

Village Website

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that a few weeks ago, the Village introduced a new look and feel to our website. Although the address is the same, our residents should find the new site easier to navigate with more information and new features. The site was built so additional features can be added as they are developed and, as a website, is one of the easiest means for our Village government to communicate and assist our residents. Suggestions for what you would like to see on the site are welcomed. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Susan Kerner and Darlene Lanza for their efforts in launching the new site.

Fire Department

Trustee Fitzgerald thanked the women and men of the Floral Park Fire Department for the extraordinary job they did during the early morning hours of January 30th. As most of the residents now know, there was a significant house fire on Zinnia Street. The members of the Department were able to contain this fire to the one house even though the flames were coming out of all windows and at times the roof. Two of the many things that caught Trustee Fitzgerald while at the scene were the professionalism and calmness that the department exhibited as they went about their business. This certainly can be attributed to the countless hours that the members spend each month on training. In addition, Trustee Fitzgerald was impressed by their dedication that morning as he is sure that most, if not all of the members at the scene, then had to go to work after fighting the fire. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked the various Departments from our neighboring villages and their volunteers who came that morning to assist and support our Department. Once again, our Village is extremely lucky to have such a dedicated group of volunteers that make up our Fire Department.

Floral Park Public Library

Trustee Pombonyo reported, that to assist residents at tax time, the AARP Tax-Aide program will be at the Floral Park Library on Tuesdays from February 14th to April 18th, for 10:15 am, 11:45 am and 1:15 pm appointments. AARP tax preparers will be present to assist program participants with their income tax documents and filings. Those who wish to utilize this library service are asked to register at the reference desk. You may access the library's website at www.floralparklibrary.org.

Floral Park Conservation Society

Trustee Pombonyo reported that the annual bird count at Centennial Gardens will take place on Friday, February 17th, Saturday, February 18th and Sunday, February 19th. On these dates, Recreation Department staff member Don Haug will be on hand at the Gardens to help spot and count the extraordinary variety of birds that make Floral Park their home or roosting place. Interesting facts about these birds will be available at the Gardens from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Friday, the 17th; noon to 1:00 pm on Saturday, the 18th; and 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Sunday, the 19th. See the Bird Count flyer link under Recent Posts on the Village of Floral Park homepage: www.fpvillage.org.

Department of Public Works

Trustee Cheng said that working from home has provided him with the opportunity to take a break every so often and drive around the Village and he has seen the Department of Public Works hard at work trimming trees and filling potholes.

With a snow storm expected on Thursday, February 9th, Trustee Cheng hopes everyone is prepared.

Long Island Rail Road Third Track Expansion Project

Trustee Cheng thanked residents for attending the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Public Hearing held at the New Hyde Park Inn on January 19th. Residents spoke passionately and eloquently about the impact this project will have on the Village of Floral Park and surrounding areas. The commenting period will conclude on February 15th. Floral Park, along with the Villages of New Hyde Park and Garden City, retained the services of Beveridge & Diamond and Vertex to review and prepare technical review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Trustee Cheng said he has begun reviewing a draft of the document and said it appears that Beveridge & Diamond and Vertex, two very credible companies, have been able to touch on all of the Villages' concerns. They have been extraordinarily helpful in providing us with their expertise by dissecting the DEIS document in a way that we would not have been able to do.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Tweedy made the following poignant statement:

'My report tonight is simple, yet one the more difficult I have had to share. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to my friends and colleagues on the Village Board, Kevin, Dom, Lynn and Archie - each of you have shown such kindness and gracious support in a difficult time, your generous support of my family and all the Tweedys these last weeks was a source of great comfort. I am honored to know you as friends and humbled by your compassion.

The support and understanding extended to me by the Village family, and those are not simply words tonight, that combination of words, 'Village Family', has greater meaning to me than ever before. So many of you visited my family and offered your heartfelt condolences and best wishes, notably our Village Attorney and my lifelong friend, John Ryan, every department head, members of Public Works, Police Department, our Library Director Pat Eren and many of her staff, our entire Village Hall staff. I am privileged to know you all. I consider you as brothers and sisters of our family, the Village family. I am strengthened as you reached out to help me feel your warm and healing touch. The courtesies provided by the Floral Park Police Department and our Commissioner Stephen McAllister made a deep lasting impression on my family that will never be forgotten. The prayer service at Daltons was directed and attended by the

entire Floral Park Fire Department Chiefs Staff, Department Chaplain Pastor Gainus Sikes and the many members. The Department's moving ceremony honored my father's memory as few can.

I am so very humbled by the many amazing people I have met because of my time in Village service. But two have become dear friends. The words 'thank you' hardly does justice to the loving, thoughtful response to my and my family's needs as those provided by Susan Walsh and Gerry Bambrick. You have my deepest and eternal gratitude - a debt I hope someday to repay.

Floral Park is quite a place - family and faith is the manifestation of the love we share together in the wonderful place we call Floral Park. Thank you for your many kindnesses and your caring understanding. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you always in ours.'