



NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

Joseph McDermott
Mayor

Trustees:

Diane Urso, Deputy Mayor
Christian Sullivan
Bernadette Whitwell
Laurie Elliott

Donna Barnett – Village Clerk / Treasurer
John Catania – DPW Foreman
Robert O'Shea – Building Inspector

Charles Casolaro, Esq. – Village Attorney

David Kluepfel, Esq. – Village Justice

From Mayor Joseph McDermott

After a long, severe winter we are happy to be starting Spring and planning for the many anticipated upcoming Village events. Numerous snowstorms and extreme arctic temperatures made the maintenance of the Village challenging for our highway department.

The Board is proud of the work and dedication of our employees. The men worked tirelessly to keep the streets safe and passable. Now we are left with the daunting task of repair work to some of the damages caused by Mother Nature.

Currently we are resetting the damaged poles in the canal in anticipation of opening early. Walker Beach is being readied for the first Arbor Day Celebration to be held there Saturday, May 2nd.

The much anticipated paving of Richland Blvd. is in process. Upon receiving the promised grant from Senator Phil Boyle's office, preparations will begin. This will be the start of road improvements throughout the Village. Our 2015/2016 tentative budget reflects these improvements.

On that note, I am extremely happy to inform you that we expect to ***not*** have a tax rate increase in the forthcoming budget. There will also be a 6% cut in sanitation fees. I'm sure everyone will be as pleased as the Board and I are with this.

I invite you to peruse the newsletter and be informed of what's been happening over the last few months, and see what's planned for the upcoming season. I also invite you to try to attend and support as many events as your schedule allows. We look forward to working together as a united community.



General Information

Financial Operations

For the past several months, the Clerk-Treasurer has been undertaking a thorough line-by-line analysis of all the general ledger accounts.

Several budget modifications have been approved by the Board that re-aligned the budgeted line items to reflect a more accurate view of the Village's finances. This is an on-going process and has provided the basis for a realistic budget for 2015-16.

Cost Savings

The Mayor and the BOT closely evaluates each month every expenditure, contract, and service agreement with existing vendors and service providers. As a result, the Village made several vendor changes during the past 8 months to maximize cost savings, improve the quality of products, and increase our return on investment. Some examples resulting from this review are:

- Changed auditing service to save \$30,000.00.
- Changed cell service carrier to lower monthly bills and minimize dropped calls.
- Upgraded computer equipment for office staff
- Purchased hybrid-powered Code Car to reduce gas and monthly repair costs.
- Purchased (by bid) highway dump truck (valued at \$40,000) for \$20,000 with 15,500 miles on it.
- Implemented fuel management system on all vehicles to allow purchases of gas and diesel at a significantly reduced rate through the Town of Islip.
- Moved illegal apartment search responsibilities to Village office staff.
- Installed programmable thermostats for \$180 resulting in over \$1,000 in fuel costs during this cold winter.

Grant Opportunities

Over the past 8 months, the Mayor and BOT, along with Village Committees, sought grant opportunities and will continue seeking grants that support our vision for the Village of Brightwaters. The Village has several grant opportunities in process to meet important needs:

- **Richland Blvd.** repaving and drainage project is ready for bidding once the Village receives the finalized details of a \$100,000 grant from NYS Dept. of Transportation. We expect the process to move forward after the NYS Budget vote.

- **Capital project grant** for \$50,000 forthcoming from Senator Boyle's office.

- **Arbor Day grant** for \$1,000 enables the Village to plant several trees at Walker Beach and recognize the team of resident volunteers who initiated and ran the Pumpkin Run for the last 16 years.

- **Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization** grant for \$38,000, for the improvement of our downtown area specific to the grant – lampposts and trees.

- **Trustees Christian Sullivan, Bernadette Whitwell, and Treasurer Donna Barnett** dedicated significant time with *New York Rising* which resulted in a **grant toward a generator for Village operations.**

- Hired a grant writer to prepare proposal to digitize all Village records, improve storage capacity, and organization. By hiring an expert, we fully expect to maximize this grant.

Communication

We made the following improvements to communications throughout the Village:

- Started an official Facebook page
- Contracted with new vendor to develop and improve the Village website.
- Documented more details in meeting minutes, including information for Open Public Sessions.
- Implementing a new phone system to improve communications with the office staff and officials.

Environment

Trustee Diane Urso is actively seeking proposals to help control geese refuse during the summer months at Walker Beach.

Mayor Joe McDermott negotiated an agreement with the DEC, and expects to meet DEC requirements for plantings at the Lakes as soon as weather permits.

Trustee Bernadette Whitwell is researching improved refuse containers for the Lakes; also looking to provide smaller containers in keeping with needs of the area, and may include waste bags for dog walkers.

Trustee Laurie Elliott will continue communication with residents in violation of Village code with respect to trees maintained by the Village. Cost savings will result by ending the harmful practice of “volcano mulching” around trees maintained (and replaced) by the Village. Letters will go to residents whose landscaping includes harmful mulching around Village trees.



Brightwaters Day Camp

Summer Program

Camp is right around the corner! This wonderful Brightwaters tradition is open to Village residents with children ages 5 years to 9 years old. (child must be 5 by July 1st). Program applications are available at the Village office or can be downloaded from the Village website. You will be able to submit your application **any time** from now until the **deadline of Monday, May 4th 9:15 am.** *Any application coming in after 9:15 will automatically go on the waiting list.* The lottery begins at 10am that morning. Any questions please contact the office.



Walker Beach

The Beach kicks off the summer season, Saturday, May 23rd. Staffed weekends only with lifeguards through June 21st, Walker switches to a full-time lifeguard schedule on Monday, June 22nd through Labor Day, Monday, September 7th. **Family Nights** are **Wednesdays in July** beginning the 8th. We look forward to seeing friends and neighbors at the Beach.

2015-2016 Budget Calendar

The 2015-2016 Village budget process started last month with the Board of Trustees confirming dates. Please note important scheduled meetings that comply with New York State municipal requirements for Budget hearings:

The Village has had a work session in March for the Preliminary budget presentation and review.

The Tentative budget is now available at Village Hall and online. Upcoming budget meetings:

Monday, April 6th, 8:00PM: BOT Regular Monthly Meeting - Tentative budget available.

Wednesday, April 15th, 8:00PM: Public Hearing on the Tentative 2015-2016 Budget - Opportunity for Public questions and discussion on the Tentative Budget.

Monday, April 27th, 8:00PM: Special Meeting of the BOT to vote on adopting 2015-2016 Budget as amended.

A Word From Our Trustees...

Lakes and Parks

Trustee Diane Urso

Saturday, May 2nd 11AM, Walker Beach

The Village of Brightwaters invites the community to an Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Dedication to the tireless volunteers who started and ran the Pumpkin Run for over 16 years. We want to thank them for their service to the community. Many thanks go to Kevin Niles for his assistance in obtaining this grant to make this dedication possible. Please come and join our Arbor Day Celebration and the start of spring!

Administration

Trustee Laurie Elliott

Good news regarding the status of Village finances: The NYS Comptroller **removed** the Village's "susceptible" financial stress standing, as the Village continues to stay in a positive fund balance position.

Emphasizing operational efficiency, we made the following policy, procedure, or code changes:

- Joined the Empire Purchasing Group which expands the Village's potential audience for bids and enables the Village to view other municipality bidding activity
- Improved the accuracy and efficiency of communicating and processing parking violations, including the implementation of credit card payments for fines
- Adopted and implemented a new procurement policy to improve purchasing controls, competition, and approvals
- Adopted vehicle use policy to improve maintenance and staff professionalism
- Officially adopted a record retention and disposition schedule in accordance with NYS Archives Schedule MU-1
- Extended Village hours to include the first Saturday of each month
- Established a Downtown Revitalization Committee for the central business district
- Modified policies for improved Planning Board measures
- Adopted personnel policies, including improvements for direct deposit, employee directed and paid contributions for retirement or insurance
- Established a social media policy to improve Village communications

The BOT is excited to be moving toward a greener approach to communications. E-newsletters are right around the corner! An electronic format allows us to send information/updates to you more quickly allowing for greater transparency. **Trustees Laurie Elliott and Diane Urso** urge you to become part of this initiative and send in your email today.

www.villageofbrightwaters.com

Highway

Trustee Bernadette Whitwell

Snow removal went very well for this winter during a tough season of extreme weather. Many thanks go to our residents for keeping their cars off the roads during the snow storms. It made the snow plowing go much smoother.

In February, the Mayor and BOT authorized the installation and use of the Orpak Fuel Management System on all Village vehicles, which enables the Village to purchase fuel from the Town of Islip. The projected savings, based on current rates, is over \$9,800 annually (about \$817 monthly). The installation cost for the system of \$2,924 will be covered through savings alone within 3-4 months.

The new Cascade lighting was delivered and is waiting for good weather for installation.

Notice for South Bay Avenue: You will see some exploratory digging by National Grid with our engineer, Dan Falasco, in the street. We expect this to only affect 4 or 5 residences.

Code Enforcement

Trustee Christian Sullivan

Several changes in Code Enforcement included hiring a Supervisor, Al Dumala, and two new Parking Enforcement Officers.

Code reminder: After a long winter, everyone is looking forward to getting outside and enjoying spring in Brightwaters, especially our four-legged friends. **Please be mindful and respect your neighbors by keeping your dog(s) on a leash at all times and cleaning up their waste.**

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