

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF

COVE NECK

TOWN OF OYSTER BAY, NASSAU COUNTY, N.Y.

P.O. BOX 299

OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK 11771

(516) 922-1885

Coveneck.org

Thomas R. Zoller
Mayor

Joseph Castellana
John Hornbostel
Marjorie Isaksen
Marta Kelly
Trustees

2023 Fall Resident Letter

Dear Resident,

I hope all our residents are enjoying the Fall in spite of the rainy weekends. It does look as if we are on our way to a colorful season. Time will tell about snow.

Sadly, we have had a number of residents pass away this year and we send our condolences to those family members. Because one of those that passed was part of the Village Board, I have asked John Hornbostel, a long time Village resident, to be a Trustee. John is a welcome addition to the Board and we thank him for his participation.

The Village is in a solid financial position as evidenced by the advice of our Accountant and Auditors. If you wish to view the budget to discuss it or have a specific question, please contact Kathy, the Village Clerk/Treasurer, at 516.922.1885. Each year the Board works many hours to keep expenses down taking into account required contract line items such as Police protection, fire protection, garbage collection and Attorney fees. These items alone represent approximately 70% of our budget. Our Police contribution with the creation of the new department has actually been reduced as compared to past years.

Recently, Karl Bicknese, our Building Inspector of 17 years, submitted his resignation. Karl has decided to move to South Carolina for his retirement. We thank him for his many years of service to the Village of Cove Neck and we wish him well in his retirement. Laurie Dooney, who has been the assistant to Karl and has been his right hand, will remain in the office. Laurie is an important person in the running the office and we are very pleased that she will stay on in the same position.

The Building Inspector position is a difficult position to fill, however, we have been fortunate to have retained the services of Jon Babinski. Jon comes with an impressive resume which includes being a retired New York City Firefighter, a certified architect and now a certified Building Inspector. Karl was the inspector for both Cove Neck and Matinecock and Jon will do the same. Jon and Laurie will be starting to review all the files and permits of the Village as there are some open permits. They will be operating out of our present office at 147 Forest Avenue Locust Valley. New permit applications should be sent to the Building Department for review or you may call the office for an appointment. As to past applications and permits, Jon will be inspecting sites in the Village and you may receive a letter from the Building Department requesting a site inspection or for follow-up documentation. With this change to the Department, we have an opportunity to digitize or files. This is an important step in upgrading and streamlining the permit process and the functioning of the office. Many of the neighboring Villages have taken this step forward. I want to remind all residents to check the Village codes on our web site (covenack.org) or call the Building Department (516.801.6525) for guidance should you decide to do work on your property – including tree work, exterior lighting etc. Our codes and regulations have been an important part of having kept the Village as safe, beautiful and inviting as it is.

As many of you know, we are now protected by the Brookville Police Department. The men and women of the Department are doing an excellent job of responding to calls and patrolling, which is very important deterrent to crime. However, please do not become complacent in the security of your homes. Take the keys from your cars, keep lights on in your home even when not present and be vigilant of “out of the ordinary” village activities. I am attaching a letter from Chief Lack as a reminder of precautionary actions to prevent crime.

In addition, we will be receiving a grant for an upgrade to our road cameras/license plate reader, which will include all the villages that the Brookville Police Department covers. These cameras will be tied into a system that will note stolen cars, expired registrations etc. In the future our officers will be issued body cameras for their safety and for the transparency of their actions. Included with this letter are some safety tips that Chief Lack has put together. Please read them and if you have any questions, specific to our police coverage, please call the Department at 516.440.2300. If you have an emergency call 911 and the call will go through our system to the Police Department and Fire Departments.

This letter contains a good amount of information to digest and if it confusing, or if you would like to discuss any of the information further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 516.987.8203

Thank you,
Tom Zoller, Mayor