



The Village Green

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

WINTER

2016

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2016 Holiday Sanitation Schedule
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Did You Know...
 Toys for Tots bins are located at

**Village Hall
 Waldinger Library
 Community Center
 All of the above**

(Hint: The answer is in this issue)

Winterfest in Valley Stream



Santa Claus is Coming to Valley Stream!
Friday, December 2nd

- 6:00 P.M. – Write Your Letters to Santa at the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library
- 6:15 P.M. – Santa Arrives on his Fire Truck at the Village Green
- 6:30 P.M. – Santa Helps Light the Christmas Tree
- 6:45 – Santa and His Reindeer Will Greet the Children at Village Hall
- Mayor Fare Will Read to the Children by the Roaring Fire
- Movies, prizes, refreshments!
- 8:30 P.M. – Santa Returns to the North Pole



Winterfest Continues with Exciting Holiday Activities

Please check the
"Save the Dates"
section for all details!



For Safety Reasons, Strollers Will Not Be Allowed in Village Hall During the Activities



TOYS FOR TOTS

The United States Marine Corps joined with the Valley Stream Chamber of Commerce, our military community and village officials to kick-off this year's Toys for Tots campaign. Toy bins will be placed at the Village Hall, the Community Center, the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library and businesses throughout the village. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be collected through December 16th.



**Commonly Asked Questions about
 the I.D.A.s:
 What Taxpayers Need To Know?**



"SEE PAGE 3"



The Village Green

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

Phone: 516-825-4200
Fax: 516-825-8316

www.vsvny.org

A Special Message From Mayor Ed Fare

Dear Friends,

As we wind down to the end of 2016 there is much to reflect on over the past year. While here in Valley Stream we continue to seek new ways to improve our village's roads, buildings and infrastructure, and maintain the quality of life we all desire, our attention has unfortunately turned to a very difficult development within our school districts' budgeting process due to the Green Acres Mall "PILOT" (payment on lieu of taxes) that has captured everyone's attention.

Rest assured, we in Valley Stream are keenly aware of the implications this situation means to our community, and we are taking all legal steps to undo the terrible burden this abatement has caused our residents and businesses. We have included an IDA Primer within this issue in an effort to help people understand the details of how "Pilots" work. In the meantime, we have joined the Town of Hempstead's lawsuit against the IDA. Please check the village's website frequently, as information is updated regularly.

I hope you will take some time out of the busy upcoming holiday season to relax and enjoy all there is to do and see right here in Valley Stream. Our village staff is working hard to again bring you many joyous events to celebrate the season...read all about the schedule of Winterfest activities, and all the goings-on in Valley Stream. My door to Village Hall is always open, and our village website at www.vsvny.org is frequently updated to help keep you informed.

On behalf of the entire Village Board and village family, we wish you a happy, healthy holiday season and all the best in 2017!



Road Work & Tree Trimming Is Underway *Please be patient as the utilities do their work...*

Sincerely,

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

National Grid and PSEG are working in our area to accomplish infrastructure improvements before the bad winter weather sets in.

As you may have noticed, National Grid crews have been out on our roadways throughout the village. The utility has undertaken a large scale replacement program in our area to improve our natural

gas service. Once work is completed National Grid is obligated to restore the roadways to their original condition. Valley Stream's Building Department is on hand to make sure the work is done properly and to oversee the service upgrades to our residents and businesses.

PSEG is completing tree trimming work to reduce the number of potential outages caused by branches that are too close to power lines. PSEG uses trimming techniques recommended by the International Society of Arboriculture to protect tree health. Again, our village crews will be available to assist homeowners with any questions.

Our Superintendent of Buildings, Tom McAleer can be reached at 825-4200, ext. 5143.

Thank you for your patience as this necessary work is completed.

Seasons Greetings!

In celebration of the holiday season the Village of Valley Stream will suspend parking meter fees along the Rockaway Avenue business district from Merrick Road to Sunrise Highway. The "holiday reprieve" will be in effect from December 12, 2016 to January 2, 2017. Enjoy your shopping and dining during this most festive time of year.



New Practice Soccer Courts Have Opened at Barrett Park

Young Valley Stream soccer enthusiasts will have plenty of opportunities to sharpen their skills at the newly constructed "mini-pitch" courts at Barrett Park.

The New York Red Bulls, the U.S. Soccer Foundation and BJ's Wholesale Club partnered with Valley Stream to make dreams a reality for hundreds of local children who love the game of soccer.

Thanks in large part to the efforts of Tim Graham, President of the Valley Stream Soccer Club and the village's **Fleet Service Supervisor**, the new soccer courts come at no cost to the village and will be enjoyed by Valley Stream' athletes for many years to come.



Commonly Asked Questions about the I.D.A.s: What Taxpayers Need To Know?

Mark Your Calendar with these **IMPORTANT DATES**

Friday, December 2
Christmas Tree Lighting & Visit With Santa
Henry Waldinger Library, Village Hall & Rear Lawn
Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 12
“My Italian Secret” Movie Showing
Community Center
11:30 a.m.
\$5 admission (includes pizza & beverage)

Sunday, December 4th
Gingerbread House Contest
Pagan – Fletcher Restoration
12 noon to 4 p.m.
2:00 p.m. Icing Demonstration
(Sponsored by the Valley Stream Historical Society)

Tuesday, December 6th
Dedication of the Nativity
Corner of Sunrise Hwy. & Franklin St.
7:00 p.m.
(Sponsored by the Fr. Carroll Knights of Columbus)

Saturday, December 17th
**Fire Truck Rides at Hendrickson Park with
VSHD**
1:00 —4:00 p.m.
(Raindate Sunday, December 18th)

Thursday, December 29th
Lighting of the Giant Menorah
Corner of Sunrise Highway & Franklin Street
4:30 p.m.
(Sponsored by Chabad Outreach)

Friday, December 30th
**Candlelight Tour of Pagan-Fletcher
Restoration**
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
(free of charge, but donations of canned goods to benefit
local food pantries would be appreciated!)

**Tuesday, December 27 through Friday
December 30**
**Henry Waldinger Memorial Library
Activities**

(visit www.vsvny.org for details)

What is an Industrial Development Agency or IDA?

The IDA is a solely autonomous public benefit corporation that was established by New York State law back in 1969. It consists of between seven and nine board members. The agency was designed to lure companies to our state or ease the burden of existing businesses by offering tax abatement programs designed to help create and/or retain jobs.

Is there more than one IDA servicing our area?

Yes, there is a Nassau County IDA and a Town of Hempstead IDA. These entities have the authority to offer tax abatements and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) to qualified area businesses.

What is a PILOT and why would a company want to participate in this initiative?

A PILOT is a payment in lieu of taxes. There are many misunderstandings about this program. The spirit of the PILOT offers a prospective business that wishes to move to the Nassau County area an incentive to come to the Long Island region. It also offers existing business tax incentives to stay in Nassau and expand and create and retain jobs. There is a specific schedule of tax payments over a 10-15 year period that allows the company to be able to be shielded from large tax increases while trying to make a return on investment and create jobs in Valley Stream. It actually works as a “soft freeze” or tax abatement that includes payment escalations over the term of the agreement, usually in line with the projected cost of living over a decade or so.

Why would government or school districts want to lose revenue and be forced to increase taxes?

In the past, the IDA’s PILOT payments actually were about the same or slightly higher than the payments the village would have normally received through normal taxation. The Green Acres-Macerich decision by the Town of Hempstead IDA was an anomaly. Something went wrong on the part of the IDA.

These PILOT payments have also shielded the village from would-be tax certiorari writs. These certioraris are filed by area businesses, wind up in court, and often receive tremendous awards from the judge or arbiter adjudicating the case. These awards can play a large role in driving up your real property taxes.

Why didn’t the village or school districts alert the residents of a pending huge tax increase?

Speaking for the village, since 1969, Valley Stream has never been fiscally short-changed by the numerous tax abatements or PILOT programs throughout the history of the local IDAs. The village was never notified of any significant short fall in revenue caused by the Green Acres-Macerich PILOT. To create the impression that it could have known of the shortfall is not based in fact or history.

Three potential scenarios come to mind in this case: 1) since Green-Acres Shopping Mall is 95 percent out of the village, the Town IDA may have used an outdated county assessment roll that may have not considered the razing of the old movie theater known as the Multiplex; 2) the Town IDA may not have understood the taxation distribution process of the virtually unique Valley Stream Central High School District; and 3) the PILOT program was too generous and was used by the Town IDA to combat a potential Macerich tax certiorari against the districts and the village. The Town IDA may have been bamboozled by Macerich, a multi-billion dollar corporation, into believing that the mall would go “belly-up” without the PILOT.

Please note, large corporations do not come here for tax abatements alone; far from it. They come for the demographics of the area. Macerich saw some of the richest people in United States living in zip codes to our south. Macerich wants a piece of the disposable income generated by those communities and to forgo potential shoppers from going to Roosevelt Field.

Does the village have any say when the IDA considers a PILOT program?

No more power than any one person or entity. The IDA is an autonomous board that has the sole decision making power as to whether or not a company is offered a PILOT program. IDAs were developed and designed to bring and retain business to a particular area and end commercial blight. Their members’ autonomy was designed to stop NIMBYism (not in my backyard) and create jobs. The village usually does not know the fiscal impact of an IDA PILOT program until the program is well in place. As stated before, until recently, the village and school districts have never been burned by a PILOT. In fact, the exact opposite has been the norm – our taxpayers have consistently been enriched by previous PILOTS.

Who appoints IDA members?

The Hempstead Town Board appoints the Hempstead IDA membership and the Nassau County Legislature approves the county IDA board. They can be removed by a majority vote of both respective boards.

Can an IDA PILOT program be undone?

The infamous Hempstead IDA’s recent Green Acres- Macerich PILOT, the initiative that drove up all our taxes and will force removal of the Hempstead IDA members, will be the test case of a joint-lawsuit by the Hempstead Town Board and the Valley Stream Village Board.

Are there any more PILOTS out there in the village?

Yes, there are nine in all, including two new Nassau County IDA PILOT programs currently being implemented in the village, 676 West Merrick Road and 599 West Merrick Road. All of these programs appear to be reimbursing the village with at least the same or possibly more revenue than normal real property taxation would collect.

Village Joins Lawsuit against Town Industrial Development Agency In Protest of Unfair Tax Break to Green Acres Mall

At the direction of Mayor Ed Fare, village attorneys have joined with the Town of Hempstead Supervisor to sign onto the Town’s lawsuit against the IDA.

In addition, the Town’s Supervisor has called for the resignations of those IDA board members who voted for this outrageous tax benefit to Green Acres Mall at the expense of our taxpayers. New IDA members have since been installed. “We are closely following the process that is rapidly unfolding, vowing to do all we legally can to correct this outrageous situation,” stated Fare.

Right now we have more questions than answers as to how this tax shortfall was calculated. As we demand to learn more, we will share that information with our citizens and businesses who have been unfairly burdened by the IDA’s actions.



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

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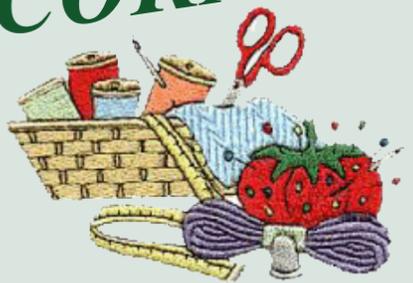
VILLAGE CLERK

ROBERT D. BARRA

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SENIOR CORNER



Remember ...

- ✓ The **Silver Threads** enjoy many hours of enjoyment at the Community Center in Hendrickson Park. Bus transportation has been expanded to include grocery shopping, Aqueduct Racetrack and the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library.
- ✓ **Don't forget to file your tax exemptions!** You may be eligible for more tax relief, so stop by the Village Hall to learn more. Remember the deadline for filing is December 31, 2016.

- ✓ Be sure to **Check the Silver Threads calendar** for updated on all the programs and services offered to our village seniors.

VETERANS DAY

As has become our great tradition in Valley Stream, we honor our veterans and active service personnel with a solemn, yet rousing and patriotic ceremony at our gazebo and Community Center in Hendrickson Park. With the help of our local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Posts, along with many of our boy and girl scouts and their adult leaders, Valley Stream turns out our true colors on this most important day. They truly run red, white and blue!



Jake Bugge, a Senior at Valley Stream North High School is also a Lifeguard at our Hendrickson Village Pool. Jake's courage and quick thinking, combined with the skills he learned to employ in an emergency situation, saved the life of a fellow student who was choking. By successfully administering the Heimlich maneuver, Jake proved himself a true hero. He saved a life and has made us all very proud indeed!

The entire Village Board paused at a recent public meeting to congratulate Jake, while his proud family looked on.

Need assistance in Valley Stream?



Mayor's Helpline is available for residents to call with issues or complaints. If no one is available to answer your call immediately, please leave a detailed message with your phone number and a representative of Mayor Fare's office will respond to you as promptly as possible. Remember it may take several rings before your call is answered so don't hang up before leaving your message—every call is important and will receive proper attention!

1-855-99MAYOR (1-855-996-2967)



Welcome to our beautiful incorporated village!

NEW TO
VALLEY
STREAM?

Feel free to stop by Village Hall to say hello, purchase your resident parking stickers and inquire about any home improvement permits you may need. Don't forget to pick-up a welcome packet at the Clerk's Department or the Mayor's office.

Please clip the 2017 holiday garbage and recycling schedule and keep it handy for reference throughout the year. Any questions regarding sanitation pick-up can be directed to 825-8108. For any other village inquiries, please call Village Hall at 516-825-4200 and follow the prompts, or visit our website at 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.

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.

Important:

For safety's sake, please remember to keep your vehicles off the street before, during and immediately after a snow storm. This is to allow our plows to do their job most effectively, as well as to provide easier access for fire and police vehicles in the event of an emergency.

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 often unavoidable as we work to keep streets passable during all stages of a storm.

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

AM 1620

Please keep in mind that in the Village of Valley Stream on-street parking is always prohibited between the hours of 3:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m.

2016 Fall Household Sanitation Holiday Collection Schedule

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS	If your regular collection day is Monday / Thursday	If your regular collection day is Tuesday / Friday
Christmas Day Sunday, December 25th	Tuesday / Thursday (no agriculture)	Wednesday / Friday (no agriculture)
New Year's Day Sunday, January 1st, 2017	Tuesday / Thursday (no agriculture)	Tuesday / Thursday (no agriculture)

2016 Recycling Holiday Collection Schedule

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Christmas Day Sunday, December 25th	Pick-up Tuesday 12/27	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
New Year's Day Sunday, January 1st, 2017	Pick-up Tuesday 1/03	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular

*There will be normal agricultural pick-up on December 21st
Christmas Tree pick-up will begin on Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 and will continue on
Wednesdays thereafter, except for January 18th.*

HOME SAFETY

The winter season, particularly through the holidays, is a time to be extra vigilant about home safety. Valley Stream Office of Emergency Management reminds us of some important tips, passed along from the National Fire Protection Association.

Christmas Tree

-  When decorating Christmas trees, always use safe tree lights, and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
-  Do not use lights with worn, frayed or broken cords, or loose connections.
-  Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
-  Water live trees frequently and safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles

Candles

-  Unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled candles are the leading cause of home fires, and December is the peak month for candle fires.
-  Keep candles on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and away from items that can catch fire.
-  Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
-  Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.

2015 Household Garbage Holiday Collection Schedule

Observed Holidays	If your regular collection is Monday/Thursday	If your regular collection is Tuesday/Friday
New Years Day (2017) Sunday, January 1st	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 16th	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
President's Day, Monday, February 20th	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4th	Regular Schedule/ No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
Labor Day , Monday, September 4th	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
Columbus Day, Monday, October 9th	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th	Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule
Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11th	Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd	Monday/Friday	Tuesday/Saturday
Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture
New Year's Day (2018), Monday, January 1st	Tuesday/Thursday No Agriculture	Wednesday/Friday No Agriculture

2016 YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE: Grass and leaves will be collected on WEDNESDAYS ONLY.

EXCEPTIONS: Yard waste will not be collected on the following dates:

January 18th February 22nd May 31st July 5th September 6th October 11th December 27th

Helpful Reminders from Valley Stream's Sanitation Department

- Construction waste is the responsibility of the homeowner and their contractor.
- Special Bulk Pick-ups of items such as mattresses, furniture, carpeting and appliances must be arranged by calling 825-8108.
- Curbside Collection the neighborly way! Please remember to place your trash at the curb in a covered pail or sealed garbage bag not to exceed 32 gallons or 50 pounds. Do not put trash out before 6 p.m. on the night before your collection, or after 6:30 a.m. on the morning of your collection day.

Please call the Valley Stream Sanitation Department or visit the website for disposal information.

516-825-8108 www.vsvny.org

2017 Recycling Holiday Collection Schedule

If your regular recycling schedule day is ...

Observed Holidays	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
New Years Day (2017) Sunday, January 1st	Pick up Tues 1/3	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 16th	Pick up Tues 1/17	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
President's Day, Monday, February 20th	Pick up Tues 2/21	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th	Pick up Tues 5/30	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
Independence Day, Saturday, July 4th	Regular	Pick up Wed 7/5	Regular	Regular	Regular
Labor Day , Monday, September 4th	Pick up Tues 9/5	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
Columbus Day, Monday, October 9th	Pick up Tues 10/10	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11th	Regular	Regular	Pick up Thur 11/12	Regular	Regular
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd	Regular	Regular	Regular	Pick up Sat 11/25	Regular
Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th	Pick up Tues 12/26	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular
New Year's Day (2018), Monday, January 1st	Pick up Tues 1/2	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular