

FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

Mayor George "Butch" Starkie
Deputy Mayor Patricia A. Christiansen

Spring 2009

Trustee Cheryl L. Parisi
Trustee William Barrett
Trustee Ralph Ekstrand

Moving In The Right Direction

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

DEAR FELLOW RESIDENTS,

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE YOU ON SOME OF THE MANY PROJECTS AND EVENTS THAT WILL BE GOING ON IN OUR COMMUNITY OVER THE COMING MONTHS. MAYOR GEORGE 'BUTCH' STARKIE

MAIN STREET IMPACT STUDY

For those of you who missed the recent feature story in the Farmingdale Observer, we have exciting news. County Executive Tom Suozzi and Legislator Dave Mejias, along with members of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, were on hand at the Village Green to help us kick off our impact study for the downtown area. With a unanimous decision by the Village Board and the Downtown Revitalization Committee, the firm of Saccardi and Schiff were retained to conduct the study for us, and it will take approximately six months

my tenure as a trustee and now as the mayor that we actually see light at the end of the tunnel." This study will help the community and Village Board make the best possible decisions regarding future development by providing us with information about how proposed development will affect infrastructure, and our ability to adequately provide services in the future. This impact study is being funded in largest part by a \$50,000 grant from County Executive Tom Suozzi and a \$50,000 grant from State Senator Kemp Hannon. Senator Hannon was unable to join us at the kick off because he was busy working on the State Budget in Albany.

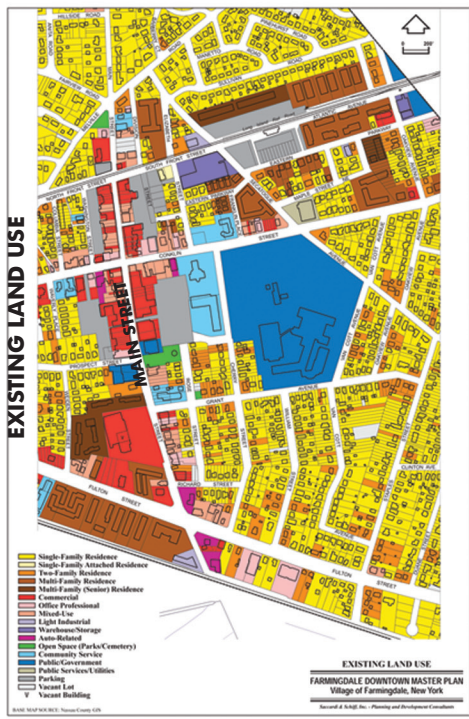
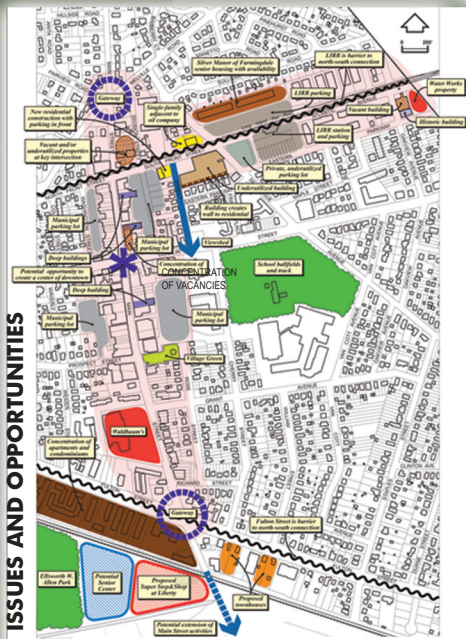
"...that we actually see light at the end of the tunnel."

for it to be completed.

"We're going to get a road map on how to construct and remake Farmingdale and we will be the coolest downtown, I promise you that" said Mayor Starkie. It's a real team effort and everyone is welcome to participate. This is probably the most exciting thing that has happened since



Legislator Dave Mejias, County Executive Tom Suozzi, Mayor George "Butch" Starkie, Village Trustees Bill Barrett, Cheryl Parisi, Ralph Ekstrand, and Deputy Mayor Pat Christiansen.





April Showers will bring May flowers to Main Street. The Beautification Committee is preparing to plant flowers in our new planters, purchased with Grant money, along Main Street as well as hang Balcom Geranium baskets from our refurbished lamp posts with their new light fixtures. Flowers will also be planted in beds at Village Green, the Melville Road triangle and at all Village signs. Planting Day is scheduled for two Saturdays, May 9th and May 16th beginning at 9:00 am at Village Hall with coffee and bagels for nourishment. Our DPW staff will rehang the American Flags and our Village will be ready to celebrate Memorial Day on May 25th. Volunteers are needed and welcome. Please bring your gardening gloves and trowels. For any additional information, kindly contact: Deputy Mayor Pat Christiansen at pchristiansen@farmingdalevillage.com.

RESPONSIBLY SPEND YOUR TAX DOLLARS...

Your Village Board and Mayor have worked diligently to keep the budget increase under three percent (3%) for the coming year while providing you with the best possible service for your tax dollars. The first 3/4% of the tax increase is directly attributable to the reduction in our total Village assessment that is discussed on the next page. The balance is due to contractual obligations and escalated costs beyond our control. Rest assured that even with the limited funds available we will make sure that our Main Street will be decorated with new planters, benches, and banners. Much of this will be accomplished because we have been very successful with our requests for grants. These grants will help us to continue to make upgrades to our parks and Village Green, and also pay for new efficient lighting on Main Street that will be more attractive while cutting electric costs by about 65%.

Movies on the Green

Movies are set to start during the week of the US Open - June 15th through the 21st. There will be at least two movies during this week. We will be showing movies "On the Green" every other Thursday during the summer. They will begin with a cartoon at 8:30 pm and followed by a movie at 9:00 pm. A listing of the movies will be in the next newsletter as well as on the website. See you there!

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Please thank our dedicated DPW staff when you see them on the road. They worked tirelessly this winter plowing, salting and cleaning our streets and keeping the water flowing.

GRANT MONEY RECEIVED...

VILLAGE PARKS BENEFIT

The Village of Farmingdale is once again very fortunate to be the recipient of additional grant monies secured by Legislator Dave Mejias. The additional money, totalling \$160,000, has been designated for use in the following manner: Northside Pocket Park: \$30,000; Gerngras Park: \$40,000; and Main Street: \$90,000. Northside Pocket Park will be getting much needed lighting, benches, trash receptacles and fencing to further enhance the area and allow residents to fully enjoy this neighborhood park. Residents in the area of Gerngras Park have asked for additional playground equipment as well as handicap upgrades. Main Street and Village Green will continue with upgrades. The Village will be hosting a meeting of all interested parties to voice their thoughts. To be notified of this and other important events, sign on to Constant Contact, the Village email system, found on our website.





REVALUATION of *The Village*

The Village has started a full revaluation of properties. Under our present system the overall assessed value of the Village has decreased over the past twenty years, mostly due to commercial property owners successfully grieving their assessments thereby getting a reduction in their Village property taxes. Under the current antiquated system the Village has one tax rate for commercial and residential properties. When commercial properties grieve their assessment and receive a reduction, everyone in the Village gets an increase in their taxes. When the revaluation process is complete and implemented, the percentage of the total tax liability assigned to commercial property in the Village will be fixed and clear. That means that every time a commercial property is successful in grieving their assessment and getting a tax reduction, the amount of the reduction will be borne by other commercial properties, and will not affect residential property owners. If a residential property owner is successful in grieving their taxes, the

amount of that reduction is subsidized by other residential property owners. It is important to remember that the percentage of the total property taxes the Village collects each year has shifted dramatically over the last several years from the commercial properties to the residential properties because 95% of the tax reductions won over that time period have gone in favor of commercial property owners. Creating the two tier system will help to stabilize the impact on residential property owners in our Village who can no longer afford to support these tax breaks to their commercial counterparts, and the huge refunds that were made as a result of those grievances. Current law dictates that we must do a complete and accurate reassessment of all property in the Village in order to implement this two tier system.

The Village has retained the firm of Haberman and Associates to complete the project. You will be receiving correspondence from them that will require answering. Once you receive this, please complete all the information requested and return in a timely fashion.

A Message from the Chief's Office ...

April 10, 2009 was the changing of the guard at the Farmingdale Fire Department. Chief Jack Scherer completed his term as chief and Keith Ryan Sr. was installed as the new Chief of the Department.

It is important that the people of the Village understand the commitment that their firefighters give them. There is constant training in addition to the answering of all alarms.

During the past year, the Department answered a total of 1103 alarms. A total fire loss for the year was \$960,000.00. There were several working fires and several severe car accidents. During these times your firefighters reacted with pride and professionalism. Their service to the community is invaluable and it has been my honor to serve as the Chief of the Department.

Once you leave the Chief's office you return to duty as a firefighter. I look forward to continue serving the Village.

Jack Scherer

Addressing Village Parking Issues...

Your Board of Trustees along with the Mayor has once again lowered the anticipated revenue to be collected from our vehicle code enforcement in an effort to reduce the amount of parking tickets given in the Village. Additionally, after studying the current regulations we have revised the 12 hour restrictions on certain parking spaces in our municipal lots. Effective immediately the 12 hour restriction in those spaces will be in effect from 6:00 am through 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. In the past you were required to have a 12 hour sticker to use any of those spaces at any time of the day or night. The purpose of the 12 hour spaces was to provide adequate parking for employees of the businesses along Main Street so that they wouldn't have to come out and move their cars every three hours during their workday. But, holding these spaces open for these employees after normal business hours just doesn't make sense to us, especially when we want to promote business for the fine restaurants and night spots in our business district. We have now made these spaces available in the evening for all our residents who want to come and enjoy a meal, or visit one of the other stores along Main Street. The ONLY place that the 12 hour restriction will continue to be enforced is along Washington Street. This is necessary so that residents who live on that street will have a place to park when they come home at night.



FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT



Visit our Village Website

If you haven't visited our website yet, here is a sampling of the buttons that you will find on the home page. Many of them are linked. Just click on "Restaurants" and it will open to an assortment of Village eateries that are linked to their own websites providing you with their address, phone number to make a reservation, menu to decide what you'd like to eat, entertainment or special event.

"Moving in the Right Direction" provides you with an oversight of what is starting to happen in the Village. New signage and awnings are beginning to replace old ones.

The website is a great place to obtain all information from forms and applications that can be easily downloaded to phone numbers and Constant Contact, the Village email system. Please sign up with Constant Contact to stay informed about Village Happenings. It's easy!!

A suggestion...

With warm weather upon us, take a walk down Main Street and get reacquainted with the Village and all it has to offer.

2009 US OPEN

The USGA will be hosting this year's US Open from June 15th through the 21st at the Bethpage Black Course. The Board has partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and the USGA to make this event festive while minimizing the impact on our residents. There will be more mailings in the coming weeks explaining upcoming associated events, and regulatory changes necessary to keep traffic flowing freely while minimizing the parking impact to our residents brought about by the additional vehicles coming into our Village.



Be there for the Fun

Inc. Village of Farmingdale
361 Main Street
Farmingdale, New York 11735

PRSR STD.
U.S. Postage
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Farmingdale
New York 11735

*New Village
Streetlights*

