

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK**  
**Board of Trustees Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8 pm - Village Hall Courtroom**

Zoom:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81938477522?pwd=ODI3VWxZSy9pN0JNS2pvlpXTkFPZz09>  
Meeting ID: 819 3847 7522 Passcode: 184219; Dial-in: 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 819 3847 7522  
Passcode: 184219

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Prior to the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, the Village Board held the Swearing-In Ceremony of the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chiefs at 8PM in the Village Hall Courtroom.

Present were Mayor Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank J. Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane, Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister, Deputy Village Clerk Rosaleen Shea, DPW Deputy Superintendent Joe O'Grady, Fire Chief James Dodson and Village Attorney John Ryan.

The Village Board heard outgoing Fire Chief James Dodson's annual final report as follows:

"Mayor Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor & Fire Commissioner Pombonyo, Trustees Chiara, Stewart Longobardi, members of the Village Staff, members of the Department, friends and family:

Tonight, I am humbled to be standing before you as the 11th Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department. It has been truly an honor to lead a Department of men and women who are dedicated to serving the needs of the Village residents regardless of the time of day or night that may be in need. To say that my 5 years as Chief were challenging would be an understatement. However, I would not change anything as I am proud of what has been accomplished by the Chief's staff during every year of my tenure. Hopefully, the decisions that we have made this past year have left the residents of the Village in a better place and the Department in a better position to service the needs of our community

The state of the Department:

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The department membership consists of the following: 96 active firefighters and EMS members, 27 Ex-Chiefs, 1 Honorary Chief, 9 Probationary members, 26 associate members & 3 Chaplains. This year we swore in 10 new members and had 10 resignations. Full report attached.

**ALARMS:**

The department responded to the following alarms - 820 Ambulance calls by the Rescue Company; 149 NYU/Langone EMS calls; 204 Fire Calls; 40 Auto Accidents; 36 Carbon Monoxide Incidents; 92 Mutual Aid Calls; Total Calls: 1,341.

The department also battled 2 working house fires this past year and of course 1 working fire in a commercial occupancy. Of these incidents, there were no major injuries to firefighters or civilians at any of these fires. Total estimated fire loss/damage, after yesterday, is TBD.

**TRAINING:**

Our training program is extensive and is broken into 2 parts: Probationary Training and the Department Drill Committee.

The department has totaled over 2,035 staff hours this year conducting various types of training. Thank you to the department drill chairman and the committee for all their hard work and dedication.

The Department Probationary Training Committee led by Ex-Captain Pat Conway, trained 10 new members this past year. Not only are these members required to attend the Fire Service Academy for Primary Training, but they also have to go through our comprehensive in-house training. Thank you to Ex-Captain Conway and his committee for all the time and effort put in throughout the year training our new firefighters.

**PURCHASING:**

There were 59 purchase orders and 132 vouchers processed this year. I would like to thank Village Administrator/Treasurer Gerry Bambrick and Deputy Treasurer Steve Arnone for their time and efforts in the purchasing process.

**MEDICAL & FIT TESTING:**

In addition to the annual OSHA physical, every interior firefighter is required to take an SCBA mask fit test. EMS members are required to fit tests on N95 masks as well. Thank you to Chief Luger for handling this committee with aplomb. Thank you to FF Dave Sparrow and Ex-Captain Carol Ragona for chairing this committee.

#### RADIOS:

The department's radio communications have significantly been improved since the addition of 110 new pagers, to meet Nassau County Fire Communications (FireComm) plans to switch over to a strictly high band radio dispatch platform. Thank you to Chief Dan Bennett for managing the process.

#### EQUIPMENT:

The department fleet of vehicles consists of the following: 2019 Ferrara Igniter Pumper; 2002 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper; 1998 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper; 1984 Mack Heavy Rescue Truck; 2015 Ford F450 Ambulance; 2021 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs' Vehicle; (2) 2019 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs' vehicle; 2017 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs' vehicle; 2016 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs' vehicle; 2018 Ford Transit Passenger Van; 2003 Chevy Express Safety Van; and a 1931 American LaFrance Antique. Unfortunately, the fleet is diminished by one unit, a 2004 Pierce 95' mid mount tower ladder.

#### WORK ORDERS:

A total of 41 vehicle work orders and 24 house work orders were submitted over the past year. I would like to extend a huge thank you to DPW Superintendent Kevin Ginnane and his hard-working staff for all their help in keeping the fleet and our building in top shape.

#### PUMP/LADDER/HOSE TESTING:

Each year every length of hose in the department is tested and certified as is every portable ladder. In addition to this our three engine companies must pass a pump test every year as well at the Fire Service Academy. I would like to thank Chief Luger for all his efforts in scheduling and overseeing these tests.

#### FIRE EXPLORERS:

Under the direction of Ex-Chief John Florio and Ex-Capt. Larry Goerke, the post now has 15 members and 6 advisors. This past year all members were certified in CPR and received additional medical training thanks to our Rescue Company. This group of young men and women are the future of the Volunteer Fire Service.

#### FIRE PREVENTION:

The topic of fire prevention is traditionally discussed in the month of October. The Floral Park Fire Department has a dedicated Fire Prevention Committee which promotes fire safety year-round. The department is often called upon to speak at various school and civic groups within the village in regards to fire safety topics. In addition, the department hosts numerous tours of our firehouses throughout the year. This year the department conducted 14 firehouse tours and fire safety lectures for school children and scout groups. And it is our goal each and every time that the children learn something and take home with them the message of fire safety to their families. Thank you to Chief O'Connor and his committee for all their hard work throughout the year. 14 tours, 79 adults and 315 children participated.

#### FIRE INSPECTIONS:

The department boasts a very thorough and active fire inspection program under the leadership Chief Bennett and Ex-Chief John Florio. This past year over 298 inspections were conducted of commercial establishments and the public areas of multiple dwellings. I would like to extend a big thank you to Building Superintendent Renee Marcus for all her assistance in this area. There has been a lot of building construction in the village over the last few years and the fire department always has a vested interest in learning how these buildings are designed, constructed, and laid out. This is to keep all our members safe in the event we are called to operate in one of these structures.

I would like to recognize the many people who have assisted me and the Chief's staff during the past year. To Mayor Fitzgerald and the Board of Trustees, the unwavering support that you give to the Fire Department does not go unnoticed. You have been open and supportive of all of our requests and suggestions and for that I will be forever grateful. We like to think that the Fire Department runs autonomously, as a Department but my last 5 years have shown me that "It Takes a Village STAFF" To the Village Administration, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Deputy Village Clerk Rosaleen Shea, and Deputy Treasurer Steve Arnone we appreciate everything you do on a daily basis to allow us to succeed in our roles. To Darleen Lanza and Terry Paterno, the work that you do on a day-to-day basis gives us peace of mind that our requests will be met....Verizon service excluded.

To John Ryan, thank you for your guidance on every and all matters that I have discussed with you. Police Commissioner McAllister, Lt. William Doherty, Lt. McCarthy and the men and women of the Floral Park Police Dept. we truly appreciate the comradery that we have and I will truly miss our interactions. Just a note my new personal vehicle which is a company car for my real job is a white Chevy Traverse if you get my drift. Renee Marcus, Kevin Ginnane and the members of the Dept. of Public Works you were always available to us and that relationship is highly valued and we look forward to continued collaboration. To my current staff, Brian, Dan, Gil and Eric thank you for all of your loyalty, dedication and unwavering support this past year. I could not think of another group of men that I would want to work with in such a close capacity. Most importantly, to my wife Noreen and children Meaghan, Kara, Brian and Lauren, I am blessed that I have a family who understood my passion and allowed me to disrupt their lives continually in order to follow a dream. I could not have done this without you and I will be forever grateful. I love you all.

With that said, it is now my pleasure to introduce the newly elected Chief's Staff of the Floral Park Fire Department for the year 2023-2024:

4th Assistant Chief William Lauria from the Alert Engine Company,  
3rd Assistant Chief Eric O'Connor from the Hook & Ladder Company,  
2nd Assistant Chief Gil Luger from the Active Engine Company,  
1st Assistant Chief Sal Arrigo from the Rescue Company, and  
And the new Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department, Brian Hamerman.

Mayor Fitzgerald, I now respectfully request to be relieved of my duties as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Dodson  
Chief of Department

Mayor Fitzgerald invited the Trustees to offer their remarks to Chief Dodson and the Fire Department.

**Deputy Mayor Lynn Pombonyo**

Good evening and welcome, especially to all our Floral Park Fire Department members and families.

First, thank you to the 2022-23 Chief and Assistant Chiefs who have spectacularly led our Fire Department: Chief of Department Dodson and Assistant Chiefs Hamerman, Bennett, Luger and O'Connor. Along with our dedicated Officers, Firefighters and Rescue Company, you have been there for our Village 24/7, 365 days a year. We are truly grateful.

And, Chief Dodson, it has been an honor for me to be the Fire Commissioner when you joined the Chief Staff as 4th Assistant Chief, with Chief Dave Maickel, in April 2018, and now to have joined you as Commissioner throughout all but your last eventful week as Chief of Department. Throughout all these years, we have admired your leadership, presence, expertise, drive and skill as you have served our Department and Village time and time again.

Chief Dodson joined Alert Company in 1994, almost thirty years ago. He gained his impressive experience and expertise as a Firefighter, Second and First Lieutenant, Captain, Warden, and Assistant Chief for four years. In 2022, the Department responded to over 1300 calls. While that number has varied through the years, a modest estimate of Chief Dodson's responses reaches the thousands, as he has responded to both fire-related and rescue calls within several minutes.

When we run into other fire departments and especially their Chiefs, they tell us that Chief Dodson is one of the best when it comes to leadership, firefighting, and being a good neighbor and friend to their communities.

Chief Dodson, your conviction and perseverance are unmatched. This has continued right up to tonight's meeting as you led firefighters from all over Nassau County, including our impressive Floral Park Fire Department and Rescue Company who were providing service for more than twelve hours on Monday, and then again today. Your collaboration with your colleagues from many different departments and agencies, including Nassau County, enabled you to make the most fully informed and expert decisions possible on Jericho Turnpike. At about noon today, I got another dose of your expertise. Standing in front of a totally destroyed fire scene, you explained how foam suppresses combustion, and how it was going to be used to fully extinguish this latest and most challenging fire. Lessons, among many, that I won't forget. Thank you.

Jep, as you very successfully complete your year as Chief of Department, we will look forward to celebrating your thirty years of service next year. In the meantime, we will celebrate you, Noreen, Meaghan, Kara, Brian and Lauren tonight. Thank you all for your service, and may God bless the Dodson family, our fabulous Floral Park Fire Department, and firefighters and emergency medical teams everywhere.

**Trustee Frank Chiara**

I would like to Thank Chief Dodson for all your years of service in our Volunteer Fire Department, especially for the last five years in the capacity of a Chief. The members of the Department have benefited from your mentorship, guidance and friendship throughout these years. Your leadership has made our Volunteer Fire Department one of the best in Nassau County.

Our residents are very fortunate to have such a dedicated individual committed to this very important fire service, assisting and helping our residence in their time of need. Thank You for all the time you have devoted and sacrifices you have made volunteering your services to our community! Thank you to your wife Noreen and your family for supporting you and sharing you with the village. We can never Thank You enough for all the help you have provided to the residents of our Village. THANK YOU, CHIEF DODSON!!

To all Our new Chiefs, congratulations and Thank You all for your service to our community. I wish you all the best and a safe tenure as a Chief.

Chief of the Department Brian Hamerman. Brian, I know you will be a great leader of our Fire Department. You have already demonstrated your leadership skills over the last four years and have earned this distinguish

position. The members of the Department have recognized your abilities and confirmed this appointment. I wish you all the best, stay safe and let's hope for a calm, uneventful year.

Thank You to all the members of our Fire Department and Rescue Company for all your volunteer service that you provide to our community!

**Trustee Jennifer Stewart**

I have always been so grateful to the members of the Floral Park Fire Department, having lived here my entire life, we have had fires and other emergencies which brought your members to our door. Now, having sat on the board for two years, I realize the commitment and dedication goes far beyond what the average citizen realizes. It is important to thank the Fire Department families for holding down your respective forts while your firefighters answered residents' calls.

Jep, thank you for your commitment and dedication to our community in our darkest hours. It is because of you and the entire Department that Floral Park continues to be a great place to live.

**Trustee Michael Longobardi**

Chief Dodson, congratulations on a great run! You know most of us when we finished up spend the last few days cleaning up the office and transitioning the new chief in. You know, a few calm last days. Not you! You went out with a tough one. You talked about the year and some tough decisions that had to be made and you made them. You did a phenomenal job over your five years and especially your year as Chief. The emotions that you said surprised you when you started speaking tonight - should not surprise you. That is the five years and the last two days catching up. It is a testament to the great job you did, your dedication and commitment. Stand proud of what you did and well done. Thank you, Chief for your outstanding leadership. I look forward to seeing you back on the truck.

**Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald**

It is an honor as Mayor to thank you for your service to the Village of Floral Park. Thank you to Noreen, and your children, Meaghan, Kara, Brian and Lauren as well. Jep, you are the definition of what a great neighbor is. I met you many years ago at OLV, the Knights of Columbus, our sports associations to name a few, and then I found out you were a volunteer firefighter for the Village. I was amazed by your commitment to the Village of Floral Park and to your friends and family in the many organizations that I would see volunteering at throughout the community. On behalf of the Village and all of us on the Board, thank you for your outstanding leadership and willingness to meet the challenges for the first responders during these past five years on the Chief's staff and finally, as Chief of Department. Floral Park is as great as it is due to citizens like you and we are grateful. Thank you.

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Immediately after the Swearing-In of the Fire Chiefs, the regular meeting started at 8:34 pm.

On motion by Trustee Pombonyo, seconded by Trustee Chiara, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Minutes for the Re-Organization Meeting held on Monday, April 3, 2023 and Regular Board of Trustees Meeting held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2023-96 to approve the Schedule of Accounts Payable as follows:

General Fund	\$ 1,196,883.87
Pool Fund	\$ -0-
Capital Fund	20,437.00
Grand total	\$ 1,217,320.87

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

On motion By Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Longobardi, and carried unanimously, the Board approved/ratified the request to use public facilities subject to receipt of certificate of insurance and sound device permit fee, if applies, as follows:

- i. Trinity Restaurant to use the Spooner Street Parking Field on Saturday, June 10, 2023 to hold their annual celebration of their anniversary from 11 am to 12 am;
- ii. Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce to hold their annual street fair on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 11 am to 6 pm subject to review and coordination with Village of Stewart Manor, FP Police & Public Works Departments;
- iii. Floral Park Knights 12 under baseball league request to use baseball fields from April, 2023 through November, 2023 subject to coordination of Supt. of Recreation & FP Little League;

- iv. Floral Park Knights 10 under baseball league request to use baseball fields from April, 2023 through November, 2023 subject to coordination of Supt. of Recreation & FP Little League; and
- v. Floral Park Knights 9 under baseball league request to use baseball fields from April, 2023 through November, 2023 subject to coordination of Supt. of Recreation & FP Little League.

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2023-97 to approve Anthony Brandt and Ryan Bacci as new members of the Floral Park Volunteer Fire Department since both candidates have received medical clearances and background checks by the Floral Park Police Department.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Pombonyo and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Pombonyo offered Resolution No. 2023-98 to ratify and approve Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick to sign the Member Participating Agreement with Comp Alliance, a group self-insurance program for the purpose of providing workers' compensation liability coverage for employees, covering period from 6/1/23 through 5/31/2025.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Chiara and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2023-99 to accept the resignation letter request from Leonard Green releasing him from the CSEA Supervisor's Unit as an Assistant Recreation Supervisor at the Recreation Department at the contractual rate of \$55,821.00 annually and approve his request to be transferred to the CSEA's rank-and-file Unit in the Department of Public Works as a Motor Equipment Operator at the contractual rate of \$49,899.00 with the understanding that the benefits in the rank-and-file unit will take effect immediately.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Stewart offered Resolution No. 2023-100 to adopt Local Law #1 of 2023 which authorizes the Village to override the tax levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law Section 3-c which this year is 2.12% for fiscal year commencing 2023.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Longobardi and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2023-101 to adopt the 2023/24 Tentative Budget as presented at the Budget Public Hearing held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Pombonyo and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

On motion by Trustee Pombonyo, seconded by Trustee Chiara, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the below-listed block party application(s) in accordance with Section 32-12d of the Village Code:

On	Between	Date(s)
Hickory Street	Cherry Street and Cedar Place	Sat.- June 3, 2023 (RD 6/4/23)

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2023-102 to authorize to amend and replace Section 1 only of Article XII of the By-Laws of the Floral Park Fire Department as follows:

Section 1: Any citizen of good character, being 18 years of age or older, legally residing in the IVOFP or legally residing within a one (1) mile radius of the village boundaries is eligible.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Stewart offered Resolution No. 2023-103 to authorize the installation of a stop sign in accordance with the provisions of §96-12 of the Village Code on the west side of Caroline Place at the intersection of Carnation Avenue.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Longobardi and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Longobardi offered the following resolutions to ratify and approve services relating to the repairs/maintenance contracts for the Floral Park Pool:

Res. # 2023-104: Award the Pool Startup and Annual Service Contract to Chaikin Ultimate Pools in the amount of \$13,300 and authorize Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said contract; and  
Res. # 2023-105: Award the Pool Surfacing Repair Contract to Chaikin Ultimate Pools in the amount of \$33,810.00 and authorize Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said contract; and  
Res. #2023-106: Award the Splash Pad Resurfacing Contract to Chaikin Ultimate Pools in the amount of \$34,800.00.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Pombonyo and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Pombonyo offered Resolution No. 2023-107 to approve the Village to enter into an Agreement with National Grid wherein National Grid will temporarily restore road work on Harvard, Lexington and Nassau

Streets in Floral Park due to their 2022 Gas Main Replacement Project with the understanding that the Village will be responsible to restore these roads (mill and pave) and National Grid will provide a check in the amount of \$33,936.00 made payable to the Village of Floral Park and authorize Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said contract.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Chiara and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2023-108 to adopt the Proclamation for the Board to designate April 28, 2023 as Arbor Day. The Village of Floral Park takes great pride in its rich forestry program and beautiful tree canopy throughout the Village and in its active Shade Tree Board and Department. Floral Park has earned the designation of Tree City USA for 26 consecutive years, and the Village will plant 15 new Cherry Trees adorning the businesses on Jericho Turnpike between Plainfield and Sycamore Avenues.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
Trustee Chiara - Aye  
Trustee Stewart - Aye  
Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

### **Trustee Lynn Pombonyo**

#### **Police Department**

Great appreciation is extended to our Floral Park Fire Department, Police Department, Building Department, Department of Public Works, and Village Hall staff for their tireless efforts throughout the very serious and challenging fire at 266 Jericho Turnpike. The fire began Monday morning and continued into Tuesday, and our Village departments, together with your Board of Trustees, all turned their focus toward extinguishing the fire and ensuring public safety.

Our Floral Park Police Department, alongside Nassau County Police officers, worked long and hard to maintain the safest possible firefighting scene. The police arrived on the scene and alerted those in the smoky buildings and surrounding areas. They immediately commenced traffic control and executed the closing of Jericho Turnpike in both directions. Throughout the day, our police directed the movement of fire vehicles from more than seventeen departments at the scene, as well as the repositioning of those vehicles, especially the hook and ladder trucks, to get water on the fire. The police also supported the scores of firefighters as needed, and ensured that the crowds of onlookers remained at a safe distance. Traffic control was critical throughout the area, and our police guided and directed motorists at many key locations: Plainfield & Elizabeth, Plainfield & Jericho, Jericho & Flower, and at four very busy intersections along Lowell Avenue which were crowded with all the traffic diverted from Jericho Turnpike. Our police continued their work late into Monday night, and then again during the day on Tuesday.

All of this once again demonstrates how the Floral Park Police Department provides valuable leadership and service in all facets of Village life.

#### **Chambers of Commerce and Our Businesses**

Annually, Blank Slate Media, through its local Herald Courier newspapers, sponsors the BEST OF NASSAU Contest across a wide range of life's activities that we all enjoy:

Arts/Entertainment, Food/Restaurants, Retail/Shopping, and Sports/Recreation, to name a few. The March 31st Special Section of the Herald Courier and [theisland360.com/contest2023](https://theisland360.com/contest2023) list hundreds of nominees in all the categories. Included are our Centennial Gardens and Bird Sanctuary, 2023 nominee and winner in the 2022 Best Public Garden category, and the Floral Park Library, 2023 nominee and winner in the 2021 and 2022 Best Public Library category. Also listed are many of our great Floral Park and Stewart Manor businesses who have been nominated in a variety of categories.

Vote for all your local favorites on the website listed above by May 26th. Winners, to be announced in July.

More to follow about our BEST OF NASSAU in Floral Park and Stewart Manor!

#### **Conservation Society**

Centennial Gardens is now open daily, 12-5pm, and features a new, beautiful surprise at the main entrance. Come on down and enjoy it all!

### **Trustee Frank Chiara**

#### **Floral Park Fire Department**

Yesterday morning, for our departing event to Chief Dodson, our Fire Department responded to a call of smoke from a basement on Jericho Turnpike. With our Dept. arriving quickly on the scene they immediately started battling a fire within two of our local business. The call quickly elevated to a mutual aid call requesting assistance from other fire depts. Our Dept., with the assistance of the mutual aid, did an excellent job containing and controlling the spread of this fire, keeping it within the boundaries of the two businesses. The mutual aid from the other depts and the assistance from Nassau County Officials was exceptional. All the fire depts and Nassau County Fire marshals were on the scene for the entire day and night wrapping up around 5pm the next day. The Red Cross was on scene to assist the residents that were affected by this fire. Our Village Police, Building Department and DPW were all present providing their services in and around the area of the fire scene. This unified effort from all that assisted made a bad situation much better.

I would like to especially Thank our FD, all of our Village Departments, the mutual aid from the other FD's and all who assisted from Nassau County. A special Thanks to Arthur Walsh, Deputy Chief County Executive who responded, remained on the scene to coordinate and provide much needed assistance from the County. This fire could have been much worse if not for the quick response of all came out to fight this fire. A few minor injuries were reported and unfortunately extensive property damage took place within the two businesses.

THANK YOU ALL for your quick response, your hard work and professionalism putting this fire out.

### **Floral Park Public Library**

The Library Front Entrance Project is now complete. The new steps and ramp are open; however, the ADA compliant doors have not been installed or received yet due to supplier delays. Updates on the installation of the new doors will be shared once received. Our DPW workers have completed the landscaping on the library grounds and the entrance now looks fantastic. Thank you to DPW, especially Larry, for making the grounds look so good.

A few of the Library's upcoming programs are: 4/19/23 Unclaimed Funds Workshop - New York State may have money in your name? So, find out if you're one of them. Learn about: what kinds of funds are held; how to claim your money; and estate items; 4/21/23 Teen Cuisine Chefs of d'Future Earth Day - Offered to children of grades 6-12. Come celebrate Earth Day, by creating a special "Cake of the World" using a wide variety of unusual decorations; 4/22/23 Mah Jongg for Beginners. Brush up on your skills, and/or learn some new ones playing Mah Jongg. For all of these events, register online ([floralparklibrary.org](http://floralparklibrary.org)), at the Reference Desk, or call 516-326-6330.

The Library continues to celebrate its 100-year anniversary. What would be a better way to help celebrate than having the Library recognized for the third year in a row as the Best of Nassau County. Our Library is most deserving of this recognition, so please consider taking a moment to vote for our Library as being the best in Nassau County by going to the library's website [www.floralparklibrary.org](http://www.floralparklibrary.org) to register your vote. You can vote daily, now thru May 26. Let's make it happen again!!! Thank You!

### **Trustee Jennifer Stewart**

I would like to take this opportunity to echo the sentiments of my fellow board members and send my thanks and gratitude to the members of the FPF for their tireless, professional efforts at the scene of the Jericho Turnpike fire. Additionally, a debt of gratitude must go out to the more than a dozen neighboring fire departments that arrived on scene and have come to provide coverage to make sure our residents are safe.

### **Four Village Studio (4VS)**

I am excited to start my tenure as the liaison for 4VS. I look forward to getting more acquainted with Jim Green and his staff, as well as the way production works. At the April 6th Cable Committee Meeting the following updates were provided: Eight studio computers have been addressed in varying ways to secure their operational future. Jim thanked Mayor Fitzgerald and South Floral Park's Mayor Nyakya Brown for their efforts in keeping their respective Mayor's programs in production. Additionally, it was noted that the total number of new productions in 2023 is currently out-pacing amounts from the previous three years and approaching production status from pre-pandemic years.

### **Department of Public Works (DPW)**

The Cherry trees planted along Jericho Turnpike have bloomed and they are beautiful! In recent weeks, the highway department has watered all new trees on Jericho Turnpike daily, hauled all trash, yard waste and street sweepings to the dumps and performed road repairs on Pansy and Pine Streets. Our DPW Parks Department has cut lawns and maintained park properties, sanitation has collected 80 tons of household waste and 15 tons of recycling, the maintenance department cleaned all Village buildings and reinforced all courtroom pews, and our mechanics have repaired various repairs to vehicles and completed NYS Inspections on several Police Department vehicles.

Sections of the Spooner Parking lot are being redone as they were not completed to the Village's satisfaction originally, the lot will be re-opened on Thursday.

As we prepare for street renovations this spring on Hinsdale and Clayton, trees are being examined for possible removal. The Village takes the removal of trees very seriously, we employ the assistance of a certified Arborist and only remove trees when absolutely necessary. Unfortunately for some street reconstruction projects, more trees have to come down than we would like. This is done for the safety of residents, as well as the success of the project. Additionally, once these projects are complete, new road-friendly trees are planted.

### **MTA/LIRR**

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as the Village's liaison to the MTA/LIRR. Yesterday, along with Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Mayor Fitzgerald and Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, I met with LIRR President Catherine Rinaldi and members of her engineering staff at the Tunnel Street site. What I will say about this meeting is that I feel hopeful. During our short onsite visit, almost a dozen people of all ages came through the tunnel, highlighting the tremendous need for safety measures there. Ms. Rinaldi appeared open to the Mayor's request for removable bollards which would require a truck driver to stop, get out of the truck, and remove the bollard. This would slow the driver down and create a visual for both the driver and residents using the tunnel.

We continue to push the MTA to hold up their end of the MOU and provide landscaping and other punch list items previously discussed and agreed upon. As always, we encourage residents to reach out directly to the MTA with questions and concerns, as we have found this the most effective way of residents communicating with them. The MTA can be reached at [contact.mta.info/customer-feedback](http://contact.mta.info/customer-feedback) or by phone at 516-203-4955 – this is an automated response, but you can ask for “more options” and then ask for “Comments and concerns” to speak to a person.

## **Trustee Michael Longobardi**

### **Building Department**

A huge thank you to our Building Superintendent Renee Marcus and her entire staff for all the hard work and around the clock efforts the past 40 hours with the building fire on Jericho Turnpike. There were and still are many issues to be addressed and they have been focused on it from the start.

Status update on several projects: The work with the Village-wide Energy Performance project is ongoing. The sports field lighting will be completed and commissioned within the next two weeks. The Library ramp is substantially completed and is just waiting delivery of the new handicap accessible entry doors. The Covert Avenue Project drawings have been submitted to the County for approval which is pending. Demolition of the existing foundations will begin on or about Monday, April 24th. Centennial Hall developers are working on progressing their engineering drawings to be submitted to the County and the changes as requested by the Village Architectural Review Board.

### **Pool and Recreation**

As I mentioned above, the lighting is just about complete at the Recreation Center. It is a great upgrade that I am sure will be appreciated by all the sports leagues. The resurface of field two is done and ready for the start of Little League. This Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Little League Parade and Festival day to kick off the start of the spring baseball season. Come out and see our teams march through town and spend the day at the park celebrating baseball and family. We look forward to seeing everyone out there.

Pool registration has begun. Our pool will open the first weekend of June. We are still looking for summer help. Please check the village website or contact the Recreation Center at 516-326-6336 for more information.

Thank you to all our Village departments for all their hard work over the last 48 hours.

### **Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald**

The Floral Park Fire Department did a tremendous job yesterday (Monday, April 17) responding to the fire on Jericho Turnpike. To witness the response of all Village Departments (Fire, Police, Building and Public Works), the commitment of the volunteers in our Fire Department and 17 Fire Departments across Nassau County was amazing and humbling. Thanks to Fire Chief Jep Dodson and all of the fire chiefs for coordinating shift changes throughout the night covering this fire. To see these same volunteers going to work on the LIRR the next day is a testament to the dedication and selflessness and care of these brave individuals. Thank you to Floral Park's own Nassau County Chief Deputy County Executive Arthur Walsh for coordinating resources from Nassau County and for being on the scene assisting Floral Park. County Executive Bruce Blakeman in response to a loss of volunteer firefighters (down to 6,000 county-wide from 10,000 in 2001) has recently enacted a tax break incentive for volunteer firefighters from 5 years to 2 years to attract more candidates and is very much needed in the County. The Village of Floral Park is truly grateful to County Executive Blakeman, Arthur Walsh, all of the volunteer fire departments that provided mutual aid, to NYU Langone, Nassau County and Floral Park Rescue Ambulance teams and to the American Red Cross for responding and providing assistance to our residents and businesses during this very difficult time. Thank you to the Floral Park Fire Department and all of the volunteers and staff in Floral Park for their tireless efforts!

As a follow-up to Trustee Stewart's report on the MTA/LIRR, I am hopeful that after the site visit by LIRR President Catherine Rinaldi this past week who saw first-hand the safety issues at the Tunnel Street Gate, that a positive solution can be achieved. A number of other letters are going out to the MTA/LIRR to follow-up on the punch list items related to the conclusion of the LIRR Expansion Project including landscaping and street restoration to name a few.

On a positive note, the new Grand Central Madison terminal had its millionth rider this week. The new train schedules have been very beneficial to Floral Park commuters as there are more frequent and faster trips into NYC, especially through the former Jamaica Station sprawl. That is good news for Floral Park.

Thank you to Brandon Duffy from Blank Slate Media for attending the meeting tonight. Thank you and my deepest gratitude is extended to the Floral Park Fire Department.

On motion by Trustee Pomponyo, seconded by Trustee Chiara and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Susan Walsh, Village Clerk