**Contact Us**

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**Important New Updates For Spring 2015**

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Like the rebirth of Spring, our Village has an indomitable spirit.

It was with that spirit two and a half years ago, we took office and began to change the dynamics of our Village government making it more responsive, more positive, and more responsible to our residents. Proof of those changes has come, as I’m sure you will agree, in so many ways.

We have been keeping you updated about the strong financial status of the Village. The recent New York State Comptroller’s Report has given Manorhaven it’s highest rating.

Proof of our strong financial state was presented with a balanced 2015 - 2016 budget at the March 19th work session. We are really pleased to report that our budget has a contingency fund of over $109,000 and once again, we will not raise the tax levy.

**We are not stopping there! Looking ahead...**

1. Nassau County has committed to repaving Manorhaven Blvd;  
2. Village roads in most need of repair will be funded for repaving though the Capital Plan;  
3. Mitigation of our pump station, sewers and waterfront have been placed on FEMA list;  
4. The stone armor seawall will be rebuilt at Morgan’s Dock in late spring/early summer and new dock construction is planned for late 2015/early 2016;  
5. Ten new businesses have opened in the past six months, and others will be opening soon;

Positive results are the best proof of a responsible and responsive government. The New York State Comptroller’s Report, Standard and Poor’s rating and our balanced budget offer undeniable proof of our efforts! The most important proof is the support and positive feedback we receive from our residents. Over the past three years, the well-being of our residents has been and will always be our priority. We continue to insure a strong, thriving future for Manorhaven.

As always, I thank you for your support and caring for our community.

Sincerely,

Mayor Giovanna Giunta
MEET THE STAFF
We would like to welcome two wonderful new members to our Department of Public Works staff.

**CHRISTOPHER FAY**
Chris has lived in Port Washington for over 35 years, and for the last 15, he and his lovely family have resided in Manorhaven. His skills and expertise as a former employee of the Port Washington Water Pollution Control District and Salerno Brothers, combined with his long standing knowledge and concern for our Village, makes him a wonderful addition to our DPW. “I love working for the Village and care about benefiting our community in all that I do.” We are pleased that Chris is here. He is a responsible, hardworking, and dedicated asset to our Village. Welcome Chris!

**MICHAEL CALVANESE**
Mike was born and raised in Manorhaven and has known many of his neighbors for a lifetime. His outgoing personality, hardwork, knowledge and concern for our community and the residents needs is evident in all he does. “I am very happy to be able to contribute to the Village I grew up in and love.” Mike has an excellent background including carpentry, road work, and plowing. We are so fortunate to have Mike as an important and dedicated part of our staff. Welcome Mike!

A ‘Big Thank You’ to all our DPW for the excellent job they have done during all the snow storms!

**THIRD YEAR IN A ROW - NO TAX LEVY INCREASE**
Residents have complained to Village Hall regarding a political party’s mailer, *The Manorhaven Monitor*. It’s scare tactics told residents that property taxes were raised by 10.4%. **Fact:** There was no 10.4% raise in property taxes for residential or condo property taxes by Manorhaven. Check the record: Manorhaven’s tax levy number in the budget has remained the same for three years in a row. All tax changes are given to Manorhaven by the Nassau County Tax Assessor’s Office. Additionally, this mailer claimed force main repairs are needed to avoid a “potential devastating catastrophe.” This is also simply untrue. **Fact:** On February 27, the EPA held an inspection of Manorhaven’s Pump Station and sewer system, giving it an excellent rating. Political mailers containing falsehoods, scare tactics and innuendos, waste Village time and money by having to provide residents with the truth.

**FILING COMPLAINTS ABOUT YOUR REGULATED UTILITY SERVICE**
Have you had difficulty resolving a complaint with your energy, telephone, cable television or water provider? If the utility company has not provided you with a response or a matter remains unresolved, even after you have received their response, the NYS Department of Public Service (DPS) will advocate for you. They will conduct a full investigation of your complaint and notify you in writing or by telephone of the decision, the reason for the decision, and the action you may take. You may also request an informal hearing or review. If you believe the utility company’s initial decision was wrong, make your request to the NYS Department of Public Services in writing or by telephone within 15 days of the decision. If you or your utility company are unable to settle the complaint, a DPS hearing officer will make a decision regarding your complaint and notify you in writing of the decision. You may further appeal the decision of the informal hearing or review within 15 days.

Keep this information handy to file a complaint with the NYS Department of Public Service:

- **Helpline (for complaints and inquiries)** 1-800-342-3377, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)
- **Hotline** (if you are threatened with an electric or gas shut-off) 1-800-342-3355, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Monday - Friday)
- **Online Complaint Form**: [www dps ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov)

**AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM DEPUTY MAYOR STEELE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MANORHAVEN**
Dear Friends & Neighbors,

I have two very exciting things to tell you!

Over the past several months, I have been meeting with two non-profit agencies, Vision Long Island and Sustainable Long Island. Their mission is to promote smart growth, economic development, and environmental health throughout Long Island. Both of these organizations have given Manorhaven great news!

*Vision Long Island* is partnering with Manorhaven to set up Smart Growth projects. Projects that address current challenges in Manorhaven and plan for a responsible future of growth. They are helping Manorhaven create and implement a comprehensive plan which will find grants/funding, address parking, zoning, and land development issues, and deal with economic revitalization and environmental concerns. *Vision Long Island* has a long history of successfully helping communities throughout Long Island and across New York State to improve livability, sustainability, and economic vitality. ([Vision Long Island - visionlongisland.org](http://visionlongisland.org))

The time has come for us to create a smart future for Manorhaven!

A focus group for all residents and business owners to participate will be held on Saturday, April 25 at 3:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

**FOCUS GROUP AGENDA WILL BE:**

1) Long and short term needs of our community and how to meet them; 2) preserving our vision for our Village; 3) future land use and code decisions; 4) economic development of our business district and street design; 5) environmental concerns and planning for a green future.

Be sure to attend on April 25.

Secondly, *Sustainable Long Island* has chosen Manorhaven as the recipient of an environmental project of our choosing and will provide 20+ volunteers, all materials, and expertise required to complete a project at absolutely no cost to the Village. *Sustainable Long Island*, in recognition of our business revitalization program, believes our community deserves this environmental project. The project we have chosen is the enhancement of Manorhaven’s Nature Trail, to be completed in the spring under the auspices of Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation. Nassau County will be linking the Manorhaven Nature Trail into Manorhaven Park! Together these projects will make our Nature Trail a true destination, providing residents with generations of seasonal enjoyment. After speaking with local schools and colleges, educational signage and environmental art projects, will be added to the trail. Also, as part of the tree and bench program, which began two years ago, we will offer residents an opportunity to install a memorial bench and plaque in the Preserve as a place to relax and enjoy the woodlands and wetlands. ([Sustainable Long Island - sustainableli.org](http://sustainableli.org))

The future of Manorhaven is in our hands and as a community, we can make it a bright one!

I am always available and welcome the opportunity to speak with you.

Sincerely, Deputy Mayor Lucretia Steele
We Are Proud To welcome the 9th and 10th New Businesses to Manorhaven in Just 6 Months!

Little Freckles

Little Freckles is as adorable as its name. Karina and Felipe Abello are the owners of this happy, bright and pristine children’s store, with a fun mural and wide range of gently used items from clothing to cribs. Their store is filled with everything children need from infancy into early childhood. Little Freckles not only sells a wide array of children’s items for all ages, but will purchase items as well. It’s fun to browse through their always changing inventory! You never know what you will find at affordable prices. Little Freckles is located at 8 Manorhaven Blvd., across from Village Hall.

Port Beer and Soda

Stacey Galasso and Jonathan Schechter are the new owners of this longstanding business and have worked hard to refurbish, restore and renew Port Beer & Soda, located on 152 Shore Road. This young couple has brought enthusiasm and a sense of commitment to Manorhaven. Their friendliness and concern for customers is evident. This will be your one stop shop for beverages for spring get-togethers, summer cookouts, and year round events. Watch for the Port Beer & Soda grand re-opening in the next few weeks!

Tree committee holding a Special Arbor Day Event

Manorhaven Trustee Priscilla von Roeschlaub and the Board of Trustees are proud to announce the planting of a very special tree in celebration of Arbor Day. The tree, a Callery Pear, is the direct descendant of the only tree left standing at “ground zero” after the bombing of the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001.

The tree is about 3-4 feet tall and could grow as high as 30-35 feet. It was rescued, nursed back to health, and transplanted to Van Cortlandt Park. It was later moved to the new World Trade Center Memorial Park. Seeds were collected from the original tree, and seedlings were generated. It is one of these seedlings, a Callery Pear, that will be planted in Manorhaven on April 25th. It was made available to the Village by Bartlett Tree Experts, who had the responsibility of caring for the WTC tree and its offspring. The tree is about 3-4 feet tall and could grow as high as 30-35 feet.

After the bombing, every tree but one was destroyed. The lone survivor, a Callery Pear, had only one leaf. It was rescued, nursed back to health, and transplanted to Van Cortlandt Park. It was later moved to the new World Trade Center Memorial Park. Seeds were collected from the original tree, and seedlings were generated. It is one of these offspring, a Callery Pear, that will be planted in Manorhaven on April 25th. It was made available to the Village by Bartlett Tree Experts, who had the responsibility of caring for the WTC tree and its offspring. The tree is about 3-4 feet tall and could grow as high as 30-35 feet.

Trustee von Roeschlaub, Chair of the Manorhaven Village Tree Committee (dubbed the “Branching Out” Committee), acknowledged that the acquisition of the tree was thanks to the initiative of committee member Henry Young, a Licensed Tree Expert. She commented, “It is not about death. It’s about being reborn. It’s about human beings going on about being able to flower again.” Young echoed those sentiments, saying, “We have all kinds of monuments to people who died, but this is a monument to something that survived. It is a recognition to those who survived and who had to pick up the pieces and move on.” Other committee members are Dolores Kazanjian O’Brien and Jennifer Wilson Pines. The general public is invited to the ceremony, which will include the Brownies planting seedlings and reciting Joyce Kilmer’s poem, “Trees.”

Over the past three years, the Giunta administration has been dedicated to honoring the memory of 9-11. The building and dedication of the 9-11 Walkway, the display cabinet housing a WTC steel beam, and now the Callery Pear tree, keeps the spirit of 9-11 perseverance and courage alive!

Fire Medic of the Year joins Village Hall

Linda Ladislaw has been a hero to many. She has spent the last 30 years as a volunteer in Port Washington’s Fire Medic company #11. In those 30 years, Linda’s acts of bravery and kindness have impacted the lives of so many. This month, The Port Washington Fire Department recognized Linda’s achievements by naming her “Fire Medic of the Year.” Linda’s service to the Fire Department and acts of kindness don’t stop there; she assists the Fire Department’s Chaplain and members of the PWFD families at home and in hospitals. This past stormy winter, Linda chose to open her home to Fire Department families. By doing this, children could stay with her while their parents helped the community doing round the clock standbys to protect neighbors. It’s no wonder Linda is “Fire Medic of The Year!”

Nearly two years ago, as a result of Linda’s work for over 20 years with foster and special needs children as well as her lifelong volunteerism with the PWFD, Manorhaven recognized Linda as our “Manorhaven Resident of The Month.” When the need for an Advocate for Park and Resident Safety became apparent, Mayor Giunta and Deputy Mayor Steele asked Linda.

We are so pleased that Linda accepted and will be heading an advocacy committee whose efforts will involve safety requirements and regulations, and being the liaison to the Port Washington Police and Fire Departments for Manorhaven’s parks, the Nature Trail, Dog Park and Morgan’s Dock. Linda will organize a Park & Resident Safety Committee of proactive and experienced members who will deal with issues such as park security, safety education, homelessness, wildlife rescue and creating child friendly park areas and playgrounds for children with special needs. The committee will inform and educate residents about home, fire, and child safety in a Village newsletter column, called “Safety First.” She will also conduct safety events and classes.

We could think of no better advocate as the Park & Resident Safety representative for Manorhaven than Linda, with her years of experience, her stellar record with Port Washington’s dedicated and caring Fire Department, as well as her work with foster and special needs children and animal rescue. As a resident of Manorhaven since age four, Linda’s dedication and understanding of our community has been unparalleled. Thank you Linda and welcome to Village Hall!

Important Reminders

To all property owners in Manorhaven, there are many broken and missing curbs around homes and property. A difficult winter has contributed to these damages. Please inspect the curbs surrounding your property. If any curbs are broken or missing, it is the property owner’s responsibility to repair and replace them. Village Code §132.6 Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter Maintenance and Repair states: “Every person, firm, association or corporation which owns real property in the Incorporated Village of Manorhaven shall maintain and repair existing sidewalks, curbs and gutters abutting their real property. A permit is required from the Village Building Department to make repairs and they must comply with construction specifications.” Mayor Giunta will be making a proposal to the Board that a waiver of permit fees be granted to property owners making curb and sidewalk repairs from April until August of this year. Broken curbs pose a hazard and their repair is necessary. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please call the Building Department 883-7000 x13 with any questions.

Correction:

Spring Parking Rules will be in effect beginning April 1. Alternate side parking for 1 hour on THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS according to street signs. Please look at signs carefully. Thank you!
When the John Michael Marino Lodge No. 1389 Order Sons of Italy in America heard the S.O.S. from the Village of Manorhaven regarding the food drive for Our Lady of Fatima Church’s Food Pantry, it did not take long for the Lodge to swing into action. Lodge members were contacted and details of the food drive relayed. The outcome was an overwhelming response and members arrived at the Lodge’s February 18th General Meeting at the Senior Center carrying shopping bags and boxes filled to the brim with non-perishable food items such as canned soups, vegetables, fruits, tuna, chicken, boxed meals, juice boxes, pasta, bottled tomato sauce, rice, cereal, beans, peanut butter, and crackers. The Lodge took the extra step by inquiring which items were most needed. When cooking oil was the resounding response, the Lodge took advantage of a sale by a local merchant and purchased a large quantity of the much-needed cooking oil. All items were delivered to the Village of Manorhaven the afternoon of February 26th.

On hand for the delivery were John Michael Marino Lodge members: Joe Ciotoli, Barbara and Tom Faticone, Angela McGrede, Sharon Natalie (Deputy Village Clerk-Treasurer), Marianne Bortone Prince, and Lisa Velotti. A delighted Mayor Giovanna Giunta, Deputy Mayor Lucretia Steele, and Village Justice Clerk Nancy Greene welcomed the members and expressed their heartfelt thanks and those of Sister Kathy of Our Lady of Fatima Church. Pantry donations assist approximately seventy-eight Village of Manorhaven families enrolled in Our Lady of Fatima’s Food Pantry Program.

Residents of the Month - Eileen Lewis and Peter Young

Our Very Own Snow Angels

Two very caring neighbors in Manorhaven, Eileen Lewis and Peter Young, helped a number of elderly neighbors this winter by volunteering to shovel snow for them. We all know what a burden snow shoveling can be, and has been especially this winter with so many back to back snow and ice storms. Eileen and Peter’s assistance and hard work to help those neighbors in need means so much. Our Village Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Natalie set up a program called “Snow Angels,” asking neighbors to help neighbors by assisting with snow removal or by ‘checking in’ on home bound, disabled, and elderly that may need assistance. We are in need of more snow angel volunteers. High School students may also want to consider using this opportunity to earn community service hours for school. Telephone numbers cannot be released to residents seeking assistance. Sharon contacts snow angel volunteers and in turn they contact the resident needing assistance to arrange a mutually convenient time to shovel. Please consider being added to the list of volunteers. A special ‘Thank You’ to Eileen and Peter, true angels in Manorhaven!

Internships That Change Lives

Helen Keller National Center in Port Washington, New York is a world-renowned school for the deaf and blind. They work with people who are hard of hearing, totally deaf or with any amount of vision loss. Job readiness is an important part of HKNC training. Internships in various industries and agencies are provided. Leslie Gross, Village Clerk, who is trained in deaf education and signing, made the connection between HKNC and Village Hall. It has been a great experience for both Village Hall and our two wonderful interns Peggy Koon and Matthew Pettite. Both interns assist at Village Hall for a few hours a week under the supervision of HKNC sponsors Nadia Armogan and Patrick Mullin. Peggy works on data entry and Matthew is learning to answer overflow calls into the Village. Internships are an invaluable opportunity to help HKNC interns update skills, improve communication and learn what employers may require. It is an invaluable experience for the Village to participate alongside this wonderful community workforce.

Kids Who Care - Caroline Waldman & Jack Fishman

Two community-minded Manorhaven High School students, Caroline Waldman and Jack Fishman are volunteering their time by helping our Village in two very distinct ways. Caroline approached the podium at the February 11th BOT meeting and told members of the audience about her concern for dogs. She told us how pleased she is that Manorhaven has opened a Dog Park and went on to say that she hopes we would allow her to volunteer in helping to maintain and beautify Manorhaven’s Dog Park. The Board issued a resounding and heartfelt, “Yes!” She discussed her volunteer activities, a special program she began at Schreiber High School, setting up a donation box to collect dog toys and blankets for animals at local shelters. Mayor Giunta stated that the Village would love to join her efforts and have a donation box here at Village Hall. The meeting erupted in applause for Caroline as she left the podium. The audience was impressed by her community spirit, commitment and special concern towards helping our canine companions.

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A Little Village with a Big Heart!