

Inc. Village of Floral Park

August 14, 2018

Board of Trustees Meeting

Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that the Locust Street project continues to progress as scheduled. The sidewalk, curb and apron work is complete. The next step, the milling of the road, has started. Once that has been completed, it is expected that the entire road will be paved in one or two days. Barring any unexpected delays, it is expected that the road will be fully operational in time for the school year.

The Clayton Avenue project is still under review as we continue to work with the engineering firm to find the optimal solution with regard to the movement of the curb line. If there are any further changes, we will be sure to update the residents.

The Highway crew has been busy in the Remsen/Florence/Adelaide section of the Village making significant repairs to the streets. Over the past few weeks, they have cut out significant portions of the streets that were decaying and filled them in via a continuous pavement. This method is not only visually better than just filling in potholes, it will extend the life of the road and require less maintenance than simple pot hole repair

Belmont Project – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that last week, on behalf of the Village, our counsel, Beveridge & Diamond, sent a letter to the Empire State Development (ESD). The primary focus of the letter was to question why there was such a significant delay in the ESD issuing the Final Scoping document. Typically, a Final Scoping document is issued 60 days after the closing comment period of the Draft Scoping document. In this case, the closing of the comment period of the Draft Scoping document was over 120 days ago and a Final Scoping document has not been released. A major concern that we have, as articulated in the letter, is that if the Final Scoping document is issued close to when the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is issued, the time allotted for the surrounding communities to review, understand and research the various issues will be woefully insufficient. Another concern that was expressed was that the ever-changing and continuous expansion of the project is not in harmony with the suburban character of Western Nassau County.

Eagle Scout Award Ceremony – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

This past Saturday, myself and Trustee Chiara attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Matthew Killeen and Michael Hyde. These ceremonies are always impressive; to see the scope and diverse talents these young gentlemen possess. Congratulations once again to Matt, Mike and their parents for achieving this high and rare honor. Their future is certainly a bright one.

Council of Cultural Affairs – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo thanked the Council of Cultural Affairs and its Chairperson Alexa Grant Ventimiglia for a most entertaining “Summer Concerts Under the Stars” series. Large, enthusiastic audiences of music lovers have sung along while many danced to the sounds of the Beatles, Frank Sinatra and Big Band era on the lawn at Memorial Park. Alexa Grant Ventimiglia also lent her beautiful voice to the performances, singing a number of the groups’ most popular hits. Concert goers will welcome Andy Cooney, singing their favorite Irish tunes, on Friday evening, August 17th, 7:15 pm. Bravo to our Cultural Affairs volunteers.

Conservation Society – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo praised the efforts of another Girl Scout troop for beautifying Centennial Gardens. Approximately fifteen members of Troop 1285, along with their leaders, families and Ms. Marie Martone of the Conservation Society, spent a very special Sunday morning creating a colorful garden bed, honoring FDNY Lieutenant Michael Davidson, for all in our community. Volunteers to help maintain Centennial Gardens are always welcome. Go to www.fpgarden.org for beautiful photos and more information.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported on several key departmental activities. In addition to responding to fire or smoke-related and numerous rescue calls in Floral Park, our Fire Department has participated in mutual aid requests in other communities. Most notably, during a horrific lightning and thunderstorm on the evening of August 7th, the Floral Park Fire Department joined other departments in battling a LIRR power station fire in New Hyde Park. Started by lightning, this serious fire took several hours to extinguish in dangerous conditions and caused railroad switching problems throughout the next day. Great appreciation is extended to all the area fire departments for protecting the public and limiting the extent of damage caused by the severe storm.

Interior modifications on the Active Firehouse on Atlantic Avenue are continuing. When completed in the early fall, the firehouse will accommodate a new firetruck with updated safety features and equipment, replacing the current 25 year old Active truck.

Congratulations go to Ex-Chief Raymond Neufeld. Chief Neufeld was honored by NYS Senator Elaine Phillips, Village Trustees, and representatives of our Floral Park and other area Fire Departments for his many years of distinguished service and dedication, and his ongoing high response rate to rescue calls. We salute and thank Chief Neufeld for his outstanding service and leadership in our Fire Department and Village.

As we continue to celebrate our Fire Department’s 125th anniversary, we thank our community members and area fire departments for participating in the August 4th parade and party. Joining together to celebrate this extraordinary milestone for our Department, its members and our Village is a significant and meaningful tribute that we will all long remember.

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported the following is the work scheduled to take place in the near future regarding the Third Track:

- In September, 2018, work is to begin on the South Tyson Viaduct. It is expected to continue until April 2019 and then start again in July 2019 for one more month. There will be a loss of commuter parking spaces under the railroad tracks during this time. Parking spaces will be made available at the Men on the Move property. Parking permits issued by the Village for under the railroad will be honored in this lot.
- In late September, 2018, the retaining wall construction will begin along the mainline. That work is expected to last approximately 11 months.
- In Fall 2018, work is expected to begin on the Floral Park train station elevators and finish in late 2019.
- In February 2019, work is scheduled to begin on the Covert Avenue grade crossing. This work is expected to last for approximately nine months and will cause traffic pattern problems during that time.

Police Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that a meeting was held in July with regard to the use of opioids. This is a new group that is forming led by local resident Elaine Licari along with members of the Floral Park Police Department including Police Officer John Groshans and Police Sergeant Will Doherty. The aim of this group is education and intervention. The next meeting will be held on August 27th at the American Legion at 7:00 pm. All residents are invited to attend to bring forth ideas and support.

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that the Recreation Center is now in “Olympic Week,” its eighth and final week of youth programs.

On Thursday, August 16th at 7:00 pm on the park stage, the Youth Programs and Pool Awards Ceremony will be held to recognize individuals’ accomplishments.

Trustee Chiara said he is happy to report that the Pirates Swim Team had another undefeated season – the fourth in a row! Congratulations to all the swimmers, coaches and parents who contributed to their victorious season.

The Summer Adult Basketball League has completed its season. Division I Champs are the Novus Team. Division II Champs are the Fallon’s Team. Men’s Adult Volleyball has also completed its season. The champions are the Brewers. Women’s Volleyball League finals will be held on August 14th, weather permitting. Trustee Chiara congratulated all the winning teams and all those people who participated in the league this summer.

Some upcoming events at the pool are the second Teen Luau Splash Party for children ages 10 to on Monday, August 20th at 6:00 pm. The pool will be closed to the public.

On Tuesday, September 4th is the annual Senior Citizen Picnic from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The picnic is open to seniors only.

Limited pool hours will begin on Saturday, August 18th from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm.

As the summer is winding down, Trustee Chiara thanked all the Recreation and Pool staff for doing a great job organizing and coordinating all of the summer activities. The summer staff, young adults from our community, did an excellent job working on all the youth programs, lifeguarding at the pool and working with the Department of Public Works at our facilities. We are looking forward to them returning next year for another great summer season.

As the fall/winter season approaches, details on those programs will be available on the Village's website, www.fpvillage.org, in The Gateway and on Four Village Studio. A flyer is also being prepared for distribution.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi echoed the sentiments of Trustee Pombonyo in congratulating the Floral Park Fire Department on their 125th anniversary. A wonderful parade and celebration was held on August 4th honoring our greatest volunteers. They are the people who ensure our safety when we are in perhaps the worst situation of our lives. This is the history we are celebrating.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Public Works, the Police Department and the Administration, Ex-Chief Michael Longobardi and Trustee Lynn Pombonyo who worked tirelessly in order to make this celebration happen. Mayor Longobardi thanked the residents who lined the streets during the parade to honor our firefighters. These volunteers sacrifice so much of their time answering calls and attending training classes. And their families sacrifice, too, in their absence from family time, including holidays. There will be more celebrations to come and Mayor Longobardi urged residents to check out the Village's website at www.fpvillage.org for updated information.

Mayor Longobardi said our Police Department will also be celebrating its 100th anniversary. Emergency response time of the Police Department is incredibly short proving that Floral Park is a safe place to live.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Rebecca Klar from Island Now for attending this evening's meeting and Felix Procaccia for filming the meeting.

The Mayor stated the Village Board Meeting would continue in his office with Department Heads after a brief recess and the public is invited to attend.

On motion by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Pombonyo, and carried unanimously, Mayor Longobardi recessed the meeting at 9:40 pm.
