



The Voice of the Village

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKVILLE

SPRING ISSUE - MARCH 2024

A Message From Your Mayor Daniel H. Serota



Hello Neighbors and Friends —
It's Spring. Thousands of Red Emperor Tulips are bursting into bloom (thanks to the Brookville Park Foundation).

Part of the charm of Brookville is its natural beauty — it's something I'm proud and protective about.

That's why I ask you to attend our Tam O'Shanter Town Hall Meeting on March 26 at 6:30pm at the AHRC to discuss developments and updates. (See details at right and on P3.) The meeting is a chance to get the latest info and to ask questions. We want your thoughts. So please plan to attend.

Springtime also means that we are in the final stages of "dotting the i's and crossing the t's" on our new budget for for Fiscal Year June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025. I am pleased to report that for the 10th year in a row, there will be no increase in our tax rate base. (That means if the assessed value of your home has not risen, your Village taxes will remain the same.) I am very proud that we have held the line on our tax rate base and kept it the same as it

Cont'd on P12

REMINDER

VILLAGE TO HOLD SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING TO DISCUSS TAM O'SHANTER UPDATES

**Set For Tuesday, March 26
AHRC
189 Wheatley Road
6:30pm**

Don't miss this meeting... Our last Town Hall Meeting on Tam O'Shanter was nearly 18 months ago.

Since that time, Mayor Serota and the Board of Trustees have continued to keep a close watch on the property and the status of the Nassau County Department of Health (NC DOH) soil remediation review.

The removal of soil by the thousands of truckloads is still mandated by the NC DOH. **And your Village Board is still against any soil remediation requiring the scraping of the land and removal of the soil by the truckloads.**

Although there has been no real change on the subject of soil remediation by the DOH, there has been some "tempering" — enough that there have been a few new ideas and possible solutions put forth. **That's why it's important that you attend our third Town Hall meeting to discuss the development Tam... We want your voices to be heard.** (See Recap on P3.)

**Don't Miss The TAM Meeting
See Recap
Page 3**

**Happenings Around the Village —
Staff Changes & Elections
Pages 4 & 5**

**Village Taxes 2024/2025
FAQ & Answers
Page 11**



A GUIDE TO OUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

18 Horse Hill Road • Brookville, NY 11545 • Ph: 516-626-0973 • Fx: 516-626-7621
Email: Vbrookville@aol.com • Website: VillageOfBrookville.com



OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday;
8:30am - 4:30pm

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Daniel H. Serota

MAYOR@VILLAGEOFBROOKVILLE.COM

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE

Caroline Z. Bazzini

TRUSTEES

John Burns

Edward J. Chesnik

Robert D. Spina

COMMISSIONERS

POLICE - Caroline Z. Bazzini

DEPUTY POLICE - Daniel H. Serota

SAFETY & TRAFFIC - Robert D. Spina

FIRE - Edward J. Chesnik

PARKS/LIGHTING - Caroline Z. Bazzini

SANITATION - Edward J. Chesnik

BUDGET OFFICER - Edward J. Chesnik

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DIRECTOR - Robert D. Spina

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT - Timothy Dougherty

VOBTIM@AOL.COM

CLERK/TREASURER - Winnie Citarella

WINNIE@VILLAGEOFBROOKVILLE.COM

DEPUTY TREASURER - Carlos Castillo

VOBCARLOS1@AOL.COM

ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T - Leslie O'Neil

VOBLESIE@AOL.COM

PLANS EXAMINER - Robert Tatem

ACCOUNTANT - Barbara Valentino

MARRIAGE OFFICIANT

Honorable Caroline Z. Bazzini

Phone: 516-380.3838

MARRYUSCAROLINE@GMAIL.COM

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES & MEETINGS

Meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at Village Hall.

In the event of a holiday, meetings will be rescheduled.

The Mayor and Trustees constitute the Village's Board of Trustees and as such, acts as the governing and legislative body.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD & PLANNING BOARD

These Boards meet on an "as needed" basis.

CHAIRPERSON - Edward Haleman **MEMBERS - Randeep Johar, Neal Patel, John Silviano, Mike Ambrosino.** *Alternates: Benny Leung and David Centner.*

These two Boards review plans, visit sites, conduct public hearings for new homes, and certain additions and alterations of existing homes

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

This Board meet on an "as needed" basis.

CHAIRPERSON - Scott Spector **MEMBERS - Fred Bazzini, Jeffrey Pliskin, Vito Ranieri, Mark Wurtzel.** *Alternate: Kathy Ragno.*

This Board considers variance applications for relief from the Village's zoning laws, weighing the pros and cons and making decisions.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

SUPERINTENDENT - Timothy Dougherty

Responsible for handling all applications for construction and building, issuing Permits and COs, and enforcing our building codes.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ROAD CREW - Richard Holdcroft & Alan Robbins

They maintain our Village roads. During wind and snow storms, and as safety allows, they plow, salt and sand, cut trees and clean up.

VILLAGE COURT

Meets the second Tuesday of the month by appointment at the Brookville Reformed Church.

JUDGES - Helen Benzie, Justice & Harriette Zelman, Assoc. Justice Richard Prisco, Village Prosecutor & Tip Henderson, Assoc. Prosecutor. Susan Egan, Court Clerk. Phone & Fax: 516-922-8198

VILLAGE ATTORNEY - JOHN M. CHASE

48 Forest Avenue • Glen Cove, NY 11542 • Ph: 516-671-5880

3 FIRE DEPARTMENTS SERVE BROOKVILLE

- East Norwich Fire Company: 516-922-0263
- Roslyn Fire Company: 516-621-7539
- Jericho Fire District: 516-931-0898

BROOKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Brookville Police, a private police department, protects and serves the following four villages: Brookville, Cove Neck, Matinecock and Mill Neck.

CHIEF - Kenneth W. Lack

For all emergencies, call 911.

For non-emergency police matters, call M-F; 9a-4p; **516-440-2300**



TAM O'SHANTER TOWN HALL MEETING SET FOR 6:30PM THIS TUESDAY, 3/26 AT THE AHRC ALL RESIDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND

It's been over 5 years since the 148.82-acre Tam O'Shanter golf course was sold to Titan TAM LLC/Sigme TAM LLC, for a reported \$15 million dollars. A lot has happened since then and just as much hasn't happened. We all know that TAM applied to the Planning Board to subdivide the property into 27 single-family residential building lots according to code. As a condition to the subdivision approval, the developers were required to obtain approval from the Nassau County Department of Health (NC DOH) that the soil was tested and approved as safe.

Elevated arsenic levels... After more than 200 test soil borings throughout the acreage, the review by the NC DOH revealed elevated arsenic levels resulting from its use as a golf course. To remediate the contamination, the NC DOH mandated that roughly 5"-10" of topsoil (on average) be removed from the contaminated areas.

This would mean over an estimated one year period, 11,000 dump trucks would make round trips into our Village to remove the soil and thousands more dump trucks would return, bringing in clean soil. (Most of the contamination is in the fairways leaving the perimeter fairly untouched.) Unfortunately, the NC DOH will not allow this soil removal to be done in stages (one home at a time, for example). And soil remediation is the NC DOH's only option for the 27 homes to be built.

The Village says "NO" ... In September 2022, many residents attended an informational Village Town Hall meeting concerning the development of the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. At that Town Hall meeting, the majority of those who attended felt as your Board did and continues to feel — we can not allow this type of remediation to take place within our borders where the land is scraped by of soil and carted out of the Village by the truckload.

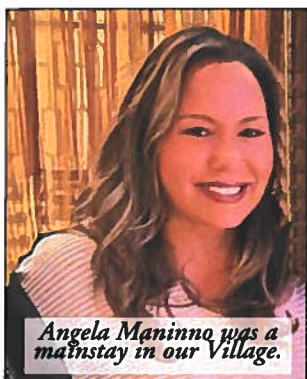
A huge impact on Brookville. In an interview, Mayor Dan Serota said that he wanted to stress to all residents that no decision had or has been made by the Village with respect to the issues at hand. The purpose of this upcoming Town Hall meeting is to be completely transparent to residents — to recap where we left off and to discuss possible alternatives to the "scraping method" as demanded by the NC DOH.

"The impact to the character and quality of life in our Village is huge — in every sense of the word," said Mayor Serota. "That's why it is imperative that we get as many interested residents as possible to attend this meeting — to ask questions, to voice their opinions, to explore alternative ideas and options (as by law the developer has the right to develop the property and to they have the right to "scrape" the land as the DOH demands). I hope you will make every effort to attend on Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30pm." (AHRC • 189 Wheatley Road)

INCOMING AND OUTGOING SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GOODBYE ANGELA!

Angela Maninno leaves after 19 Years Of Service



Angela Maninno was a mainstay in our Village.

Known as "ANG" to all who stepped through the doors of Village Hall, Ang has been the "face of Brookville" and the first person to greet you for nearly 19 years.

Although her title is technically *Secretary to the Board of Trustees*, Ang was the go-

to person for anything to do with building in Brookville. From the smallest reno to a brand new house, Ang was in charge of all the info necessary for the job. "She was a hard worker," said Mayor Dan Serota — a main stay in the office. A big, light-up-the-room kind of personality — everyone always loved Ang."

"Every project in our Village has a beginning, middle and end," said Tim Dougherty, Building Inspector. "And whether it was an architect, contractor, landscaper, plumber, electrician, or a resident wanting to know how to start the job, what permits and applications were needed, codes and regulations, or any of a myriad of other questions, it was always Ang who helped them every step of the way. Ang leaves behind big shoes to fill!"

"Ang knew every aspect of the Building Department. And she was a real team player," said Winnie Citarella, our Clerk/Treasurer. "I will miss working with her."

"I've loved my time here at Brookville," said Ang, "because of the many wonderful people I have met and worked with through the years. I have learned many valuable skills that have helped me to grow and progress and that I am hoping to be able to apply towards my future endeavors. Over the years, I have developed a great relationship with so many people — not just the Trustees, but for all the many wonderful people who came to Village Hall every day. And of course, I am so grateful to everyone in the office — Tim, Winnie, Bob Carlos and Barbara. They have been like a family to me. It was a very hard decision to leave, but this new opportunity gives me a chance to expand into other areas of a municipality. I thank you all and will miss you."

HELLO LESLIE!

Leslie O'Neil joins the Village from Muttontown



Leslie O'Neil brings a new, experienced perspective.

There's a new "face" in our Village and it belongs to Leslie O'Neil who has joined us from Muttontown, where she ran the Building Department. In her new capacity with Brookville, she will report to our Building Inspector, Tim Dougherty.

"Leslie is very experienced in all aspects of building projects as she has had years of experience working with Muttontown and Great Neck," said Tim Dougherty. "She has already hit the ground running — it's been a seamless transition."

Leslie brings plenty of building department know how to Brookville. Her professional experience includes reviewing and processing permit applications, working with the Boards (Zoning, Planning, Site Plan and Architectural Review), as well as coordinating with applicants, building inspectors, architects, contractors, engineers and board members.

To that end, Leslie prepares for monthly Board meetings, issues permits and COs, writes letters of denial, referral and comment, processes title searches and FOIL requests, to name a few.

"Besides her years of municipal experience, Leslie comes from a financial background with an MBA degree from Fordham University," said Winnie Citarella, Brookville's Clerk/Treasurer. "She was a corporate controller for the ALS Group in NJ and the Chandler Law Firm in Hempstead. An understanding of finances is always a benefit and an added plus for our Village. Leslie is also very personable and I believe she will be a valuable asset to our team."

Leslie lives in Glen Head with her two children, Andrew, a freshman at Marist College and Hannah, a junior at North Shore HS. Growing up, Leslie was surrounded by her family's love of music — which passed onto her and her children. Leslie loves jazz, classic rock and is an avid rock concert buff. And both her children play music instruments.

Welcome to Brookville, Leslie!

CAROLINE Z. BAZZINI, TRUSTEE, DEPUTY MAYOR & POLICE COMMISSIONER WINS 5TH TERM IN THE VILLAGE



Caroline Z. Bazzini has been working on behalf of our Village for over 30 years.

Village Elections were held on Tuesday, March 19th. Caroline Z. Bazzini, current Trustee, was up for re-election and won in an uncontested match. For over 30 years, Caroline has been working on behalf of Brookville. Almost immediately after moving here in late 1989, Caroline began volunteering. In short order, she joined one of the Village Boards, and when a vacancy came up for Trustee, she ran and won. She has been a Trustee for more than 20 years, including five years served as our Mayor. "She works tirelessly on behalf of Village and on behalf of all our residents," said the current Mayor, Daniel H. Serota. "Caroline is an incredible asset to our Village — we are lucky to have her."

In addition to her role as Trustee, Caroline sits on the Board of Police Commissioners for our Brookville Police Department. She is the Parks Commissioner, and as such has been responsible for the overhaul of our Brookville Nature Park as well as recent upgrades to our Jane B. Francke Bird Sanctuary. She is also an active member of our Storm Team. In addition, Caroline is the appointed Marriage Officiant for Brookville and is a regular at weddings here in Brookville and around Long Island and has been a member of the Brookville Park Foundation for over nearly 30 years (serving as its president for 10 years).

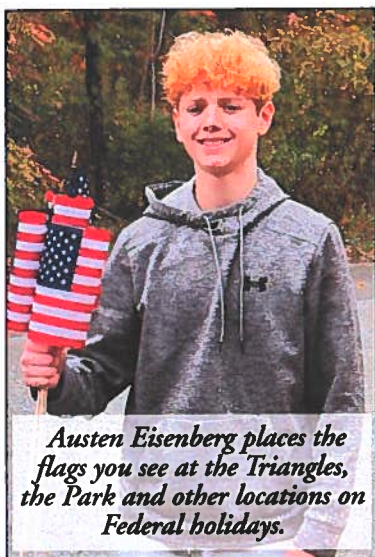
"From the moment we moved here, I've had a passion for Brookville. I just knew this beautiful Village would always be our home. I love the wide open spaces, the occasional fox and pheasant. And even though the deer eat our evergreens, they provide a sense of nature that you don't find elsewhere. It's been my privilege to serve the residents."

Known professionally as Caroline Zimmermann, she is also the author of four non-fiction books, including "How to Break Into The Media Professions," published by Doubleday. She's listed in *Who's Who in the East* and *Women and Finance*. She was named as one of her industry's "200 Most Influential People in America," voted into the YWCA's "Academy of Women Achievers" and received her industry's special Silver Apple Award for more than 25 years of outstanding contributions.

Volunteering is a family tradition with the Bazzinis. Her husband, Fred, a retired NYPD detective, has served on the Zoning Board for over 20 years and has been active in many Village projects.

Congratulations, Caroline! We are thrilled to have you with us for another four years.

MEET OUR NEW VILLAGE FLAGMAN, AUSTEN EISENBERG — A VOLUNTEER FROM THE JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL



Austen Eisenberg places the flags you see at the Triangles, the Park and other locations on Federal holidays.

Many residents don't realize that Brookville is a community which utilizes a volunteer support system of people who give of themselves to make a difference in our Village. It's not just adults who do the work — students are also welcomed.

This year we are especially pleased to have a very talented young man from Jericho High School — Austen Eisenberg — to serve as Flagman in our Student Volunteer Program. His duties will include placing and removing our American flags at scheduled dates, times and locations and to ensure that the flags are displayed correctly and handled with dignity and care. Austen also patrols our Village streets and submits a "Lights Out" Report for lighting problems.

Austen, a freshmen at Jericho, is a distinguished student in every sense of the word. Besides his exemplary grades, Austen is on Jericho's cross country and JV9 basketball teams. But that's not all. He is a working SAG-AFTRA actor with years of voice and guitar training. The self discipline necessary to handle these various pursuits makes Austen well suited for our volunteer programs. Thank you Austen!

THE BROOKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT PROUDLY



Top Row from left: BPD Admin. Supv. Frank DiScala; Sgt. Frank Cacioli; PO Vasilios Rabie; Sgt. Kurt Anderson; Brookville Police Chief Kenneth Lack; Father Joseph D'Angelo, Chaplin; PO Mark Forland, Sgt. Dennis O'Connell; Sgt. Matthew Bassetta;
Bottom row from left: Mayors Tom Zoller, Cove Neck; Ken Goodman, Matinecock; Peter Quick, Mill Neck; Dan Serota, Brookville.

The Brookville Police Department proudly serves Brookville, Cove Neck, Matinecock and Mill Neck. Over the past year, members of the Department have made a dozen arrests; responded to nearly 200 auto accidents and 182 aided cases; impounded 40 unregistered and uninsured cars; issued over 850 traffic tickets; answered 554 alarm calls (requiring two officers for each call) and driven over 100,000 miles patrolling our villages. The Awards Ceremony, held at the beautiful and historic Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf at the end of December recognized three police officers for their distinguished service in the Department: Sgt. Frank Cacioli; Sgt. Dennis O'Connell, and PO Vasilios Rabie.



MERITORIOUS POLICE SERVICE AWARD AND RECOGNITION FOR LIFE SAVING

Presented to

Sergeant Frank Cacioli

Sgt. Cacioli received these awards for two specific events: The first occurred at 7:44pm on February 12, 2023 when Sgt. Cacioli responded to a 56-year-old Brookville resident who was not breathing and had no pulse. CPR was already underway when Sgt. Cacioli arrived with his Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The sergeant administered one shock, followed by several minutes of CPR. The aided (a retired NYPD Police Officer) then started breathing on his own and was even talking in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Sgt. Cacioli's immediate medical intervention certainly saved this person's life. The second incident took place at 9:50pm on 11/29/23, when Sgt. Cacioli observed an un-

known person sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked partially in the road on Fruitledge by Tam O'Shanter with lights and engine off. Sgt. Cacioli activated his emergency lights for safety and approached the vehicle on foot. When asked why he was parked in the roadway, the driver stated that he had run out of gas. A check of his driver's license showed him to be Ryan Bounauro (26) of Levittown and his license as valid. But when Sgt. Cacioli ran the car plates, it came back as stolen. The driver then rapidly exited the vehicle, and jumped the fence onto the golf course. Sgt. Cacioli advised over department radio that he was in a foot pursuit on the golf course. In the darkness, Bounauro tripped while attempting to flee, and Sgt Cacioli placed him into custody with the assistance of PO Coyle who had arrived on the scene. The defendant was charged with two felonies and a misdemeanor; as well as grand larceny of a motor vehicle in the third degree and criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree.

CELEBRATES ITS 1ST ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

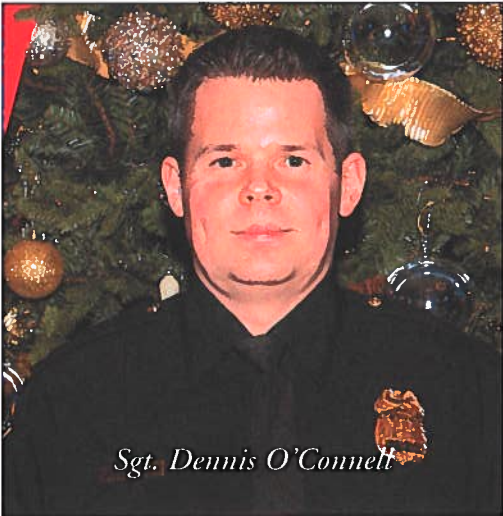
EXCELLENT POLICE DUTY AWARD

Presented to
Sergeant Dennis O'Connell

The second member, Sgt. Dennis O'Connell, received the "Excellent Police Duty Award" for three exemplary tasks in the line of police duty.

In the first, Sgt. O'Connell responded to an identity theft call on Woods Crossing in Brookville where a resident stated an unknown person was attempting to purchase a Maserati car valued at \$143,000 under his name. O'Connell's investigation included obtaining the fake documents and securing video of the suspect and the suspect's car. With the assistance of NCPD 2nd Squad detectives, the Gold Coast Maserati dealership was staked out. Although the suspect was a "no show," he was linked to several other larcenies, and later found, arrested and charged. Later that same month, Sgt. O'Connell was patrolling the backstreets of Brookville where he observed an illegally parked rental vehicle with temporary plates. Investigation revealed that the plate did not match the car and that the person who rented the car had an extensive burglary history. It was strongly suspected that the driver was in the process of committing a burglary when Sgt. O'Connell stopped him. The suspect was on probation for burglary and his probation officer was notified.

On October 5, 2023 at 4am, Sgt. O'Connell was on patrol when he observed two males on bicycles in Mill Neck, blocking the roadway. Both males matched the description of suspects in the surrounding area that were committing larcenies from mailboxes and it was found they were in possession of mail from 18 different residences in Mill Neck. The arrests of these two defendants stopped a continuing pattern of mail larceny.



Sgt. Dennis O'Connell

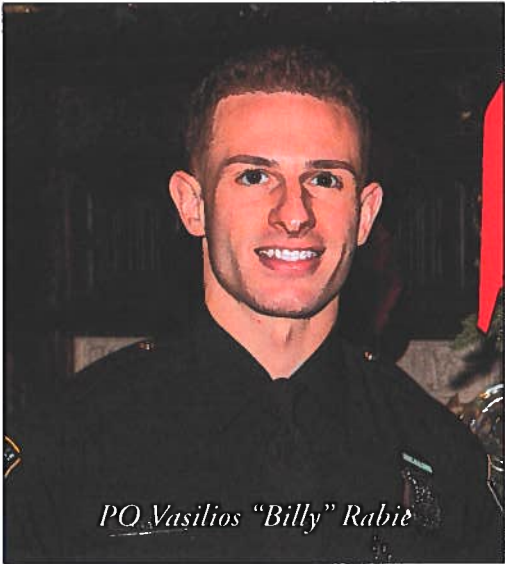
RECOGNITION FOR LIFESAVING AWARD

Presented to
Police Officer Vasilios Rabie

Police Officer Vasilios Rabie is affectionately called "Billy" on the job. "Billy is an extremely hardworking officer," said Chief Kenneth Lack. "He is a natural leader who is always teaching our new officers the proper way to conduct business and who has a keen investigative sense in his own right."

On September 24, 2023, at 5:02 pm, the BPD was dispatched for an aided case — an unresponsive male on Meadowood Lane in Brookville. Police Officer Rabie found the person on his couch, not breathing and without a pulse. PO Rabie removed the aided from the couch and began CPR, which was performed for about four minutes when the aided suddenly began gasping and regained a pulse. PO Rabie assisted the aided to breathe using a Bag Valve Mask which provided

supplemental oxygen. The aided was then transferred to the care of Jericho Fire Department personnel who transported him to Syosset Hospital, where his prognosis was positive. PO Rabie's immediate action and medical intervention certainly saved this man's life.



PO Vasilios "Billy" Rabie

**"Thank You" to these three outstanding officers on behalf of
all our Brookville residents.**

**We'd be remiss if we didn't also say "Thank You" to all the fine men and women
of the Brookville Police Department who work tirelessly on our behalf.**

BROOKVILLE POLICE BLOTTER

AUTO ACCIDENTS WITHIN BPD (4 VILLAGES): DEC 01 2023 - FEB 29 2024

The accident totals during the time noted above, cover all roads in Brookville including the NYS roads of Northern Boulevard and Route 107 as well as Wheatley Road, which is a Nassau County road.

0 FATALITIES IN OUR 4 VILLAGES FOR 2023 & 2024 YTD

	Fatality	Personal Injury	Prop. Damage Only	Total
BROOKVILLE	0	4	34	38
Cove Neck	0	0	0	0
Matinecock	0	2	6	8
Mill Neck	0	2	5	7
Total	0	8	45	53

ACCIDENTS 1/1-12/31/2023:	131	TOTAL ACCIDENTS 2024 YTD	35
FATALITIES 1/1-12/31/2023:	0	TOTAL FATALITIES 2024 YTD	0
AIDED CASES 1/1-12/31/2023:	150	TOTAL AIDED CASES 2024 YTD	29
ALARMS 1/1-12/31/2023:	324	TOTAL ALARMS 2024 YTD	103

FOR SAFETY, ADD EXTERIOR LIGHTING TO YOUR HOME — BUT BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE VILLAGE CODE

Chief Ken Lack of our BPD, is very pleased that so many residents have improved the exterior lighting on their homes in an effort to deter crimes of opportunity.

However there have been several complaints from residents that the lighting met to deter is actually shining into neighbors' bedroom windows and interfering with sleep.

Be sure to follow the current lighting code of the Village.

This new local law was enacted to better protect residents from unreasonable lighting nuisances while still enabling homeowners to keep the area near their house well lit. The following is a summary of the code:

"Revised Outdoor Lighting Regulations"

In summary, the local law repealed the prior Chapter 141, "Outdoor Lighting" of the Village Code and adopted a new Chapter 141 which contains additional regulations, including but not limited to, prohibiting lighting glare of more than 0.2 of a footcandle on any adjoining property... prohibiting light sources from being mounted higher than fifteen (15) feet... prohibiting non-motion detector lights from being operated past 11:00 pm... and limiting the time duration of motion detector lights to ten (10) minutes, regulating the time period and visibility of holiday lighting, and regulating the extent of driveway lighting.

NOTE: Violations of these laws are subject to fines. To see the entire code, please call the Village Office at 516-626-0973.

UPDATES ON WORK IN THE VILLAGE: By Tim Dougherty, Building Superintendent

BROOKVILLE ROAD TO UNDERGO MAJOR REPAIRS

Brookville Road is a “dividing” road in our Village. One side is occupied by Brookville and the other side is occupied by Muttontown. But with two villages occupying two different sides of the road, how do you maintain it for repairs? It’s really quite simple.

The Village of Brookville maintains both sides of the road from Route 106 to Muttontown Road. And Muttontown maintains both sides from Muttontown Road past the Brookville Reformed Church to Northern Blvd. So when we refer to work taking place on Brookville Road by our Village, we always refer to that portion of the road that Brookville maintains. To that end, this year will see major repairs on Brookville Road.

The 2024 Road Improvement Program will commence after a sealed public bid to make major repairs to the road over approximately 8000 linear feet. The date of the project will be announced once the final work has been determined and the bid has been awarded. Residents will be notified in writing before any work begins.

Here are the permits applied for since January 2024

- 2 Additions/Alterations
- 2 New Dwellings
- 2 Decks
- 3 Generator
- 2 Pools
- 6 Tree Removals



FIOS UPDATE IN BROOKVILLE

Even though most of Brookville has been wired for FIOS, there are still plenty of questions from residents about the availability of service.

Is Verizon FIOS service available on my street and at my house?

FIOS is now available to at least 75% of our residents. To find out if your street is FIOS-ready, just Goggle “FIOS service in my area.” The Verizon website will come up as an option. Open it, and click on the “Check Availability” box. It will ask for your address and a few other questions. You’ll get an instant answer.

What Fios services are available to me?

To answer the most commonly asked question, Verizon FIOS is **not** offering TV service in our Village. Nor are there any plans to do so at this time. So if you make the switch over to FIOS, it will be for the home internet service only, including your phone. ***That means you will still need to have a provider for your TV.***

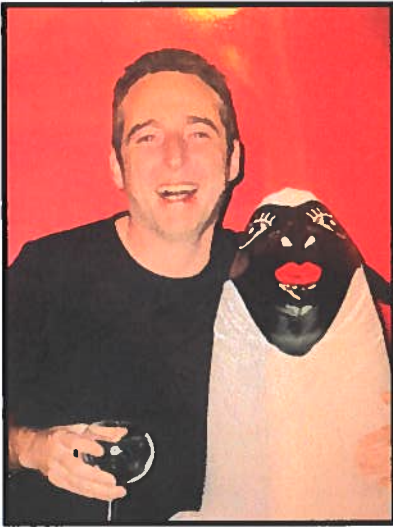
What if I am already a Verizon phone customer?

If FIOS is available at your location, contact Verizon customer service to arrange an appointment to have your phone services moved to the FIOS network. Verizon will provide and install all the required Verizon equipment and will use the existing wiring at your home to connect to your phones. It is our understanding that this will be done at no cost to you from Verizon and that they will provide you with the same voice service you already have at the same price and terms.

Can I get FIOS if I have my services with another carrier?

Again, if FIOS is available at your location, there should be no problem. Remember, they do not offer TV services. For more information, call 1.877.439.7442 or check out their website. Go to: www.verizon.com/fiberupgrade.

ROBBIE ROONEY, LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE VILLAGE, DIES SUDDENLY IN JANUARY



Robbie Rooney was known for his generosity of spirit and love of life and laughter.

Known as just "Robbie," to all, his passing on January, 8, 2024 came as a shock to so many residents who knew and loved him. He was just 63.

Born in Dublin Ireland, he moved to America as a young man. He made his way to Brookville in 2004, via Levittown and Port Washington. Along the way, he met and fell in love with his beautiful wife, Lori Hoffman. Together they had an extended family — Robbie was the loving father of Catriona Meyer (Billy), Ellie, Eva, Dillon, and the late David and the proud grandfather of Conor, Mackenzie, and Reilly Meyer. He was the cherished son of Rita Rooney and the late Terence.

"Everybody loved Robbie Rooney," said Tim Dougherty, Village Superintendent. "He was kind, fun-loving, generous in spirit and action, and had a love of life and laughter that was infectious. He will be sorely missed."

Robbie joined the Planning Board as an Alternate in 2014 and was appointed as a regular member from 2015-2020 when he moved from our Village to Lattingtown to start another one of his "home projects." (Robbie was legendary for his renovations, and his Brookville home was no exception. Every weekend found Robbie creating the most extraordinary rooms and his beautiful "basement" — a reflection of his Irish heritage — was the scene of many fun parties. Goodbye, dear Robbie. You may be gone, but you won't be forgotten.

School Vacation Schedules - 2024



Please check with
your school website
for updated openings
and
vacation schedule.

JERICHO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

MON., April 14 - FRI., April 18, 2424 - Spring Break

FRI., May 24 - MON., May 27 - Memorial Day

FRI., June 6 & THUR., Jun 19

FRI., June 27 - Last day of school

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL (LU-HI)

MON.- FRI., March 18-22 Spring Break

FRI. -MON, March 29 - April 1 Easter Holiday,

WED., May 22 Last day of school & Graduation

GREENVALE SCHOOLS CLOSINGS

FRI., Mar 25 - Apr 10 - Winter Break - No School

MON., May 27 - Memorial Day

WED., June 12 - Last day of school (Early Dismissal)

THURS., June 13 - Graduation

FRIENDS ACADEMY CLOSINGS

FRI., March 29 - Good Friday

MON., April 1 & WED, April 10 - No School

MON.- TUES., April 22 - April 30 Spring Break & Passover

MON., May 27 - Memorial Day

WED., June 5 Last day of school

LOCUST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOLS

MON., April 22- FRI., April 27, 2424 - Spring Break

FRI., May 24 - MON., May 27 - Memorial Day

WED., June 19 - Last day of school



BROOKVILLE POLICE SPRING SAFETY TIPS...

- Set outdoor lighting to go on before sunset and off after sunrise.
- Use motion sensor detectors around the outside.
- Trim bushes and landscaping so they can't be used as hiding spots.
- Close and lock your garage doors at all times.
- Keep garage openers out of plain sight (and not in your car!)



**Property
Tax**

VILLAGE TAXES DUE NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2024

**Bills for the 2024 Village Real Estate Taxes
will be mailed to all residents on or about June 1, 2024
and are due without penalties by July 1, 2024.**

**There is a lock box at the Village Office front door if you wish to hand deliver
your payment after hours or on the weekends.**

*PLEASE NOTE: No Village officer or employee can waive interest and penalties on real estate taxes received
after the due date for any reason (even if your tax bill was not received in the mail.)* *24 Op.State Compt.612, 1968.*

FAQ & ANSWERS ABOUT OUR VILLAGE TAX

Q. What period does the Village tax year cover and when am I billed?

- A. Your Village taxes cover our FY June 1 - May 31 and are issued only once during the year:
On or about June 1 (due no later than July 1 (see above).

Q. Will there be an increase in this year's Village tax?

- A. No. Our Village is fiscally sound and that means the rate base for your taxes remains the same as last year — there is **no increase in Village taxes** unless the assessed value of your home has changed. In fact, there has been no increase in the rate base for the past 10 years!

Q. Where does my Village tax money go?

- A. Approximately 60% of our Village budget goes to Community Safety, including the Brookville Police Department and the three fire departments that serve the Village as well as other safety services for lighting, traffic signage, etc. About 15% goes to infrastructure; 17% to general services and about 8% to support services, legal, accounting, etc.

Q. Are School Taxes part of my Village taxes?

- A. No, the Village plays no part in determining what the School Tax will be. The Town of Oyster Bay collects these taxes on behalf of the schools. General taxes are also paid to the Town of Oyster Bay and includes money for Nassau County. Your Village taxes are paid to the Village of Brookville and are the lowest of your taxes.

Q. I'm a new homeowner — do I need to contact anyone about my taxes?

- A. Since it is the owner's responsibility to pay taxes on property they own, we recommend you immediately contact the Receiver of Taxes at the Town of Oyster Bay to ascertain what and when the next tax payment is due (516) 624-6400. For Village tax info, call 516-626-0973.

Q. What is the STAR exemption and where do I apply for it?

- A. STAR is the NYS school tax relief program which is administered by the Nassau County Assessment Department (516-571-1500). Call them for an application.

Q. Is tax money used to pay salaries to the Mayor, Trustees and Board?

- A. No. Every public official (Mayor, Trustees, Judges, Boards members) is a volunteer and receives no compensation. The efforts of these hardworking residents help to supplement our staff, enabling us to run a very efficient Village government.



The Voice of the Village

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKVILLE

has been since 2014. That being said, However, it's important to remember that your Village tax is the smallest element of your overall taxes. Your School tax, which is determined by the School District Budget, is the highest by far; followed by your General tax collected by the Town of Oyster Bay and which includes Nassau County taxes. (See page 11 for some FAQ and answers about where your money goes!)

Have you made a left turn from Northern Blvd recently onto Brookville Road? If so, you've probably noticed that, (at long last) we have a left-hand turn arrow! We all know how treacherous that intersection was — especially as cars were constantly trying to jump the light ahead of oncoming traffic — creating dangerous situations and all too many accidents. After 5 years of working with the NYS DOT, they completed their traffic signal evaluation and approved the arrow — another step towards a safer Brookville.

Speaking of safety, congratulations are in order to our Brookville Police. It's hard to believe that the Department is coming up on its two-year anniversary. Chief Kenneth Lack has done an extraordinary job in our Village. This is evidenced by the fact that everywhere I go, residents rave about our police department. We have Chief Lack and the many fine officers to thank for an outstanding job done protecting our residents, and keeping crimes of opportunity low. (We had 3 officers who received special recognition at a BPD Awards Ceremony in late December: Sgt. Frank Cacioli, Sgt. Dennis O'Connell, and PO Vasilios Rabie.)

Chief Lack says "suspects usually commit burglaries at dusk looking for darkened houses that appear unoccupied." That's why the Chief stresses the importance of adequate lighting inside and outside of your home — it helps to deter burglaries. (See P8 for the Police Blotter and important information on residential lighting.)

I'd also like to remind everyone of one of my favorite sayings — "safety is no accident." Speeding on Route 107 has continued to be an ongoing problem for our Village. There is a 40 mph speed limit but *unfortunately* many drivers travel at speeds well above the legal limit. We've all seen too many horrific accidents occur which could have been avoided. In fact, I recently encountered a young resident speeding up Route 107 in his vehicle, acting recklessly, swerving in and out of traffic. It had all the makings of a disaster, but fortunately there was none. Our police are very vigilant on Route 107, issuing tickets and citations, and working on traffic calming strategies. But it serves to remind

me that all of us need to do our part — drive responsibly and watch out for others.

The safety of our Village roads is also critical and so our 2024 Road Resurfacing & Repair project is underway. (See P9 for more details).

I know I say this every Spring, but as the weather gets nicer, I want to again focus on property maintenance and clean up. We've been very lucky (again) that this wasn't a harsh winter, but as I drive around, I still see plenty of broken fences, downed trees, and lots of garbage along the roads. As the saying goes, "it takes a Village"... Please do your share to keep Brookville beautiful.

Thank you.

D. Serota



Mayor Dan Serota presents a Recognition Award to PO Vasilios Rabie at the First Annual Brookville Police Department Awards ceremony. Award-winner Sgt. Dennis O'Connell looks on.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS IN OUR VILLAGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL organizational meeting to be held at the AHRC on Tuesday, Apr 18 at 6:30 pm.

MAY meeting to be held at Village Hall on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 pm.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS — APRIL meeting to be held at the AHRC on Tuesday, Apr 25 at 6:30 pm.

PLANNING BOARD — No meetings scheduled at the close of publication.

VILLAGE CALENDAR — Check website for additional details: **VillageOfBrookville.Com**