



FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

GEORGE J. GRAF, Mayor

February, 2006

A Message From Village Mayor **GEORGE J. GRAF**

The much anticipated Vision Long Island workshops took place this month. The Village of Farmingdale and Vision Long Island invited residents, business owners, community members and other "stakeholders" to help shape the future of our community. The group effort, Farmingdale's Future, was the start of a public visioning to fuel Main Street improvements and to shape the master plan of the Village for the next thirty years. On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all those who attended the meetings, especially those who braved the elements on February 11th to participate in the walking tours of our town. At the opening meeting at Howitt Middle School the participants were asked to tell us their hopes and horrors of our community and their favorite and least favorite areas in Farmingdale. The walking tours gave the attendees first hand looks at many of the areas of interest and concern. The participants then returned to Howitt where they reported on their experience to the other groups. They then broke up into design teams where they had an opportunity to put their ideas onto paper and then make a presentation to the group. The amount of thought and effort that they put in to their designs and presentations was truly remarkable. The members, young and old, spent a great deal of time lay-



ing out what they thought would make our Village a better place to live. While many of their wishes involved major capital projects which are not currently possible due to money constraints or not feasible without the consent and cooperation of other municipalities, including the County or State, many suggestions were less involved and definitely possible. The Vision LI design team will take these ideas and the results of the other exercises and assemble them into a collective vision for the Village of Farmingdale. It was very rewarding to witness the cooperation and teamwork that took place. While opinions on what was good and bad, what should be changed or left alone varied, the resounding message was clear, Farmingdale is a great place to live and many people share the vision of the administration wanting to see it get better for the future. There were many excellent ideas presented - ideas that will be examined and considered very seriously as the Board develops our master plan. I hope all those who participated will continue to stay involved in the process by coming to the future visioning meetings as well as our trustee meetings. The future plans of Farmingdale are off to a great start thanks to Vision Long Island and the special group of stakeholders who took part.



An artist rendering of what South Front Street could look like in the future.

Shaping Farmingdale's Future

Photos from the three day Vision Long Island Event



Proposed Elevation

Farmingdale Fire Department Installation Dinner



Mayor George Graf recently attended the Farmingdale Fire Department's Annual Installation Dinner. He joined with Town Of Oyster Bay Councilman Anthony Macagnone to recognize ex-Chief Rich Tortoso for his service and dedication to the department and the Farmingdale Community. Pictured l-r : 2nd Assistant Chief Keith Ryan, 1st Assistant Chief Skip Schumeyer, Chief John Salerno, ex-Chief Rich Tortoso, Councilman Macagnone, Mayor Graf and ex-Commissioner Ken Tortoso, Sr.



The Farmingdale Fire Department's Fund Drive is currently underway. Please support these brave men and women who are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to fires, accidents and medical emergencies. They leave the comfort and safety of their homes to come to the aid of those in need.

Search Begins for New Village Attorney

Since current Village Attorney Gregory W. Carman, Jr., Esq., has announced in January that he would not seek re-appointment to the position, the Mayor and the Board of Trustees have commenced their search for a new Village Attorney. The Mayor intends to appoint an attorney with a strong background in municipal law, including zoning and real estate. The Mayor has started to develop a list of potential candidates for the position with those criteria in mind. Consistent with the administration's goals, the Village's legal fees for the past year and a half have been substantially lower than prior years. The Mayor and the Board will look to hire the most qualified individual or firm that will agree to a retainer that will allow the Village to keep to its current established fee structure.





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Village Hall Rehab & Administration Turnaround Underway

As part of the ongoing initiative to bring Farmingdale Village Hall into the 21st century, the Board approved a major rehabilitation project to remodel the Village Hall Administrative Office. This remodeling includes new employee workstations and a complete re-wiring of the internal electrical system. Our goal of positioning the Village infrastructure for maximum use of current and future technologies will reap immediate and long-term improvements in employee productivity. The Village has taken advantage of the plummeting prices in both computer hardware and software to create an efficient work environment, where employees' computers can now communicate with each other via a network of compatible systems. Additional money-saving technological advancements approved by the Board are as follows:

- ADP employee time system - The installation of this system will tighten the auditing and monitoring of overtime.
- Village vehicle fuel monitoring system – Will monitor both the maintenance and fuel usage by vehicle.
- Automated wireless water meter reading system – Will significantly reduce labor costs while allowing Village to implement quarterly or semi-annual billing.

Your Village Hall is now well positioned to reap the benefits of 21st century technology efficiencies that will deliver productivity gains for years to come.

The Village Hall structure itself is undergoing roof and interior wall renovations, as years of neglect have led to leaks and structural damage from seeping rain water. The ultimate goal of the Village Board's ongoing commitment to repairing and upgrading the Village's infrastructure is to free future Boards to focus their attention on serving resident concerns, without getting bogged down managing the rehabilitation and repair of neglected facilities.

The Board recognizes that the cost of these one-time repairs and purchasing initiatives are significant. To this end, your elected officials have embarked on an aggressive campaign to reduce waste, eliminate unnecessary positions and correct inefficient purchasing procedures. We have also improved the Village's financial position through a series of grants resulting in additional funds for the Village. The combined effect of cost saving measures and grant revenues has helped fund necessary repairs and improvements, and put the Village in great position for continued success and prosperity.

**Village of Farmingdale
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