

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
Lisabeth Harris
Marjorie Isaksen
Marta Kelly
Trustees

Dear Resident,

Spring is finally here. I am sure we are all looking forward to a pleasant Summer. A lot has been happening and a lot of work has been accomplished in the Village in the past year. Our objective has been and will continue to be to maintain the Village as a safe, beautiful and welcoming Village. Below is a brief overview of the recent changes in the Village. Please take the time to review them.

POLICE

We recently sent a letter to the residents from our present Chief of the Old Brookville Police Department, Chris Walsh, concerning dispatch services. Please review it and if you have any questions please email the Chief (cwalsh@oldbrookvillepd.com). **Beginning June 1, 2022, we will be covered by the new Brookville Police Department.** We will also be covered by Nassau County for dispatch services. We recently had a need for the 911 dispatch and it worked very well. If you have an alarm, please note that the OBPD has contacted all central stations for which they have a permit and notified them of the new system. It is strongly advised that you contact your central station to confirm the new system. The new phone number to contact the new Brookville Police Department is 516.440.2300. If you have an administrative only question please call the Old Brookville Police Department at 516.626.1300 until June 1, 2022.

As noted in his letter to the residents of Brookville, Mayor Dan Serota stated: "earlier this year, the Village of Old Brookville notified the five other participating Villages protected by the Department (Brookville, Upper Brookville, Cove Neck, Matinecock and Mill Neck) that Old Brookville would use their Charter to form a single-village department serving Old Brookville only, effective at the end of our 5-year inter-Municipal Agreement (May 31, 2022)". This has necessitated the creation of a new Department to provide Police protection services to our residents.

In addition, the Village of Upper Brookville, as landlord for the current police headquarters building, has notified the other participating villages, that effective at the end of the Inter-municipal Agreement, they will not renew the lease for the building. This meant that we needed to find a new police headquarters, which we have accomplished by establishing temporary modular units until a more permanent headquarters is established. Upper Brookville will be joining forces with another Village police department in the area.

Beginning June 1, 2022, we will begin a new five-year inter-Municipal Agreement with the Brookville Police Department. The cost of the new contract will not increase our police contract contribution. The new Brookville Police Department will cover the Villages of Brookville, Cove Neck, Matinecock and Mill Neck. The majority of the Police Officers for the new department will be coming over from the Old Brookville PD and are, therefore, familiar with our residents and their needs. The address of the new Brookville Headquarters is 195 Brookville Road, Brookville, NY 11545.

I have previously shared a profile of our new Chief Kenneth Lack and we are very pleased with his selection and have total confidence in his leadership. The Chief is very proactive and you will see him quite often in the village and available. Chief Lack's contact information is: Klack@brookvillepoliceny.gov.

One of the changes will be that Nassau County Dispatch will be dispatching calls to the Officers. Each car will have its own cell phone and computer to facilitate communications and response times. As in the past, if you have an emergency please call 911. Our Cove Neck Police Booth will act as a sub-station, to which the Officers will report for their shift changes and from which they will work. Patrols are a mainstay of Village Police work and that will remain a priority. This new designation of the booth will maintain the police presence in our Village. The Booth will also be getting a needed face lift.

We are particularly appreciative and thankful for the high quality of service and devotion that all the officers of the Old Brookville Police Department have given us for so many years. The safety record of the Village of Cove Neck and the other Villages speaks to their service to the residents. Chief Chris Walsh has guided his Department extremely well and we are very appreciative for his devotion to us for these many years. Chief Walsh will be going to lead the Old Brookville Department. Chief Walsh's contact information is: Cwalsh@oldbrookvillepd.com.

**If you need the police for any reason, it is imperative that you dial 911.
For non-emergency calls, the new phone number for the Brookville Police Department
516.440.2300**

REAL ESTATE TAXES

We are pleased that the Village's 2022/23 budget, which we adopted this April, reflected a decrease of 1.1% in the Village tax revenue to be raised from the prior year. We were pleased to not only hold the line, but also secure a reduction in tax revenue needed for Village essential operations.

Many of you will note that there have been changes to your tax bills, including the Village tax. Some residents have had their taxes go down and others have seen their taxes go up. This is primarily due to a Reassessment by Nassau County. For tax purposes the Village follows the County Assessment Roll. There seems to be no consistent rationale for the values placed on properties by the County – we have questioned them. We have also had a significant reduction in assessment of one of our larger properties and, therefore, that reduction triggered an allocation of that underfunded tax revenue to the other residents. The reason for the reduction was the property owners' successful argument to Nassau County that they were over-taxed in the past. The assessment is based on the properties market value under normal conditions. There have been reductions to other residents, however, not as significant. Our largest line-item expenses are the Police contract, the Fire contracts, and the Garbage contract.

The Village's final 2022/23 budget has been approved by the Board and is available for viewing on the Village's web site

Web Site – coveneck.org.

After much work by our Village Clerk and others, we now have a new web site. The new format is much more pleasing to the eye and most importantly easier to navigate. Our Village codes and announcements are easy to access and will be updated as the need arises. I encourage each of you to review the site as it has some new Local Laws that update some of existing Laws that have helped to keep Cove Neck such a desirable place to live. The topics of the new local laws are tree removals, noise (including new work hours), excavation and filming regulations with outdoor lighting to be added soon. These new Local Laws have been adopted by the Board and will be posted on the Web Site.

We have a new Tree Warden, John Hubbard, who has agreed to take on this responsibility. John, by way of the Building Department process, will be the hands-on contact should you want to remove a tree or do tree work. John's contact information is: hubbardaux@gmail.com. These local laws and other laws are updated periodically to reflect changes and additions and also to help maintain Cove Neck as a premier Village.

If you would like to submit your photos of the village for the new web site, please contact the Village Clerk and we can add them to the site.

If you intend to have work done on your property, it is suggested that you visit the new web site and have your contractor visit the site in order to download new forms and become acquainted with any procedures and applicable fees. Forms and fees are currently under

review and may be changed in the near future. Feel free to contact the Building Department for assistance. The Building Department contact information is as follows:

Phone: 516.801.6525

email: buildingdepartment@coveneck.org.

Deer

A few residents have expressed their concern about the number of deer in the Village. We have spoken to the DEC and their Biologist. Nassau County does not allow hunting and the Village does not have the tools to regulate deer.

New Residents

I am pleased to report that we have a number of new residents in the Village and we would like to welcome them. We are not usually notified of new residents, therefore, if you are a new resident, we would appreciate it if you would contact Kathy Zoller, the Village Clerk/Treasurer with your contact information and if you have any questions about the Village, she can help you or get the appropriate answer.

Phone: 516.922.1885

Email: villageclerk@coveneck.org

Village Hall

Update on the construction of a Village Hall: As many of you know, the Village does not have a Village Hall or Village Office and our meetings are at Sagamore Hill – when allowed and when convenient. For a number of years, we have gone about the process of having a design and plan prepared for a site behind the present Police Booth. We have applied to the State for grants and were told that a \$600,000 grant had been preliminarily approved. The process was stopped by the State because of Covid. Recently the State has informed us that they have “misplaced” the paperwork and we will have to start the process over again – we will do that. The Village Hall will act as an emergency facility, court facility, various Board meeting area, general meeting area for residents, Building Department, Clerk/Treasurer office and file storage. We will keep you updated as to progress.

Some important contact information

Old Brookville Police Department 516.626.1300

Brookville Police Department 516.440.2300

Emergency: 911

Fire: 911

Ambulance: 911

Village Clerk/Treasurer: 516.922.1885 – villageclerk@coveneck.org

Building Department: 516.801.6525 (Karl Bicknese, Inspector / Laurie Dooney, Clerk) –
buildingdepartment@coveneck.org

Village Attorney: 516.676.4600 Peter MacKinnon (Humes and Wagner)

There is a lot of information to digest, therefore, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

cell: 516.987.8203
email: mayor@coveneck.org.

Have a pleasant Summer!

Tom Zoller, Mayor
Board of Trustees