Dear Friends & Neighbors,

We are very happy to report to all our residents that on December 22nd, 2014, we were informed that Manorhaven has been awarded an A+ rating by Standard and Poors and has not only been removed from credit watch but as stated; “In our opinion, the Village’s overall budgetary performance is strong. We do not expect to change the (A+) rating in the next two-year outlook horizon and may raise the rating higher.” The 2014 report gives proof of our Village’s strong financial standing and its positive financial future. According to the Port Washington News on 1/14/15, http://portwashington-news.com/manorhaven-rating-upped/, it states, “The Village of Manorhaven has been given a big vote of confidence from the world’s largest credit rating agency... an A+, one of it’s best ratings.” It is also proof of the diligence and responsibility of our former Board under whose watch this was made possible, as well as our staff and the steadfast support of our residents.

This rating and State Report is more than just a number and means more than a letter grade. It is a testament to our Village’s strong sense of community and commitment. It is a reaffirmation of the optimism and positivity that keeps our hard-working community thriving and moving forward. It is a measure of the fiscal responsibility and resolve of our administration. The task of insuring Manorhaven’s well-being is a challenging one. Like many Long Island communities, Manorhaven weathered the financial blows of Super Storm Sandy, survived incurred expenses to keep our antiquated pump station flowing, and paid off large debts from prior administrations to successfully manage one of the most densely populated villages on Long Island. This community has come through with flying colors!

Manorhaven has even brighter days ahead!! In the past two years our Village has applied for and received over $1 million in grants and reimbursements, and we are working on more. We have and are enacting cost saving measures; a new sanitation contract applied for and received saving $132,000 yearly, creation of volunteer positions, new credit procurement policies and transparent record keeping. We are looking even further ahead to protect Manorhaven’s financial future and provide for its growing needs. We have begun a three-year Capital Plan that will build new roads, put in new sewers and enhance the running of our Village.

Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in us and know we are always here to support Manorhaven and you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Giovanna Giunta
Thank You For Remembering

A recent small snow fall found most residents outside shoveling sidewalks and walkways. Conscientious and responsible efforts made it safer for everyone. To all those who cleaned their sidewalks, we say THANK YOU!

In our last newsletter we reminded everyone of the Village snow code regulations:
1. All residents must keep the sidewalk around their property free from snow and icy conditions;
2. It is the property owner who is held responsible, even for rental properties;
3. The cleared path should be a minimum of three feet in width;
4. New York Fire Code requires a three foot clearance space around the circumference of all fire hydrants in front of a home;
5. Any person or corporation who violates any provision of these regulations shall be punishable by a fine of up to $1000;
6. Please be sure NOT to throw snow into the street.

The Code Department will be checking and enforcing these regulations to ensure resident safety. Michelle Roper, our Commissioner of Environmental Affairs, suggests that residents sweep up remaining salt after storms and use salt sparingly.

February Food Drive

Each year our Village Court Clerk, Nancy Greene and Sister Kathy Somerville of Our Lady of Fatima Church organize a food drive for local residents in need. We will be partnering with Our Lady of Fatima, St. Stephen’s Church, the Port Washington Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes to help collect food for Our Lady of Fatima’s food pantry. Items such as boxed cereals, pasta, rice, canned vegetables, juice boxes and other non-perishable items are needed. Please be sure that all donated food is not expired. We will accept supermarket gift cards as well. February has been chosen for the food drive because, according to Sister Kathy, February and March are months when the food pantry begins to run low on its food supply. All donated food items may be placed in a collection box at Village Hall. The food drive kick off date is February 7th from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. and will continue through March 31st. Please come for the kick-off to meet us, enjoy a slice of free pizza and a soda with your donation. We hope you will give from your heart; we thank you from ours!

Food Drive Kick-off
For the Benefit of Our Lady of Fatima Food Pantry
Saturday, February 7 - 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
(Snow date: Sunday, February 8)
Donations accepted at Village Hall through March 31
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ONLY
Cans of soup, vegetables, tuna, chicken, salmon, boxes of pasta, mac & cheese, cereal, rice, juice cartons, cookies, crackers, and/or GROCERY GIFT CARDS
HAVE A SLICE OF PIZZA AND A SODA ON US
Call Nancy with any questions, 516.883.7000 x12

Proposed Changes To Manorhaven Parking

On January 8th, a Village work session was held for the purpose of discussing and finding solutions to our Village’s complex parking problems. Many Manorhaven streets are crowded with cars contending for parking spots, and some are so crowded that cars and emergency vehicles have difficulty getting through. The problem is increasing and solutions need to be found. With a proactive and diligent approach over these past two years, many of our street safety issues have been eliminated or improved by installing handicap ramps, new-stop signs, radar speed signs and increased vigilance. It is now time to confront and improve our parking situation.

This meeting provided three immediate suggestions. 1. A proposal to allow parking on the West side of Sinksink East. (To be voted on at the 1/22/15 BOT meeting.) 2. Stronger enforcement/amending of commercial vehicle regulations. (Details to be discussed.) 3. Use of the Dog Park/Nature Trail parking lot or independent lots as off-street parking, will be considered at the next work session.

- Deputy Mayor Lucretia Steele initiated and presented to the Board a comprehensive parking proposal. Causes such as overbuilding and inadequate driveway use were cited by Deputy Mayor Steele as were proposal details. The proposal if enacted, would lead to a standardization of Village parking signs, increase year round parking and a new snow emergency plan. The Deputy Mayor also advocated continuing the administration’s two year goal of improved resident safety by “lowering speed limits on all Manorhaven residential streets,” stating that “only major thoroughfares like Shore Road should have 30 mph speed limits.” The plan was well received and discussion of all aspects of it will be reviewed at the next work session. (Copies of the Deputy Mayor’s proposal are available at Village Hall.)
- New Trustee Kevin Gately promoted a “Parking Sticker Proposal.” This proposition would mean that in order for residents to be allowed to park their cars overnight on any Village street, they would be required to buy a yearly parking sticker to register their cars. Mr. Gately additionally proposed that residents buy “Visitor Parking Stickers” for all guest cars parked overnight. Further, any resident or visitor car parked overnight without a registered parking sticker would be ticketed and fined. Trustee Gately felt this would bring in additional revenue and keep track of residents who reside here. Mayor Giunta and others expressed concerned, because this would be a type of additional tax on our residents and possible infringement of residents rights. The Mayor voiced her opposition to Mr. Gately’s proposition by saying, “Our hard working residents pay enough in taxes and rents and should not have to pay a fee just to be allowed to park on their own streets.” Further discussion is needed. This proposition requires a resolution with majority Board approval.
- A second important issue discussed was street sweeping. Unlike many Villages who only sweep streets once a month or less, Manorhaven sweeps its streets weekly over a two day period. Manorhaven’s street sweeper has required costly repairs and needs replacement. Village Clerk Leslie Gross diligently compiled a cost analysis of the available options. At the next work session, a review of additional data will allow a decision to be reached.

We look forward to your attendance at our January 22nd Board of Trustees meeting. Parking changes affect all our residents. Your input and suggestions are very important! We welcome them and want to hear from you!