

THE BAXTER POST

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VILLAGE OF BAXTER ESTATES

SUMMER 2022



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we move firmly into summer, I am reminded of a quote from F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*:

"And so with the sunshine and the great burst of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had the familiar conviction that life was beginning again with the sunshine."

Following more than 2 years of fear and isolation due to Covid, I feel that we are slowly beginning to live again. We still behave with caution but there is a breath of fresh air around us as we begin projects which were put on hold. Our village parking lot has been reconfigured and paved, the retaining wall between Village Hall and the PAL field has been restored, road repaving has begun and other projects are on the horizon.

We have planted flowers around the village. We installed a sign identifying our beach. I am still pursuing funding for the restoration of our beach. It is an arduous task. There is more information about this further in this newsletter.

Please take note of building projects which require a permit. I speak more about this in the newsletter. Our Building Code is on our website. Additionally, if you are unsure about a project and a permit requirement, call the Village and ask. It is better to know in advance rather than risk a fine for a project which was done without a permit.

I want to welcome our 2 new Trustees: Maria Branco and Jeff Eluto. We are happy to have them join the Board of Trustees. They are a great addition.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. It seems to go so fast. Walk around the village and appreciate its beauty.

As always, it is a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your mayor.

Nora Haagenson

Nora Haagenson
Mayor

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

Often residents wish to update their homes both inside and outside. Perhaps they want to "refresh" a bathroom or install central air conditioning, even wishing to put a fence in their yard or needing a new roof. All of these projects, and many others, require a permit from the village before work can proceed. Residents who renovate without first securing a permit are subject to legalization fees. For your reference, our Village Code can be found on our website, which details which projects require permits and any special rules associated with each. Should you have any further questions, we encourage residents to contact the Village with questions regarding any building project before proceeding.



BAXTER POND GARDEN PARTY HONORING NANCY A. COMER

The Baxter's Pond Foundation held a Garden Party at the home of Laura and Chris Ficalora to honor outgoing president Nancy A. Comer. Local officials, including State Senator Anna Kaplan, State Assemblywoman Gina Sillitti, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor, Jennifer DeSena, Town Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte, Dave Franklin representing County Executive Bruce Blakeman, and Mayor Nora Haagenon were there to present citations to Nancy and to honor her for her dedication and service to the community.

The late Nassau County Legislator, Barbara Johnson (mother of Craig Johnson, Baxter resident and former State Senator) had seen the park deteriorating throughout the 1990's and fought for funding to completely renovate the park and the pond. A massive renovation was completed in 2001, at which time the park was

re-named Barbara Johnson Park and preserve in her honor. However, the County had no money to continue maintaining the property, which quickly reverted back to an eyesore.

In 2003, Nancy co-founded Baxter's Pond Foundation with the late Carolyn Mandel to maintain and beautify the pond and the immediate surrounding areas. The non-profit foundation relies on donations from private citizens as well as grants to fund their work.

Nancy Comer served eighteen years as president and thanks to her vision, the park looks beautiful today. The cottage on the southwest corner of the park has been dedicated by Nassau County in her name. The park is a great source of pride and pleasure to Baxter Estates residents, visitors, and all who pass by. In January 2022, Kim and John Keiserman took over as co-presidents to continue the



foundation's mission. Please visit www.baxterspond.org if you are interested in learning more.

NEW YORK'S ENVIRONMENTAL BOND REFERENDUM AND BAXTER BEACH

In November 2022, New York will have an Environmental Bond on the ballot for the first time in 26 years.

This bond is intended to "preserve, enhance, and restore New York's natural resources and reduce the impact of climate change." Money will be allocated towards flood restoration and risk reduction, climate change mitigation, open space land conservation, and clean water infrastructure.

This bond is important to Baxter Estates and the hope of stabilizing our beach which I have been actively promoting since I was first elected mayor in 2015. I lobby everyone in government on behalf of our beach. I have been told that because our beach area is small, it is not seen as a priority. Yet, we have seen Shore Road flood

during storms with water rising over the sidewalk and into the road creating a hazardous situation. We have seen cars stranded in deep water on Shore Road, needing to be rescued by the Port Washington Fire Department. We have observed firsthand the erosion occurring on our beach. In many places along the sidewalk the beach is less than an inch away from the sidewalk itself. The entire area needs restoration. Assemblywoman Gina Sillitti has been working on our behalf. She is encouraging everyone to vote in favor of the Environmental Bond in November as she believes that this could help us. Anything that offers help to us is worth supporting. Meanwhile I keep fighting for us.

MAYOR NORA HAAGENSON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NASSAU COUNTY VILLAGE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

On Thursday June 30th, Mayor Nora HaagenSON was elected President of the Nassau County Village Officials Association (NCVOA). Founded in 1925, the Nassau County Village Officials Association is a not-for-profit organization comprised of and representing all of Nassau County's 64 villages and 475,000 residents. It was established to encourage and stimulate cooperation among its member villages for their mutual benefit and welfare. NCVOA works alongside the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) to monitor state legislation and funding to villages and the impact that can have on the residents of Nassau County. It is a valuable resource for Nassau County villages.



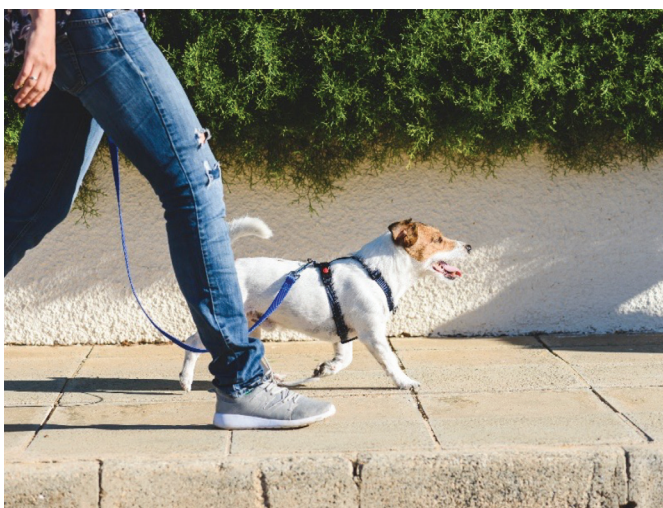
VILLAGE HISTORIAN NEEDED

The Village is seeking a volunteer who would like to serve as the Village Historian. Baxter Estates has a rich history dating back to 1931 when the Village was incorporated. We have documents, photos, and newspaper articles from that time to the present which need to be organized. Also, we have two display cases in Village Hall which could periodically be changed and updated. In addition, articles could be submitted to our local newspapers highlighting something interesting about the village. **This would be a one year appointment.** Please consider this opportunity. You can make your own hours. We need you!

REMEMBER TO PICK UP PET WASTE

Picking up after your pet is quick and easy. It is also part of Village Code. Make sure to always bring bags along with you during your walks. Pet waste is a contributor of storm water pollution that can negatively affect our water quality. When it rains, any pet waste left out can spread bacteria and viruses into our storm drains, which lead out to the bay. It has been estimated that a single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which can negatively affect human health. Please be mindful and pick up after your animals.

Also, please remember, **DO NOT LEAVE BAGS CONTAINING DOG WASTE ON OUR STREETS OR ON SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY! Dispose of the bag in your own garbage receptacle.**



ROADWORK UPDATE

We are happy to report that the paving of Hillside Avenue has been completed. The Village is waiting for

the release of funds from the State to proceed with the paving of Bayside Avenue, Locust Avenue, Ridgeway

Road, and Woodcleft Avenue. Stay tuned!

LOCK YOUR CAR!

The Port Washington Police District and the Nassau County Police Department have reported a large increase in stolen vehicles in our area. The biggest reason for car theft is people leaving their keys or key fob in their car with the car unlocked. It

takes only a few seconds for a thief to steal a car or remove a catalytic converter from your car. If stolen, your car vanishes in minutes driven to New Jersey where it is put on a boat to be shipped elsewhere. The catalytic converter can be removed in less than

a minute and nets the thief \$300. If three or four of these are stolen in a night, the thief earns \$900 or more. Be observant and be sure to lock your car, lock your house, and lock your garage.

PORT WASHINGTON WATER DISTRICT MANDATORY CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) reports that water shortages during times of peak demand are a real concern this summer. In order to meet the water needs of our community during the hotter months, while simultaneously taking wells offline and constructing the treatment systems necessary to address emerging contaminants, the Port Washington community **MUST** conserve water. With irrigation systems drawing the greatest demand for water, PWWD is relying on residents to take specific actions to save water when irrigating this summer.

To help alleviate the sharp increase in water demand in the early mornings to satisfy the needs from irrigation systems, PWWD has worked with the local municipal jurisdictions to break the peninsula into varying irrigation zones. This coordination will prevent the PWWD's infrastructure from becoming overwhelmed during peak times.



Baxter Estates irrigation is only allowed between 11PM and 1AM. Residents must adhere to Nassau County's Odd/Even Lawn Watering Ordinance or risk facing fines or a summons. It is up to all of us to conserve water. Please visit their

website at www.pwwd.org to read all the Water Conservation Requirements and for information on how to receive a \$150 rebate through their Landscape Irrigation Smart Controller Rebate Program Application.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

CONCERN

WHO TO CALL

Animal Shelter (e.g., stray dogs)	Town of North Hempstead 311 if calling within the Town or (516) 869-6311 outside of the Town
Garbage, Sanitation, Recycling, and/or Garbage Carter Inquiries	Dejana Industries – (516) 944-3103 Port Washington Garbage District – (516) 883-4447 *The Garbage District asks that you please call both phone numbers when reporting a concern.
Library Questions/Inquiries	Port Washington Library (516) 883-4400
Maintenance of Baxter Pond Park & Preserve	Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (516) 571-6211
School Bus Concerns	PW School District Transportation Office (516) 767-5030
Sidewalk complaints on Central Drive	Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (516) 571-6211
Sidewalk, streetlights, hazardous trees, signage on Main Street	Town of North Hempstead 311 if calling within the Town or (516) 869-6311 outside of the Town
Snow removal on Central Drive, Harbor Road, and Shore Road	Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (516) 571-6211
Public Sewer issues	Port Washington Water Pollution Control District (Sewer District) (516) 944-6100
Public Water issues	Port Washington Water District (516) 767-0171
Potholes/Road maintenance on Shore Road or Harbor Road	Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (516) 571-6211
Port Washington Train Station Parking	Port Washington Parking District 311 if calling within the Town or (516) 869-6311 outside of the Town
Wildlife concerns (e.g., injured birds)	Volunteers For Wildlife, Inc. (516) 674-0982
Snow removal on Main Street, Sandy Hollow Road, Irma Avenue, Virginia Avenue, and Spitler Place	Town of North Hempstead 311 if calling within the Town or (516) 869-6311 outside of the Town



315 Main Street
Port Washington, NY 11050

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nora Haagenson, *Mayor*
Charles Comer, *Deputy Mayor*
Chris Ficalora, *Trustee*
Alice M. Peckelis, *Trustee*
Brian Reardon, *Trustee*
Maria Branco, *Trustee*
Jeffrey Eluto, *Trustee*

JUSTICE COURT

Elizabeth S. Kase, *Village Justice*
Gale D. Berg, *Associate Village Justice*
Dawn Ward, *Court Clerk*

ADMINISTRATION

Meghan Kelly, *Village Clerk-Treasurer*
Elisabeth Roberts, *Deputy Village Clerk*
Christopher J. Prior, *Village Attorney*
Robert Barbach, *Superintendent of Buildings*
Joshua Speisman, *Code Enforcement Official*

CONTACT US!

staff@baxterestates.org
516-767-0096 Phone
516-767-0058 Fax
Visit us on the Web:
www.baxterestates.org
www.facebook.com/baxterestatesvillage/

BE CAREFUL OF DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS

The New York Public Interest Research Group Fund (NYPIRG) is a non-partisan, nonprofit, research, and public education organization. They will be going door to door requesting donations to fund their causes. Their website is: www.nypirg.org. You do not have to give them anything, even your time.

Please make sure to never let anyone into your home, sign any agreements, or pay anyone who knocks on your door with a sales pitch. If someone comes to your door and offers a deal that seems too good to be true, it usually is. Be aware.

NEW BUSINESS IN BAXTER ESTATES

We are pleased to welcome a new business, **Oh My Goodness**, to the village. Their goal is to create a new health-conscious generation of children. The owners have provided “kid friendly” fun with the atmosphere of a cafe. **Oh My Goodness** at 301 Main Street next to the Dolphin Bookshop.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE VILLAGE OF BAXTER ESTATES

Please ensure that you have up to date contact information filed with the Village. To stay connected, please visit our website at www.baxterestates.org and follow us on Facebook at “*Village of Baxter Estates.*”