

Fire Department

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that during the month of February, the Fire Department answered a total of 101 calls including 69 ambulance calls. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked all the volunteers who respond to emergencies night and day in order to serve the residents of our great Village.

Trustee Fitzgerald made the following tribute to Mayor Thomas J. Tweedy:

‘As this is your last Board meeting as Mayor, I would like to take a few minutes to look back on your term. It is often said that it is not the destination but the journey and I’m not sure there is a better way to describe your term as Mayor. During this memorable journey, we have been through a lot together, which I will remember not only as a learning experience on a whole host of topics, some of which were Village related and some of which were on a personal level. I will also fondly remember the numerous laughs we shared. Most importantly, I do believe that during the past six years you were able to keep all the things we cherish about Floral Park the same, all while adapting to the changing world around us. You were able to adeptly and successfully tackle significant unforeseen challenges that have faced this Village while simultaneously seeing significant projects through that have improved the quality of life of our residents while improving property values. Floral Park is certainly a better place because of your service. In closing, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to be a part of this truly unbelievable ride. Thank you and your family for your time, efforts and personal sacrifices that you made on behalf of Floral Park and its residents. And lastly, thank you for your friendship. It is a priceless commodity that I will always treasure.’

Mayor-Elect Dominick A. Longobardi’s tribute to Mayor Thomas J. Tweedy

Mayor-Elect Longobardi said his entire report is a big ‘thank you’ to our Mayor, Tom Tweedy. Mayor-Elect Longobardi said it has been a great pleasure to have worked with Mayor Tweedy, a man who has shown the utmost dedication to his community. During this time, Mayor-Elect Longobardi said they have shared many events and projects together. Mayor Tweedy and his family have made many sacrifices during his tenure of 16 years on the Board which does not even include all the time he devoted to the West End Civic Association, to name just one organization. Mayor Tom Tweedy is a ‘Floral Park lifer’ and he is the epitome of this community. The Mayor has missed many personal events over the years, including special birthdays and anniversaries. No one has given more. Mayor Tweedy has lead this community during its challenges with professionalism and great concern. Mayor-Elect Longobardi said he knows that Mayor Tweedy will continue to serve his community in many other capacities and he looks forward to working with him in the future. Mayor-Elect Longobardi thanked Mayor Tweedy for his friendship and for making Floral Park the great place it is to live in.

Building Department

Trustee Pombonyo extended appreciation to our Department of Public Works for their almost round-the-clock work clearing our roads and Village property during and after the March 14th

snow and ice storm. DPW also collaborated with the Building Department to insure that the sidewalks were cleared at several abandoned homes in the Village. Thanks to all.

Floral Park Public Library

Trustee Pombonyo said the new Reading Room is complete. Many library patrons are already enjoying the warmth and comfort of this beautiful new space. Thanks go to our Village DPW staff for the talent, skill and hard work they lent to this project and the Friends of the Floral Park Library for their support.

On Wednesday April 12th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the St. Francis Hospital Health Van will visit the library to provide free screenings and conduct simple blood testing. This service is offered to adults over the age of 18. No advance registration required. Visit the library website for news about exciting upcoming springtime events and activities: www.floralparklibrary.org.

Trustee Lynn Pombonyo's tribute to Mayor Thomas J. Tweedy

Trustee Pombonyo said she, too, would like to thank Mayor Tweedy for the hard work, dedication and the wealth of knowledge he have given to the Village. His contributions have been significant. Trustee Pombonyo also thanked Mayor Tweedy's wife, Mary Ann, for her husband's time.

Department of Public Works

Trustee Cheng said the Department of Public Works did a great job clearing the snow and ice during the last storm. The reconstruction of Charles Street continues to move along nicely.

Trustee Archie T. Cheng's tribute to Mayor Thomas J. Tweedy

Trustee Cheng said he has been a Trustee for only a short period of time but that Mayor Tweedy has assisted him greatly, especially with the Third Track Expansion Project, in which they have together fought the MTA and the LIRR. Trustee Cheng said Mayor Tweedy has a lot of history in this town and he knows how hard he has worked and the sacrifices both he and his family have made to make this Village a better place in which to live. Trustee Cheng thanked Mayor Tweedy for his years of dedicated service.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Tweedy said that on his way up to the Board meeting this evening, he was speaking to Trustee Pombonyo about every time for the past 16 years he was always inspired to serve on the Board knowing that he was working with a group of dedicated and educated people. Even though we may have disagreed on some issues, it was done with understanding and for the service to the Village. Mayor Tweedy said he appreciated the wealth of knowledge from all the staff, including Gerry Bambrick and Susan Walsh and from all the Mayors he has served under. Mayor Tweedy thanked the residents of Floral Park for the opportunity and the privilege to have served them.

Resident Tributes to Mayor Thomas J. Tweedy

Resident John Lockwood, 355 Carnation Avenue said the following:

‘Mr. Mayor and our distinguished Board: Your sixteen years of dedication to our Village is much appreciated! I am grateful to Anne and James Tweedy, your parents, who gave you your faith in God and your values which instilled in you a strong desire for community service. They also gave us a gift – you! I also thank Mary Ann, Caity and Michael for their support of you. I would thank the rest of your family, but we have to get of here by midnight!

In uncharted waters, you have been our faithful navigator, especially in storm emergencies and also with those external forces who would poison our Village’s quality of life. For us, you stood up to these forces, challenged them and were victorious for all our Villagers!

Research through our Floral Park Historical Society, I discovered a motto used by our Village’s founder, John Lewis Childs (our first Village President). It states: *Esse non videri*, which is a Latin phrase meaning “To be, not to seem”, truly being something, rather than merely seeming to be something. My deepest bow of appreciation for all that you and the Board have accomplished! Our Village has truly blossomed under your leadership. Tom, thank you my friend and God speed!!!’

John Breheny, 146 Geranium Avenue

Mr. Breheny said that he and Mayor Tweedy have worked a long time together through the Library Board and he wanted to thank the Mayor for his fairness towards the Library. Mr. Breheny said the Library is moving along with the Mayor’s help and guidance and that he looks forward to working with the next Mayor. Mr. Breheny said the lines of communication have improved because of the Mayor’s leadership and he would like the Mayor to come to a Library Board meeting soon so that the Board may collectively thank him.

Christy Reisig, 268 Floral Parkway

Ms. Reisig said she would like to compare the Mayor to three animals: First, he is a lion. You do not give up, you are hard working and dedicated. You are a pitbull. You get ahold of something and you don’t let go. You are like a kitty cat in that you have a kind heart. On behalf of my family and friends, it has been a real pleasure to work closely with you. It is not goodbye, but a continuation of a partnership.

Kevin Flood, 243 Crocus Avenue

Mr. Flood made the following speech:

'I would first like to congratulate our newly elected Trustee Frank Chiara, our re-elected Trustee Dr. Lynn Pombonyo and our new Mayor, Dominick Longobardi. Combined with Kevin Fitzgerald and Archie Cheng and all of the Village Administration, I am confident our Village is in good hands. I look forward to seeing what you accomplish together.

But with this new Village Board comes the departure of our 16-year veteran Trustee and Mayor Tom Tweedy.

Several years back, I had some concerns and had placed a call to Village Hall with my question/comment expecting a call back by a Village staff member or an assistant. But one evening, my phone rang and when I picked up, I heard "Hi Kevin, this is Tom Tweedy, your Mayor". I was stunned the Mayor called me directly, and a bit nervous as well. He spent nearly a half hour on the phone with me to discuss the issues and answer any questions I had. He assured me and gave me security that he and the Board were aware of the issue and were addressing it aggressively. I immediately knew that this man would always protect the Village of Floral Park and its residents. And my ever-growing respect for Mayor Tweedy began to root.

You have given me the opportunity to help serve this Village in ways I never expected. You, along with all the Board members, have taught me so much, and I thank you for that.

What you have accomplished in your 16 years of service to the Village is incredible. Our new pool and Recreation Center, the continued beautification of Centennial Gardens and other Village parks, street and road improvements, preservation of our trees, addressing drainage issues that have plagued us for decades, leading the fight and defeating the proposed casino at Belmont, and spearheading a multi-village fight against the proposed third track project. This is just to name a few. I have driven by Village Hall many nights to still see the light on in the corner office of the second floor. I knew you were up there working, not for yourself, but for us. You have worked tirelessly for our Village and I personally can't thank you enough for all you have done.

Someone once asked me why there are no elected officials on the county/state level from Floral Park, considering how engaged we are as a community. My answer was simple. All the talent remains in Floral Park because that is where we call home. Floral Park is a special place, second to none, and it is because of public servants like you that it has been that way for many generations. I know you will continue to be engaged in our community and always have its best interest at heart.

I look forward to seeing you around town, up on Tulip, walking the dog in the West End, perhaps no longer as Tom Tweedy, my Mayor, but as Tom Tweedy my friend.'