

June 17, 2014

As mentioned in prior Mayor's Messages and in the *Village Items*, the Village Board has been evaluating the need for significant repairs and renovations to the Village Pool for several years. This past Spring, the Village's four Civic Associations hosted a Joint Civic Association meeting on this topic that was well attended. Next, the **Village Board will conduct an Informational Meeting to discuss the reconstruction of the Floral Park Pool on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 8:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Court Room at Village Hall, One Floral Boulevard, Floral Park.** All residents are encouraged to attend.

The response we have received from residents to date about the contemplated renovations has been very positive. The favorable response we have received is not surprising as the Village Pool certainly is a tremendous asset of the Village and reflects the foresight of the Village Government working with a dedicated group of Village residents who advocated for a Village Pool over 50 years ago.

The Floral Park Pool has also positively impacted the property values of all Village residents whether those residents chose to join the pool or decided to pass on that opportunity. The primary reason the Village Pool has positively impacted all residents property values is simple. It is the demand for houses that keep property values up. When choosing a neighborhood to make your home and start your family, you want it to be safe, have good schools and have recreational activities for kids to enjoy themselves (and stay out of trouble). Indeed, when *Safewise*, a home security website, ranked **Floral Park #1** on its list of "**50 Safest Cities in New York**" it opined that one of the reasons Floral Park's streets are safe is because of the "robust community services" that are offered by Floral Park, including the Floral Park Village Pool. Therefore, the availability of a Village Pool, where your children and family can spend hours of fun in safety, will naturally be a selling point for homes in the Village.

But for a pool, fifty years is a long time. While meticulous attention to maintenance of the Pool by our Recreation Department over the years enabled us to extend the life of the Pool by at least ten years, the Pool is certainly showing its age and is in need of significant structural repairs. However, due to changes to the New York State Code and Nassau County Department of Health Codes, once you surpass a certain threshold of repairs, the entire pool must be brought up to code to meet the new requirements. These requirements significantly increase the costs of making the needed repairs. Doing nothing with regard to the Pool is not a viable option.

Also, as the Pool generates significant revenues which offset its operational costs, from a tax impact perspective it is likely that doing nothing would have a greater tax impact on residents than addressing the Pool's problems. That is because if the Pool were allowed to deteriorate to the point where the pool structure had to be removed, the cost of such a removal and remediation of the property would be significant. Without the revenue generated by the Pool, the costs of removal and remediation would have to be borne entirely by the taxpayers. In that scenario, the

taxpayers of the Village not only have to bear the burden of the cost of removal of the Pool, but also lose the Pool as an asset that has positively impacted their property values.

The proposal that is under consideration is a complete reconstruction of the Pool with many significant improvements to it. It is our belief that these improvements will generate increased membership in the Pool. The estimated costs of this reconstruction are \$6.75 million, which would be financed by the Village over a period of twenty years. It is our goal, to the largest extent possible, to have the financing costs of the construction covered by pool membership fees. However, it is realistic to assume that, for the first few years at least, a portion of these costs will have to be covered by our general taxes.

I urge all residents to attend the **Informational Hearing on June 24th at 8 pm at the Village Hall** to learn more about this important project for the Village.