

# Village of New Hyde Park

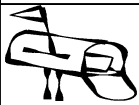
## Official Report - Winter 2008



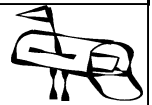
VILLAGE HALL: 354-0022

WWW.VNHP.ORG

DPW: 354-0064



### *Mayor's Letter To The Residents*



At the risk of sounding like an alarmist, the Village of New Hyde Park finds itself at the most important juncture in the history of this community. We are facing the possibility that the LIRR's much anticipated Main Line Corridor Improvement project is about to become a reality. As I see it, we have a small window of opportunity to stop this project before it happens or to at least help minimize the impact to this community. The Village Board has approached this situation with the belief that we must do everything in our power to win this very important battle. We need all of the allies we can muster in this effort. The residents of both the Incorporated and unincorporated areas of New Hyde Park must stand side by side with all of our elected officials in opposition to the proposed plans being offered by the LIRR.

So let's take a head count of how our effort to secure support from our allies is going:

- Nassau County Legislator Richard Nicoletto is with us.
- NY State Assemblymen Tom McKeivitt and Tom Alfano are with us.
- NY State Senator Craig Johnson is with us.

**Now let's look at which elected official has decided to remain neutral in this most important battle:**

- **Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy.**

In the past, this Village Board has had a wonderful relationship with Congresswoman McCarthy and we are deeply troubled by

her failure to stand shoulder to shoulder with us in this battle. This is why we are participating with the other villages that are members of CARE in the petition drive, seeking Congresswoman McCarthy's support.

We have received support from all of the other elected officials that directly serve this community and it behooves Congresswoman McCarthy to stop sidestepping this issue and come out in support of our efforts. Passing responsibility off to the state representatives is just wrong. There is going to be federal money used in this project as well as state money and Congresswoman McCarthy is our representative in the federal branch of government. Congresswoman McCarthy's silence on this issue is deafening. Her most recent comments defending her neutrality are deplorable and, from my perspective, unacceptable.

CARE has extended an invitation to the Congresswoman to meet with the mayors of the effected villages which all reside within her district. We are still waiting for this meeting to take place and time is running out. There are many special interest groups and powerful political figures including the Governor that are pushing for this project to go through. Fortunately for us, Congresswoman McCarthy doesn't work for them she works for us. I have a simple message to deliver:

**Congresswoman McCarthy your constituents along the Main Line Corridor need your help!**

*Mayor Dan Petruccio*

***Have You Heard.....***

- Resident Parking Permits can still be purchased from the Village Clerk's Office. The price remains unchanged at \$50 for the calendar year.
- The Village Board passed a resolution on December 18th appointing Patrick E. Farrell, Village Clerk/Treasurer as Budget Officer for the 2008/2009 Budget.
- The Village Board will hold budget meetings on 2/12, 2/26 and 3/4. The public is welcome although in a non-participatory role. The tentative budget should be available to the public by March 21. A public hearing will be held on April 7 to get input from residents on the proposed budget.
- The Village Board passed a resolution on December 18th appointing Village Attorney John Spellman to represent the Village as the CSEA Contract Negotiator for the union contract which expires May 2008.
- The Village Board passed a local law in December prohibiting building repairs or construction on all legal holidays.
- Flood insurance is now available for all Village residents. Please contact your insurance agent for more information.
- The Village Board declined a proposal on January 8th from T-Mobile to erect a cell tower in Village Hall.
- The Village Board updated the criteria for corner lot subdivisions. Contact the Building Department for more details.
- Car wash applications will be accepted at the Village Clerk's Office from March 3 through April 2. Due to high volume, applicants are limited to one car wash per season. Questions can be referred to Village Clerk's Office.
- The Annual Village Street Fair will be held on Saturday, September 20, with a rain date of Saturday, September 27. Additional details will be provided in the Spring Newsletter and on the Village website.

***Beautification Committee***

The Beautification Committee wants to recognize residents who take the time and make the effort to decorate their houses and property on select holidays such as the 4th of July, Halloween and Christmas. Recognition prizes will vary and can include a plaque, certificate of recognition, or small gift such as a plant. Candidate selections and award winners will be made at the sole discretion of the Committee.

***Veteran's Affairs***

A respectful ceremony was held on Sunday morning, November 11th on the front lawn of Village Hall to publicly commemorate the contributions of living Veterans. Village residents and guests joined the Mayor, Board and members of the VFW Post 8031 and the American Legion Post 1089 as well as Scouts and other appreciative supporters to honor all those who have served our country in times of peace as well as in war.

***NHP Village Youth Group***

The Youth Group continues to grow and expand its monthly events. The next planned event will be Guitar Hero Night on Friday, February 29. Future events are being planned for the last Friday of every month in the William Gill Theatre: March 28, April 25, May 30 and June 27.

Activities are being coordinated among two age groups. Children in grades K-4 will meet from 6:00 - 8:00 PM and children in grades 5-8 will meet from 8:00 -10:00 PM. To register your child and be notified of upcoming events, call the Village Clerk's Office or e-mail [info@vnhp.org](mailto:info@vnhp.org) with parent and child's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Adult volunteers are needed to chaperone these events. Please consider spending one Friday night to help our children enjoy a fun evening in a safe environment.

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## Village Responds to Inaccurate Comments Made at an MTA Meeting

(Sunday, December 16, 2007) The Village of New Hyde Park officially responded to inaccurate comments made by an MTA Board member at the Metropolitan Transit Authority's Long Island Committee's November meeting which grossly misrepresented the views widely held by the residents of New Hyde Park and the Village's Board of Trustees. A sternly worded clarification was read by Trustee Lawrence Montreuil at the December 12, 2007 meeting at MTA headquarters, and delivered the official Village position regarding the removal of the at-grade crossings and the Main Line Corridor Improvement Project.

In the November meeting, Board member Mitchell Pally criticized the Village for not appreciating the potential danger presented daily by the continued existence of the at-grade crossings and opined to LIRR President, Helena Williams that the railroad had done too much outreach to the community and suggested that no further efforts be expended to work with the Village. The Committee Chair, David S. Mack inferred that perhaps gruesome pictures of the terrible Herricks Road accident of 25 years ago be provided as if to convince New Hyde Park residents of the danger that could await them. Mr. Pally reminded the committee that if at-grade crossings were not eliminated in conjunction with the Main Line Corridor Improvement Project, they may never be.

The statement affirms the Village position that the at-grade crossings should be eliminated, but in a way that has the least impact to the community. Further, the statement explained that the Village could not support the third track as presently proposed as it places a disproportionate burden on New Hyde Park, with little gain. The Village also restated its desire to work with the Long Island Railroad and the MTA Board to arrive at a solution to this most serious issue.

The Long Island Railroad is expected to present a Draft Environmental Impact

Statement to the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) in January 2008, with public hearings to follow in the Spring. The Railroad will then be required to respond to the input collected at those hearings in a Final Environmental Impact Statement in order to achieve the approval to proceed from the FTA. The LIRR suggested that construction on the New Hyde Park Road at-grade crossing could begin as soon as 2009, in advance of the Main Line Project.

The Village Board continues with its aggressive campaign to arrive at the best overall solution for New Hyde Park residents. Mayor Petruccio recently met with Ms. Williams and along with Deputy Mayor Lofaro, has represented New Hyde Park as a member of CARE (Citizen's Against Rail Expansion), a consortium of Village Officials along the main line that are not supportive of the railroad's plan. Mayor Petruccio commented that, "the Village of New Hyde Park will continue to take every reasonable step necessary to preserve and improve our suburban quality of life."

This recent meeting marks another effort taken by the Board to deal with this situation. The text of the Village statement is as follows:

***"My name is Lawrence Montreuil. I am a Trustee with the Incorporated Village of New Hyde Park, and I am speaking on behalf of the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of New Hyde Park, and for the citizens that we represent.***

***I am here today to clarify the position of the Village of New Hyde Park regarding the elimination of the at-grade crossings and the project known as the Main Line Improvement Project.***

***We felt it necessary to make this clarification after viewing the web-cast of the board's November meeting during which the position of the Village regarding these projects was discussed extensively and inaccurately.***

*At that meeting, members portrayed the Village as opposed to the elimination of the at-grade crossings. Comments were made regarding a lack of concern for public safety regarding the at-grade crossings. Disturbing inferences were made to sharing photographs of the tragic fatal accident at the Herrick's Road crossing as if to shock the Village to its senses.*

*These comments were appalling and apparently based on a lack of understanding of the desires, intelligence and morals of residents in the Village of New Hyde Park. So to be clear and for the record, let me state that the Village of New Hyde Park favors the elimination of the at-grade crossings at New Hyde Park Road, South 12th Street, and Covert Avenue. The Village has not opposed the elimination of these potentially deadly railroad crossings and looks forward to the day when they will not present an obstacle to movement through our neighborhood.*

*Our residents are keenly aware that the main line of the LIRR severs the Village of New Hyde Park and creates an unnatural physical barrier between the north and south side of the Village. The people of New Hyde Park know better than anyone of the danger, inconvenience and disruption crossing the railroad represents to us. We see and breathe the exhaust fumes from so much traffic that backs up daily, clogging our neighborhood streets while the gates are down.*

*These problems are particularly acute for our residents who live on the south side of the tracks. This residential area is virtually cut off from the rest of the Village including the fire department, our retail district, churches, schools and our Village Hall. Many of these residents must navigate across the rails several times a day. It is impossible not to think of the risk each time the tracks are crossed; hoping the gates are working properly, hoping traffic will not stop suddenly and becoming trapped on the tracks.*

*The Village of New Hyde Park joins this board in its desires to remove these dangerous crossings. However, we are not satisfied with the plans that have been presented to date to do so.*

*The plans that have been shared with the Village of New Hyde Park are too disruptive to the community and will have a long lasting detrimental effect on this small Village. The taking of properties and leaving many, many others with a greatly diminished value, and re-routing truck traffic through residential streets will destroy the quiet suburban quality of life that is the essence of New Hyde Park.*

*The fundamental reason the Village finds it difficult to support the so called Main Line Improvement Project is that the project, while clearly an opportunity to increase capacity and revenue potential for the railroad, does so by placing a disproportionate burden and cost on New Hyde Park.*

*The Village of New Hyde Park does not need additional capacity, and as we understand it, will not see additional trains servicing New Hyde Park. We will be the bypass lane, the express lane for the rest of the region to race through.*

*Given that scenario and the increased number of trains, I say again that New Hyde Park agrees with the board that the at-grade crossing eliminations are inextricably linked to the additional track, and we favor the elimination of the three grade crossings in New Hyde Park in a way that does the least to harm the community.*

*We maintain that if a third track is to be added, the most desirable solution is to either elevate or lower the tracks below grade. We are anxious to work with the railroad and this board to arrive at a solution that is agreeable to everyone."*

*The entire meeting is available for viewing at the MTA web site:*

*[www.mta.info/mta/webcasts/index.html](http://www.mta.info/mta/webcasts/index.html)*

## Village of New Hyde Park Submits Least Signatures in McCarthy Petition Drive

In the last newsletter, it was announced that the Village of New Hyde Park had joined with the other communities along the main line corridor of the LIRR, through its participation in C.A.R.E. (Citizens Against Rail Expansion), to petition Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy to publicly make her position known regarding the Third Track Project. Mrs. McCarthy had previously stated she will remain neutral.

To date, almost every elected official that represents New Hyde Park has publicly voiced their opposition against the project except for our U.S. Senators, and our Governor, and our Congresswoman. We believe our County Executive supports our position against expansion via comments he verbally made to our Mayor.

At the writing of this newsletter, nearly 9,000 signatures had been collected, and it is expected that over 10,000 signatures will be delivered to Mrs. McCarthy when the initiative is completed at the end of January. Floral Park, Garden City and Mineola provided the majority of the signatures, and sadly, the small community of Bellerose Village collected more signatures than New Hyde Park.

It had been the position of the Village to enlist the support of all of our elected officials to challenge this project. New Hyde Park will be the most effected of all the main line communities during and after this project if it advances forward.

As Mayor Petruccio made very clear in a number of public meetings, "this effort is to clearly determine the position of Congresswoman McCarthy in order to determine if she stands with us in our fight against the LIRR." Mrs. McCarthy had declined to object to the project during an informational meeting with Trustee Barbieri.

"Unlike our neighboring communities, we did not coordinate house to house petition drives, but hoped that some community groups that voiced strong objection to the

Main Line Project would support the effort" said Deputy Mayor Bob Lofaro. "We are however very thankful for the over 500 New Hyde Park residents that did sign a petition and we will represent you when the petitions are delivered."

### Press Conference Held at New Hyde Park Train Station

### Alfano, Hannon, Walker and McKevitt to Railroad Companies....Stop Ignoring Our First Responders!



(L to R) NHP Fire Chief John Divello, Deputy Mayor Bob Lofaro, State Assemblymen and bill sponsors Tom Alfano and Tom McKevitt, Trustee Larry Montreuil, Ass't Chief Jim Robinson, Trustee Rich Coppola, Mayor Dan Petruccio, NC Legislator Rich Nicoletto, State Senator and bill sponsor Kemp Hannon. In front, Trustee Donald Barbieri.

### Law to Require Notification of Local Municipality

(January 12, 2008) Assemblyman Tom Alfano and Senator Kemp Hannon announced today legislation S6727 that would mandate that freight train companies carrying hazardous wastes and radioactive materials would have to alert local villages and first responders to the shipments. To date, local villages, fire departments, schools and public facilities are not given the information even though such information is given to county entities. Senator Kemp Hannon is sponsoring the bill in the New York State Senate.

The bill was developed, according to Alfano, in response to train shipments of radioactive materials being shipped through communities without information being provided to localities - more importantly, first responders. Brookhaven National Labs has already shipped thousands of cubic yards of radioactive soils and is poised to begin new shipments. Queens County Borough stopped shipments of the materials years ago until they were briefed and given assurances to the safety precautions and disclosure of information.

"It's shocking. Villages and communities are being put in harms way. When our first responders or the MTA don't know that hazardous waste and radioactive materials are being shipped right through our backyards, they can't take the precautions they need to if an accident occurs. Our firefighters and first responders are being put at risk for no reason. This bill we're announcing today will arm them with the information they need to make our communities safe," said Assemblyman Tom Alfano.

Assemblyman Tom McKeivitt noted, "villages throughout my district are on the front lines in this battle. We need to give our communities the information they need to protect its citizens."

Senator Kemp Hannon said, "the local villages and fire departments have been kept in the dark as to the transportation of these materials, which can include radioactive soil from Brookhaven, liquid or gas nitrogen, and construction and factory wastes. In the event of an emergency, first responders would not know how to appropriately cope with the situation. This legislation requires all railroads transporting hazardous materials through Nassau and Suffolk Counties to give advance notice to the MTA, local village governments and first responders."

Assemblyman Rob Walker said, "This is all about notification and safety. The more we know, the better off the community is in making sure we're safe."

Assemblyman Alfano and Senator Hannon were joined at the press conference by Assemblymen Rob Walker and Tom McKeivitt; the New Hyde Park Village Board Mayor Dan Petruccio, Deputy Mayor Robert Lofaro, Trustees Lawrence Montreuil, Richard Coppola and Donald Barbieri. Also present were Nassau County Legislator Rich Nicoletto; Mayor Angel Soto from South Floral Park; Mayor Jack Martins and Deputy Mayor Christina Lynch from Mineola; and Mayor Phil Guarnieri and Trustee Tom Tweety from Floral Park. The New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor Fire Departments as well as residents and parents of local schools like the Stewart Manor Elementary school were also in attendance.

The Alfano-Hannon legislation would mandate that freight train companies must alert local governments and first responders to shipments of hazardous materials like radioactive soils.

"God forbid there is an accident near a school. Our firefighters would report to the scene not knowing that what is leaking or spilling could not only be hazardous but radioactive. These railroad lines cut through our communities. It's totally unacceptable that they don't know and can't take the precautions they need to be safe. This legislation will ensure that our first responders will know what needs to be done and they will be prepared," said Assemblyman Alfano.

The Alfano-Hannon legislation is co-sponsored by Assemblymen Rob Walker, Tom McKeivitt and Bob Barra.



**Mayor Petruccio endorses the efforts of our local elected officials during the press conference.**



## Village Justice Court

In early January, the fine structure for many types of Village parking violations went into effect. Over the past several months, a large number of residents complained about parking challenges throughout the Village and suggested that the Board increase the fine structure as a deterrent to repeat violators. In addition to the increased fine structure, the Board hired a 3rd Code Enforcement Officer which has helped to provide greater consistency and continuity in patrolling the numerous streets and parking lots in the Village. Below are the new parking violation fines:

<b>Overtime Parking</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>No Parking 3 AM - 5 AM</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Stop/Stand Parking</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b>Parking w/o R permit</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Parking w/o Voucher</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Use of an Improper Voucher</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Expired Meter</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>No Parking Commercial Vehicle</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Parking in Loading Zone</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Parking in Handicap Space</b>	<b>200.00</b>

When announcing these changes, Mayor Petruccio remarked that the new fine structure is an attempt to increase compliance, not revenue streams. It is the Board's hope that the new fines will deter repeat offenders and help them to think twice before illegally parking again. If you have any questions about the new fines, please call Village Justice Court at 354-6330. Any questions pertaining to Village parking ordinances can be referred to the Code Enforcement Unit at 354-0064.

### ***Illegal Two Family Matters***

Once again, a homeowner has found that renting an illegal apartment in the Village of New Hyde Park is not without considerable risk and may prove very costly. In Village Court proceedings on January 15, a resident pleaded guilty and agreed to the \$14,000 fine for illegally installing a second kitchen and using the single family home as a two family dwelling.

The resident was instructed to remove the apartment and return the home to a single family configuration. The Building Department will ensure compliance through follow-up inspections of the property.

This is another in a long line of significant fines that have been paid by residents who have made illegal modifications to their home and have charged rent to tenants. Other homeowners have paid higher fines including \$17,000, \$20,000 and one case that resulted in a \$38,000 payment.

The Village Board remains committed to reducing illegal apartments in New Hyde Park and the commensurate burden they place on Village resources and the quality of life. The aggressive prosecution of suspected illegal landlords is one of several steps in the Board's overall strategy to enforce zoning codes and preserve the suburban character of the neighborhood.

Other steps included the implementation of our Architectural Review Board (ARB) to oversee construction plans and to ensure that new buildings and major modifications are harmonious with the neighborhood.

Failure to comply with ARB instructions cost another homeowner \$750 in another case heard in Village court on the same night. The homeowner agreed to bring the home back into compliance with ARB requests after receiving a court summons from the Building Department.

In other court action, T-Mobile was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine for an expired permit in connection with the telecommunications antenna that was installed on the water tower. The permit required the company to plant shrubs to mask the utility boxes at the base of the tower on South 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The shrubs have since been planted.

The Village of New Hyde Park  
Official Report - Winter 2008  
1420 Jericho Turnpike  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

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Village of New Hyde Park  
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**Mayor:** Daniel Petruccio

**Deputy Mayor:** Robert Lofaro

**Trustees:** Richard Coppola

Donald Barbieri

Lawrence Montreuil

**Village Clerk's Office:** 354-0022  
(M-F) 8:45AM-4:15PM

**Dept of Public Works:** 354-0064  
(M-F) 9:00AM-3:00PM

**Village Court:** 354-6330

**Building Department:** 354-0022

**Fire Department & Ambulance:** 742-3300

### ***Village Tax Assessment***

**Tax Grievance Day** in the Village of New Hyde Park will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 from 10:00 AM through Noon and from 2:00 PM through 4:00 PM (no appointment necessary), and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **(by appointment only)**. The tax grievance form can be filed up to and including Grievance Day. If you feel your Village tax is too high, you may obtain a grievance form at Village Hall during regular business hours.

Property owners should be aware that if their 2007/2008 taxes have not been paid by March 7, 2008 the Village of New Hyde Park will assume the tax lien.