

# Village of Flower Hill Newsletter Winter 2010

## SNOW SEASON UPDATE

The Village Highway Dept. did a great job clearing, sanding and salting our roads during the December snowstorm. Please remember that the snow plows are unable to plow properly when cars are parked on the roads. **Parking is prohibited on Village streets when two inches or more of snow has fallen or is forecast by the National Weather Service.** This will allow all streets to be plowed curb to curb. **Parking may be resumed when the snow has stopped falling and the roads are cleared.**

Please be courteous to your neighbors and **DO NOT shovel snow from your driveway back into the plowed street.** We receive many complaints that the plows block driveways with snow, this is because there is nowhere else for the snow to go. You must plow out your own driveway.

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Several cars parked in driveways in Flower Hill, Munsey Park and Plandome were broken into recently. Some were locked and some were not. The police recommend that you lock your car and do not leave any valuables in the car. Do not leave your GPS in the car and do not program your home into your GPS. Also make sure your garage door opener out of view especially if your garage is attached to your house.

## STOP CIRCULAR DELIVERY TO DRIVEWAYS IN VILLAGE

Last year we asked you to sign up for a "Do Not Solicit" list. The purpose of the list was to request that unsolicited print or other written materials not be delivered to, circularized at, or placed at your property and that no uninvited solicitor or canvasser ring your doorbell. We have had great success with this method with the exception of Newsday Media Group. Of particular concern, are circulars delivered to driveways that compromise our safety as they act as a signal that no one is at home.

Unfortunately, Newsday will not honor our list and continues to place advertising circulars in the driveways of your homes. They claim that unless specifically directed not to place such material in your driveway, they are exempt under their First Amendment right of free speech.

Our Village Attorney and Administrator met with Newsday's Attorney, Jeff Grossman, Circulation Director, Patrick Tornabene and Cablevision's Director of Franchise Management, Jeffrey Clark (Cablevision is the owner of Newsday Media). They insist that they have the right to continue this delivery unless they have received a specific direction by you instructing them not to deliver. Please be aware that Newsday has received several summonses for violating Village Code that are answerable in Village Court.

VILLAGE  
ELECTION DAY  
TUESDAY,  
MARCH 16

Polls will be open from noon to 9 pm. Up for election are the Mayor and three Trustees.

CHANGE OF  
MEETING TIMES FOR  
ZONING BOARD

The Zoning Board of Appeals has decided to begin their meetings at **7:30 pm** rather than 8 pm in order to accommodate all those seeking a hearing.

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN ACTION

Our Village is in the forefront when it comes to regulating the use of solar energy collectors (or solar panels) and wind turbines. The Board of Trustees imposed a moratorium on the installation of these devices until they could study the effect and benefits that would result in their installation. After several weeks of study, the Board is ready to impose regulations that would require any alternative energy gathering device to come before the Board for a Special Exception permit. This will allow the Board to study the benefits versus the effect on neighboring property owners. The first two new local laws of 2010 will deal with these issues.

In other action, the Board passed a law allowing three days notice for a public hearing. This was necessary because our Village newspapers of record only print weekly. Often a matter arises where action is required in a more timely manner. This law allows the Board to hold a public hearing to address pressing matters promptly.

The Board also considered the situation where a construction project is started and then languishes for months without any forward movement. In order to avoid these circumstances which can often pose safety and quality of life issues, a law was

enacted that will impose penalties for construction where no material work has been done for a period of sixty days.

Another area that needed addressing was erosion of soil and debris on new construction projects. Village Building Inspector James Gilhooly suggested that an erosion control permit be required on all new or major construction. Erosion controls must be in place when construction begins and remain effective until construction is completed. This will prevent material from entering our storm sewers and causing them to back up during heavy rain. Currently the Department of Environmental Conservation requires erosion measures be taken on larger developments. We feel it is environmentally sound to require the same on smaller projects.

Other matter addressed over the past few months include amending a law regarding flood damage prevention to comply with NY State DEC requirements and extending the permit for the major expansion of St. Francis Hospital. Construction was begun five years ago and they are now in the final stretch of putting the finishing touches on the new building. a six month extension to accomplish this task was requested and granted.

## VILLAGE COURT NEWS

The Village Court had a busy year with traffic violations in the Village being the overwhelming majority of cases heard. Nassau County Police 6th Precinct has been doing an excellent job patrolling our roads. The word is getting out that the Village of Flower Hill will not tolerate speeding, running stop signs and the like.

Thanks are due to all our Officers who do such a great job as well as Village Justice J. Bruce Byrne, Prosecutor Jeffrey Blinkoff and Court Clerk Ann Lauria-Smith for helping us maintain a safe and high quality of life within the Village.

## 2010-11 ASSESSMENT ROLL

The 2010-11 Assessment Roll will be available for viewing starting February 4th during normal business hours. Village Grievance Day is February 16th from 1 pm to 5 pm at the Village Hall. Grievances must be filed in duplicate.

We are in the process of planning a Property Assessment Seminar. Since we use the Nassau County Assessment Roll as the basis for our assessments, Mayor Weiss asked Nassau County Assessor, Thaddeus J. Jankowski, Jr., to present a program explaining the assessment process in layman's terms to our residents. When a firm date is set, we will notify you of the meeting date and time.

## STOP CIRCULAR DELIVERY TO DRIVEWAYS IN VILLAGE — *Continued from page 1*

They claim that by calling 1-800-NEWSDAY you can opt out of delivery. However, some residents who called and signed up still continue to have these circulars littering their driveways. We believe the situation can be remedied by a two prong approach, giving them a signed statement asking them to stop delivery of **all Newsday advertising circulars** and making phone calls. You can send a written note with your address and signature, asking them to stop delivery to: Newsday, Circulation Dept., 1111 Stewart Ave., Bethpage, NY 11714. Please send a copy to the Village Hall or just give us the letter and we will deliver it for you. Call 1-800-NEWSDAY number, Patrick Tornabene, Circulation Director at (631)843-3945 and/or Pam Scholtz, Assistant Circulation Manager at (516)509-0286.

## 2010 US CENSUS

Be cautious about giving info to census workers. With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

**The question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:**

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have: a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice.

### What To Do and Not Do:

**Ask to see their identification and their badge** before answering their questions

- Never invite anyone you don't know into your home. Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information.
- Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

**Remember, No Matter What They Ask, You Really Only Need to Tell Them How Many People Live at Your Address.**

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is not with the Census Bureau. **THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH ACORN ON GATHERING THIS INFORMATION.** No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau. Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

## BUILDING DEPT REPORT

Despite the recession, the Village has seen a building boom this past year. A total of 496 building permits were issued in 2009. Ten new homes are being constructed and permits were issued for 58 major projects such as additions, major remodeling, etc. Our commercial areas have also seen improvement with permits issued for a new gas station, diner, car wash, office building, and other commercial spaces.

All permit applications go under the scrutiny of Building Inspector James Gilhooly, a licensed architect. Mr. Gilhooly reviews all applications for compliance to Village of Flower Hill and New York State Building Codes. During the course of construction, Mr. Gilhooly constantly monitors all work by scheduling a series of inspections at each step of the way.

The Building Permit Review Committee also deserves recognition. The Committee members are Deputy Mayor William Clemency, Trustee Norman Glavas (both licensed architects), Trustee Avery Ryan (an attorney) and Building Inspector James Gilhooly. They meet monthly and review all major projects to ensure that they are well designed and appropriate for our community.

The Building Department would like to remind all residents that every permit with the exception of tree removal and dumpsters, must be closed out with a final inspection. Every permit must have a corresponding certificate of completion or occupancy that will be issued upon passing the final inspection. It is a violation of Village Code to allow a permit to expire without closing it. Penalties will accrue for incomplete, expired permits and you will not be able to sell your home without closing out all open permits. If you are unsure whether you have any open permits on your property, you can stop by the Village Hall and we will assist you in reviewing your property file. Unfortunately we cannot do this over the phone.

## TAX ROLL INFO UPDATES

In order to avoid late payment penalties, please make sure your tax bill is going to the right place. If you refinanced, paid off your mortgage, or are new to our Village, you may need to update your tax roll info. Please send a written change request to Treasurer Kathy Wade here at the Village Hall.

**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 CLEMENCY

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANTHONY DISANTO

NORMAN GLAVAS

TAB HAUSER

AVIVA PINTO

AVERY RYAN

### VILLAGE JUSTICE

HON. J. BRUCE BYRNE

### VILLAGE ATTORNEY/PROSECUTOR

JEFFREY BLINKOFF

### BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

MICHAEL SAHN, CHAIR

PETER COTELIDIS

PETER CRISTOPHER

HOWARD MILLER

DIANE TURNER

RANDALL ROSENBAUM

### PLANNING BOARD

GRACE MAHLER, CHAIR

JENNIFER RIMMER

RHODA BECKER

KAREN RECHENBACK

MARGIE SUGA

### VILLAGE STAFF

Village Administrator

RONNIE SHATZKAMER

Treasurer

KATHY WADE

Building Inspector

JAMES GILHOOLY

Code Enforcer

ROBERT ROCKELEIN

Secretary

SUSAN WILLIAMS

Court Clerk

ANN LAURIA-SMITH

Highway Supervisor

SCOTT HISLOP

### REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

JOHN WALTER