The law is named for 16-year-old Amanda Hansen of West Seneca, New York, who died on January 17, 2009, due to a carbon monoxide leak from a defective boiler while she was sleeping at a friend's house.

Under Amanda's Law, homes built before January 1, 2008, are permitted to have battery-powered CO alarms, while homes built after this date are required to have the alarms hard-wired into the building. Additionally, Amanda's Law will require contractors in New York State to install a CO alarm when replacing a hot water tank or furnace if the home is not equipped with an alarm.

Additionally, Amanda's law requires existing one- and two-family residences to have at least one carbon monoxide alarm installed on the lowest floor of the building having a sleeping area. The alarm must be clearly audible in all sleeping areas over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

CO poisoning is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the United States. When carbon monoxide is inhaled at damaging levels it can lead to breathing difficulties, impaired judgment and memory, damage to the nervous system, cardiac trauma, brain damage, coma and death.

The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often mistaken for the flu and can include dizziness, fatigue, weakness, throbbing headache, nausea, vomiting, irregular breathing, sleepiness and confusion. By the time people realize there is a problem, they are often too sick or too disoriented to get out of the house and get help.

In addition to installing carbon monoxide alarms, homeowners should take the following actions to help reduce their risk and stay safe:

- Test and/or replace alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions;
- Have heating systems, vents, chimneys and flues tested, inspected and cleaned by a qualified technician each year;
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage;
- Regularly examine vents and chimneys for improper connections, rust, soot or other debris;
- Never run a vehicle, generator or other fuel powered motor indoors, even if garage doors are open to the outdoors;
- Never use a gas oven to heat a home, and only use barbecue grills outdoors – never in a house or garage; and
- Remember that carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should also be installed on every level of a home as well as in or outside all sleeping areas.

FLOWER HILL CEMETERY

On Country Club Road, just east of Port Washington Blvd., lies the little known Flower Hill Cemetery. This cemetery dates back to revolutionary times yet has been laying fallow for many years. Village resident and Boy Scout, James Morgan McLaughlin chose the cleanup of the Flower Hill Cemetery as his Eagle Scout project. He brought 40 people to the cemetery on April 10th. Fellow Scouts and Adult Leaders from Port Washington's Troop 7 raked leaves, removed deadfall branches and cleared ivy, in all about two tons of debris that was choking the gravesite. A pathway was cleared so that the remaining graves are accessible.

James' interest in the cemetery led Mayor Weiss to conduct a title search of the property that led back to the 1600's. The cemetery was part of a farm owned by the Munson family. A stone foundation that was one of the outbuildings remains on the site. The Village may seek to have the site added to the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, a documentary filmmaker has expressed interest in featuring the cemetery as part of a project looking into forgotten cemeteries in the area. Stay tuned for further developments.

REMINDERS FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

All permits must be closed. This means that if you have ever had any work done under a permit from the building department, you must schedule a final inspection in order for us to issue a certificate of occupancy or a certificate of completion.

Building permits expire one year from the date of issue. You may renew up to two times for a six month period each time. Miscellaneous permits, such as fence, cesspool installation, etc., expire three months from date of issue and may not be renewed.

Work done without a permit is a violation of Village Code, however, there is a process for legalization of such work.

Failure to renew a permit, allow a permit to expire or legalize existing work will be subject to fines and penalties. Please check your records.

**VILLAGE OF FLOWER HILL
ONE BONNIE HEIGHTS ROAD
MANHASSET, NY 11030
(516)627-5000
FAX: (516) 627-5470**

POSTAGE PAID
PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
PERMIT NO. 73
MANHASSET, NY
11030

FLOWER HILL VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR

CHARLES W. WEISS

DEPUTY MAYOR

WILLIAM M. CLEMENCY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NORMAN A. GLAVAS

TAB M. HAUSER

ELAINE PHILLIPS

AVIVA PINTO

AVERY RYAN

VILLAGE JUSTICE

HON. J. BRUCE BYRNE

ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE

HON. DENNIS M. REISMAN

VILLAGE ATTORNEY/ PROSECUTOR

JEFFREY BLINKOFF

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

MICHAEL SAHN, CHAIR

PETER CRISTOFER

PETER COTELIDES

DIANE TURNER

HOWARD MILLER

RANDALL ROSENBAUM

SCOTT SILLER

PLANNING BOARD

GRACE MAHLER, CHAIR

JENNIFER RIMMER

RHODA BECKER

KAREN REICHENBACH

MARGIE SUGA

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

JOHN WALTER

VILLAGE STAFF

Village Administrator

RONNIE SHATZKAMER

Treasurer

KATHY WADE

Building Inspector

JAMES GILHOOLY

Code Enforcer

ROBERT ROCKELEIN

Court Clerk

ANN LAURIA-SMITH

Secretary

SUSAN WILLIAMS

Highway Supervisor

SCOTT HISLOP

Highway Dept.

JAMES BARTON

MARVIN CALDERON

JOSEPH KELLY

RICHARD FALCONES