

Inc. Village of Floral Park
May 15, 2018
Board of Trustees Meeting

Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald thanked the members of the Department of Public Works along with members of the Police and Fire Departments for organizing last Friday's Truck Day. Many of our youngest citizens certainly enjoyed a fun visit and a look inside at our Village equipment.

Building Department – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that the Architectural Review Board had to reschedule its May meeting. Originally it was scheduled for May 23rd but was pushed up to May 16th. There are approximately 10 cases on the agenda.

Beautification Committee – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that this all-volunteer group led by Lucille Zimmer met last week. They are responsible for planting various plants and flowers in the many pocket parks that exist throughout our Village. Approximately 10 residents joined the meeting at which Lucille's daughter, Roxanne, gave a presentation on the science and art of gardening, including some specifics as to the soil on Long Island. This week, the members will be in the process of planting various flowers and sprucing up the pocket parks. If you see them working, please stop by to say thanks as they certainly put a little more 'floral' in Floral Park.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported that at 8:20 pm on May 2nd, our Fire Department was notified of a mutual aid fire on Argyle Road in Stewart Manor. Floral Park's hook and ladder truck, Chiefs and many firefighters were amongst the first on the scene and encountered a home that was fully engulfed in flames and heavy smoke. Floral Park's hook and ladder was quickly put into service as the ladder was extended to the second floor and roof area. Many departments responded, and Floral Park and others fought the fire from both inside and out. All worked extremely hard under severe fire, heat and smoke conditions until the fire was extinguished several hours later. Expressions of admiration and appreciation go to our Floral Park Fire Department, Stewart Manor and all the others who gave their support that night.

The very next night, May 3rd, our Fire Department was again fighting fires, this time for training purposes, at the Nassau County Fire Services Academy in Old Bethpage. The Department's assignment that night was to extinguish a working fire in the tower, a six-story building, with a fire on the top floor. There, our firefighters climbed the stairs, while stretching the charged hoses, searched for the fire and began the attack – all under heavy fire, heat and smoke conditions. In addition to our Chief staff, the firefighting effort was supervised by highly experienced, expert fire science instructors from the Fire Services Academy. Week 2 at the

Academy, on May 10th, focused on firefighting in garden apartments, similar to those in Floral Park, where there were challenging multiple ignition points. The feedback from the Academy staff has continually been positive and constructive. Our Fire Department will return to the Academy for two more training nights in May, and receive instruction and hands-on practice in attacking fires in a house and row of attached stores with storage space, also very challenging. The Floral Park Fire Department's training program for firefighting and rescue continues to be rigorous, ongoing and impressive.

And, when the Fire Department is not responding to calls (105 in April) or conducting drills and training, they offer significant community service. Thanks to all for their participation in the St. Baldrick's Day events to fight pediatric cancers; Truck Day, an amazing display of our Village vehicles including DPW trucks, a school bus, a police car, and a fire truck, for our preschool children and families; and the ongoing firehouse tours and demonstrations for our school groups, scout troops, and other organizations.

Library – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the Library will be hosting the AARP Defensive Driving Course at the Library on Wednesday, May 16th from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Also being offered at the Library on Thursday, May 17th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm is the Town of Hempstead Senior ID program for people aged 60 and up. It is a free identification card with personal data, physicians' contact information and emergency numbers. The ID card is particularly useful in the event of an emergency. There are many other interesting programs being offered at the Library. Please check the website at www.floralparklibrary.org.

Police Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that there were over 100 calls made to the Police Department between May 6-12, 2018.

A \$10,000 grant was received from the Office of Senator Elaine Phillips and the Village is very grateful for the receipt of this grant. The money is being put towards the installation of security cameras at the pool and the Library.

Recently it was reported that 3 bicycles were stolen and 3 cars were broken into. One of the cars was taken; however, the car owner left the keys in the car. The car was recovered in the 3rd Precinct. Residents should be vigilant about securing their bicycles and cars.

Two officers will be attending a train the trainer class with regard to the case of an active shooter. These officers will then train the department in the latest techniques.

Third Track Task Force – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng said that in the Memo of Understanding, it was stated that the railroad would be surveying our roads and buildings prior to construction of the third track attenuation wall to

determine their original condition. This process will be taking place in the next few weeks. Roads and buildings are to be returned to their original condition prior to this construction.

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that the Recreation and Pool Booklets are in the mail making their way to residents. Please refer to it for important dates and information regarding registration for our Summer programs and pool registration. Residents with questions can always call the Recreation Center during regular business hours.

The Tiny Town restoration project is currently on hold. The bid estimates received were above the Village's budget. The project will be put out for re-bid in the near future and we will keep you posted on its progress. For now, Tiny Town will remain open for our residents to enjoy.

Mayor's Message – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi reported that this past Sunday, Mother's Day, while everyone was enjoying family time, a young man with autism was visiting his grandmother in the Village and left her home and did not return. The Police Department was called and went into action looking for the young man. Mayor Longobardi especially thanked Sergeant Tom McCarthy, Police Officer Brian Naughton and Dispatcher Ed Martinez for their help. Fortunately, the young man was found and was brought to Long Island Jewish Hospital where he was reunited with his family. It is heartening to know that if you have a problem, the Floral Park Police Department is always there to assist.

The Hance Family Foundation will be holding its Family Fun Day & Race at Centennial Gardens on Saturday, May 19th to honor the lives of Emma, Alyson and Katie Hance. This foundation has done such great things over the years and Mayor Longobardi asked everyone to come out and support this wonderful cause!

Mayor Longobardi said that the week of May 20th is Public Works Week throughout the United States. It is an onerous job to make sure that things of a public works nature are taken care properly, including the maintenance of our trees and parks, making sure roads are in good condition and patching them when they are not and even acting as a first responder so that emergency personnel can expeditiously get through the Village. Please remember them next week.

On Sunday, May 20th, there will be a ceremony at The United Methodist Church of Floral Park to say good bye to Pastor Gainus Sikes. Mayor Longobardi said Pastor Sikes is a wonderful man who has worked tirelessly for many years with our residents including as Chaplain of the Floral Park Fire Department. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Mayor Longobardi said his current *Mayor's Message* details the most recent developments at Belmont Park. The next phase of the project will look at the SEQRA process. The Empire State Development Corporation and the New York Area Partners are obligated to study certain things such as traffic patterns throughout our Village. The study currently reviews only a 1/2 mile

radius, whereas, the Village has requested this radius be extended to 3 miles. This is to ensure we protect our quality of life. The proposed height of the hotel has been lowered by over 100 feet and moved to the other side of the grandstand. The proposed sub-station that was to be behind the school will be moved further away. There are other aspects of the project that we have raised questions about and they are currently being studied. This is just the beginning.

The U.S. Supreme Court has recently made the decision to end its ban on sports betting. This is of major concern to the Village as we do not know what NYRA will do. There is speculation that they will look to refurbish the grandstand which could cost upwards of \$300 million. It is the Mayor's opinion that the development projects are way too large for what this property can hold. We are going to call for the 'right size' development of the Belmont property.