



## Nassau County Village Officials Association

Representing the 64 villages in Nassau County, New York  
with a combined population of 450,000 residents

*Government Closest to the People*

# October 2020 Newsletter

**UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE, OUR NEXT  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETINGS WILL BE  
ZOOM MEETINGS  
STARTING AT 6 PM**

**TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 13  
NYS Comptroller  
Thomas DiNapoli**  
(Zoom link will be sent by email)

**TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 10  
Nassau County  
Executive Laura Curran**

[Click here for our 2020-2021  
meeting schedule.](#)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

As we enter the midst of election season, one thing is certain: Much uncertainty remains. There is much at stake in November as voters will decide the future of the White House and Congress.

Closer to home, we continue to manage our local governments despite increasing and unpredictable costs in operations and sharp declines in revenue. The challenges facing state and local governments is daunting. I know I am preaching to the choir when I say how vital federal aid is to local governments to help alleviate the hardships resulting from COVID-19. There is only so much you can cut from spending without impacting operations. Absent federal assistance for COVID-19 related expenses and lost income, increasing taxes will be our only option for securing additional revenue. I urge you to contact your congressional and senate representatives to obtain their commitments to supporting local government assistance.

As we enter the final quarter of 2020, state budget discussions for 2021 will begin shortly. The Executive Committee and I will be working closely with NYCOM to advance our agenda and communicate with our state representatives. We will keep you apprised of developments as they unfold.

### Welcome Mayor Prime

As we announced in the April 2020 newsletter, long-time Great Neck Plaza Mayor and NCVOA Executive Committee Member Jean Celender decided not to seek re-election this



*President Edward Lieberman  
Mayor of the Village of Sea Cliff*

past March. I appointed South Floral Park Mayor Geoffrey Prime to take Mayor Celender's place on the Executive Committee. When the March and June elections were postponed until September 15, Mayor Celender remained in her roles during the summer months. With the September elections complete, I would like to officially welcome Mayor Prime to the Executive Committee. I also thank Mayor Celender for her outstanding accomplishments in the Village of Great Neck Plaza and her valuable leadership and contributions to the Executive Committee.

### **Village Elections Held in September**

It feels strange to be writing in October about village elections. But this is 2020 and nothing seems to be spared from the unusual. Once again, COVID-19 forced the postponement of village elections to September 15. I would like to congratulate re-elected mayors and trustees as well as those elected for the first time. I especially would like to congratulate Farmingdale Mayor Ralph Ekstrand on his re-election. Mayor Ekstrand is a past president of our organization and member of the Executive Committee. I am pleased he will continue to play an important role on the Executive Committee.

For our new colleagues, I encourage you take advantage of your NCVOA membership. The networking opportunities at the monthly meetings and the resources available through the NCVOA are invaluable and can assist you in your new leadership roles. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell phone at 516-359-4691 or via email at [elieberman@seacliff-ny.gov](mailto:elieberman@seacliff-ny.gov) if I can provide any assistance. You also can contact Ralph Kreitzman, NCVOA executive director, at [exec@ncvoa.org](mailto:exec@ncvoa.org).

Let's continue to stay safe and strong!

Sincerely,



Mayor Edward Lieberman

### **SAD NEWS – PASSING OF THEODORE SMITH, JR:**

Former mayor of the Village of Mill Neck, Theodore Smith, Jr. passed away peacefully on September 18. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. Rest in peace.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MAYORS:**

It took a few extra months to elect the following new mayors, to whom we wish congratulations and the best of luck:

Edward Novick – Village of Old Westbury

Daniel Pearl – Village of Massapequa Park

Ted Rosen – Village of Great Neck Plaza

Sandy Quentzel – Village of Roslyn Harbor

If we missed any new mayors, please email [exec@ncvoa.org](mailto:exec@ncvoa.org) for inclusion in our next newsletter.

## THE 2020 CENSUS COUNT CONTINUES:

A judge recently ruled that the deadline for the census count has been restored to October 31. So further reminders to your residents only can help. As you know, an accurate count, for many reasons, is important. The website with all the relevant information is [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov).

We refer you to the attached that recently was sent by the Village of Baxter Estates to its residents. It is an excellent reminder and explanation. Feel free to modify and use it. [Click here to read it.](#)

## BY-LAWS REVIEW UPDATE:

The By-Laws Committee appointed by our Executive Board has met a number of times and has discussed their recommendations with the Executive Board at which there was further discussion. The Executive Board expects to have a recommended update and revision for a vote by the membership later in the fall.

## REMINDER OF A NEW LAW AFFECTING OUR VILLAGES:

Public employers are required to develop and publish, among other things, a Pandemic Operations Plan by April 1, 2021. [Chapter 168 of the Laws of 2020] Unions must be presented with the plan for recommendations by February 4, 2021. Recently, NYCOM had a course on this very new law, and they will share further guidance as it becomes available.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### DOWNSIDE OF IDA DEALS

Newsday published an editorial so entitled on September 22 (online on the prior day). You can read it [here](#). We responded on September 25 with the following letter to the editor.

September 25, 2020

To the Editor:

I applaud Newsday's September 22, 2020 editorial **Downside of IDA Deals** as it supports what the Nassau County Village Officials Association (NCVOA) has been stating for years: The system is unjust as it benefits developers at the expense of local communities.

NYS Industrial Development was enacted in 1969 to actively promote, attract, encourage and develop recreation, economically sound commerce and industry projects to prevent unemployment and economic deterioration. Projects were defined as any land, building or other improvement suitable for manufacturing, warehousing, research, commercial or industrial purposes or other economically sound purposes.

IDAs have strayed from state stature by granting tax exemptions to residential construction projects, resulting in an insignificant number of new permanent jobs while increasing financial burdens on local governments and school districts.

We have not been alone in our IDA scrutiny. New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has been an ardent IDA critic and has issued several reports challenging IDA value and their inflated claims of job development and economic benefits.

It is time to correct the inequities by requiring IDAs to:

1. Limit their scope to the types of projects defined in the law;
2. Demonstrate the cost of the tax relief per job created;
3. Ensure the local affected tax jurisdiction has major input on whether the tax relief should be granted in the first place;
4. Enact separate service agreements with local governments.

Edward L. Lieberman  
Mayor, Village of Sea Cliff and  
President, Nassau County Village Officials Association

## MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:

The logos of our Friends of the NCVOA appear at the end of this newsletter and on our website – [ncvoa.org](http://ncvoa.org). If you click on a Friends' logo, you will be taken to their website home page.



### The Last Word:

**In life, it's important to know when  
to stop arguing with people and  
simply let them be wrong.**

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## **FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA**

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