

Inc. Village of Floral Park
October 15, 2019
Board of Trustees Meeting

Belmont Park/Police Department – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that this past week, the Police Department pulled over numerous dump trucks traveling on Plainfield Avenue and cited them for not only disobeying local laws but also New York State Laws. Some of the violations for which tickets were written were:

- Traveling off a truck route
- No rear detection device
- Inoperative plate lamp
- Operating while on a hand-held device
- No highway use sticker
- No heavy inspection
- No inspection
- No reverse lamps
- Loose or failing cargo
- Check valve on brake chamber missing on tractor
- Check valve on brake chamber missing on trailer
- And probably in Trustee Fitzgerald's mind, the most egregious violations
- Driver not permitted to operate a commercial vehicle
- Failure to stop at a stop sign.

Besides the tickets that were written, three of the trucks were deemed unsafe to operate and forced out of service on the spot. Trustee Fitzgerald would like to thank the men and women of our Police Department for continuing to ensure that not only our community remains a safe place to live but our streets remain a safe place to travel.

Trustee Fitzgerald said that with regard to Belmont, this week an article was printed in the Long Island Business News and we understand that a survey was sent out by NYRA to its patrons about potential significant changes with regard to its physical appearance along with its own expansion potential expansion plans (e.g. night racing, increased attendance on certain days by using the infield similar to Churchill Downs and Pimlico). These changes are of significant concern to us especially when taking into account the other development work that has currently started. The segmentation of these projects is one of the key reasons why we filed for an Article 78 proceeding last month. These projects need to be studied as one (which they were not doing even though they have been in the planning stages before the RFP was issued in 2017) and not separate as their impacts are exponentially cumulative.

Our outside counsel, Beveridge & Diamond, have been made aware of all of the aforementioned.

Recreation Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo spoke about New York State's first year of VOTE EARLY NY for this year's November 5th elections. Early voting will take place at Floral Park's Recreation Center as well as approximately fourteen other sites in Nassau County. Early Voting will run for nine days daily from Saturday, October 26th through Sunday, November 3rd, including both weekends. The hours will vary each day and include several early morning hours as well as several early evening hours. All voters are encouraged to refer to the Nassau County Board of Elections and the VOTE EARLY NY websites for the specific early voting times and further details. Voting on Election Day, November 5th, will continue at all the regularly scheduled polling places.

Conservation Society – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo invited all to celebrate the beauty of autumn at Centennial Gardens as the trees and other foliage now display their most spectacular colors. On Saturday, November 2nd at 1:00 pm, the Gardens will be transformed into a Fairie Forest Festival when visitors may walk the Gardens trails and hunt for the fascinating fairie stations. Proceeds will go to the Floral Park Conservation Society and the enhancement of Centennial Gardens.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo announced that Saturday, October 26th, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, will be Halloween on Covert. Trick or treaters are invited to visit the merchants with the blue pumpkins in their windows to enjoy allergy-free treats. Happy Halloween to all from the Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce!

Fire Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that October is Fire Prevention Month. On October 18th, the Fire Department will be assisting the local schools with fire drills. On October 21st, third graders from Floral Park-Bellerose School will be touring the Active Fire House and participating in a fire safety lesson.

During the month of September, there were 88 were rescue calls, 15 to 18 calls for engine and hook and ladder companies and 5 mutual aid calls.

Trustee Cheng reminded everyone that during Fire Prevention Month, please take a moment to check the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

Third Track – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that work on the retaining and sound walls behind the Recreation Center and pool and the expansion of the Linden Avenue tunnel is underway.

After the rush-hour morning traffic on October 15th, Cisney Avenue and Beverly Avenue were reopened to two-way traffic.

Trustee Cheng said it has been stated to the contractors that the Village will not allow sidewalks to be taken away at Plainfield Avenue and Terrace Avenue until Tyson Avenue has been completed. Children who walk to school must have a safe way to get there without having to navigate street traffic. Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane said work on Tyson Avenue should be completed by October 18th. Trustee Cheng reported he had a conversation with Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister who said, for the time being, they plan to leave the stop signs on Tyson Avenue as they are.

Library – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that on Sunday, October 20th at Barnes & Noble in the Country Glen Shopping Center is The Friends of the Library “Goblin Up a Good Book” family fun event. Please stop by to support this book fair. A percentage of purchases from Barnes & Noble will be contributed to the ‘Friends’. Also, a percentage of the online purchases from October 20th-25th, will be contributed to the ‘Friends’. Please check the Library website for detailed information on how to participate.

Beginning November 1st, in the spirit of the season, the Library will once again have a ‘food for fines’ program. In exchange for non-perishable food items, overdue fines will be waived (up to \$5). The collected food items will be donated to the Our Lady of Victory Food Pantry. Even if you have no overdue items, food donations will be gladly accepted. This is a great way to help out those in need, especially with the upcoming holidays. The program will run through the month of November. Thanks to the Library staff and to the Our Lady of Victory Food Pantry for all they do to help out those in need.

Senator Kaplan’s Mobile Office will be at the Library on Monday, November 4th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Please take this opportunity to stop by and address any concerns you may have with the Senator.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi said he had a telephone conversation with Congresswoman Kathleen Rice’s office and was told that Congresswoman Rice is introducing a bill to the House of Representatives on Wednesday, October 16th at 3:30 pm to re-name the Floral Park Post Office to the Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building. The vote on the bill can be seen on C-Span. After the bill passes the House, it will be sent to the Senate immediately for its vote and then to the President’s desk for his signature. The Village will keep residents abreast as to when the re-naming ceremony will take place to honor the memory of Lieutenant Davidson.

Mayor Longobardi wished everyone a fun and safe Halloween. The Police Department and the Department of Public Works will be working to make sure everyone is safe so that the day can be special for all our children.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Felix Procaccia’s daughter 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 9:20 pm.
