

Board Reports
December 5, 2017

Belmont Park

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that on Tuesday, November 28, he, Mayor Dominick Longobardi and Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick were invited by the Empire State Development Corp. (ESD) to attend a briefing for locally elected officials on the various proposals that were submitted. In his opinion, Trustee Fitzgerald said the meeting was very productive and we are grateful to the ESD for including us in this part of the process and look forward to working with them. We were informed by State Senator Phillips and Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages this past Friday that they and the other local state elected officials are hosting a Belmont Park Redevelopment Listening Session. It will be held at 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at Elmont Memorial High School. At this session, the various developers will be presenting their submissions. It is our understanding that all questions must be submitted prior to the start of the meeting and, as such, the Belmont Task Force met on December 4th to start to refine our questions. As any development can have an impact on the Floral Park community, Trustee Fitzgerald strongly encourages all residents to attend. Lastly, as Newsday has been reporting, the New York Islanders appear to be one of the respondents to the Request for Proposal (RFP). In this past Sunday's edition, the New York Islanders owner, Mr. Jon Ledecky, was quoted as saying "*And we think we have something that really will galvanize the community in a positive way*". As mentioned in his Board reports, Trustee Fitzgerald said in the past we have reached out to the New York Islanders to have a dialogue only to be informed that they cannot speak to us as the application is still pending. Although we can certainly respect that, as the New York Islanders have not had a chance to hear our concerns directly from us, we find it questionable how the owner can make such a statement. Therefore, we are again asking them to meet with us so that they can listen directly to our concerns and how an arena can have a significant and adverse effect on the daily lives of the residents of Floral Park. In addition, this past week, the NHL Commissioner, Gary Bettman, issued a statement stating that he supports an arena at Belmont Park and that he thought "*it would be great for Long Island*". Today, Trustee Fitzgerald said he and Mayor Longobardi sent a letter to the Commissioner requesting a meeting with him, similarly to our request to the New York Islanders, to discuss with him some significant concerns that are unique to our community.

Fire Department

Trustee Pombonyo reported that the Floral Park Fire Department (FPFD) continues its ongoing recruitment drive. As volunteers, both female and male, continue to join, the FD's probationary training program is under way. This highly specialized program includes three extensive firefighting and/or rescue courses at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy in Old Bethpage, taught by certified Nassau County fire instructors; and nine in-house training classes pertaining to our local FD procedures, taught by our own expert, skilled FPFD personnel. The goal is that new FD members will complete their probationary training in one year. We wish them all success and thank them for their voluntary service to our Village.

Beginning on Wednesday morning, December 6th at 4:00 am, fifty-five Nassau County Firefighter Operation Wounded Warrior volunteers, both firefighters and community members,

will be leaving on trips to the Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Walter Reed Hospital, Fort Belvoir and Quantico military bases. They will be carrying truckloads of donations including clothing, toys, baby care items, electronics, gift cards, and things that will brighten the holidays for approximately 900 wounded warriors and their families. Great appreciation is extended to all in the Floral Park and Bellerose communities for the generous donations to this important cause and to our traveling NCFE-OWW volunteers.

Finally, as our FPDF wishes all a happy holiday season, please make caution and fire safety a priority with decorations, candles, trees, lights and electrical wiring.

Floral Park Public Library

Trustee Cheng reported that the Library is gearing up for the holidays with activities for everyone including holiday cooking classes and making gingerbread houses. On December 9th from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm, Caroline Doctorow will be performing an acoustic holiday sing along. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Police Department

Trustee Cheng said that Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister is advising everyone to be careful of delivered packages on front stoops. Especially at this time of year, people have been known to take them. Please ask your neighbors to keep an eye out for your packages.

Tree Lighting

Trustee Cheng reported that on December 1st was the annual tree lighting at Memorial Park and that it was a very special night in our Village. Trustee Cheng said it reminded him of a Hallmark movie and that he felt like he was George Bailey from "It's a Wonderful Life" as everyone greeted each other and wished each other a Merry Christmas. One of the many highlights of the evening were the Clydesdale Horses. Trustee Cheng said this night exemplified what Floral Park is all about. Trustee Cheng thanked the Floral Park Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Woman's Club and Our Lady of Victory Church along with our Department of Public Works, Fire Department and Police Department for all their hard work and coordination of this wonderful event.

Recreation Center

Trustee Chiara reported that the Recreation Center hours for the winter months will be 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, weather permitting. Centennial Gardens is now closed for the season and will reopen in April. All the ball fields are now closed. They will also reopen in April. The Screaming Eagles Hockey Team are at mid-season and are gearing up for the playoffs.

The 2016/17 Village Leisure Passes are expiring on December 31, 2017 and residents may renew their passes at the Recreation/Pool Building. For more information, please call 326-6336.

Registration for Recreation Session II Programs is being held on Wednesday, January 10th and Thursday, January 11th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Senior registration will be on Wednesday, January 10th and Thursday, January 11th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Information on these programs can be found on the Village website or by calling 326-6336.

The Recreation Center Christmas Tree Lighting will be on Friday, December 15th at 7:30 pm. The gates will open at 7:00 pm. There will be holiday music, hot chocolate, free skating and a special visit from Santa and friends. All residents are welcome to attend!

Mayor's Report

Mayor Longobardi said that recently there were newspaper articles printed concerning Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister. Mayor Longobardi asked Village Attorney John Ryan to update our residents on this issue. Mr. Ryan stated that he has read all the documentation and has spoken to witnesses. There is no factual or legal basis for this claim and he recommends no action be taken by the Village. Mayor Longobardi thanked Village Attorney Ryan for his due diligence in this matter and Police Commissioner McAllister for his cooperation.

Mayor Longobardi said that this year's tree lighting ceremony at Memorial Park on Friday, December 1st was an amazing and magical night in our Village. So many people worked very hard to put this fantastic evening together. The Mayor thanked the Junior Woman's Club, Father Tom and Our Lady of Victory Church, the Floral Park Chamber of Commerce, especially Mike Jakob and Donna Gammaratta who worked very hard from the skating rink to the vendor booths. Mayor Longobardi thanked the Village staff including the Department of Public Works and Supervisor Stephen Siwinski and Jack Stincone. The Mayor was pleased to see such shiny garbage trucks! Also thanked was our Fire Department for their enormous participation, as always, and to the Mineola Fire Department for their ambulance coverage that evening. Lastly, Mayor Longobardi thanked the Police Department and Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister for helping to obtain the Clydesdale Horses and for the efforts from our staff at Village Hall. This is what Floral Park is all about. Everyone's help and coordination made this night such a memorable start to the holiday season!

The next evening on Saturday, December 2nd was the Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce tree lighting ceremony coordinated by the President of the Covert Avenue Chamber René Jorglewich. The festival, which started at 2:00 pm, was another wonderful event and provided the children with a lot to do and see.

There are two more tree lighting ceremonies scheduled: one on Sunday, December 10th at Colonial Gardens Park hosted by the Hillcrest Civic Association and the annual tree lighting at the Recreation Center on Friday, December 15th. Mayor Longobardi invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Longobardi urged residents to attend the very important listening session regarding the Belmont Park Redevelopment being held at Elmont Memorial High School on Sunday, December 10th at 4:30 pm. This issue could have a big impact on our Village.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Felix Procaccia for filming this evening's meeting.