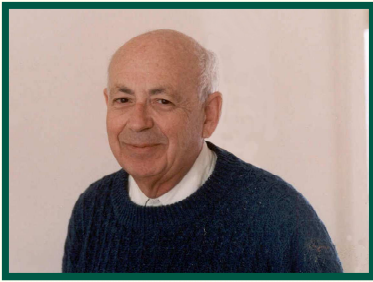


Thomaston Bulletin

Winter 2010

Mayor's Message



Dear Neighbors:

High on my list of priorities this past year has been the financial stewardship of the Village.

As a result of the national economic crisis, the Village has faced a substantial reduction in non-tax revenues. Home sales and refinancings have declined (resulting in lower mortgage recording revenue for the Village), home renovation activity has decreased (resulting in a decline in building permit fees), and state aid as well as interest rates and interest earnings have also decreased.

In the budget for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2010, we projected a total decline of more than \$90,000 in non-tax revenue. The budget for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2010 projects a further decline in non-tax revenue. Also, significant increases are expected for sanitation expense (primarily resulting from an increase in the fees charged by the Town of North Hempstead to the Village for use of the Town's landfill disposal facility) and for the Village's contribution to the State's pension plan (this amount is fixed by the State, and depends on the performance of the State's investment portfolio and other factors beyond the control of the Village).

Only two methods have been available to the Village to balance the budget: either reduce discretionary expenses or raise property taxes. The Village Board of Trustees and I determined that substantial expense reductions would be necessary so as to avoid significant tax increases during economically difficult times. By consolidating the Village Justice Court with the County court system (effective April 7, 2009), providing incentives for the early retirement of a senior member of the Public Works Department, and eliminating a part-time position in the Village Hall, the Village has achieved budgeted net annual cost savings of approximately \$80,000. These decisions involved difficult choices.

Further reductions in discretionary expenses have been instituted.

The "bottom line" is that, despite the adverse economic news, the Village budget for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2010 has been balanced with only a 0.9% tax rate increase over the prior year. The Village remains on a firm financial footing, with adequate reserves to meet our future maintenance and equipment needs.

In fact, I am pleased to report that the average annual increase in the Village tax rate during the five-year period 2006/07 through 2010/11 was just 0.78%, and the average annual increase in the Village tax rate during the ten-year period 2001/02 through 2010/11 was just 2.1% -- well below the annual rate of inflation in our area for the same period, and substantially below the tax rate increases of other local taxing units.

Throughout this period, the Village has delivered high quality service to its residents, and has also substantially replaced its vehicle fleet, modernized the Village Hall (including creating an electronic document archive), expanded the Public Works Department garage, and completed significant street improvements -- all without the need for borrowing. This has been achieved through "hands on" management, and close control over finances.

In all of our efforts, the Village will remain committed to a high level of service for residents. Yours is a Village government of neighbors -- all unpaid volunteers. I have always believed that, by working together, neighbors can accomplish much. We have certainly accomplished much during the past years, and we will continue to meet the needs of residents in the future. If I can be of assistance to you, please call on me.

Best regards,

Bob Stern

THOMASTON TO RECEIVE \$75,000 GRANT FROM NEW YORK STATE

The Village is pleased to report that State Senator Craig Johnson has been instrumental in securing a grant for Thomaston in the amount of \$75,000. Last spring Mayor Stern met with Senator Johnson at the Village Hall and presented the Senator with an improvement plan for the Village's Public Works Dept. relating to snow removal

Snow removal is a major component of the DPW's efforts during the winter months. In addition to plowing the roads, the DPW spreads sand and salt to combat icing on the roads. Currently the Village purchases road salt which is delivered to the Nassau County Highway Department's salt dome, where it is then mixed with sand and stored for future use. During a snow storm, one of the men from our DPW must coordinate with the County, along with several other municipalities using County services, to obtain release of the salt/sand. Delays can result. Depending on the severity of the road conditions, this delay (which is repeated when the DPW trucks return for further loads of salt/sand during a snow storm), is inefficient, using up Village manpower while delaying service. Always looking for an opportunity to perform more efficiently and save money, Mayor Stern met with Superintendent of Public Works, William Mazurkiewicz, to put together a plan to construct our own salt dome and garage in the Public Works yard at the Village Hall. Next, the Mayor turned his attention to financing the project. Obtaining the funds through taxation was not an option the Mayor was prepared to consider. Fortunately, Senator Johnson was in a position to help Thomaston. A copy of the Senator's letter to the Village is reproduced below:



July 24, 2009

Mayor Bob Stern
Village of Thomaston
100 East Shore Rd
Great Neck, NY 11023

Dear Mayor Stern:

I am happy to inform you that I have obtained funding for the Village of Thomaston in the amount of \$75,000 for the purpose of construction of a salt storage building and garage.

It is my great honor to partner with you on such a worthwhile project and I look forward to its completion for the good of our residents.

You will be receiving paperwork shortly from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York that will begin the grant process. My office is available should you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Johnson
Senator, 7th District

THOMASTON TRIVIA

Did you know that ...

Groucho Marx once lived in Thomaston.

For approximately eight years beginning in the mid 1920's, Julius "Groucho" Marx called 21 Lincoln Road his home.

New homes in "Avalon Park" cost \$14,500.

The homes advertised in this photo circa 1923 were built in the area of Schenck Avenue and Avalon Road. The homes featured 8 rooms, 3 baths and an oil burner.



Several of the Village's Courts were named after former mayors of Thomaston —

Singley Court was named in honor of Thomaston's 1st Mayor, **Henry Singley** who held office from 1931 - 1938.

Weight Court was named in honor of the Village's 2nd Mayor, **John W. Weight** who held office from 1939 - 1945.

Gallagher Court honors **Ernest A. Gallagher** who served both as Mayor from 1946 - 1947 and as Village Justice from 1947 - 1949.

Marshall Court was named in honor of Thomaston's 4th Mayor, **Clifford B. Marshall** who held office from 1948 - 1952.



DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS HOUSE?

This photo was taken circa 1911 prior to the Village's incorporation in 1931. It is one of several remaining homes which were built in the late 19th century. It is located at 114 Susquehanna Avenue.

Do you have any old photos of Thomaston that you'd like to share? Photos from any decade showing how the Village once looked are wanted for inclusive in future issues of this newsletter. Please send your photos to the Village Hall along with a brief description of the location and the date, if known. Please include your name, address and phone number. If requested, original photos will be returned.

GETTING TO KNOW THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

In this issue of the Thomaston Bulletin, we'd like to focus on the Village's Department of Public Work (DPW). The DPW is a vital part of this Village. Our crew of three full-time men and one part-time man tackle a variety of jobs within the Village including: road repair and maintenance, snow and ice removal, street sweeping, maintenance of the street lights, line striping, trimming and maintaining the Village trees, to name a few. Most work in the Village is performed in-house, reducing the need to hire outside contractors, which is cost effective for a high quality of service. Below we highlight each of the men of our Department of Public Works.

WILLIAM MAZURKIEWICZ, SUPERINTENDENT

William Mazurkiewicz joined the Village in August 1997 as a laborer. After years of hard work and dedication to the Village, he was promoted to Superintendent in May of 2006. Over the course of his tenure with the Village, Supt. Mazurkiewicz has actively sought to keep abreast of the latest information in the public works field by attending a variety of training programs on such topics as road maintenance, snow and ice control, traffic signs and pavement markings, and road safety. One such program is the Cornell Local Roads Program. During the past four years, Supt. Mazurkiewicz has completed six courses from this program to complete the level 1 "Road Master" (see press release below). The Village has benefited greatly from the training Supt. Mazurkiewicz has received: our own DPW can now perform most road repair and maintenance in the Village without the use of costly outside contractors. In addition to his work at the Village, William has been a Volunteer Firefighter with the Manhasset Lakeville Fire Department for 30 years where he has served as Captain. He is a member of the American Public Works Association and the Arbor Day Foundation.



Superintendent of Public Works, William Mazurkiewicz



Cornell University
Cornell Local Roads Program

416 Riley-Robb Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-570
t. 607.255.8033
f. 607.255.4080
clrp@cornell.edu

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 14, 2009
Contact: Mary Cornell, Office Assistant
(607-255-8033 or mho5@cornell.edu)
Attention: Local editor

We are pleased to announce that William Mazurkiewicz has completed the requirements for Level I of our Road Master recognition program.

We established the Road Master program to recognize the completion by local highway officials of a prescribed series of core and optional training sessions offered by the Cornell Local Roads Program. The training provides knowledge of the fundamentals of road maintenance and management techniques, and the opportunity to receive public recognition for the achievement.

In order to be recognized as a Road Master, William has completed six eligible workshops and the necessary quizzes.

Local highway officials are dedicated to maintaining a safe and modern local road network that serves the traveling public and encourages economic vitality in New York State. It is an important job because the majority of the almost 100,000 miles of road in our state are local roads.



Mike Adams joined the Village in September 2004. He was formerly employed by the Village of Great Neck Plaza. In addition to assisting with all public works projects, Mike is the primary operator of the street sweeper. Mike also serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Manhasset Lakeville Fire Department.

MICHAEL ADAMS



Dave Distilli joined the Village in February 2008. Prior to that time he was employed by the Village of Great Neck Plaza. In addition to performing all of his public works duties, Dave is a skilled auto mechanic and performs maintenance and repairs on the Village vehicles.

DAVID DISTILLI



DANIEL SHAFFER

Dan Shaffer originally worked full-time for the Village from 2001 until 2002. He returned to the Village as a part-time employee in November 2008. Dan is also a full-time New York City firefighter.

RESTORATION OF

In the Spring of 2009 the DPW observed that Colonial Road was showing signs of failure. Water was bubbling up from cracks in the asphalt along the stretch of the road between Windsor and East Shore Roads.

After checking Village and County storm water line maps, no storm drain could be found. Test holes were dug, but the source of the water could not be found. — that was until Supt. Mazurkiewicz observed that the retaining wall on the south side of Colonial Road was beginning to bulge.

The DPW crew excavated behind the wall and found a collapsed unmapped 18-inch storm water pipe. The pipe was replaced and a catch basin was installed as an additional measure to prevent water from undermining the road in the future (picture 1).

With that repair completed, the Public Works crew then closed Colonial road and opened a large trench, finally locating an unmapped drain line (picture 2) that had deteriorated. A 40-foot section of pipe was removed and replaced (pictures 3, 4 & 5).

The concrete *monolithic* (seamless) curb and road shoulder were framed out (pictures 6 & 7) and poured. Finally, the asphalt was replaced (pictures 8 & 9).

This particular job was the largest project the Public Works Department ever undertook.



Picture 1— The DPW crew lowers the new catch basin behind the retaining wall on Colonial Road.



Picture 2— an unmapped storm water pipe under Colonial Road which had collapsed.



Picture 3— Supt. Mazurkiewicz overseeing the excavation of the trench.

COLONIAL ROAD



Picture 4—the trench which was dug to allow for installation of the new storm water pipe..



Picture 5—a new section of storm water pipe is laid and backfilled by Dave Distili.



Picture 6—Framing for the concrete curb and shoulder is laid out.



Picture 7—Dan Shaffer and Supt. Mazurkiewicz putting the finishing touches on the concrete.



Picture 8—A base layer of asphalt is laid.



Picture 9—The finished project.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

In May of 2009 County Legislator Judi Bosworth visited the Village to observe the installation of 50 additional street lights purchased with a grant from Nassau County obtained by her.



Mayor Stern and County Legislator Judi Bosworth standing beside a newly installed streetlight which was funded by a grant which Legislator Bosworth secured for the Village.



County Legislator Judi Bosworth (right), Public Works Superintendent William Mazurkiewicz (left) and Mayor Bob Stern (center) pictured in the DPW yard.



Newly paved sidewalk on Shoreward Drive completed by the DPW



Dan Shaffer and Dave Distilli using the Village's cement mixer to pour a small slab of concrete on Windsor Road.



A large pine tree fell across Terrace Drive on the morning of December 29th due to heavy winds. The DPW was on the scene within minutes of the call.



In June, a tree fell across Shoreward Drive and was quickly removed by the DPW crew.

VILLAGE ELECTION



The Village's annual general election will take place on **Tuesday, March 16th**. You must be a registered voter in the county in order to vote in the Village Election. The positions of two Trustees are up for election. The polling place is the Village Hall (at the foot of Colonial Road), and the polls will be open from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. The Village is stronger when residents participate in their government and vote!

2010 CENSUS



Beginning on April 1, 2010 all residents will receive the 2010 Census questionnaire in the mail. With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. Please remember to complete and return your questionnaires as soon as possible after you receive it.

Did you know...

Every 10 years, the U.S. Constitution requires a national census to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, there are over 50 different uses for census data including: decision making at all levels of government; analyzing local trends; drawing federal, state and local legislative districts; and drawing school district boundaries, to name a few.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST



In our last issue of the Thomaston Bulletin we asked residents to join our new email list. We are happy to report that 28 residents have joined the list and will now receive the Thomaston Bulletin and other important announcements via email. Please consider joining our list. This is especially handy for those property owners who do not live in the Village and for those residents who spend part of the winter in warmer locales. Not only will you be able to keep abreast of Village happenings no matter where you are, you will also help the Village save money on paper and postage. Please refer to the back page for instructions on how to be added to our list.

IS YOUR DOG LICENSED?

New York State law requires that all dogs be licensed. A dog license says that your dog has a home and that he or she has been vaccinated against rabies. Additionally, if your dog is lost, a NYS identification tag allows the Dog Control Officer to trace the dog tag to the owner.

The Town of North Hempstead is responsible for licensing dogs. License fees are nominal and vary from \$7 to \$15, depending on whether the dog is spayed/neutered. Dog owners age 60 and over pay a reduced fee (*proof of age required*). Dog licenses are valid for one year and renewal forms are mailed directly to the dog owner. Dog License Applications are available at the Village Hall.

RUBBISH PICKUP

Please remember...



Household rubbish (regular trash) is picked up from the side or rear door of your property.

Collection Schedule:

North of Schenck Ave:

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

South of Schenck Ave, including all properties on Schenck Ave:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday



Recycling (newspapers, glass, metal and plastic) is picked up **curbside** throughout the entire Village on **Thursday**. Place recyclables in plastic bag. Newspapers should be bundled and tied with string or placed in a paper bag. This is a separate pick up from the regular collection, and usually occurs later in the day.



Bulk/large items (items over 100 lbs, anything too large to fit in a garbage can, furniture, major appliances, mattresses, etc.). Pick-up must be scheduled in advance by calling, **Winters Bros.** at **(516) 301-3500** (*note new phone number*). Place these items at the curb no earlier than the night before the pick-up date assigned by Winters Bros.



Leaves or yard waste are picked up once a week **curbside** on any household rubbish pick-up day for your street. There is a **5 bag maximum** per household, per week.



Hazardous household waste disposal is available to our residents through the following programs run by **The Town of North Hempstead:**

- **S.T.O.P. Program**

Stop Throwing Out Pollutants offers residents the opportunity to dispose of hazardous waste in an environmentally friendly manner four times per year.

The 2010 S.T.O.P. dates are:

April 10, 2010

Michael J. Tully Park
1801 Evergreen Ave
New Hyde Park, NY

June 5, 2010

Solid Waste Management Authority
802 West Shore Road
Port Washington, NY

September 11, 2010

Michael J. Tully Park

November 7, 2010

Solid Waste Management Authority

Drop-off time 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

- **E-Waste Disposal**

Electronic Waste may be disposed of free of charge at the Town of North Hempstead Resident Drop-Off.

Resident Drop-Off

999 West Shore Road
Port Washington
Open Sundays
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

For more information about these programs, please visit: www.northhempsteadny.gov or call The Town of North Hempstead Recycling/S.T.O.P. Hotline at 869-6311.

Village of Thomaston
100 East Shore Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

VILLAGE OFFICIALS:

Mayor

Robert Stern

Deputy Mayor

Steven Weinberg

Trustee

Gary Noren

Trustee

Lynne Kleinman

Trustee

Lawrence Sneag

Village Hall

100 East Shore Road

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 AM to 4 PM

482-3110

*Evening & weekend emergency phone
number for public works emergencies:*

482-3184

*This Bulletin was prepared in-house by the
Village of Thomaston.*

REMINDER TO ALL RESIDENTS

There is no parking from 3 A.M. to 7 A.M.
on all roads in Thomaston.

This regulation assists police in
safeguarding our community.

Please clean up after your dog,
as required by law.

There is no parking on any road in the
Village during a snowstorm or within 24
hours after the end of any snowstorm.
This is necessary to permit quality plowing
for the benefit of all residents and to
ensure access for emergency vehicles.

All sidewalks must be cleared of snow
and ice within 24 hours after any snow
has fallen or ice has formed — it's
neighborly and it's the law.

Please do not move snow into the street.

**KEEP THESE EMERGENCY PHONE
NUMBERS HANDY:**

Police/Emergency:

911

6th Precinct 573-6600

Fire and Ambulance:

North of the railroad tracks:

Vigilant Fire Company

482-5000

South of the railroad tracks:

Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Dept.

466-4411

Electric Outages:

LIPA

800-490-0075

Gas Leaks:

NationalGrid

800-490-0045

Lets go green! Help save paper and postage.

Stay informed of Village news no matter where you are.

Sign up to receive future issues of our newsletter and other important announcements via email.

Just email the following information to thomastoninfo@optimum.net:

◆Name◆ ◆Property Address in Thomaston◆ ◆Mailing Address (if different)◆ ◆Email address◆

Note: Email sent to the above address will not receive a reply.

For all inquiries please call the Village Hall at 482-3110