

NCVOA AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER

Published by the Nassau County Village Officials Association

Post Office Box 484, New Hyde Park, NY 1104

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN AUGUST 2014

NCVOA ANNUAL DINNER TESTIMONIAL DINNER

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

[HONORING MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER](#)

NCVOA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

AND MAYOR OF EAST WILLISTON

CREST HOLLOW COUNTRY CLUB

WOODBURY, NY

COCKTAIL HOUR 6:30PM-7:30PM

DINNER PROGRAM 8:00PM

Tickets for the above mentioned Annual Dinner are \$100.00 each and may be purchased by calling NCVOA Director Warren Tackenberg at 516-437-1455. Please see President Cavallaro's article below for more information on this event. Thank you.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK:



As local elected officials, we are all very busy with many personal, professional and governmental obligations and responsibilities. But, NCVOA's Annual Dinner/Testimonial is our chance, once a year, to get together as a group, to talk about things that are important to us collectively, as well as to express our gratitude to our immediate past President.

NCVOA President-elect Peter Cavallaro addresses the membership following the formal installation ceremony

This year, our Annual Dinner will be held on September 18th at the Crest Hollow Country Club, and we will be honoring immediate past President David Tanner, Mayor of East Williston. As NCVOA's President, Dave was highly effective in terms of aggressively advocating on behalf of Nassau's villages and our residents. The many accomplishments during his term include:

- Organizing and moderating the most publicized and well-attended debate in the 2013 Nassau County Executive race
- Initiating the Executive Board's editorial committee to facilitate the dissemination of NCVOA's message to the media and others
- Publication of several timely NCVOA editorials on legislation and issues affecting village residents

- Successful lobbying of our State officials to further defer the implementation of the costly State-mandated switch to electronic voting machines

These are just a few of the successes that NCVOA was able to achieve during Mayor Tanner's presidency. So, it is important that we all make every effort to make sure that the Annual Dinner is a success. It will also be a good opportunity to see and talk with elected officials from other villages, the State and other levels of government. Our keynote speaker will be State Senator Jack Martins, former Mayor of Mineola, who is one of NCVOA's strongest advocates in Albany.

I urge all Village Mayors and Trustees to attend the Annual Dinner. I firmly believe that it is important that every village have representation at the dinner to show our appreciation for all that Mayor Tanner has done for the Association, and to show our federal, state, county and town elected officials that NCVOA is indeed strong and vibrant. With all the challenges that we face as village officials, that is an extremely important message to send.

You can contact Warren Tackenberg about the dinner. I hope to see you there.

Also, I want to give you a "head's up" on the very interesting October meeting speaker we have planned: Vision Long Island's Executive Director Eric Alexander. Whether your village has thought about, or taken steps toward, any sort of revitalization efforts, Eric is one of Long Island's leading advocates and experts on the topic. With issues such as Long Island's "brain drain" and downtown sustainability at the forefront of public discussions, this timely presentation is certain to be informative. The October meeting will be held on October 14, 2014. So, please mark your calendars and prepare your questions for what is certain to be a lively discussion.

Peter I. Cavallaro

NCVOA Editorial: Village of Freeport Should Make its Own Decisions

We recently sent the following editorial to Newsday. The Village of Freeport, with over 43,000 residents, has a population greater than 47 cities in New York State. The Village is struggling to recover from Super Storm Sandy. As a result, the mayor and trustees must make critical decisions to ensure the village's continued growth and viability. Transferring the Armory to the village makes sense from every perspective and will contribute towards the village's ongoing efforts to stay under the 2% tax levy.

Communication and Cooperation Among Levels of Government is Key

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. As public servants, we understand the importance and value of working collaboratively with our village, town, county and state colleagues to best serve our residents.

On rare occasions, a disconnect materializes between the village and another level of government that can severely impact the village and its residents. Such is the case with the Village of Freeport and the Freeport Armory.

The severe flooding resulting from Super Storm Sandy destroyed Freeport's Albany Avenue Department of Public Works facility, which is located in a flood zone in South Freeport. The repairs at the facility exceeded \$5 million and did not begin to address efforts toward remediating future flooding. Mayor Robert Kennedy and the Village Board devised a common sense solution that would benefit the village and its residents. They wanted to relocate the public works department to the site of the closed and abandoned Freeport Armory, which is north of Sunrise Highway and out of the flood zone. Transferring the Armory to the Village would save the tax payers millions of dollars in construction costs associated with building a new complex at its current below grade facility on the water. Not to mention, there would be the added benefit to public safety with the placement of a police satellite headquarters in North Freeport.

Furthermore, with the relocation of Freeport's Department of Public Works, the Village would be able to sell its DPW facility to a developer. This would bring much needed economic development and jobs to Freeport.

It sounds like a no-brainer. But Assemblywoman Earlene Hooper has other plans. She would like to see the Armory donated to a nonprofit church. While her intention is well-meaning, it should have been discussed with the current administration before being moved forward. The result of this transaction would be detrimental to the Village as it would keep the property tax-exempt and leave the public works facility vulnerable to future flooding.

This disconnect between the two levels of government should not have occurred. This transaction has huge implications for the Village of Freeport and its residents. That is why communication and cooperation is critical. With so much at stake, the Village should be leading this charge. Freeport should be able to have a safe and secure Department of Public Works, an additional police presence, and the ability to develop its economic and tax base.
