

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF  
**COVE NECK**

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Thomas R. Zoller  
Mayor

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Marjorie Isaksen  
Trustees

2019 Resident Letter

Dear Resident:

As the Summer of 2019 comes to an end and Fall is upon us, it is an appropriate time to review the state of the Village.

The first and most obvious report is that Cove Neck Road has been resurfaced. This has been a long – approximately five year – process. The damaged curbing and sidewalks to Sagamore Hill were also replaced in appropriate areas. Kelly Fuhrmann, the Superintendent of Sagamore Hill and I have had a letter and call campaign to Nassau County and it finally paid off – we do thank the Nassau County Administrators for their efforts. We are also appreciative of the assistance from Congressman Tom Suozzi, who wrote letters on our behalf and who has always been an advocate for Cove Neck. The next phase of Nassau County repairs is the repair to the seawall. The wall is undermined in some areas and again, this has been an ongoing campaign. The last updated information is that all approvals are in place including the Army Corp of Engineers. This wall belongs to Nassau County and, therefore, is their responsibility but our concern. The repair will take some time - I therefore ask the residents to have patience should there be driving delays.

Chief Smith has retired from the Old Brookville Police Department after 39 years of service. His leadership has left the Department in fine shape with new officers and a tight budget. The Mayors and Commissioners have approved the promotion of Lt. Chris Walsh to the position of Chief and we could not be more pleased. The Police Department is in very capable hands. With the Chief's promotion, Sgt. Clarke has been promoted to Lt. and PO Coen has been promoted to Sgt. For the past year, Trustee and Police Commissioner Ted Gutierrez has been working tirelessly negotiating the amendments to the six Village agreement for Police protection. With the cooperation of the six Mayors we are close to a final agreement. The Old Brookville Police Department is made up of a fine group of Officers and we are thankful for their service and protection. We have not had any incidents in our Village, but a reminder from the Chief is to take the keys from your cars when parked at home and, if you have one, use your alarm system. The direct phone number to the OBPD is 516.626.1300 or in case of an emergency call 911.

Our fire protection and emergency services continue to be provided by two volunteer departments – Oyster Bay Fire Company and the Atlantic Steamer Fire Department. This service is by contract with the most recent cost remaining relatively flat. The largest increase in cost has been our contribution to their retirement plan known as LOSAP. This group of volunteers should be commended for their quick response to our emergency needs. There have been discussions as to the fact that there are no “Hydrant Flags” that would identify the location of a hydrant in a snow or storm situation. We have reached out to the Water District and they do not see the need to be proactive in this regard, therefore, the Village will be installing flags on the hydrants at a minimal cost.

The third of our larger contract responsibilities is garbage collection. This service is done by Winter Brothers and for many years they have given us very good service at competitive rates. As a reminder, our recyclables are placed in the same truck bin and are separated at the Winter Brothers facility. With the contract for “back door” pickup, please be reminded that the truck driver needs access to your garbage. Our drivers name is Jack and we do thank him for his courteous and efficient job.

In past letters, I have discussed the need for a Village Hall. This has not been an easy task considering budget and the bidding process and constraints. We have been applying for grants to help with the costs and seem to be on the path to having those approved with the help of past Senator Marcellino and now with Senator Gaugrhan. We hope to have some positive information in the near future, and, at that time, we will have a Village meeting to discuss the need, the design and the financial implications. Briefly, the facility would act as an emergency facility for residents, a general meeting place, our Village court and a central location for our Building Department with room for our Inspector, secretary and files. Our Village Clerk/Treasurer would also have a designated area.

I have recently met with the President of the Long Island Rail Road to discuss improved service on the Oyster Bay Line. This improved schedule would give an additional option for commuters with easier parking.

This Fall we will be instituting a Village bumper sticker program with the intent of giving the Old Brookville Police Department an alert of the car being driven or parked in a driveway is that of a Cove Neck resident. With the distribution of a sticker request, we will be developing a resident email list in order to have a more efficient and cost saving way of communicating with our residents on important Village matters.

We continue to work very hard to keep our Village taxes down. As many of you are aware, the Village of Cove Neck follows the assessment of property as determined by the Nassau County Department of Assessment. Our total assessment did increase this year as did our operating budget due primarily to contract obligations of Police, Fire protection and garbage. We were able to keep to the “suggested” State tax cap of 2%.

As I am sure you are aware – we have more deer in the Village than ever before. The solution to controlling the herd size is not an easy one – typically, there are two sides – those that like the deer and enjoy their presence and those that want to limit the numbers in order to protect their family members from disease, to limit car accidents and to protect their property. At the

suggestion of a young Cove Neck resident, we have installed Deer Caution signs to alert drivers to drive cautiously and have also had a DEC Biologist attend a Village Board meeting to discuss ways of limiting the size of the herd. Fencing is an ongoing discussion with the Board and with consideration given to its aesthetics and practicality. We are also continuing discussions with Sagamore Hill as to how best deal with deer.

Kelly Fuhrmann, the Superintendent of Sagamore Hill has taken a position in another National Park. Kelly has been a wonderful member of our community and has made many positive changes and additions. Under his leadership, the Park has seen a total house renovation, road improvements, enhanced neighbor relationships and a positive plan for the future of the Park. We wish Kelly, his wife and their two girls the best in their next adventure. We have maintained a very good cooperative relationship with the National Park Service and will continue to maintain that relationship - Kelly was an important part of our relationship and we thank him for his help.

On the environmental note, we have been asked by Friends of the Bay to encourage residents not to release balloons. They have a negative influence on our environment, especially ocean mammals such as whales, dolphins and turtles.

Residents have heard me say in previous letters touting the Village of Cove Neck as a wonderful place to live and how we should all be grateful to live here and I repeat this sentiment. New residents – we welcome you and should you have any questions or issues, please feel free to contact me directly on my cell: 516.987.8203. You can also call the Kathy, the Village Clerk/Treasurer at 516.922.1885. Our Village Attorney is Peter MacKinnon of Humes and Wagner. He can be reached at 516.676.4600. Peter has been our Attorney for many years and his knowledge of Village matters and Village laws cannot be matched. Should you have any questions as to permits required for work or any Building Department questions, please contact the Building Department at 516.801.6525 and speak to Laurie or Karl.

I am especially grateful to all the members of our Boards – including Trustees, Zoning, Planning and ARB. Their contributions of time and wisdom have always served us well.

As a final note – A number of years ago, I contacted John Hammond, the Town of Oyster Bay Historian, and inquired as to the possibility of his writing a book about the history of Cove Neck. John agreed to consider it and the Board agreed to his proceeding. Now, hot off the press is a new book entitled “Cove Neck – Oyster Bay’s Historic Enclave” – written by John E. Hammond and Elizabeth E. Roosevelt. The book will soon be available at certain locations and events in Oyster Bay and supposedly thru Amazon around October 14<sup>th</sup>. We are attempting to have a book signing in the near future for residents only and will send a notice as to time and place.

Have a wonderful Fall

Thomas R. Zoller  
Mayor

