

**January 16, 2013**

Floral Park once again has received some positive press attention relating to some of our innovative programs. As recently noted in *Newsday*, the ticket amnesty program we instituted in order to give amnesty from penalties on overdue traffic and parking summons issued through the end of 2012 has resulted in about \$45,000 in past due tickets being paid.

In these difficult economic times, it is encouraging to see that so many were able to amicably resolve their overdue traffic tickets so easily and in such a relatively short period of time. Many Floral Park residents as well as some in our neighboring communities took advantage of this unprecedented Floral Park program to clear the slate before the crystal ball dropped in Times Square this year.

The program allowed drivers to pay their fines without paying late fee penalties in an effort to collect outstanding fines. About a quarter of past due summonses were collected, totaling almost \$45,000. Now that the ticket amnesty program has come and gone, however, there still remains a significant number of past due tickets, that, despite our best efforts to be accommodating, have been all but ignored by many scofflaws. Now that our kind and generous offers for restitution have been rebuked, we are left with no alternative but to vigorously and strenuously pursue scofflaws for their remaining past due parking tickets with penalties.

In this new year, Floral Park will once again be utilizing creative solutions to address this problem by partnering with third party collection services to receive all the overdue parking tickets that remain unresolved. It is therefore strongly recommended to area residents that they voluntarily come forward and resolve any past due parking tickets before we ratchet up the pressure to pay their overdue parking tickets.

While our late fee penalties amnesty program has come and gone, there is still a window of opportunity to deal directly with our village court administration team rather than an outside third party bill collection agency. Floral Park would rather resolve such past due traffic and parking summons without having to escalate the issue any further, but if we have to do so in order to collect what is due and owing the taxpayers of our village, we will not hesitate to do so.

In yet another effort to maximize savings where and when we can, the upcoming village elections in March will be held just at the Floral Park Rec Center's; Recreation-Pool Building rather than at the several other locations throughout the village in order to reduce costs. The Recreation Center has ample free available parking and the Recreation-Pool Building is ADA handicap accessible.

We believe that costs associated with the administering the village elections will be reduced by about \$7,500 while still ensuring the integrity of our village election process. In addition to the office of the mayor, the election includes two of our village trustees. We encourage Floral Park residents to exercise their constitutional right to vote in this and every other election, be it for school board, village, town, county, state or federal. Floral Park voters have a proud tradition of participating in our election process and we hope that continues in the upcoming village election in March.