GREETINGS FROM MAYOR NORA HAAGENSON

In Act I, Scene I, of Shakespeare's play Richard III, Richard says:

“Now is the winter of our discontent,
Made glorious summer by this son (sun) of York . .
And all the clouds that low’d upon our house
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths; . .
Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings”

The quote suggests that the sadness, anxiety, and uncertainty we have all experienced due to Covid-19 and subsequent quarantine, like winter, now turns into celebration giving way to hope for a glorious summer. Our Village Hall has been closed to the public since mid-March, with Building Department projects suspended, and local restaurants and businesses closed as well. If there is an upside to this situation it is that I have seen people walking, being outside and getting needed exercise, having video chat meetings with friends and family, and now looking forward to enjoying summer activities even though those activities may look different from the past. We have had Board meetings through Zoom, I have enjoyed dinner parties with friends and neighbors through video chats, and I have had Book Club meetings using video chats too. Everyone is wearing masks, some are continuing to wear rubber gloves, but this is the new “normal” for all of us.

In spite of this trying time, I am proud to report that once again our Village budget for 2020-2021 is under the 2% tax cap yet includes several new initiatives which will be of benefit to our residents. These include beautification and the modernization of Building Department and Code Enforcement records. We have a Shared Service agreement with the County and we have Inter-Municipal agreements with other villages which have helped to streamline costs. This has resulted in thousands of dollars in savings for our residents. You will find more detail about this as you read further in the newsletter.

Village roads are assessed annually by our Village Engineer using the NYSDOT Pavement Assessment Guidance Manual which outlines a specific criteria for rating road conditions. There are two grants which will be applied to additional road projects in the Village. Catch basins have been cleaned and evaluated noting any possible necessary repairs.

We have received positive responses from residents regarding the cleanup of Village Parkland along Overlook Drive which we did in March. I walked the Preserve which runs along Central Drive with members of the County’s Parks Department who then came back and cleaned out debris and placed some fencing along the corner of Tianderah Road and Central Drive. Residents informed us that they were pleased with what the County had done. The section of fence near the intersection, which is the Village’s responsibility, has also been repaired.

We are in the process of being approved for several Capital Grant projects. Our counterparts in State government have been working

Mayor continued on page 2
GRANTS UPDATE: CAPITAL & ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

ROADWORK: Road improvements are extremely important to us! Last fall we were pleased to have completed the Hilltop Road resurfacing grant project. There are several village roads which will also be resurfaced. We have a grant currently pending with the New York State Dormitory Authority in the amount of $50,000 for road improvements (previously awarded for replacement windows at Village Hall and re-appropriated) for the upper section of Hillside Avenue which will also include sections of curbing replacement and curb resetting as identified by our Village Engineer. We completed the paperwork for a New York State Department of Transportation Multi-Modal Grant awarded to us in the amount of $125,000 to resurface Harborview Road, Shoreview Road, Tianderah Road, and a section of Overlook Drive, and we are now awaiting approval with the New York State Division of Budget.

VILLAGE HALL PARKING LOT AND VILLAGE RETAINING WALLS: We are hopeful that a grant disbursement agreement with the New York State Dormitory Authority is forthcoming for a grant project which includes the regrading of a Village retaining wall at the end of High Street, the replacement of a Village retaining wall on the westerly side of Village Hall, and the repaving of our Village Hall driveway and parking lot with the addition of new drainage. The repaved parking lot will allow for additional visitor parking spaces.

BAXTER BEACH: The Village recently submitted a $3 Million grant proposal to New York State to stabilize and protect our vital waterfront at Baxter Beach and address coastal erosion, pedestrian connectivity, and landscape aesthetic. We remain hopeful to have this project fully funded.

As always, we thank our partners in government; Congressman Tom Suozzi, State Senator Anna Kaplan, State Assemblyman Tony D’Urso, and County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton for their assistance in advocating, supporting, and securing existing and new capital grants for our Village. Without them, none of this would be possible.
BAXTER RECEIVES A FAVORABLE FISCAL STRESS SCORE DESIGNATION BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

The Village recently reported at a Board Meeting that we have received a favorable fiscal stress score of “5.0” for fiscal year-end May 31, 2019, which is in the category of “No Designation” as provided by the Office of the State Comptroller. The Fiscal Stress Monitoring system uses financial indicators to evaluate budgetary solvency, the ability of a locality to generate enough revenue to meet expenses by measuring year-end fund balances, operating deficits/surpluses, cash position, use of short-term debt for cash flow, and fixed costs. The three categories of designated stress are Significant Fiscal Stress, Moderate Fiscal Stress and Susceptible to Fiscal Stress. The Village did not meet the threshold of fiscal stress, thus its “No Designation” designation. This is the third consecutive year of fiscal stress improvement from the prior year also noting that the Village has always been in the most favorable category of “No Designation”.

DIGITIZING THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

By the end of this summer/early fall, the Village is expected to launch Municity 5, a cloud-based parcel management software, which will allow our Village Office to electronically access, manage, and archive building permit applications, inspections, permits, photos, and more. This new accurate information tracking system will make our Building Department and Clerk’s Office run more effectively and allow for quicker access to records. A portion of the funding for this project will be reimbursed to the Village by New York State through a Shared Services Savings Plan we established with the Village of Port Washington North.

BAXTER ESTATES DESIGNATED A TREE CITY BY THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

We are pleased to announce that Baxter Estates, having one of the oldest tree ordinances on the North Shore, has been designated an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City. To qualify as a Tree City community, you must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. Those standards include establishing a Tree Commission; having a written Tree Care Ordinance; forming a Community Forestry Program for tree planting, tree trimming, and/or tree education with an annual budget of at Least $2 Per Capita; and hosting an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.
MARCH 2020 VILLAGE ELECTION POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Per New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Executive Order 202.26, the postponed March 2020 Village Election will take place on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

JUSTICE COURT

The Village Justice Court received a 2020 Justice Court Assistance Program Grant to purchase a judicial robe for our Village Justice and a filing cabinet for administrative paperwork.

VILLAGE CATCH BASINS

The Village engaged a vendor to video inspect and clean catch basin storms systems, as well as interconnecting pipes, on Ridgeway Road and Hilltop Road. The storm systems on these roadways were identified by our Village Engineer and catch basin cleaning vendor last year as the most problematic. Cleaning interconnecting pipes allows the catch basins to work more effectively. The video imaging we received gives the Village the ability to pinpoint infrastructure concerns and rehabilitate any systems so that our roads do not become undermined.

UPDATE ON VILLAGE HALL PROCEDURES FOR VISITORS

The Village has retrofitted its Village Hall office space to comply with the Governor’s directives regarding the reopening of public offices. Visitors will notice a plexiglass partition at the Clerk’s desk as well as 6 foot markers on the floor. We will continue to use the intercom and buzzer system. You will be required to wear a mask, as will staff. It is preferable that you call ahead and make an appointment instead of our usual policy of walk-ins so as to protect everyone. Justice Court will also include a plexiglass shield for the protection of the Court Personnel. We will continue with virtual meetings with telephonic capability for the foreseeable future. As per the Governor’s request, if you feel ill, please do not come to Village Hall.

We thank you in advance for respecting our new policy.

IN MEMORIAM: VICTIMS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across our community, we want to recognize the victims and their families. Please know we are thinking of you during this difficult time!

IN MEMORIAM: EDWARD DE SCIORA

The Village mourns the passing of Edward de Sciora. Edward de Sciora served as the Village Clerk of our Village from 1974 to 1976. He was most known for becoming the third director of the Port Washington Public Library and serving in that role for almost 40 years from 1958-1994. He will be remembered for his work in our Village and in the greater Port Washington community.
A HISTORICAL NOTE

The Covid-19 pandemic raced across this nation this spring at an alarming rate. Beginning on March 17th, most states across the country closed down businesses, schools, and cultural activities. New York, now open for business, is requiring people to wear masks and to social distance from others. We are warned that if safety measures are not followed, the virus will rise again, perhaps worse than before. The Spanish Flu of 1918 is a reminder of what could happen if we are not “smart”. Startling similarities exist between that pandemic and the one we are currently experiencing.

The Spanish Flu was first identified in military personnel in the spring of 1918. It is estimated that 500 million people, or one-third of the world’s population, became infected with this virus. It is also estimated that 50 million people worldwide died with about 675,000 deaths occurring in the United States. Control efforts were limited to isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, masks, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings. Schools, theaters, and businesses were shuttered. Reported cases of the flu dropped off in the summer of 1918 and it was thought that the virus had run its course. However, from September through November there was a second wave and the death rate from the virus spiraled. The virus, which had mutated, brought very high fevers, nasal hemorrhaging, and severe pneumonia with patients drowning in their own fluid-filled lungs. In America, the death rate just in October of 1918 was 195,000. Then in the winter of 1919 there was a third wave which hit the United States before finally dissipating in the early part of 1920.

The new decade saw big changes in society. We all know about Prohibition and the Roaring 20’s. Wages increased, people began spending money, buying things other than necessities and it became a consumer economy. There were new inventions, more free time, rise of the movies, enjoyment of music and dancing, changes in fashion and culture, and freedom brought on by the automobile, now more affordable for the general public. The discovery of penicillin in 1928 was a miracle to medicine and how disease was treated.

Also occurring in 1920, after 72 years of fighting for equality, Congress passed the 19th Amendment on August 26th, giving women the right to vote. This was indeed momentous as women finally received recognition; though their achievements and contributions to society would not be appreciated for decades. The battle for Women’s Rights had begun in 1840 when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were barred from attending the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London. These two determined women then organized the first Women’s Rights Convention which took place in July, 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York. The campaign for Women’s Rights had many influential supporters including Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, a wealthy, well connected socialite, who spent a fortune fighting for this cause. Warren G. Harding ran his presidential campaign in 1920 in support of women’s rights.

This is only a thumbnail sketch of what happened in 1920 and the decade following. As F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote in 1925 in his classic novel The Great Gatsby, “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly, into the past.” We have certainly had a shocking beginning to 2020 just like the Roaring Twenties. Do we dare to imagine what this decade brings with it for us?

OUR BEACH

Baxter Beach has always been a passive place, running parallel to Shore Road and ending just before the Mill Pond. People have walked along the sidewalk on their way to the Bay Walk in Port Washington North or to Main Street to shop at Dolphin Bookstore, or Painting With Flowers or to have dinner at Petite Framboise. People have stopped to take pictures of the beautiful sunrises and sunsets seen from our beach but rarely have people ventured onto the beach since no one can swim there as Manhasset Bay ends at our beach and there is an outfall. However, over the past 3 months I have observed many people walking in the sand along our beach searching for rocks or shells, fishing, or just sitting looking out over the bay. I have seen children playing in the sand. Isn’t that great? I love seeing our beach being used. It is another reason to push for funding to stabilize our beach. Keep enjoying it!
THE SAFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND RAISES IMPORTANT ISSUES REGARDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT FEBRUARY 2020 NASSAU COUNTY VILLAGE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Mayor Haagenson asked Safe Center LI Director of Education, Keith Scott, to attend a Nassau County Village Officials Meeting in February to talk about the impact of human and sex trafficking across Long Island.

The Safe Center LI, Inc. is a creation of two former non-profit agencies that separately served the victims of domestic abuse and child abuse. Located in a historic Grumman building in Bethpage, it was created in 2014 through the merger of the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CADV) and the Coalition Against Child Abuse & Neglect (CCAN). Each had been providing services for victims of abuse for over 30 years.

Mr. Scott spoke about what is happening with “grooming” children and teens through social media on Long Island and ways in which we can as a community come together to be aware that this can happen in our backyard. We feel it is important to share with residents because the exploitation of children can occur in even the most stable and affluent communities.

We encourage you to visit their website http://www.tscli.org/. The Mayor feels very strongly about this topic and is continuing to provide advocacy for women and children.

NASSAU COUNTY SHARED SERVICES PLAN

In 2017, the Governor and members of the State Legislature enacted a State Budget including a provision that mandates the County Executive lead a panel comprised of all city, town and village executives in the creation of a county-wide shared services property tax savings plan.

The County was tasked with developing a long-term property tax savings plan that includes initiatives, such as shared services, the elimination of duplicative services, consolidation, or other efficiency activities that will result in recurring property tax savings.

Pictured here: Keith Scott, Director of Education at the Safe Center LI, addresses the Nassau County Village Officials Association at the February 2020 Meeting

Pictured here: Mayor Haagenson along with Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and Mayors from other Nassau County villages at the Panel Vote on December 10, 2019, to approve the 2020 Shared Services Plan
The 2020-2021 Village Budget is once again under the 2% tax cap. This year’s budget includes snow maintenance, street maintenance, street sweeping service, leaf pick-up service, tree planting and trimming, landscaping of all Village owned properties and easements including Baxter Beach, maintenance of storm sewers and village owned sidewalks, and street lighting maintenance. We are very excited to report that this year’s budget will also include the replacement of all Village street signs and poles. Visit our website at www.baxterestates.org to view the Approved 2020-2021 Village Budget.
BAXTER ESTATES
GRADUATION PARADE

Village Trustee Chris Ficalora proposed a plan to coordinate a graduate parade throughout the Village. The Baxter Estates Graduate Parade held on June 14, 2020, included graduates from Pre-K to High School. Over twenty families participated in the parade and residents cheered on the graduates from their properties. It was a great way to celebrate the children and their accomplishments! We are thankful to the Port Washington Fire Department and the Port Washington Police for participating in the parade with us.