

**Inc. Village of Floral Park**  
**March 5, 2019**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng**

At the beginning of the Board Meeting, prior to the agenda being read, Trustee Cheng made a presentation with regard to the work being done on the Third Track Project. A three-page map was distributed to residents who attended.

Trustee Cheng reported that the Tyson Avenue/east abutment demolition will continue through August 2019 after which the bridge will begin.

The Plainfield Avenue substructure work will begin sometime in the third quarter of 2019.

The Linden Avenue underpass work has started.

The Floral Park railroad station elevator work is scheduled to commence in April, 2019. The completion work for the center of the station is scheduled to be completed by December, 2019; the north is scheduled to be completed in October, 2019 and the south is scheduled to be completed in November, 2019.

The south side retaining wall is scheduled to begin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 and be completed by late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019. The north side sound wall is scheduled to begin in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2019 and continue into 2020. Just prior to the beginning of the Board Meeting, Trustee Cheng said he received an email, which he did not have the opportunity to properly review, which indicated that it would take 10 to 16 months for the completion of this work.

Trustee Cheng reported that there will be a residential traffic closure from mid-April 2019 on Covert Avenue from approximately 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in New Hyde Park. This closure is expected to last for at least six months. All Covert Avenue traffic will be closed between Stewart Avenue to Jericho Turnpike.

Eastbound and westbound Stewart Avenue traffic will be encouraged to go north on New Hyde Park Road to Jericho Turnpike east or west. Any westbound traffic that proceeds to Covert Avenue will be directed to go south onto Covert Avenue.

Northbound Covert Avenue traffic from Hempstead Turnpike, the suggested detour route, will be northwesterly Tulip Avenue. If traffic continues northbound, traffic will be forced onto eastbound Stewart Avenue.

The Village is concerned about traffic using Cisney Avenue and Beverly Avenue as a cut-through and speedway up Magnolia Avenue to Plainfield Avenue. We are also concerned about Marshall Avenue, but there are four outlets to Tulip Avenue.

Trustee Cheng said that both 3TC personnel as well as our own traffic consultants were contacted and one solution suggested was to turn both Cisney Avenue and Beverly Avenue into one-way streets towards Covert Avenue from Orchid Street onto Covert Avenue. Both experts agreed with our suggestion. Another suggestion was to ban right-hand turns from westbound Marshall Avenue to northbound Revere Drive, again forcing traffic onto Tulip Avenue. Many comments and suggestions were made by residents regarding the traffic patterns in this area.

A resident commented that the third track reverse commute is not justified. Trustee Cheng and Mayor Longobardi agreed with the resident and said we are all frustrated by this project. The resident also asked if the MTA has budgeted funds for this third track project. Trustee Cheng said that the money is in their budget and the contractors have an incentive to finish the project on time. Trustee Cheng said a questionnaire was sent out by the MTA asking how they are doing. They received an over 80% approval rating. However, only 15-20% of residents replied to the questionnaire.

There will be no commercial vehicles permitted on residential streets. Prior to construction, the streets were examined by the MTA. The Village will be reimbursed for damage to our roads.

Trustee Cheng said there will be more police presence in the area during the Covert Avenue construction. During construction on Tyson Avenue, over 100 tickets were issued for blocking the box on Tulip and Verbena Avenue and more than 200 warnings were also given.

A resident suggested the Village rent temporary speed bumps for the Cisney/Beverly/Magnolia area and ask the MTA to pay for them.

Trustee Cheng said it is very important that the business district stay as strong as possible. If residents have any other suggestions or comments about the traffic flow, contact Trustee Cheng via the Village website or send him an email.

Mayor Longobardi said we will keep residents informed of all phases of the construction work. It is a short-term project and we want it to impact residents as little as possible. We want to keep our businesses strong on Covert Avenue. Mayor Longobardi thanked residents for attending the meeting and for voicing their opinions.

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

Trustee Fitzgerald thanked all of the members of the Department of Public Works for their efforts over the past weekend in dealing with two storms to ensure that our Village streets and public sidewalks were clear. Their time in preparing for the storms, the work during the storms and in cleaning up their equipment post the storms is appreciated by the Board and our residents.

As mentioned in my January 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Report, we installed six LED streetlights as part of our initial pilot. They are located at Pansy Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Floral Boulevard, along with one outside of the gym entrance at John Lewis Childs School. So far, the only comments that have been received have been that residents are pleased with the pilot. Superintendent of Public Works Stephen Siwinski is working on a couple of potential options on

how to move the pilot forward. Feedback is still welcomed and if you have any comments, please contact DPW.

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

On Friday, March 1, 2019, the Village submitted their extensive comments to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) in response to the recently published Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As part of our submission, we attached the comments of members of the Belmont Task Force. Simultaneously, our outside counsel, Beveridge & Diamond, along with the traffic consultant (NVS), submitted their comments and expert opinions. Please visit the Belmont Re-development News link on the home page of our website at fpvillage.org for links to our collective submissions.

Separately, the Village, over the course of the past month, sent to the ESD 2,462 signed letters that were dropped off by our residents at Village Hall. The Board would like to thank all of our residents for being proactive and ensuring that our shared concerns are placed on the record for the ESD and its Board's review and careful consideration. It was truly amazing to see the effort put forth by our residents. Additionally, Trustee Fitzgerald extended a special thanks to the following:

- All of the residents who worked over the past month in collecting the aforementioned letters;
- The members of the Belmont Task Force for their time and dedication over the past two months, since the DEIS was first published. Their sacrifice of time to attend various meetings (such as the ESD Board Meeting, TOH meeting, etc.), reading the voluminous DEIS documents and appendices, and carefully crafting written comments to the ESD has certainly allowed the Village's concerns about the project to be well articulated and significantly researched;
- Lastly, Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick has been at the forefront of researching and generating various ideas, voicing our concerns and positions professionally and working with our outside counsel and consultants. There may not be a Village in the entire State of New York that has had to deal with so much outside of their normal day-to-day operations than the Village of Floral Park has in the past 3 ½ years. We are certainly blessed to have Gerry as our 'backbone' for the past 7 ½ years.

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

Trustee Pombonyo welcomed 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Fire Chief Michael Saville and Former Fire Chief Michael Longobardi to the Board Meeting and thanked them for their service. Trustee Pombonyo reported on the Fire Department's ongoing busy schedule and challenging calls. Within a period of five days, our Department responded to three mutual aid calls for working fires, one in New Hyde Park and two in Elmont. These mutual aid services are crucial for all the departments to ensure that our citizens are protected and safe; the local firefighters have the back-up and support they need; and other property in close proximity to the burning buildings is protected. On the Rescue side, our emergency medical personnel's expertise was called upon as they successfully stabilized and transported an individual with complex special needs to the hospital. In the area of training, the Hook and Ladder Company is preparing to conduct a search

and rescue drill next week. And, with respect to firefighter safety, the Department is conducting the annually required Fit Testing to ensure that every piece of the self-contained breathing apparatus (the mask and respirator) that firefighters wear into fires fits properly, increasing safety. Continued appreciation goes to our Floral Park Fire Department for their expertise, dedication 24/7, and focus on the safety of our community and Fire Department members.

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

Trustee Pombonyo reported that, as Centennial Gardens is readied for its April 1<sup>st</sup> opening, Nassau County will be working with the Floral Park Department of Public Works and the Conservation Society leadership to plan the cleaning out of the County recharge basin located inside the Gardens near the intersection of Carnation and Raff Avenues. And, save the date, Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> for the Conservation Society's annual Garden Party, a beautiful and pleasant evening event for the entire community.

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

Trustee Pombonyo reminded all that, as the Third Track Project partial closing of Covert Avenue goes into effect, our Covert Avenue stores, restaurants and other establishments are open for business, so SHOP LOCAL!

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

Trustee Chiara reported that the grand opening for Tiny Town took place with enthusiastic crowd participation in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Watching our children play in the new Tiny Town told the whole story. It came out really nice and will be visited and used by our residents this season and for many seasons to come. Once again, thank you to our entire Village Board, the Recreation Committee and all of our residents who worked on and shared their thoughts on the project. Our Recreation staff, DPW and all the committees did a wonderful job! We will continue to work with our neighbors to address their concerns. Tiny Town is currently open from 8:00 am to approximately 4:30 pm.

Little League is preparing for the upcoming season and the Parade will be held on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Easter Egg Hunt at the Recreation Center is going to take place on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Please check our website for details.

There is now a payment plan for pool registration and credit cards are accepted. Only 95 days until the pool opening on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>! Please check the website for details.

We are still looking for Nassau County Certified Lifeguards to work at the pool for the 2019 season. If interested, please call or stop by the Pool Building.

The Recreation and Pool Committees mourn the loss of one of our long-time members and friend, Bernice Hayes. We would like to acknowledge and thank her and her family for all the

time and energy she volunteered working on different projects for our committee. She will be missed.

**New Resident Committee – Trustee Frank Chiara**

The New Resident Committee continues to welcome our new residents to our Village. If a new resident moves into your area, please encourage them to stop by Village Hall to receive a welcome basket.

**Mayor’s Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi**

Mayor Longobardi thanked everyone for all their hard work with regard to the Third Track Project. It takes everyone working together to get through a difficult project such as this. Mayor Longobardi especially thanked Trustee Cheng along with the people at Village Hall, DPW, the Police Department, Fire Department and the Recreation Center. This projects affects everyone in our Village and we are going to get through this as quickly as we possibly can.

With regard to the Belmont Project, Mayor Longobardi thanked Trustee Fitzgerald for giving so much of himself. This project needed a leader, and that person was Kevin. Mayor Longobardi thanked Trustee Pombonyo and Trustee Chiara: We still have to run the Village and pay attention to the daily business and Trustees Pombonyo and Chiara have done just that. Thank you to everyone at Village Hall and to our Village Attorney John Ryan. And thank you to all the great people who volunteer their time. It is the way we do things in this Village – we tackle the problem together!

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

The Village Board Meeting will continue in the Mayor’s 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 10:25 pm.

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