

**Inc. Village of Floral Park**  
**September 4, 2018**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi presented a New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Public Service Recognition Certificates to John Michon for his 35 years of service to the Village.

Since 1983, John has served as a Recreational Specialist, Tennis Instructor, Summer Camps Supervisor and is currently the Sr. Recreation Director at the Village. John has been a resident of Floral Park since 1966, and his wife Maureen is also a long-time resident of the Village. He has three children; Mike, T.J. and Cathy and has been blessed with 5 grandchildren. A graduate of St. John's University, John began his teaching career at Roosevelt High School in 1966, where as a faculty member he played against Julius Irving many times. He even attempted to recruit Dr. J. for St. John's! In 1968, he moved on to the Floral Park Bellerose Elementary School as a sixth grade teacher and created their Saturday Morning Program, and is still working in the Program 50 years later! During his years at FPBS, John was promoted to Assistant Principal and Title I Director. He retired from FPBS in 2004. While his children were growing up, John coached/managed Little League for 20 years. He is an original member of the Floral Park Youth Council, an usher at Our Lady of Victory Church and has played in the Village Basketball, Volleyball and Softball Leagues. You can always find John around the tennis courts, either playing or organizing matches. He has the distinction of being the only Floral Park resident to have played in every Jim Krug Tennis Classic (44 of them!) and continues to be a guiding force behind this annual tournament. John loves to travel and go to the beach anywhere, anytime. He also loves to read, go to the movies and enjoys going to concerts and Broadway shows. However, his favorite thing to do is to babysit and play with his grandchildren. His dedication and professionalism have made him a valued employee not only to the Recreation Department, but to all the residents of Floral Park. Congratulations John!

Upon the conclusion of the NYCOM Public Service Recognition Certificates, the portrait of Former Mayor Thomas Tweedy was unveiled with many members of Tom's family and friends in attendance. Also in attendance were Former Mayors Ann Corbett, Phil Guarnieri and Kevin Greene. Mayor Longobardi said that Mayor Tweedy was perhaps one of the greatest Mayors the Village has ever had because of all the issues he had to deal with. Tom, a life-long resident of Floral Park, has helped build the foundation of Floral Park. Appointed in 2001 by then Mayor Ann Corbett, Tom served 16 years on the Board of Trustees, six of those years as Mayor. Tom comes from a family who has done so much for the community, starting with Tom's mother Anne who touched so many lives in all she did for the Village. Tom embodies the term 'community service' from not only his time on the Board of Trustees but the multitude of other roles he has played from Civic Association President, to member of the Architectural Review Board, to member of the Recreation Committee, to church lecturer. On the Board, Tom worked through many tough times including the issues with Belmont Racetrack casino and VLTs and the Third Track. We are now in the midst of another Belmont issue and Tom is working right alongside us once again. Tom was Mayor during both Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy

in which as soon as the storm had subsided, Tom personally inspected the Village to assess damage such as loss of electrical power and downed trees. He personally helped secure contractors to fix the houses of his fellow residents. For many years, the West End of the Village suffered from serious flooding problems. Working with New York State and Belmont Racetrack, he helped to have built a sump and drainage system alleviating the problem. After the terrible days of 9-11, to remember the people we had so tragically lost, along with the Floral Park Fire Department, Tom worked hard to get the World Trade Center relic that now stands in front of Village Hall. He worked with engineers to establish the Memorial to all those lost and to their families. Tom was Mayor during the conception and construction of the new pool. He oversaw the financing of the pool to the design and the construction. But the most important thing to Tom has always been his family, his wife, Maryanne and his children Michael and Katie. Tom's family gave so much in order for him to be with us and Mayor Longobardi thanked them for their sacrifice. Mayor Longobardi thanked Former Mayor Tom Tweedy for his friendship and his counsel. On behalf of a grateful Village, thank you Tom.

Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald said he believes that most importantly during the six years of Mayor Tweedy's term, he was able to keep all the things we cherish about Floral Park the same, all while adapting to the changing world around us. Trustee Fitzgerald said that Tom was able to adeptly and successfully tackle significant unforeseen challenges that have faced this Village while simultaneously overseeing significant projects which have improved the quality of life for our residents while improving property values. Floral Park is certainly a better place to live because of your service.

Trustee Pombonyo expressed her happiness in honoring Former Mayor Tom Tweedy and thanking him for inviting her to assume a seat on the Village Board. It was one of the two greatest honors she has had in Floral Park. Mayor Tweedy served our Village in many significant ways including his contributions to Our Lady of Victory, sports, and civic programs. The quality of life in Floral Park was always a top priority for him and he worked tirelessly to enhance it. It was during Mayor Tweedy's administration that our new pool opened three years ago. Many of us will never forget the unique honor bestowed on the Mayor on Opening Day in 2015 when Village Justice Doug Hayden threw him into the pool! Trustee Pombonyo thanked all of Mayor Tweedy's family for supporting him through his decades of service to Floral Park. She concluded, "Thank you, Mayor Tweedy and your family. May God Bless You always."

Former Mayor Thomas Tweedy said he could not thank everyone enough, especially the Former Mayors who were attendance: Mayor Ann Corbett, Mayor Phil Guarnieri and Mayor Kevin Greene. Mayor Tweedy said he was very proud to have served as Floral Park's 26<sup>th</sup> Mayor. Each Board has had vast and ongoing challenges. One of our challenges is the replacement of an aging infrastructure. Mayor Tweedy thanked his family who were all in attendance, his wife Maryanne, Michael and Katie and her husband, Joe. Mayor Tweedy said it was a great pleasure to serve with his fellow Board Members including Mayor Dominick Longobardi, Deputy Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Trustee Lynn Pombonyo and Trustee Archie Cheng, all of them so very talented and serving our Village so well.

## **Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald**

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that the Locust Street project, for the most part, is complete. Over the next few weeks, as soon as the weather cools down, sod will be placed. This will be done to maximize the chances of the sod growing and the roots taking hold for future growth.

Additionally, over the next few weeks, Superintendent of Public Works Stephen Siwinski and Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginanne will be meeting with the arborist to determine the types of trees that can and should be planted on Locust Street. As previously mentioned, we are working to ensure the trees that are planted maximize their growth potential without damaging the curb and road in the years to come.

The Clayton Avenue project is still under review as we continue to work with the engineering firm along with Superintendent of Public Works Stephen Siwinski and the arborist as we all walked the street to find the optimal solution with regards to the movement of the curb line. If there are any further changes, we will be sure to update the residents during the next few weeks.

As you may have noticed, a number of the trees in the commercial district on Tulip Avenue have died or are dying. As such, in the coming weeks, we will start removing some of the trees and replace them. At this point in time, we are hoping that the existing spots can be utilized for new trees.

## **Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald**

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that last week, the Empire State Development Corp. (ESD) released the Final Scoping Document along with their Responses to Comments that were submitted during the scoping period held during this past Spring. The next phase will be for the ESD to release the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and hold a public hearing during the fourth quarter of this year. Although Trustee Fitzgerald would appreciate the ESD respond to the numerous questions that the Village submitted during the scoping process, there are a number of significant issues that have been highlighted in the Final Scoping Document. Amongst them are:

The use of the North Lot (i.e., the lot that borders Floral Park-Bellerose School and the West End) is being proposed to be used for up to 2,860 spaces for when there are events at the arena which is approximately 100 nights a year (up to 60 NHL games plus 50 marquee concerts/events). Although there is a mention of a potential buffer, no details have been provided. By way of reference, these 2,860 spaces plus the spaces on the South lot total 7,450 which is which is 1.5 times larger than the parking at the Nassau Coliseum. What makes this so disappointing is that when the ESD responded to our questions about any potential use of the North Lot during the RFP (Request for Proposal) process, their response was “it is not anticipated that the North Lot will be used to accommodate parking for development projects on Site A, Site B or Alternative Site A”. Therefore, to see that the North Lot is now going to be used is now of significant concern.

There are a number of other significant concerns, e.g., traffic, utilities, etc., that the ESD will study during the upcoming process. It appears that there may only be one hearing on the DEIS

and minimal time during the comment period. Trustee Fitzgerald urged all residents to read the Final Scoping Document so that they can start to formulate their questions. Additionally, in the coming weeks, the Belmont Task Force will hold an educational session for community leaders so that they can engage and further educate their memberships.

### **Civic Associations – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald**

Trustee Fitzgerald said now that the summer is over and school has started, Civic Association meetings will be in full swing. He urged residents to attend their local Civic Association and express their concerns and educate themselves about the issues in an informal setting.

### **Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo**

Trustee Pombonyo began by acknowledging the work of the Floral Park Fire Department's Rescue Company. Responding to 1,466 total calls in 2017 and 547 through August 15<sup>th</sup>, our Rescue Squad is ready and responding to Signal 9A and other emergency calls 24/7/365. It is our busiest fire company. The members are well-trained, current, highly expert, professional and deeply caring, and work as a well-coordinated team. Time and again, we see letters in our local newspapers thanking the Rescue Company for treating loved ones, calming frightened children, offering guidance, solving problems, reassuring families, safely transporting the injured and sick to hospitals and, often, saving lives. Ongoing training and instructing colleagues enable our Rescue Company to keep getting better and better. Thank you to the men and women of Rescue Company for their extraordinary dedication and service.

Our Department's training often extends beyond rescue and firefighting techniques. Later in September, two of Floral Park's Assistant Chiefs will be participating in a command level exercise focusing on Emergency Service Response to violent incidents in schools. Included will be the roles first responders may be asked to fulfill during critical incidents as they are happening. The Nassau County Police Department, including the Homeland Security Division, and Nassau County Fire Services Academy will be leading this important exercise in Mineola.

### **Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo**

Trustee Pombonyo reminded all to save the date, Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Covert Avenue Street Fair. It's bigger and better than ever with a giant craft fair, face painting, huge inflatables, live bands, big prize raffles, a towering rock wall, great food and store sales, and more. All are invited to enjoy this fun-filled community celebration on Covert just north of Tulip Avenue and Sewanhaka High School.

### **Conservation Society – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo**

Trustee Pombonyo invited all to visit Centennial Gardens as the seasons change. A number of new gardens, with beautiful flowers and trees, have been added both inside and outside the gates. Visitors will enjoy scenic walks around the red brick path on the outside or may venture inside between noon and 5:00 pm, weather permitting, to see nature at its best. Volunteers are always

welcome, especially for the Monthly Weed-Outs the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Join the next Weed-Out with many other dedicated volunteers on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Check out [www.fpgarden.org](http://www.fpgarden.org) for interesting stories and colorful photos of our spectacular Gardens, and enjoy!

### **Floral Park Library – Trustee Archie Cheng**

Trustee Cheng asked residents to check out the Library's website at [www.floralparklibrary.org](http://www.floralparklibrary.org) for upcoming events, among them, on September 23<sup>rd</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Fall Festival. There will be a magic show, a pumpkin patch, games, popcorn, and fun for the entire family. Teen volunteers, Grades 7-12, are welcomed to sign up to assist at the fair.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Friends of the Floral Park Library will be holding its annual Book Sale at the Library's Meeting Room from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. All are welcomed to attend.

### **Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng**

Trustee Cheng said there was little movement regarding the Third Track Project. We are still waiting to get the results of the environmental borings before construction can start.

Trustee Cheng reminded residents that school is open and to please drive carefully!!

### **Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara**

Trustee Chiara reported that the Annual Awards Night for the Pool and Youth Summer Programs was held. It was the first time it was held jointly and it went very smoothly. Children who participated in these programs were recognized for their individual achievements as their proud parents, families and friends looked on. All were treated to hamburgers and hot dogs and everyone had a nice evening.

Floral Park Little League Awards Night will take place on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Recreation Center. Awards will be given to District 29 Tournament players and also to the "Buddies" who volunteer their time to assist with the Challenger Tournament. These "Buddies" did a great job contributing to the success of the Challenger Tournament.

Registration for the majority of the Fall Programs will begin on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Pool Building. Senior registration will be on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. A flyer has been sent out to all residents detailing the programs or you can always check the Village website at [www.fpvillage.org](http://www.fpvillage.org) or call the Recreation Center at 326-6336 for details.

The Woman's Volleyball Championship was won by Poppy's Place. Congratulations to the Poppy's team! Trustee Chiara thanked Richie Clifford and Darlene Lanza for all their hard work scheduling, coordinating and keeping the stats for the league.

At the pool, the 'Last Splash' the ending of the pool season tradition, took place on Labor Day,

September 3rd. The pool had an enormous crowd. The horns and whistles blew at 5:00 pm signaling everyone standing around the perimeter of the pool to jump in for their last swim of the season. This year's crowd was tremendous and it was great to see so many of our pool members enjoy the last day at the pool. Thanks go out to Superintendent of Recreation Kurt Meyfohr, Pool Director Tom Dillon, Assistant Pool Directors Casey Naab and Carolyn Rudden and all the pool staff who contributed to a great guest experience at our pool facility. Thank you all for a job well done!

September 4<sup>th</sup> was the Senior Picnic at the pool. It was very well attended by our senior pool members. Everyone had a great time relaxing, listening to music, playing Bingo while enjoying the fantastic weather. Lunch and dessert was served and Trustee Chiara said he was amazed at how many guests were having fun coming down the water slides! Trustee Chiara thanked all the wonderful staff for doing such a great job putting the day together. It was another great day at the pool and Trustee Chiara was happy to have been a part of it.

Kudos to the Recreation and Pool Committees for coming together to provide suggestions and ideas on how to keep our facilities current and moving forward.

As the Mayor noted yesterday during the Senior Picnic, there are 9 months and a few weeks to next year's opening of the pool!

### **Centennial Gardens & Bird Sanctuary – Trustee Frank Chiara**

Trustee Chiara reminded residents that Centennial Gardens & Bird Sanctuary will remain open daily from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, weather permitting, until Thanksgiving. Thank you to the Floral Park Conservation Society for all their hard work maintaining the Gardens.

### **Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi**

Mayor Longobardi reminded residents that on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> will be the 9-11 Memorial Ceremony beginning at 8:30 am in front of Village Hall. Please come by as we honor those who so tragically died that day, 17 years ago, and their families.

Mayor Longobardi reminded residents that school is open and everyone must drive carefully. Please follow all traffic rules and regulations. The Police Department does not want to give out tickets – but they will!

Mayor Longobardi thanked Rebecca Klar from *The Island Now* and Kris Brooks from *Newsday* for attending this evening's meeting. The Mayor also thanked Felix Procaccia for filming the meeting.