

Lynbrook USA

NEWSLETTER



Spring
2024

Mayor's Message

Beginning my seventh year as Mayor, I remain committed to maintain my vision for a dynamic Village that seeks the most effective means for serving the residents and the commercial business community.

Serving on the Board for 17 years, it has always been my commitment to this ideal, and your Board of Trustees and I recognize that an important part of an accountable transparent government is to provide the community with regular information on Village matters.

Enclosed in this newsletter is information to enable you to foster an appreciation of the myriad of Village activities, and hard work of those re-

sponsible to carry them out. It is our aim to provide a high level of public services in the most efficient way possible.

Our effectiveness is directly related to your interest and participation. The community has various organizations that make up the fabric of Lynbrook and welcome your participation. Regularly televised public Board Meetings, village website www.lynbrookvillage.com, this newsletter, YouTube and local newspapers are just some of the methods to keep you informed concerning the status of numerous matters and issues under consideration. We also post minutes of our meetings and agenda items online. These avenues are the most

effective line of communication and through your participation you will be helping yourself as well as assuring the excellent quality of life that we enjoy in Lynbrook.

Your Board of Trustees and I hope that you will be pleased with the past years accomplishments and become inspired to take an active and constructive interest in the future of our Village.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Regards,

Lynbrook Mayor Alan Beach



MAYOR ALAN BEACH

Community Chest

The Lynbrook Community Chest is a 501 C-3 charitable organization with the sole purpose of providing assistance to residents of the Lynbrook community who are in need of help due to financial or economic hardship reasons. NY State Assemblyman Brian Curran re-established the Lynbrook Community Chest while he served as Lynbrook's Mayor between 2007 and 2010 and the group has donated thousands of dollars to numerous families. These families are not required to return the monies but, because of the nature of these donations, several have attempted to help others the way that they were helped. The Community Chest can be contacted through Mayor Beach's office at 516-599-8300 x201.

Bring on Summer!

Summer will be here before you know it and the Lynbrook Pool will be ready to welcome you! Registration for the 2024 season will take place at the Recreation Center on April 20 and April 27 between the hours of 11am and 1pm. Memberships are open to Inc Village of Lynbrook residents, SD#20 residents, and Rockville Centre residents. When registering, be sure to bring two proofs of residency (utility bill, driver's license, village tax bill). Non-Lynbrook SD#20 residents need to provide a school tax bill, and birth certificates are required for children over three years of age. The pool officially opens Memorial Day Weekend!



The official newsletter of the Incorporated Village of Lynbrook is published four times a year by the Incorporated Village of Lynbrook.

Address inquiries to:
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Lynbrook News

Library Receives Bullet Aid Money from Curran

Mayor Alan Beach and Assemblyman Brian Curran (Lynbrook-21st A.D.) met with Lynbrook Library Director Robyn Gilloon to present a check to the library to commemorate the bullet aid it received from the state. Bullet aid is a type of targeted funding given to schools and libraries. The Lynbrook Library received \$7,500 in aid from Assemblyman Curran this year.



From left to right: Library Director Gilloon, Assemblyman Curran, Mayor Beach

"I will always support our local libraries, they are places of learning and imagination for people of all ages, which is why I am

ecstatic to present the Lynbrook Library with this bullet aid. I know they will put it to good use for the residents of Lynbrook, and

I can't wait to come back and see how they have used this money to improve the experience for everyone," said Curran.



Lynbrook Cares team member Liam Gallagher.

Lynbrook Cares

Trustee Mike Habert and the Lynbrook Cares Committee, including coordinators Dan Gallagher, Bob Giacobelli and Ken Mundy came to the rescue of nearly 50 households of seniors and disabled residents during recent February snowstorms by shoveling walkways and sidewalks.

Thank you to all the caring neighbors and volunteers listed below as well as those who help simply because they care.

Justin Barkley
Kris Bohna

Riley Curran
John Dempsey
Brendan Gallagher
Liam Gallagher
Thomas Gallagher
Kerrie Habert
Anne Hughes
Brendan Hughes
Eoghan Hughes
Bill McCrystal
Bill Morrissey
Jameson Morrissey
Kelli Pogozelski
Michael Pogozelski

To volunteer to be a part of Lynbrook Cares, please call 516-599-8300 ext 201.

Congrats Cub Pack #85

Mayor Alan Beach joined Assemblyman Brian Curran to honor Cub Scout Pack 85 during their Blue and Gold ceremony as they move up and enter the Boy Scouts.



VFW Gets Makeover

Mayor Alan Beach and Deputy Mayor Mike Hawxhurst along with Hempstead Town Councilwoman Laura Ryder and members of the Lynbrook VFW Post 2307 joined representatives and volunteers from Home Depot as they gave the building's floors and walls a facelift.

Valentines for Veterans

Town of Hempstead Councilwoman Laura Ryder launched her Valentine's Day for Veterans program at Lynbrook's Our Lady of Peace School. Principal Karen Von Braunsberg and students from Pre-K

to 8th grade enthusiastically participated in creating heartfelt Valentine's Day cards for our veterans. The cards were distributed to local VFW and American Legion locations.



Lynbrook Gets Heart Smart

Mayor Beach and the Lynbrook Board of Trustees recently hosted a seminar given by Dr. Sunny Goel, Director Structural Heart disease, Mount Sinai South Nassau at the Lynbrook Library. During the event, Dr. Goel spoke to the Lynbrook community about the risk factors of heart disease, common heart attack warning signs, causes, and treatment. Be sure to follow the Lynbrook Village on Facebook to stay up to date on future, free seminars.



Lynbrook News



Honoring Lynbrook's Heroes

The Long Island Shields organization proudly recognized the exemplary service of Lynbrook Police Department's Sergeant Scanlon, Officer Hoffman, and Officer Lavista as February's top honorees for their outstanding arrest back in May 2022.

The Long Island Shields, comprising retired law enforcement officers from Long Island and NYC, saluted these brave individuals for their dedication to keeping our communities safe.

Awards were presented by Vice President Jack Darcy, alongside esteemed guests including Nassau County Legislator Bill Gaylor, NYS Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, and NY Assemblyman Brian Curran.

Special recognition also came from Lynbrook Mayor Alan Beach and Lynbrook Police Chief Brian Paladino, who lauded the officers' exceptional commitment to duty. Join us in celebrating these everyday heroes!

40 Years as Tree City USA

For 40 years running, Lynbrook has been recognized as Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Founded in 1976, Tree City USA is a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Association of State Foresters. Lynbrook is a part of a network of more than 3,600 Tree City USA communities nationwide, with a combined population of 155 million.

The benefits trees bring to environments includes cooler temperatures, cleaner air, higher property values and healthier residents! Congratulations to Lynbrook and thanks to Department of Public Works Superintendent Phil Healy and the entire team at the DPW for their ongoing commitment to our community.



Chamber Corner

We're having a great winter and are looking forward to Spring with some exciting events. Thank you to Mayor Beach for his "State of the Village" address in February at River Mill Tavern and Tables. It was very informative.

Along with our regular monthly seminars, workshops, and breakfast meetings we're planning our second annual "Experience Lynbrook", a business showcase on Saturday, May 4 from 12 to 3 at the Lynbrook Library. Attendees are free so come enjoy yourselves, sample some food and take this opportunity to learn more about businesses right here in your community. If you have a business, this is the place to promote yourself and

meet potential new customers - sign up on our website! We'll have live music and raffles, too.

We're also looking forward to June 25 and **Prom Night** on Atlantic Avenue as well as the beginning of our **Thursday Cruise Nights** June 6 through August 29. And we're excited to be planning a **Craft Fair Extravaganza** for July 14 complete with food trucks, rides and a petting zoo.

We are proud to be launching the "Storefront Makeover" Initiative!

This is an opportunity for both newly and well-established businesses to take a fresh look at their windows to see if they are presenting the image that will attract customers and enhance the village. We'll help them evaluate exactly what their window needs to "say" and how to easily make that happen, simply and in any price range.

We're going to work with a "sample" volunteer business to give businesses an idea of what can be done creatively without breaking the bank, and then

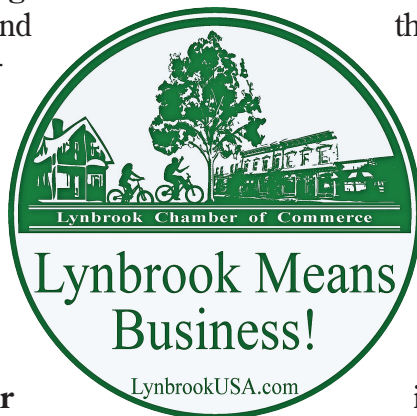
launch a contest.

This initiative is being launched to help rejuvenate the appearance of Lynbrook Village businesses by getting them into a little friendly competition with their fellow business owners. It should be fun. Check our website for details.

Make sure you get one of our "Lynbrook Means Business" bumper magnets! Pick one up at F&L Deli, Prosperi Bakery, Unicorn Jewelry, and various other local merchants!

Please Shop Local!

Polly Talbott
President, Lynbrook Chamber of Commerce



Spring Break at the Library

Have fun in your hometown this spring break by participating in fun events at the Lynbrook Library.

Family Movies (registration not required):

Monday, April 22 @2pm: Wish (rated PG)

Tuesday, April 23 @2pm: Wonka (rated PG)

Minecraft Gaming (registration required, open to grades 4 - 12):

Tuesday, April 23, 6 - 8pm

Registration begins Wednesday, April 10

Play Time (registration not required, open to Cruisers - 36 mos. with caregiver):

Wednesday, April 24 or Thursday, April 25, 2 - 3pm

Family Craft Build & Play (registration not required, open ages 3 and up with caregiver):

Wednesday, April 24 or Thursday, April 25, 2 - 3:30pm

Taylor Swift Trivia (registration required):

Monday, April 29 Grades 3 - 5 5:30 - 6:30pm

Grades 6 - 12 7:30 - 8:30pm

Registration begins Monday, April 15

Register online at www.lynbrooklibrary.org with your Lynbrook Library Card. Select the "Register Online" button and scroll to the date of the class. You can also register in person or by calling (516) 599-8630. Non-residents may register online, in person or via phone one week prior to the program if space permits.

Lynbrook News



State of the Village

We are fortunate to live and work in one of the nation's finest Villages. Our schools are rated in the top 10 by GreatSchools.org and the Village was once ranked as a finalist by the National Civic League as an "All American City" and rated as one of the top 10 safest communities in New York State by Safewise.com, an independent organization using FBI statistics. We have a great story to tell and should be proud of our accomplishments!

Lynbrook's two biggest eyesores, the Capri Motel, and vacant Feather Building, have been addressed after many years of efforts. The Capri was demolished, and luxury apartments constructed for new residents. The Feather Building was demolished, and construction started several months ago, also for luxury housing. The new LIRR station platform reopened as well after negotiations with the LIRR President, shopping parking field #8 was expanded onto St. James Place, and the Lynbrook Diner reopened after discussions with the Village.

The Village has adjusted during the difficult times for many of our residents and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic – "NY on Pause" and recovered nicely.

As everyone is aware, the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges for the Village at a time when we were dealing with ways to optimize revenues and curtailing inflationary costs to provide needed services, as shared by all local governments and school districts in New York State. Nevertheless, the Village has complied with the

NYS Tax Cap in 2023.

However, stabilizing our Village budget of 50 million dollars is not a new issue facing Lynbrook.

Our Village has been focused on reducing non-essential services, maximizing efficiencies, and implementing good governance before COVID-19 caused the economy to turn downward in the first quarter of 2020. Our Trustees and I have had achieved, for example, a year where there was no tax increase, and attained an eight-year average of 2.3%.

During the Covid crisis, the economy also impacted many businesses in Lynbrook, but while some business close, other new businesses have opened. Downtown has experienced a shift from retail to service type industries. We project that the redevelopment of the 200-unit Feather Building on Broadway will increase Downtown foot traffic and the tax base with discretionary income wage earners to bolster local businesses.

Covid has affected several revenue sources which include loss of Building Permit fees, Parking Permit fees, and Court fines totaling over \$1.2 million. Federal interest rate reductions to support the economy in recovering from COVID resulted in a loss of \$650,000 in interest earnings for the Village. However, rising rates and the Village's prudent investing of idle funds in a local government investment pool and operating like a business quickly restored these earnings.

It is important to note that the pre-Covid

housing and mortgage crisis across the nation resulted in a multitude of boarded up houses in foreclosure, however Lynbrook was fortunately spared during that prior recession. Also, the Village is in a position where on 5 of 6 employee union contracts are settled, fixing the Village operational expenses over the long term.

The Village of Lynbrook fared better than many municipalities thanks to our excellent financial condition, and AA+ credit that has been affirmed, the highest it's been in half a century.

New York State establishes the maximum taxing power and debit limits for its municipalities. When compared to all other cities and villages in New York State, last year Lynbrook reached 62% of its constitutional tax limit, and has exhausted only 10% of its debt limit, making Lynbrook U.S.A. a relatively low taxed, low debt community. Approximately 22% of tax revenue is paid by Lynbrook Commercial property owners. Lynbrook has also received a classification of "No Fiscal Stress" from the NYS Comptroller for the past 6 consecutive years since the start of the program, scoring only a 13.3 on a 0-100 scale.

On another good note, we have closed the fiscal year with over an \$8.9 million surplus, which our auditors cited was attributed to good fiscal management.

Clearly, the bumpy economy has been our greatest challenge and will continue to challenge the Village of Lynbrook through 2024. Thankfully, 40-year record inflation levels have appeared to subside.

2024: A Vision for Tomorrow

Our accomplishments in 2023, and those of previous years, have put Lynbrook in a good position to thrive in 2024 in a tough economy.

The Mayor and Village Board have set forth goals and visions to continue our success into the New Year:

Atlantic Ave. Walkthrough: Acquisition of part of 29 Atlantic Ave to create a pedestrian walkthrough to Broadway.

Atlantic Avenue Vacant Stores: Owned by the MTA, promote occupancy with desirable uses to serve the Community.

Downtown Kiosks: Wayfinding Kiosks to promote local businesses.

Downtown Master Plan: Preparation of long-term Plan

Feather Building: Substantial completion of construction of new upscale apartments.

Fire Department: We will seek bonding for replacing Fire Department equipment for our busy volunteers, who respond to 1,900 calls annually, to accommodate their office and safety training needs.

Library: Designation as a National Historic Landmark

Park Improvements: Review designs to construct welcoming gateway at Wilbur Street and Horton Avenue; Bleachers and concession, Wright Ave parking entrance.

Pool: New deck shade structure using \$75,000 Grant

Recycling: Efforts to reduce over \$1 million in disposal costs by making the disposing of certain recyclables in regular garbage simpler, to produce electricity.

Road Improvements: Rocklyn Ave and Devine Street repaving using NYS Grant.

Soccer Field: Improvements to Ocean Ave parking lot and play areas in time for summer.

Storefronts: Seek grants to improve storefronts

Street Cameras: Street Safety Intersection Cameras & Additional License Plate Readers: Received grant from Congressman Anthony D'Esposito for \$406,000.

Broadway Storefronts: Facelift from Community Block Grant.