

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
COVE NECK

P.O. BOX 299
OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK 11771
Office: (516) 922-1885
Fax: (516) 922-2590
www.coveneck.org

Thomas R. Zoller
Mayor

Richard Aurelio
Lisabeth Harris
Theodore Gutierrez
Marjorie Isaksen
Trustees

2018 Resident Spring Letter

Dear Resident,

As the winter is behind us and Spring is here, I would like to update the residents on the state of the Village of Cove Neck.

The first question the majority of residents have asked is – what is going on with the poor condition of Cove Neck Road? The quick answer is that Cove Neck Road from the beginning of the Village to Sagamore Hill, is the responsibility of Nassau County. We have made numerous calls to those in charge at Nassau County and, along with Kelly Fuhrmann, the Superintendent of Sagamore Hill, I have met with the Nassau County Commissioner of Public Works. We were assured that we are on the list for the road to be resurfaced in the Fall. The promises are lengthy.

In addition to the unacceptable condition of our roads is the fact that our sea wall along Cove Neck Road is showing signs of deterioration – a fact that has been noted to the County a number of times. This wall is also under the auspices of Nassau County. The poor road conditions of County roads coupled with Nassau County's inaction is not only frustrating but unacceptable. This issue was the main topic of conversation of the majority of the Villages in Nassau County as evidenced by comments at a meeting of the Mayors hosted by Congressman Suozzi. Congressman Suozzi, has offered help us expedite our repairs. The importance of this protective wall cannot be underestimated as this road is our only ingress and egress. Be assured that we are making every effort to have repairs addressed.

You may have noticed that there are a number of new Old Brookville Police Officers. Several of our longtime officers have retired and Chief Smith has done an admirable job of hiring a group of well qualified, well trained and affable young men and women. Our overtime costs have been reduced and we have a multiyear labor contract going forward. We have worked long

hours on the Police budget and other police matters to keep us competitive and at the same time be able to provide excellent Police coverage for the Village.

If you are a new resident of the Village of Cove Neck, please contact the Old Brookville Police Department (516.626.1300) and an officer will stop by your home to fill out a Village census report and obtain contact information such as an email address. Unfortunately, the Village Clerk is typically not notified of a change of ownership, therefore, your cooperation is appreciated.

In the near future, all residents will be receiving a form in the mail for you to request a **Village Resident Vehicle Sticker** to be placed on the bumper of your car. These stickers will have recorded numbers and will aid the Police in recognizing Village resident vehicles. This identification is important when officers respond to emergencies. The mailing will also seek your email information to aid in disseminating information to the residents. This information will not be disseminated nor be available to any other agencies other than the Village of Cove Neck. In the Spring a traffic study will be conducted. This study will be used to calculate volume of cars and trucks of residents, guests, visitors and trade workers. Please be patient as there may be minor delays in your travel time. The information gathered will be used to judge future road repair costs, to determine if additional traffic control measures should be put in place and to determine if construction and maintenance schedules are being observed.

As in the past, our fire protection and emergency services are provided by two volunteer Fire Departments – Atlantic Steamer and Oyster Bay. They both continue to give us excellent service with good response times both for fire and emergency services. The question has been asked as to why we have two departments located within a few blocks of each other. The answer is that for many years the Village has attempted to convince the fire companies to consolidate. It is an ongoing debate with no resolution in site.

The Cove Neck Building Department is functioning well with Karl Bicknese as our inspector and Laurie Dooney as his assistant. The contact number for the department is (516.801.6525). As a reminder, if you are contemplating a building project for your home or plan to remove or cut down trees, please review our codes and contact our Building Department. Our Village codes are available on line at www.coveneck.org.

Our Village budget has been finalized for the 2018/2019 tax year. There is an increase in the tax rate of 2.85%. The rate must be increased to maintain the funds needed to pay contractual work and pay the expenses of running the Village. The Board spends many hours reviewing the budget and the Board uses its best efforts to contain expenses, but we are faced with State mandated increases and contractual expenses including fire protection, police protection, garbage pick-up and legal fees – these account for approximately 70% of our budgeted items. As with our surrounding Villages, many Cove Neck residents have filed for a reduction of their assessment. This year we have had almost a third of the residents file. When assessment reductions are granted by Nassau County – the Village assessment is adjusted accordingly. To meet the required funding of Village expenses the tax rate must be increased to cover Village

operational costs. The Board reviews each and every line item of our budget and we explore every means to keep expenses under control.

We should all be reminded that the roads of Cove Neck are generally narrow and there are deer, bicycle riders, people walking, people walking dogs etc. using the roads. It would be prudent to remind your guests, visitors and tradespeople to drive carefully and obey the speed limits. Residents should be reminded that there is no deer hunting allowed in Nassau County. Should the deer become a hazard – not just a nuisance – the Village will explore further a means of control. We have been in touch with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and will maintain a dialogue.

Trustee Gutierrez has been in communication with cell providers and other agencies in an effort to improve the cell reception in the Village. The problem is obvious – we have a lot of hills. The solution is not an easy one, however, we are hopeful that as wireless technology advances, there can be improvement.

As has been noted in past letters, the Village is in need of a Village Hall. There will be a Village resident meeting this summer to review the need for the building and the purpose for which it will be used, along with the project construction and maintenance costs and the means of funding the project. We are in the process of applying for grants and seeking donations to help defray the cost. We have an attractive architectural plan for the building which will be located behind the existing Police Booth. The Village Hall will contain our files and will house the Building Department office, the Clerk's office, Village Court, an informational center, an emergency facility for residents should that become necessary and a general meeting area for Planning and Zoning meetings and residents. The structure is approximately 1800 SF.

Should you have any questions concerning the Village, please do not hesitate to contact the Village Clerk/Treasurer, Kathy Zoller at (516.922.1885) or at villageclerk@cove Neck.org.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees and the members of the Planning, Zoning and ARB for their efforts in preserving the Village of Cove Neck as the wonderful village that it is.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,
Thomas R. Zoller
Mayor

