



## 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*

## May 2020 Newsletter

**OUR TUESDAY  
MAY 12, 2020  
GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING WILL BE  
BY ZOOM MEETING  
FROM 6:30 TO 7:30 PM**

**OUR JUNE ELECTION  
& INSTALLATION OF  
OFFICERS MEETING  
& SEPTEMBER  
TESTIMONIAL DINNER  
HAVE BEEN  
POSTPONED**

**WE HAVE NO MEETINGS  
SCHEDULED FOR JULY  
OR AUGUST**

Our 2020-2021 meeting  
schedule is attached

### **OUR TUESDAY, MAY 12 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM MEETING FROM 6:30 TO 7:30 PM**

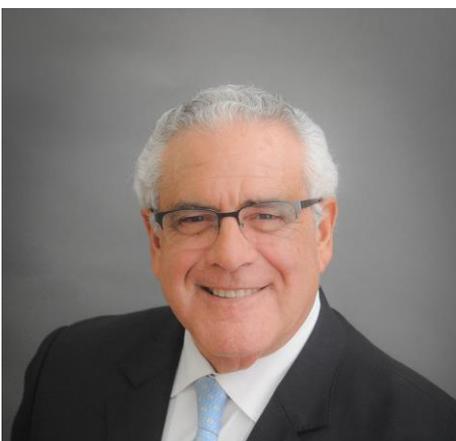
NYCOM's President, our Mayor Bob Kennedy, and Executive Director Peter Baynes, Deputy Executive Director Barbara VanEpps, General Counsel Wade Beltramo and Counsel John Mancini of NYCOM, will update us on Albany matters and, as time permits, answer questions

**INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING  
APPEAR LATER IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Hon. Ernest J. Strada  
1930-2020**



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

The NCVOA lost a true leader and long-time village advocate with the passing of Ernest Strada, former mayor of Village of Westbury and NCVOA and NYCOM past president.

Current Westbury Mayor and NCVOA Past President Peter Cavallaro said, “Mayor Strada was a lifelong resident of the Village and served as our mayor for 28 years. That is a feat I believe will never be equaled or surpassed. He was my beloved mentor, colleague and friend. His legacy to the community is nothing less than having been the best mayor that the Village has ever had and, in my opinion, will ever have.

“As Mayor, he was the strongest advocate that Westbury residents could possibly have had, for so many years and on so many occasions. He possessed a passion and vigor for the community that was unmatched. I had the privilege of serving with Ernie as a member of the Board of Trustees for 10 years before his retirement. I sat in the seat to his immediate left on the dais, and from that vantage point I learned how to always, always put the needs and concerns of our residents first. That was Ernie’s way and the rule by which he governed.”

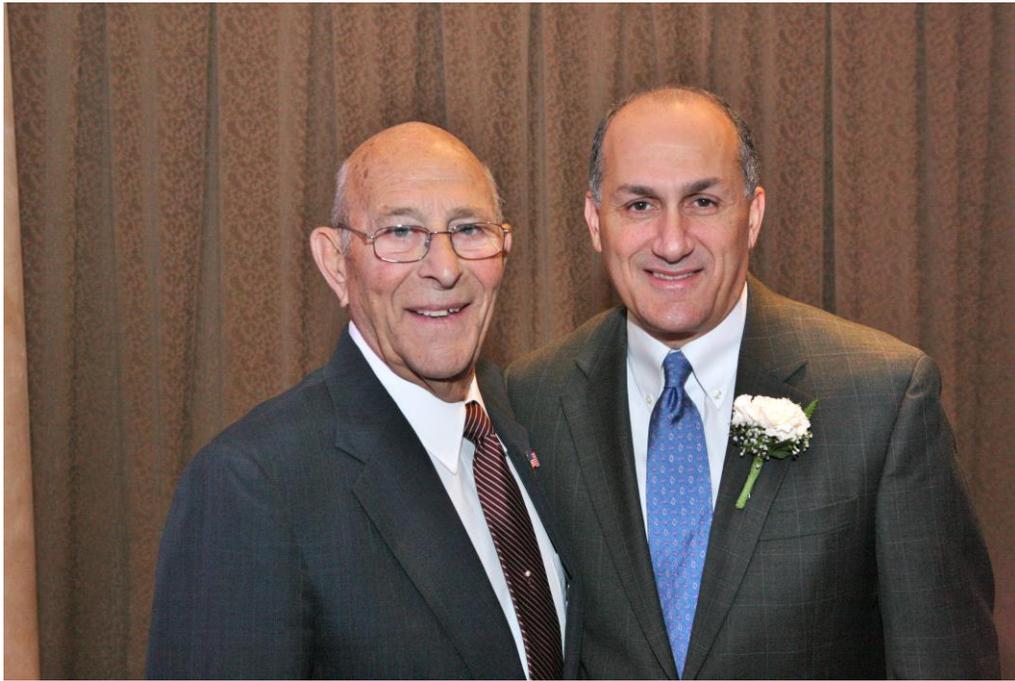
A lifelong Westbury resident, Ernie Strada spent most of his adult life as a dedicated public servant in his village. He was first appointed in 1971 to the Village of Westbury Board of Zoning Appeals. In February 1974 he was appointed trustee, elected to that position the following month and re-elected in March 1977. Ernie Strada was elected mayor in 1981 and served until April 2009. In 2005 he became the first mayor in village history to be elected for a seventh term.

During his tenure, Mayor Strada played an active leadership role in several critical projects and decisions impacting the village. He was instrumental in the precedent setting decision of the Inc. Village of Westbury vs. New York State DOT. The NYS Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the village’s claim that the DOT failed to properly follow SEQRA and the major cumulative effect of the Meadowbrook/Northern State Parkway Interchange Project. He was an active and vocal leader opposing flow control of solid waste and was successful in opposing mandatory controls sought by the Town of North Hempstead. He was a staunch supporter of the Westbury Village Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) and the Downtown Revitalization and Beautification Programs.

In addition to his leadership within the village, Mayor Strada was well-respected among his peers throughout New York State. He was the first NCVOA mayor to serve as both NCVOA and NYCOM president.

“Ernie was warm, smart, funny, passionate and eloquent, and he was extremely proud of his Italian heritage,” Mayor Cavallaro said. “His family meant everything to him, and he often spoke of them in the context of relating how the decisions we made are personal and affect our residents and the community. He enjoyed the time he got to spend on the golf course with his friends, and he was an avid hunter and fisherman. In all the years I knew Ernie, he carried on with great dignity and strength, even in the face of the unspeakable tragedy in the loss of his dear son Tommy in the 2001 September 11th World Trade Center attack.”

The NCVOA mourns the loss of Mayor Strada and extends our heartfelt condolences to Ernie’s wife, MaryAnne, and their family.



*Mayors of the Village of Westbury and past presidents of the NCVOA (l to r) Ernest Strada & Peter Cavallaro*

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:**

Dear Colleagues:

As May begins, it looks as if COVID-19 will continue its unyielding control of our lives - at least for the foreseeable future. Governor Cuomo has extended to May 15 his stay-at-home executive order. And the federal government has recommended states not rescind stay-at-home orders until the number of COVID-19 cases has steadily declined for at least 14 days. Once this objective has been attained, there could be a phased-in approach to reopening businesses as long as social distancing standards can be maintained.

The grip COVID-19 has on us is unlike anything we have ever experienced or could have imagined. We all are tired and frustrated. But despite this unprecedented economic, emotional and social onslaught, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Social distancing efforts are working. The number of Long Islanders afflicted with COVID-19 and the related deaths are declining. Words alone cannot express the heartfelt gratitude to our frontline workers - physicians, nurses, health care workers, as well as our support personnel - sanitation crews, supermarket workers, transit personnel and mail carriers to name a few. They have maintained their commitment to serving us despite fears about their own safety. We are forever grateful for their dedication and sacrifice.

It is particularly encouraging to see the resolve of so many Long Islanders and how they have responded positively to this unparalleled challenge. We have been watching young children

creating signs of encouragement, local fire departments leading caravans of supporters, and teachers making the extra effort to keep their students engaged and positive. These many small gestures add up and inspire our frontline personnel to dig deep and continue the fight.

I know you are learning of instances in your village where your residents are stepping up to help one another. That is truly one of the many benefits of living in a village. As village officials, we are inspired by their selflessness and strong sense of community.

As we move closer towards gaining control over this situation, I encourage you to continue to stay informed of the latest developments by participating in any and all avenues of fact finding and the sharing of information. NYCOM webinars also provide a wealth of information. As always, 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 be of assistance. You also can contact Ralph Kreitzman, NCVOA executive director, at [exec@ncvoa.org](mailto:exec@ncvoa.org).

Stay patient. Stay strong. We will get through this.

### **In Memoriam**

It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Flower Hill Mayor Robert McNamara. Bob first served as village trustee in 2012 and became mayor in 2016 following former mayor Elaine Phillips' election to the state senate. We extend our condolences to Bob's wife, Virginia, and their family.

Sincerely,



Mayor Edward Lieberman

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TESTIMONIAL DINNER POSTPONED:**

Our Executive Board has decided to postpone our election and installation of officers until June 24, 2021. Our current officers will continue to serve in their current positions until that time.

Our September Testimonial Dinner to honor our outgoing president has been postponed until September 9, 2021.

### **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.

## INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO JOIN THE MAY 12, 6:30 PM MEETING:

Click on or paste into your browser --

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89242566893?pwd=VGdrMDRGMnJ1OWt2TlIXbC9HUU1iQT09>

To dial in -- 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 892 4256 6893

Password: 279362



### The Last Word:

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA

Click on a Friends' logo to go to their website home page



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LONG ISLAND  
Creating Smart Growth Communities

**OUR 2020-2021 MEETING SCHEDULE  
FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT PAGE**



**2020 - 2021**

## **NCVOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE**

[revised 5-5-2020 and subject to further changes]

Unless otherwise indicated with an asterisk\*, membership meetings are held at the Westbury Manor on the second Tuesday of each month.

Cocktails (cash bar except at the Annual Testimonial), hors d'oeuvres and conversation start at 6:30 pm and the meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm.

October 13, 2020, Tuesday

November 10, 2020, Tuesday

December 8, 2020, Tuesday -- Holiday Party

January 12, 2021, Tuesday

February 9, 2021, Tuesday

March 9, 2021, Tuesday

April 13, 2021, Tuesday

May 11, 2021, Tuesday

June 24, 2021, Thursday -- Election & Installation of Officers\*

September 9, 2021, Thursday -- Annual Testimonial\*

October 12, 2021, Tuesday

November 9, 2021, Tuesday

December 14, 2021, Tuesday -- Holiday Party