

Inc. Village of Floral Park
November 19, 2019
Board of Trustees Meeting

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi asked for a moment of silence in memory of two volunteer firefighters of the Floral Park Fire Department who recently passed away, John Moloughney, with almost 50 years of service, and Michael Cantillon, who left us much too soon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends.

Mayor Longobardi presented New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Public Service Recognition Certificates to employees who have reached milestones in their careers for their many years of service to the Village. In attendance were:

Shirley Gartner (30 years)

In 1989, Shirley was hired as a Neighborhood Aide/School Crossing Guard. One of her duties as a Neighborhood Aide, is to be a Meter Person who checks parked cars for expired meters and expired permits. As a School Crossing Guard, Shirley was originally assigned to Elizabeth Street and Plainfield Avenue. After fully recovering from a total ankle replacement last year, she is now assigned to the school crossing at Our Lady of Victory School on Bellmore Street. Shirley handles both of these very important tasks calmly and always with a smile. She has lived in Floral Park for over 40 years and has two children. Amy, is a NYPD Police Officer, and Robert works for the Floral Park Department of Public Works. He is also a Floral Park volunteer firefighter. In her free time, you can find Shirley in her kitchen cooking and baking. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Two of her favorite things are shopping and talking with friends. Shirley's dedication and willingness to help have made her a valuable asset to the Police Department and we congratulate her on 30 years of service.

Thomas McCarthy (30 years)

Tom McCarthy joined the Floral Park Police Department in August, 1989 as a police officer and was promoted to Sergeant in 2007. He was promoted to Lieutenant last year. A life-long resident of Floral Park, Tom still lives in the Village with his wife Marie and their four children, Caroline, Jackie, Maura and Thomas. He has been a member of several Floral Park organizations including South Side Civic Association and Knights of Columbus. When his children were younger, he also coached Indians basketball and assisted his wife with CCD, PTA and Girl Scouts. Tom's sense of humor and professionalism are an asset to the Police Department and the residents of Floral Park. Congratulations on this milestone in your career.

Other employees also reaching milestones in their careers for their years of service but were not in attendance are: Police Officer Ken Kratochvil, Court Clerk Donald Phillips, Recreation Center employee Wendy Bilka, Sargent Stephen Derenze, Police Office Mark Cunningham, Police Officer Michael Hearne and Police Officer Robert Pedley.

Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that over the past year or so, our Tree Department has been hard at work to catch up on the backlog of tree trimming requests. Trustee Fitzgerald was happy to report that for all intents and purposes, DPW has caught up and currently has an approximate two-week waiting period for any non-emergency tree trimmings. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked Matt McGeever, Joe Esposito and Lenny Green for their dedication and work in getting the department to this point.

Currently, our contractor is out planting new trees throughout the Village including the replacement trees for the ones recently removed on Locust Street.

Four Village Studio – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that Four Village Studio was awarded three “Nor’easters” at the 2019 “Alliance for Community Media, Northeast Regional Video Festival”. 4VS host-producers were bestowed with one 1st Place and two 2nd Place honors at this year’s competition where the eligible entries were mandated to have been produced and cablecast for the first time during 2018.

The award-winning producers were acknowledged at a ceremony in Portland, Maine on Thursday, October 31st. The annual regional festival accepts program entries from community television producers throughout New England and New York State. This is the 19th year that Four Village Studio has submitted entries to the festival where hundreds of programs vie for the top honors. 4VS has collected 56 awards in numerous categories since first entering this regional competition.

Police Department – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald said that so far this year moving violation summonses are up 54%. Trustee Fitzgerald reminded all residents and visitors to obey all traffic laws.

Conservation Society – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo congratulated six new Eagle Scouts from Troop 134 and Floral Park, Stewart Manor and Garden City who were recently commended at an Eagle Court of Honor attended by the Mayors of the three Villages, Trustees, local government officials, members of the clergy, Scouting leaders and Troop members, parents, families, and friends. Floral Park Eagle Scouts Andrew Powers, William Powers, and Joseph Lucatorto, Stewart Manor Eagles Steven Giammona and Keith DeStaebler, and Garden City Eagle Seamus Breslin impressed all in the audience with their outstanding records of achievement and service.

The three Floral Park Eagles all did projects that benefited Centennial Gardens. With the help of fellow scouts, leaders, and volunteers, Andrew built two Keyhole Gardens, environmentally friendly, compost producing gardens that are used around the world. These accessible Keyhole Gardens are now part of the children’s learning programs at Centennial Gardens. William built a

Bird Blind to give children and their families opportunities to quietly observe the birds in the bird sanctuary. William added benches for small children, the elderly and those with special needs, and repaired aging fences to help refurbish the Gardens. Joseph led a team that constructed ten large wooden planters that replaced a previous set that had fallen into disrepair in the Giving Garden. The new planters are much stronger than the old ones and have more space for the volunteers to work. It is noteworthy that the food grown in the Giving Garden is donated directly to a local food bank that serves the area's needy.

With great pride, we thank Andrew, William and Joseph for their valuable contributions to Centennial Gardens and commend all six new Eagle Scouts, with their families, for successfully achieving this extraordinary milestone in their lives.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo emphasized the importance of the TENTH ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY on November 30th. “Small businesses are the fabric of our communities. They create jobs, help boost the economy, and enhance local neighborhoods in many ways. This is a day to #ShopSmall and show our collective support of small, independent businesses and call attention to the valuable and distinct contributions they make to our communities and the economy. With the retail landscape evolving, it's more important than ever to back the small businesses that are vital to creating thriving communities. Together we can all make a difference.” (American Express, #ShopSmall)

And, while you're shopping local, please stop at the Covert Chamber's Annual Tree Lighting on Saturday afternoon, December 7th. This festive event will feature horse and buggy rides, the Sewanhaka High School Band, hot soup, hot chocolate, cookies, the arrival of Santa, and the tree lighting at 5:30 pm. Come one and all to celebrate the holidays on Covert!

Recreation Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo announced that Recreation session one programs are at the halfway point. Park hours are now 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, weather permitting. The park and Centennial Gardens will be open on Thanksgiving with modified hours: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the park and 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Gardens. As of December 2nd, all playing fields will be closed for the winter. However, Tiny Town, basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickle ball, handball and the multi-purpose rink will remain open, weather permitting.

Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all our Floral Park families, businesses, and organizations!

Fire Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that on November 17th, we honored Chiefs and Officers from the Active Company of the Floral Park Fire Department. These dedicated members included Honorary Chief Edward Sieban with 60 years of service, Chief Bill Green with 50 years of service, Chief Lou Scialabba with 40 years of service and Ex-Captain Awards to 1st Assistant Fire Chief

Pat McAllister, John Dreyer and Peter J. Bilardello. On behalf of the Village Board, we thank them for their service and also duly recognize their dedication and commitment to the Village and its residents.

Third Track – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that work on the sound attenuation walls behind the Recreation Center and pool and up to the hockey rink has almost been completed and the expansion of the Linden Avenue tunnel is well underway. Preliminary work has also been started on the north side of the row behind Charles Street.

We have had several discussions with 3TC and the MTA regarding the area by the pool slide platform. 3TC and the MTA have agreed to install 48 feet of additional metal louvered screening that is approximately 12 feet high above the white vinyl fence in the area of the slide pool. A sample of the louver has been provided to the Village with several color swatches. Trustee Cheng said he has left the color choice to our Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus whom he believes has selected one that matches the retaining wall.

Work is well underway at Plainfield Avenue and Terrace Avenue to build the wing walls and support for the 3rd track bridge. Expect delays in both directions on Plainfield Avenue.

The Village has met with 3TC regarding the restoration of Field 7 and landscaping along the retaining walls. We will provide further information as soon as we have come to an agreement.

Lastly, parking under the viaduct along the South Tyson Extension has been reopened. As was our understanding and as stated in the Memorandum of Agreement with the MTA, five parking spots were lost. This loss was due to the addition of pillars to support the third track. Several spots under the viaduct are now situated on an angle resulting in two parallel spots being replaced with one angled spot. However, we have reached out to Hector Garcia from the LIRR and hopefully 3TC and the LIRR will work to change some of the angle parking back to two parallel spots.

On behalf of his family, Trustee Cheng wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Library – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that this is the last two weeks of the “Food for Fines” Program. The Library will waive late fees in exchange for non-perishable food items. These items will be donated to the Our Lady of Victory Food Pantry to help those in need. Even if you do not have overdue items, please consider making a donation at the Library to help fill the OLV Food Pantry. The Food Pantry, especially around the holiday season, assists so many individuals that are less fortunate and may need food to feed themselves or their families. Thank you to all those who have already contributed!

On Sunday, December 1st at 2:00 pm, the Library will host an intimate holiday concert in the Quiet Room. Niamh Hyland and Shu Nakamura will return to perform holiday classics such as

Silent Night sung in Gaelic and Japanese. Seating is limited so please register online at www.fplibrary.org or at the Reference Desk.

Trustee Chiara said he would like to wish all of our residents and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving. It's the time of the year to take a moment to reflect on all that we have to be grateful and thankful for, especially this wonderful community we live in. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi reminded residents that Friday, December 6th is the Jr. Woman's Club and Floral Park Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Festival. It is a very special evening for everyone that has been likened to a Hallmark movie. There will be shops and a skating rink and all kinds of events. It is a wonderful opportunity to buy gifts. It is a fun night in the Village and a great way to kick off the holiday season.

Mayor Longobardi said December 3rd has been internationally proclaimed as *GivingTuesday*. It is an initiative started seven years ago to remind people to give to their respective charities. Last year, over \$400 million was raised online. Floral Park has always shown itself to be a very generous community, whether helping one of our own residents or others. Mayor Longobardi thanked the Hance Family Foundation for all their charitable work and for guiding the Village in our participation in *GivingTuesday*.

On behalf of his family, Mayor Longobardi wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Please take time to be with your loved ones.

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 8:45 pm.
