

Thomaston Bulletin

Winter/Spring 2009

THE STATE OF OUR VILLAGE

Your Village government continues its commitment both to quality service and fiscal responsibility. In light of the recession and steep reductions anticipated in state aid and other income, the Village faced a choice for the coming budget year: either raise taxes significantly, or reduce expenses significantly. The Mayor and the Board of Trustees have made difficult decisions: in order to reduce expenses, the Village justice court will be consolidated with the County court system, and two full-time Village positions will be eliminated. Total discretionary appropriations have been reduced by \$120,000, or 9%. As a result, the increase in Village tax rate for the 2009-10 fiscal year (which begins on March 1), will be only 1%. The average annual increase in Village tax rate over the past five years has been 1.2% — well below both the rate of inflation in our area and the well-publicized tax increases of other municipal districts.

Through careful management of finances, much has been accomplished over the past years. For example, the Village has implemented reserve funds for road maintenance and equipment purchases. Each year, money is set aside to accumulate in these funds. When the time comes to repair a road or replace an aging vehicle, the Village uses the money in these funds to cover the cost, eliminating the need to borrow. An example was the purchase of our new street sweeper in 2007: the full \$149,000 purchase price came from the equipment reserve fund; nothing was borrowed. Similarly, over the past several years, the Village has replaced its aging fleet with new vehicles: dump trucks, a bucket truck, a payloader and other equipment. In a joint venture with the Manhasset-Lakeville Water and Fire District, we constructed additional, shared garage space to protect our new equipment.

Another way the Village is saving costs is by using our own Department of Public Works rather than hiring outside contractors to perform necessary jobs throughout the Village. With the proper training and equipment, our own personnel are now able to tackle jobs such as road repairs, tree trimming, sidewalk and curb repairs, street light repairs, and a variety of other tasks which were formerly put out for bid. For more details on what's happening in the Public Works Department, please see page 2.

The Village has been steadily paying off its debt. The Village borrowed \$5.6 million to rebuild virtually all of our roads, curbs, sidewalks and underground drainage in 1997-98. This debt has now been reduced to \$2.3 million. Regular payments of debt service (which are roughly constant through maturity of our bonds) are the largest single item in our budget.

In other improvements, the Village has scanned all building department documents into a single, searchable database which is available to residents in the Village Hall. The interior of the Village Hall has been remodeled for greater efficiency. The Village computer system has been replaced and upgraded. An email notification system for residents is being instituted. The Village has negotiated favorable agreements with commercial developers in the Village to help maintain the Village tax base. Underground drainage improvements have been installed along Schenck Avenue. The Village has applied for a County grant to upgrade street lights in the Village (see page 3).

In all of our efforts, the Village will remain committed to a high level of service for residents. The Mayor and Board of Trustees serve as volunteers, without compensation or benefits of any kind. Your Village government believes that, working together, neighbors can accomplish much. Much has certainly been accomplished during the past years. We remain committed to service and fiscal responsibility — the foundations of the Village we are proud to call home.



Bob Stern, Mayor



A TOP NOTCH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



Led by Superintendent William Mazurkiewicz, the Village's Department of Public Works maintains Village infrastructure to a high standard, safeguarding the Village's most significant investment. We have a trained, professional team, capable of performing complex projects requiring a variety of skills.



DPW crew crack sealing, an integral part of the Village's road maintenance plan.



DPW crew repairing a sidewalk in the Village. Recently, Supt. Mazurkiewicz began using a new technique when pouring cement which is designed to prevent sidewalk sections from lifting unevenly and creating a trip hazard.



Building Department Corner

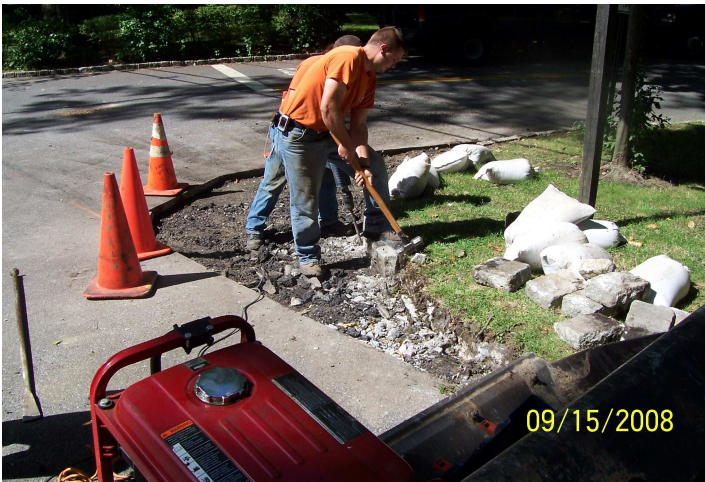


Did you know that the Building Department files for every property in Thomaston have been scanned into the Village's computer system? With the exception of very large documents such as architectural plans, all building related documents such as Permits, Certificates of Occupancy and Completion, Surveys, etc. are available for viewing through a computer terminal in the Village Hall. Copies of scanned documents are available for a fee of \$.25 per page.

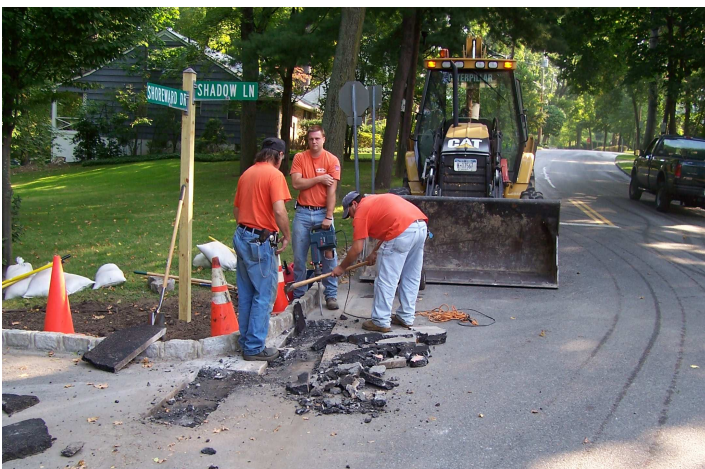
Planning on doing some work on your home?

- ✓ Before starting any work on your home, please check with the Building Department to see if you need a permit.
- ✓ All contractors working in the Village must have a valid Nassau County License and provide proof of insurance.
- ✓ If a dumpster is needed as part of your project and it is 10 cubic yards or larger, a Dumpster Permit is required. Dumpsters may not be placed on the street!

Building regulations protect all residents



DPW crew working at the intersection of Shoreward Drive & Shadow Lane to extend the curb (pictured above) and install a valley gutter (pictured below) to help alleviate flooding on Shadow Lane.



Village Receives Grant With Judi Bosworth's Help



The Mayor recently announced that the Village's application for a \$50,000 grant to upgrade street lighting has been approved by the County. The help of our County Legislator, Judi Bosworth was critical in obtaining this money. The Mayor commented, "as Thomaston residents, we are grateful that Legislator Bosworth championed our cause and made this happen, even in difficult economic times. She is a true friend of the Village." The Village is currently engaged in engineering studies to identify "dark spots" in the Village that could be suitable for lighting upgrades using the grant money.

Join our email list



At the request of some of our residents, the Village will be putting together an email list for those residents who wish to receive the Thomaston Bulletin and other important announcements via email. 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.

WANTED

Volunteers

The Village is seeking volunteers to serve on the **Tree Committee**, an advisory body to the Board of Trustees with respect to the Village's policy concerning the preservation of trees. If you are interested in serving on this committee or any of the Village's various boards such as the Design Review Board or Zoning Board of Appeals, please call the Village Hall at 482-3110.



The Village Hall's Autumn display

Village Election



The Village's annual general election will take place on **Wednesday, March 18**. The positions of Mayor and 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!

Great Neck Arts Center Special Offer



Upon proof of residence, every household in Thomaston is entitled to a one-time waiver of the \$10 registration fee upon registering for a class at GNAC (*except music classes or private/semi-private classes*). For more information please call the Great Neck Arts Center at 829-5270.

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.

A more detailed flyer containing this information, including a chart showing which items are recyclable, was mailed to all residents in October. Additional copies are available at the Village Hall.

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

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.

**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