

**April 3, 2014**

The winter of 2013-'14 will long be remembered. It has been quite a while since we experienced such a hard winter with consistently cold, dark, snowy, heavy winter days and nights. But as we say goodbye to this winter, I must acknowledge the outstanding efforts of many, especially our DPW. I cannot understate the determined and continuous efforts by the team we have in our Public Works. Their diligent concern for the safety of all was evident by their perseverance and tenacity in keeping our streets safe and passable. All winter long these dedicated men, supervisors and ladies in DPW Administration responded to each storm with planning, professional calm and commitment. They kept our roads and pedestrian walkways safe. They worked tirelessly plowing, salting, sanding responding to the unique challenges each storm presented. Our roads were kept safe for cars, commerce and emergency vehicles. This required great coordination in purchasing, maintenance of equipment while still providing those essential services of sanitation and recycling. Our all-volunteer FPF members continually manned the firehouses during each storm event so as to quickly respond to any emergency. Finally, our Rescue Company and Police unfailingly responded to every call for aid during the storm emergencies. They all have my deepest thanks. Their coordinated, often unnoticed, efforts keep Floral Park a great place to live in any season and any weather.

Now as we move into Spring; may I take this opportunity to update you on the progress with several ongoing projects. Our first issue is our continuing efforts to as they relate to drainage. Over six years ago we experienced a 100 year storm. What turmoil that wrought, only to be followed two weeks later by a second 100 year storm! At that time, the Village engaged an engineering group and they designed a solution. We have been working on that engineered solution since. The principle and primary element of that solution is the development of a water recharge basin, approximately the size of a football field capable of containing 1M cu ft of storm water. The only place with such available land is in Belmont Park. We have had several fits and starts, now through three governors, but, while close, we have never been able to reach a formal agreement with NYRA. The last years have been challenging ones for NYRA. Recently, NYRA has reorganized and Gov. Cuomo named Christopher Kay as its new President and CEO. Presently, through the efforts of our State Senator Jack Martins, we are once again very close to an agreement with NYRA. We have had substantive meetings with NYRA and NCDPW. Senator Martins has cogently and effectively advocated on behalf of Floral Park's residents. He correctly states that while the problem of flooding expresses itself in Floral Park, its origins emanate from other areas including Bellerose Village, Bellerose Terrace and Jericho Tpke. With the removal of 1M cu ft of water from the Nassau County storm system under Plainfield Avenue, the entire system will benefit because of the reduced stress. The amount of water flowing southerly will be decreased thereby positively affecting Elmont's drainage as well. With the mitigation of such large amounts of water from the system, the fear, which many of our sister residents in Elmont feel, will be alleviated. Short of knocking down homes in Floral Park, there is not another viable solution. But the land is not ours. Mr. Kay understands the dilemma, the solution and is more than just sympathetic. He asked for some additional time to review the proposal and asked that we reconvene in May. We also have County Executive Ed Mangano to thank as well. NCDPW has been working with NYRA and with us for a solution since 2008. In addition to its engineering expertise, NC County Executive Ed Mangano will provide significant funding towards the development of this recharge basin and associated

pipng. I will keep you apprised as we get closer, but my deep thanks to NYRA President and CEO Chris Kay, County Executive Ed Mangano and especially to our Senator Jack Martins for sheparding this process for several years.

Finally, a damaged and broken drainage system in the garden area in front of Village Hall finds us with an unenviable and difficult decision. Attempts to repair without excavation have proven unsuccessful. The storm water is now penetrating the foundation wall and causing significant flooding and damage in the lower level of Village Hall. To remedy this problem we will need to excavate in front of Village Hall. Sadly we will also need to remove the trees and planting to the left of Village Hall's entrance. However, we will immediately replant the garden with new flowering cherry trees, dwarf boxwood, Japanese maple, weeping cedar, yews, annuals and perennials. We are justifiably proud of the elegant look of our Village Hall and its gardens. I assure you, our Parks Department is equal to the challenge and will provide a garden rich with natural beauty and color in keeping with the great tradition of Floral Park.