



The Village Green

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

SPRING

2015

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Quality Of Life in Valley Stream Matters To Us All

It's often said that it's the little things that matter in life. In Valley Stream, little things add up to big improvements, as we strive to maintain a great quality of life here for everyone.

Property maintenance is key. Homeowners and businesses are reminded to keep up with routine maintenance of private property, including snow, ice and debris removal in the bad weather. In the warmer weather it is important to maintain lawns and shrubbery. Proper lighting around homes is helpful, and it is very important in the event of emergencies that house numbers are clearly visible from the street.

Valley Stream is here to help. Our "Downtown Crews" are dispatched early on the weekdays to tidy up around the business districts. Our power washing and street sweeper vehicles make regular runs around the village. Graffiti is not tolerated. It gets cleaned up as soon as it is detected, and whenever possible, the offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

On Street Parking is Not Allowed Between 3:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. At first, this may seem like an inconvenient restriction, but there are several very good reasons why it has been a way of life here in Valley Stream for decades. By keeping cars off the streets through the overnight hours, police, fire and emergency vehicles have better access to homes and clearer views of our roadways. This is also a deterrent to crime and illegal multiple family homes.

Snow is Our Winter Challenge. Snow removal is among our highest priorities. Many factors go into effective snow removal of our 80 miles of village roadway. Our crews and support staff do their absolute best to remove snow quickly from curb to curb and keep our roads clear so our residents can go about their lives with the least amount of disruption possible.

Potholes Are Our Spring Challenge. That is why "Project Pothole" gets underway as soon as the temperatures rise to a level that allows for repairs and asphalt distributors re-open from their winter hibernation. The winters do a lot of damage to our roads, and we do our part to get them back to excellent condition as quickly as possible.

Quality of Life Court. Justice Bogle has instituted a dedicated "Quality of Life" court night that addresses the complaints and violations that affect the beauty, safety and tranquility of Valley Stream. Since its inception, and thanks to Judge Bogle's fair, but no-nonsense approach, this unique court concept has enabled village code enforcement officials to maintain the highest standards for Valley Stream's quality of life.

Our Village Department of Code Enforcement is charged with maintaining the quality of life in Valley Stream so that we can all enjoy our lovely community. It matters to us all!

Did You Know... The Quality of Life Court addresses issues that affect the village's

- Beauty
- Safety
- Tranquility
- All of the above

Hint: The answer is in this issue.

In Valley Stream We Love Our Dogs!

The Incorporated Village of Valley Stream issues dog licenses to dog owners who live in the village. Dog owners must license their dogs at the clerk's department in Village Hall.

6 Reasons To License Your Dog

1. It's the law. New York State requires that dogs be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.
2. Lost, then found. If your dog goes missing the licensed tag helps animal control officers and shelters identify and return your pet.
3. It's affordable. The cost of licensing your dog is only \$10 for an altered male or spayed female, and \$18 for an un-neutered dog.
4. Licensing lets people know your dog is vaccinated. Your dog is more likely to be helped by a stranger if it is wearing a tag that indicates it is licensed and vaccinated.
5. Protect yourself. Dogs that are not licensed and vaccinated may expose their owners to liability if the dog bites a person or other pet.



6. You and your best friend can join the Valley Stream dog park! Dogs all over Valley Stream are wagging their tails in excitement over their very own dog park conveniently located next to Village Hall. Annual fees are affordable priced at \$18 for village residents, \$55 for Central High School District residents and \$110 for Town of Hempstead residents.

Call 516-592-5114/5106 or visit www.vsvny.org for further information about dog licensing and Valley Stream's Dog Park.



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Published Quarterly by the
Village of Valley Stream

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Mark Your Calendar with these IMPORTANT DATES

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 21

(Raindate: Saturday, March 28)

Times vary - call 872-6003 for info

Silver Threads St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Valley Stream Community Center

call 825-8571 for more information.

Community Craft Fair

Saturday, May 2nd

10a.m. to 5 p.m.

A.J. Hendrickson Park

Spring Cleaning E-Cycle Day

Saturday, May 30

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Corner of Valley Stream Boulevard
& Hicks Street

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES

Theatre in the Court

Village Hall

7:30 p.m.

March 13th

The Penguins of Madagascar

March 27th – Rio2

April 10th - The Book of Life

April 24th – Big Hero

May 8th – Annie

May 29th

How to Train Your Dragon 2

US Sports Institute Sports Camps and
Programs in Valley Stream
Registration for Spring & Summer
programs is ongoing
Call 866-345-BALL or
visit www.USsportsInstitute.com

E-Cycling is Back!

Spring Cleaning time is here again. Bring your electronic recyclables to parking field #26 (corner of Valley Stream Boulevard and Hicks Street) on Saturday, May 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Village crews will be on hand to accept your items free of charge. Join us in the "Clean, Green Valley Stream Initiative!"

For more information please call 825-8108



A Special Message From Mayor Ed Fare

Dear Friends,

It has been another challenging winter here in Valley Stream. For most of us, patience has worn thin as the harsh elements have battered even the hardest among us. But, as always, we persevere, and spring is finally, mercifully around the bend!

Our crews spent many long hours clearing our roadways, parking fields and public sidewalks. They worked hard to maintain the highest standards we strive for to keep our village clean and safe. Now that we seem to be heading toward warmer days ahead, our "Project Pothole" crews will be out in force, repairing the roads that Mother Nature has affected.

As spring approaches I hope you will take advantage of the great programs that are in the works for the enjoyment of all. Please check our village website at www.vsvny.org frequently to keep informed of what is going on throughout the village.

On behalf of Deputy Mayor Virginia Clavin-Higgins, Trustees Tufarelli, Grasso and Thomas, and Justice Bogle, we hope to see you often around our beautiful village.



Sincerely,

Edmund A. Fare

Valley Stream Is a Tree City

Valley Stream has again been designated a "Tree City" by the Arbor Day Foundation. The village also participates in New York State's Adopt-A-Tree Program. Each year in Valley Stream we plant more trees than we remove due to disease or damage, usually totaling between 150 and 200 trees and saplings.



Mayor Fare and Park Supervisor Lorraine Werbeck joined with local Girl Scout and Brownie Troops who have spent many hours planting tree saplings, cleaning up our parks and learning how they can protect our environment. They are a big part of "Tree City" Valley Stream!

Valley Stream Celebrates Black History Month



Valley Streamers of all ages were treated to a variety of inspiring programs to commemorate Black History Month.

All in all, Black History Month in Valley Stream had something for everyone.

Trustees Grasso and Tufarelli participated in a lively and informative presentation by renowned storyteller April Armstrong and her musicians in celebration of "Black History Month" in Valley Stream.

Honoring Achievements



Valley Stream South High School students received much deserved recognition at a recent meeting of the Village Board of Trustees for taking top honors in a county-wide competition to produce drug awareness public safety announcements. Pictured with the board members and Mayor Fare are (L-R) Stessy Louis, Priscilla Nash, Mayor Fare, and Sophie Renois and Randy Kipnis. Priscilla and Sophie tied for second place, Stessy took third and Randy was acknowledged for his participation.

Star baseball player Vito Friscia, a senior from Valley Stream Central High School, was honored for his accomplishments on and off the baseball field. While participating in a home run derby that was designed to allow athletes to raise money for important causes, Vito raised over \$1000 for the American Kidney Fund on behalf of his young friend Danny Vecchione, a kidney patient since birth. Vito in turn presented his "homerun" baseball to Danny, who he describes as an "awesome little kid." Vito and Danny are joined by their friends and family members as the Village Board pays support and tribute to their special friendship.

Featured Department - Village Justice Court

The judicial branch of the Valley Stream village government is the Justice Court. Valley Stream Justice Court is one of the largest courts in New York State, with close to 2-million dollars in revenue per year, almost all of which is kept by the village. Of the 1300 Justice Courts in New York State, this places Valley Stream in the top 10.

Village Justice Robert G. Bogle has served as a Justice of the Court since 1986. His current Chief Court Clerk is Luanne Tangney, aided by an experienced staff of 4 full time and part time clerks as well as volunteer Auxiliary Police officers to help out on court night.

“While the primary purpose of the Village Court is enforcement of our laws with fairness and justice,” said Judge Bogle, “We also recognize that the court should be a vibrant and strong contributor to our community growth and development with an emphasis on appreciation for the law.” In accordance with this approach, the court has invited both Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops to observe court proceedings. The court has participated in mock trials with students from local Elementary schools.

Instead of imposing a fine, Judge Bogle will occasionally sentence the defendant to community service, requiring the person to do volunteer work at Franklin Hospital Medical Center or a charitable institution. Some young drivers are required to repeat a driver’s education class.

For violations of local laws, Judge Bogle has instituted a Quality of Life Court on Thursday nights. On the proper evidence, Judge Bogle has issued search warrants and closed down illegal businesses that were in serious violation of the law.

Presently, the court has started a parking ticket amnesty program, which reduced the fine to the original amount, plus a small administrative fee.

Village Court meets on Wednesday night in the Village Hall at 7:00 P.M.



Trustees Grasso Mayor Ed Fare and Village Justice Robert Bogle join with the dedicated staff of the Village Justice Court. Pictured are village prosecutors, court officers, village court clerk and staff.

Valley Stream Village Court Introduces New On-Line Ticket Pay System

Citing added convenience to residents, Valley Stream Mayor Ed Fare and Village Justice Robert Bogle have announced a new online system to allow citizens to conveniently pay village tickets via credit card through the village’s website, www.vsvny.org.

The Village Justice Court’s On-Line Ticket Payment System will enable ticket holders to pay for all case types, including parking tickets, moving violations and housing infractions.

“This new on-line system will help streamline payments and provide an added convenience to our residents, allowing them to pay their tickets without having to take the time to come to the Village Hall,” Judge Bogle remarked.

A service fee will be assessed on all credit card payments. Please note that neither Valley Stream nor the court receives any portion of the service fee.

Payments may continue to be made in person by cash, money order or certified check without imposition of a service fee.

If you have any questions, please call the Village Justice Court at 516-825-4200, ext 5126.



Amnesty Program in Valley Stream

Mayor Ed Fare and Village Justice Robert Bogle have declared Valley Stream’s 2015 parking ticket amnesty program, another success for the village and the taxpayers.

“I am pleased that Judge Bogle has brought this amnesty program to our Village Justice Court, and that the Board of Trustees has approved it,” commented Mayor Fare.

“The amnesty program has again worked well for Valley Stream by assisting those who have carried debt to the village for too long, as well as an efficient way to recoup revenue to benefit the taxpayers,” Justice Bogle continued.

Due to its success, the amnesty program has been extended through March 31, 2015.



And Speaking of Parking...

Resident parking permits for May 2015 to April 2016 will be available for purchase at Village Hall beginning April 1, 2015. The cost is \$30.00. Be sure to bring your current original vehicle registration. For further information call the clerk’s department at 592-5114.



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SENIOR CORNER



The Silver Threads Had a *Heart Warming* Valentine's Day Party.

Mayor Ed Fare and Nassau County Police are reminding citizens to beware of telephone solicitations requesting payments via Green Dot cards, Western Union, Money Gram or other money transfer companies or pre-paid cards.

Once again, individuals are being called by persons claiming to be officials representing the Internal Revenue Service or utility companies. They threaten the victims with arrest, foreclosure and/or termination of services unless they make immediate payments using money transfer services.

In related scams, victims have received phone calls from persons claiming that a family member has missed jury duty, has been arrested or has been involved in an accident. In these cases the caller will sometimes impersonate a law enforcement officer, again demanding payment on behalf of the

family member. Others have been notified by phone or e-mail that they have won large sums of money but an up-front "processing fee" is required to release the funds.

"Please be aware of any demands for payment, whether by phone, mail or e-mail," cautions Mayor Fare. "If you believe you may have been the victim of such a scam, call 911 immediately."

- Remember, the Senior community bus provides transportation on Fridays to and from King Kullen, and to and from Green Acres Mall on selected days. Call 872-6003 to make reservations.
- Don't forget to check the monthly Silver Threads calendar for all the activities offered, or call 516-825-8571 for more information.

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!

Mayor's Helpline - 1-855- 99MAYOR (1-855-996-2967)

Visit www.vsvny.org and follow Mayor Fare on Twitter @VStreamMayor."