

The Village Green

Official Newsletter of The Incorporated Village of Valley Stream
www.vsvny.org

WINTER

2012

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Winter is upon us and Valley Stream is ready to Celebrate the Season!

Join your friends and neighbors for a week of family friendly activities at beautiful Hendrickson Park, as it is transformed into a "Winter Wonderland" to delight and enchant visitors during Valley Stream's first annual "Winterfest." From December 26th through December 29th the village is planning a variety of events to entertain children and adults alike. Watch for details and check the village website at www.vsvny.org for further information.

Valley Stream always remembers those less fortunate. In keeping with the season of giving, Village Hall has again joined with the U. S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive. Please drop a new, unwrapped toy in any of the collection bins at Village Hall or the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library. Toys collected will help bring holiday cheer to area youngsters.

Did You Know...

The Bureau of Fire Prevention is tasked with enforcement of fire safety for...

- Retail stores
- Apartment houses
- Two-family homes
- All of the above

(Hint: The answer is in this issue)



Children, don't forget your letters to Santa! When you drop your letter to "Santa at the North Pole" in our special Santa mailboxes at the library and Village Hall, Macy's will send \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, so you can help other children have a special, merry holiday season too! Hurry and get your letters in soon!



The Village Green

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Village of Valley Stream

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Message From The Mayor



Dear Neighbors,

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the nor'easter that followed, many of our village residents have struggled with the hardships of lost electrical power, disrupted phone and internet access, no heat, spoiled food, and a host of related problems. In our harder hit areas, people have suffered extensive water and tree damage to their homes. Some have been displaced, fleeing their homes with only a few personal possessions and the clothes on their backs.

I want to take this opportunity to reassure our citizens that we in village government have been working hard to help. Our paramount concern has, of course, been to ensure your safety and get Valley Stream powered up and back on track. We have made a special effort to protect our elderly and most vulnerable.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our village workforce, especially our Highway, Sanitation and Parks crews, more than 165 trees, 900 tons in total, that had fallen onto our roadways were cleared within days of the two storms. This fast work allowed utilities access to make their repairs and restore essential services with the fewest possible delays. Our village personnel in all departments reported to work every day, despite their own personal distressing situations, to ensure that your local government was there for you. We thank them wholeheartedly for their demonstrated commitment to public service.

Valley Stream's Auxiliary Police officers have been absolutely heroic in evacuating residents from incredibly dangerous situations in the hours after the storm. Our Code Enforcement and Public Safety officers have been a visible presence around the village, ensuring the safety not only of our residents, but of our merchants as well. The brave members of the Valley Stream Fire Department have been working steadily to protect lives and property around our village.

As always, the heart and soul of our community has been on full display. Our village sponsored food and clothing drive held to benefit the storms' victims was an enormous success. Hundreds of people came together to pitch in by volunteering their time, donating food and clothing and supporting each other through these difficult days.

With the passage of time, I want to assure those most affected by this tragedy that we will not forget their needs. We will continue to do all within our power to make sure that people are cared for through their darkest days.

The holiday season is fast approaching, and what better time for our village family to come together in celebration. We encourage everyone to participate fully in the winter events that the village has planned. Please stay in touch by referring to our village website, www.vsvny.org, for information and updates. Above all, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Fare".

FEMA Update

Hurricane Sandy and the nor'easter that followed have raised new concerns about the legitimacy of FEMA's newly designated flood zones in Valley Stream. Mayor Ed Fare has directed the Office of Emergency Management to review data collected after the storms. The findings will help determine the village's next step as we work with our federally elected officials to bring relief to homeowners affected by the high FEMA insurance rates.



Our Featured Department: Bureau of Fire Prevention



Inspector William Croak, Richard Skellington and Chief Inspector Frank Roca are joined by Mayor Fare and store manager Jim Colgan (far left) at the newly renovated Target of Valley Stream, as they conduct a safety inspection prior to the store's re-opening.

Valley Stream's Bureau of Fire Prevention is tasked with enforcement and fire prevention inspections on all commercial and multiple dwelling buildings within the incorporated village and within the Valley Stream Fire Protection District. The Bureau consists of Chief Inspector Frank Roca, a 16 year veteran Code Enforcement Officer with 28 years experience in the fire service. Frank supervises six highly qualified Assistant Fire inspectors, all with many years of combined experience in code enforcement and fire service.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention conducts an average of 2000 inspections per year. All buildings get inspected every 12 months. In addition, the Chief Fire Inspector is responsible for conducting inspections triggered by complaints from the Valley Stream Fire Department and the Nassau County Police Department. During the inspection all life safety systems, including the fire alarm and sprinkler systems, are checked to make sure they are in compliance and are working properly. Exits are checked for accessibility, and potential hazards such as improper use of extension cords, combustibles and other potential threats to health and safety are addressed. Illegal apartments are an extreme danger to residents and firefighters. As such, they are aggressively investigated.

To learn more about the work of Frank Roca and his team of fire inspectors, and how they can assist you, please call 825-4200 or email them at vsfpb@svsvny.org.

Holiday Safety Tips

- ✓ Only use UL-approved extension cords and do not overload electrical outlets.
- ✓ Extension cords should not be run through doorways, windows and under rugs and carpeting.
- ✓ Exercise extreme caution when using candles and never leave a lit candle unattended.
- ✓ Keep live Christmas trees well watered-shut the tree lights when leaving the house and before going to bed.



Village Walk of Honor

Valley Stream is updating the "Walk of Honor" located along the path by the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library. There will be space for 33 4" x 8" memorial engraved brick pavers for village residents to purchase.

The village will be accepting resident donations of \$25 for each paver. The pavers can be engraved with up to three lines and 18 characters per line with spacing. "Walk of Honor" order forms are available through the Office of the Village Clerk by calling 516-592-5106.

This is a beautiful way to memorialize a loved one. But remember, the number of pavers is limited, and available on a first-come, first-served basis!

Village Waterways on the Rebound!

Nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts and anyone walking or driving by our village's parks have no doubt noticed extensive work being done at Hendrickson Lake and Mill Pond. Through a Nassau County Environmental Stormwater Quality Improvement Bond Act, the streambeds that connect our waterways are currently undergoing a comprehensive revitalization project to repair and protect the precious ecosystem that makes Valley Stream uniquely beautiful. We thank you for your patience while this important work continues. Completion is planned for the spring of 2013.

The Incorporated Village of Valley Stream

123 South Central Avenue • Valley Stream, N.Y. 11582

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Valley Stream, NY

 *Village Employees Honored Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October with a fundraising Halloween costume party that raised funds for 1 in 9 Hewlett House.* 



Pictured with a ceremonial presentation check are (L-R): Mayor Ed Fare, Jenny Derlly, fundraising organizers Karen Garofalo, Kathy Bogle, Erin Sullivan, Jeanette Roldan, Jennifer Piazza, Christine Francese and Geri Barish, Executive Director of Hewlett House. The \$1800 that was raised will help those struggling with cancer through the programs and services offered at Hewlett House.



Glowing pumpkins cast an eerie spell over Valley Stream, as children and adults took part in the first annual "Jack O' Lanterns Ablaze" contest in celebration of Halloween.



Valley Streamers joined together for the solemn 9/11 ceremonies. The village's permanent monument was unveiled in the Memorial Garden at Hendrickson Park.

Senior Corner

Mayor Fare and the Board of Trustees welcomed the Silver Threads back to Hendrickson Park and the brand new Community Center, fully renovated and ready to house the many exciting activities that Valley Stream's seniors have planned. All residents and community organizations are invited to utilize the new Community Center. Please call 825-8571 or visit the village's website at www.vsvny.org for more information.



Holiday Happenings in Valley Stream

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
MENORAH LIGHTING
WINTERFEST
TOYS FOR TOTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MAYOR

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DEPUTY MAYOR

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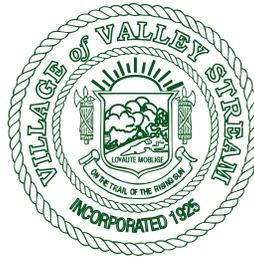
VINCENT M. GRASSO
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VILLAGE JUDGE

ROBERT G. BOGLE

VILLAGE CLERK

ROBERT D. BARRA



*In the event of a Snow
Emergency, information
can be obtained from
the Village's Emergency
Management Advisory
Radio System.*

AM 1620

Incorporated Village of Valley Stream
123 South Central Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580
www.vsvny.org

Snow: Our Winter Challenge

A Guide for Valley Stream Property Owners and Residents

It's the neighborly thing to do!
If you own property, please remember to:

- ❄️ Keep the adjacent sidewalks clear of snow and ice. If you are out of town, please make arrangements for someone else to clear the sidewalks.
- ❄️ Snow should not be shoveled or blown into the street. This creates a hazard for both the property owner and drivers.
- ❄️ Residents who have catch basins in front of their homes can help by keeping ice and snow away from the openings, so water from melting snow can drain freely.
- ❄️ If you have a fire hydrant by your property, please remove snow from the area around the hydrant for easy access in case of an emergency.
- ❄️ Resident cooperation is essential to the success of the snow removal operations. It is very important that vehicles are removed from the streets. With fewer cars on the streets, snow plows can do a more effective job of clearing snow and ice from Valley Stream's 90 miles of roadway. Therefore, please move your car off the street, whenever possible.

Important:

Vehicles left on the street during a snow storm will be issued a summons and towed at the owners expense

Please don't take it personally.

Often the Dept. of Public Works plows snow back into your driveway. Pushing snow into a driveway opening or along a car parked on the street is really unavoidable as we work to keep streets passable during all stages of a storm.

Safety:

Please instruct children to avoid snowplows. Drivers and workers are concentrating on their jobs. Young children should not be allowed to play near the street when snow has accumulated. Snow banks make it difficult for motor vehicle and snow plow operators to spot them. For safety reasons, the Valley Stream Highway Department crews will spray deicer on the streets and plow in the following order: Major Arteries and roads; Secondary Streets; Dead end streets and Cul-de-sacs. Snow plowing begins when three (3) inches of snow have fallen on the pavement.

Ice:

For people on foot, ice can be worse than snow. It can cause dangerous falls. Property owners are also responsible for removing ice on their sidewalks. • Stock up on ice melt before the storm. • Use ice melt with Calcium Chloride or Potassium Chloride. It's better for the environment and only a small amount is required to melt ice. Avoid rock salt or Sodium Chloride as it kills plants and trees. • Avoid sand. Sand makes hard ice more slippery. • Use ice melt on your driveway entrance and sidewalks early and often to prevent snow packing down and forming into ice.

Village of Valley Stream Notification System

Emergency Alert Program: Reminder!

We have launched an emergency notification service that allows us to alert you to an emergency in your area. The system uses listed phone numbers. You may also enter additional ways of contacting you, such as **cell phones, business phones, and email**. The information you enter is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

How Emergency Alerts Work

When we issue a message about a potential safety hazard or concern, messages will be sent to all standard voice and text communication devices that you have registered, including landline phones, cell phones, email, and more. If you don't confirm receipt of the message, the system will try to reach your second contact number or email. The system will continue trying to contact you until it receives a confirmation from you.

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

Adding your contact information to the emergency notification system is simple. Residents and businesses with listed telephone numbers have already been included in the system. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. To sign up go to www.vsvny.org and click on "Emergency Alert & Notification System, or the cell phone icon on the homepage," Then click the "Emergency Alert Sign Up Link."

Sanitation Schedule

2012 Household Garbage Winter Holiday Collection Schedule

Observed Holidays	if your regular collection is... MONDAY/THURSDAY	if your regular collection is... TUESDAY/FRIDAY
Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25th	Regular Schedule	Wednesday/Friday
New Year's Day Tuesday, January 1st	Regular Schedule	Wednesday Friday

2012 Recycling Winter Holiday Collection Schedule

If your regular recycling collection schedule day is...					
Observed Holidays	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25th	Regular	Pick Up 12/26	Regular	Regular	Regular
New Year's Day Tuesday, January 1st	Regular	Pick Up 1/2	Regular	Regular	Regular

**Christmas Tree pick-up will begin on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 and will continue on Wednesdays thereafter.

***Please visit our village's website at www.vsvny.org for important information regarding our E-Waste program.

Watch your mail in January for the 2013 Sanitation and Re-cycling Schedules.

Please retain and post for handy reference!