



# FARMINGDALE VILLAGE REPORT

*GEORGE J. GRAF, Mayor*

*January, 2005*

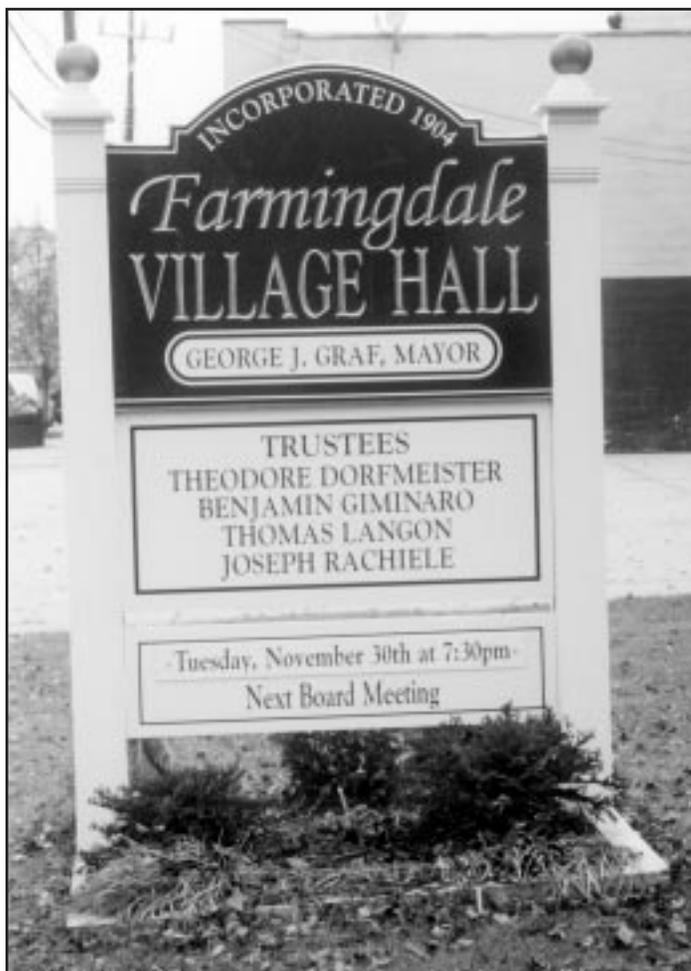
## A Message From Village Mayor **GEORGE J. GRAF**

The Village Board of Trustees holds public meetings on a regular basis, usually once a month, on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm, in the Village Hall. When necessary Special Meetings of the Board are also convened. These meetings are not only open to the public, but the Trustees and I encourage attendance by as many residents as possible. During each of these meetings the public can participate during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. All that is required is for the individual to state his or her name and address. It is at these public meetings of the Board, and only at these public meetings, that the

Board votes and takes actions involving the Village. Only matters of a confidential nature, such as labor negotiations, employee discipline, and pending litigation matters are discussed by the Board in Executive Session.



In an effort to afford the Board more time and opportunity to discuss matters affecting the Village in an open forum, we have initiated Village Board Work Sessions. Our intent was to create a vehicle for Board members to meet, in public, before upcoming Trustees' Meetings to review important issues, topics and concerns that will be on the agenda. These meetings, like the Trustees' Meetings, are open to the public. The only difference is that at the work sessions absolutely no voting takes place. To date, these work sessions have been held in the afternoon, with the main criterion for scheduling being the availability of as many Trustees as possible. We have found that the importance of these additional meetings is invaluable to us as a Board and to the Village as a whole. The sessions offer Village residents the opportunity to provide us with information and opinions on agenda items in advance of a meeting, consider the information and make informed decisions. They also afford us the opportunity to bring each other up to speed on our Village activities and discuss agenda items. By doing so, our Trustees Meetings can proceed more effectively and efficiently, and we can govern with the input of the residents in an open forum. We encourage you to attend the Work Sessions and the Trustees' Meetings.



The Village has added a new permanent panel to our Village Hall sign that will now alert residents of upcoming Village Board Meetings.

The next scheduled Work Session is on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> @12:30PM at Village Hall. Our next Trustees' Meeting is on Tuesday, February 22 at 7:30 PM at Village Hall.

# Village Enhances Code Enforcement Efforts

Assuring that the quality of life that we enjoy in Farmingdale is the highest it can be is a commitment that the Village Board takes very seriously. Increasing code enforcement staff has allowed the Village to more efficiently address quality of life and safety issues in the Village. For instance, in the area where Conklin Street narrows from two lanes to one, and vehicles stop to pick up passengers, increased staff has allowed us to catch a larger number of offenders. This decreases the congestion in that area. Over the past few months the Village has:

- More than doubled our code enforcement officers
- Added weekend hours of enforcement
- Re-instituted foot patrols (last seen on our streets decades ago!)
- Moved the starting hours of AM enforcement up an hour earlier
- Added two additional vehicles to the code enforcement department (re-assigning the former Mayors vehicle and purchasing on bid, from the South Farmingdale Fire Department (their no longer needed rapid response car).

Working alongside police officers from Nassau County's 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct, our code enforcers help ensure compliance with the Village Code. The code enforcement officers can issue notices of violations for parking offenses, violations of "no stopping" laws and vio-



**Mayor Graf inspects the new code enforcement vehicle with Code Enforcement Supervisor Ron Craig.**

lations of the village code dealing with property maintenance. Violators of these regulations and anyone receiving tickets for moving traffic violations and other infractions issued by Nassau County Police Officers within the Incorporated Village have to appear before the Village Court.

Having our Code Enforcement Officers working hand in hand with our local police ensures that our streets are not only safe but maintained to the high standards that we have

set. Their increased presence ensures that our good neighbor regulations are adhered to and any unsafe conditions are addressed and corrected. We hope that when you see one of our uniformed code officers you don't see them as just someone who is going to ticket your car. We hope you see them as what they are, trained code enforcement officers who have the ability to assist you or get the proper aid that you might need. They provide additional eyes and ears that can spot potential dangers and problems and can prevent potential hazardous situations or alert the proper law enforcement agency. When you see them walking through town like the old "beat cops" please say hello and of course let them know of any problems or concerns. The best way to assure that our Village stays safe and secure is to always be alert, aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity.

## Mayor Graf Installs Chamber of Commerce Officers



Mayor Graf was on hand at the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce's Holiday party where he installed their newly elected officers. Shown from left to right: Mark Wenzel, YES Community Counseling Center, Ruth Tarlow, Island Financial Group, Angela Cowan, CPA, Mayor Graf, Debbie Podolski, Farmingdale Public Library, Chamber President Pete Yovine, State Bank, Michael Ingham, Carman, Callahan & Ingham, William Metzendorf III, Sir Speedy Printing of Farmingdale.

## Deputy Mayor Installs Farmingdale Baseball Board



Deputy Mayor Joe Rachiele (Right) is shown here swearing in the recently elected Farmingdale Baseball League board members. Shown l-r: Vice President Jim Darcy, Treasurer Dan Kornfeld, President Tom Sabellico and Vice President Robert Kirk. Farmingdale Baseball has been providing youth baseball and softball programs to the Farmingdale community since 1951.

## Mayor Graf Meets with NYS Elected Officials



Mayor Graf shown here with New York State Assemblyman Joseph Saladino and New York State Senator Charles Fuschillo took time to discuss the needs of the Village of Farmingdale and Massapequa Park after attending the fifth annual Sleepy Hollow Charity Run. The annual event is organized by village attorney Greg Carman to benefit The Little Village School. Shown l-r: Massapequa Park Village Trustee, Jeff Pravato, Mayor Graf, Assemblyman Joseph Saladino and Senator Charles Fuschillo.



We Get Letters.....

## Farmingdale Cub Scout Packs 57 and 601 Visit The Mayor of Farmingdale

On Friday, January 7, 2005 the Mayor of Farmingdale, George Graf, invited the Cub Scouts of Farmingdale Cub Scout Packs 57 and 601 to come down to the Farmingdale Village Hall. Mayor Graf spent about an hour speaking with the Cub Scouts and answering questions covering many topics including: how local government works, what local government does, why he decided to run for Mayor, what a Mayor does, personal responsibility, goal setting and how keeping a positive attitude will help the scouts achieve their goals. Afterwards, the scouts all got a chance to come up, take a picture with the Mayor and, of course, bang the gavel. Cub Scout Pack 601 would like to thank Mayor Graf for affording this excellent opportunity for the Farmingdale Cub Scouts.

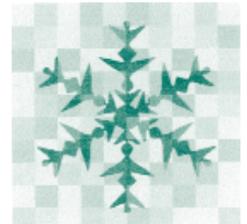


George Mauro  
Assistant Cubmaster  
Cub Scout Pack 601

## Let It Snow

Please remember that Village law requires that residents must remove parked cars from the street for a minimum of 18 hours after a snowfall of two or more inches. Try to arrange with your neighbors to make use of their driveways that are not being utilized.

This will ensure that the DPW staff can quickly clear the roadways and facilitate safe traveling throughout the Village. Violators are subject to a fine. Residents are also responsible for keeping their driveways and sidewalks that surround their homes snow, ice and debris free. Please clear any fire hydrants by your home and do not blow or shovel snow from driveways or sidewalks into the street. If you have elderly or special need neighbors, please check on them to see if they need any assistance.





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## Village Addresses Traffic Issues

The safety of all who enter our Village is a primary concern of the Village administration. One area which directly affects everyone is traffic, and there are several ways in which we can seek to control it: most notable, its speed and congestion.

Regarding the speed of traffic in the Village, we have applied for a "Traffic Calming" grant from the New York State Department of Transportation. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase our own radar speed enforcement machinery, similar to the one we now have on loan from the Town of Oyster Bay, which registers a car's speed and reminds drivers of the speed limit in that area. The grant will also provide funds for installing the most modern embedded sensor technology at heavily traveled crosswalks – sensors located in the street bed that activate yellow flashing lights to alert drivers of the presence of a pedestrian in the crosswalk.

We are pleased to announce that the Village is forming a Traffic Safety Committee, whose mission will be to identify traffic safety issues and bring them to the attention of the Village Board for prompt review and resolution.

Two areas which are of immediate concern because of traffic congestion are the areas around Howitt Middle School (Grant and VanCott Streets), and St. Luke's School (Prospect Street). Mayor Graf and Fred



**School speed limit signs, pedestrian crosswalk signs and painted street crosswalks, like the ones pictured here, have been added to areas of concern that were brought to the boards attention.**

We encourage you to bring to our attention any traffic "trouble spots" you see in the Village. You can do that by calling Village Hall, or by attending a Village Board meeting. Also, please remind school children to look twice before crossing a street, only cross at the corner when the sign says walk, and seek the assistance of a crossing guard where available. We want everyone to enjoy our beautiful Village safely.

Zamparelle, DPW Superintendent, recently met with Howitt School Principal, Luis Pena, to receive his input and discuss the Village's concerns regarding the traffic conditions on Grant Street. One result of the meeting was our agreement to help insure the safety of children crossing the streets on their way to and from school by installing stop signs on the east and west corners of Grant and Williams Streets and VanCott and Grant Streets. We have since installed new fluorescent crosswalk signs and white boldly striped "piano-key" style crosswalks. We have also asked that the school district continue with ongoing notices sent home to parents to help ensure safety. With regard to Prospect Street, we are continuing to address the parking situation and we have installed 15 MPH School Zone signs around the St. Luke's School area in an effort to help slow down traffic in the area, making it safer for pedestrians.

Village of Farmingdale  
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