

President's Message

Hope you are enjoying the warm weather and green vistas as much as I am. The Exec Board is definitely full of energy. We now have two new officers, Sheryl Breuninger and Corinda Hanlon both of whom will serve jointly as Recording Secretary and Membership Chair persons. Please welcome two very competent and energetic ladies. Let us know about new neighbors moving onto your street so we can let them know about our community and what we have to offer them. We do have a few new families and more on the way. Say, "Hello!"

We've taken a good hard look at issues facing Juniper Hill for this year. Our agenda includes the repaving of Greenvale Circle and South Wood to finish the job that the Town worked on last autumn with the much-needed replacement of an aging water main. Paving of other streets that suffered additional deterioration thanks to a terrible winter. Please let us know of any potholes on your block or elsewhere on Juniper Hill. We are working on problems with neighbors who do not abide by the law and good neighbor practices - aggressive dogs on at least two streets; maintenance of the golf course fence and roadside area and derelict houses on Teramar and Fair Street.

On the Town side, we are monitoring problems with the Fairview Fire Department management and tax bill and looking into how our organization can work with the Fire District and the Town to lower our tax bill. We are also monitoring the Town's new Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years and how that may affect Juniper Hill through development of adjoining areas - see General Meeting report.

Your neighbors brought their concerns to our meeting and the Executive Board has already acted on most of them to good effect. We asked the Town to cut back a jagged tree stump on Juniper Hill Road and have set a few other projects in motion.

Finally, we set a date for our bi-annual BBQ- Sept. 6 with a rain date of Sept. 7th. Want to help? Let us know. Plan to attend? Let us know so we know who will bring what dish and how many people to plan for. A strong community is your best means of making your voice heard when it counts.

Best regards,

Sue Mirialakis

P.S. See list of great Westchester County services and publications at the end of this Newsletter.

Executive Board

President – Sue Mirialakis
Vice President – Alphonso Leonce
Treasurer – Arthur Chisolm
Recording Secretary/Membership – Sheryl Breuninger
- Corinda Hanlon
Corresponding Secretary – Seth Segall
Member-at-large – Illayne Parker
Contact: 914-448-0035

General Meeting Highlights

Our April 28th General Meeting included speakers from the Central School District with information on the proposed school budget for 2014-15 and for the Town a presentation was made on the new Comprehensive Plan and what it will mean to communities around Greenburgh. One of the proposed "nodes" for development starts at the bottom of our hill around Russell and Fulton St. Another is proposed for the Joyce Leslie shopping center to include the Lee F. Bailey School area. Both areas adjoin Juniper Hill and are in a direct line with the two main access points to Juniper Hill.

Greenburgh Central 7 Superintendent Ross and Asst. Superintendent for Business Bronski made a short presentation to explain school budget items and plans for a complete reorganization of the district to better meet the needs of our children to include a new building program to move all schools to the main campus. We were urged to vote for the 2014-15 school budget and as you may know, it did pass.

Commissioner of Planning for the Town of Greenburgh Thomas Madden summarized the main points of the new Comprehensive Plan to be used as a guide in matters of development over the next 20 years. I urge you to read through the document at <http://greenburghcomprehensiveplan.com/> It will most certainly affect Juniper Hill as one of the main features of this plan includes two mixed-use areas at both ends of Juniper Hill access roads: one planned Transportation hub center to include a major bus transfer point, stores, parking, and residential apartments starting on Russell Street and moving down into White Plains across Central Avenue and another node planned for 119 affecting access on Fair Street and including to be connected by walkways from the White Plains Train Station all the way through to a third node planned for the Library area.

Taxes

About a month ago, a number of residents from the Fairview Fire District - which serves Juniper Hill and surrounding areas and includes fire houses on Rosemont and Worthington - attended a Fire Board meeting to protest the addition of another Deputy Fire Chief at the expense of taxpayers already burdened with one of the highest tax rates in NYS. The meeting brought home the need to monitor the actions of this autonomous organization which acts independently of the Town and has no other oversight into it's doings aside from the NYS Controller's office - not more than a means of assessing how much the state gets from the Fire District.

It has been suggested that the Hartsdale and Fairview Districts investigate the possibility of consolidating duplicate services to help save taxpayer dollars. Juniper Hill executive board members are working with other community leaders to see that reforms are made. We are working with the new Fire Chief Reiss (Chief LoGuidice recently retired) to discuss what measures can be taken to remedy the situation. We expect to meet with him again and possibly with the Hartsdale Fire Chief early in July to see what they suggest. In December, there will be an election to replace one or possibly two of the fire commissioners, who are the only oversight on our Fire District. We hope to support good candidates for the position(s) and publicize when the election takes place -- usually for three hours on a weeknight in late December. It's important that everyone who can gets out and votes if we want to effect changes that will help maintain a high level of service without increasing our already high taxes.

We are doing our best to follow all developments that may affect Juniper Hill residents. Stay tuned and get connected. JHCA needs to be able to get information out to the community as fast as possible. Out of 200 families on the hill and 60 more in adjoining Chelsea Park, we've managed to make up an email list that includes 62 names. You should have received an email notice of the last meeting in addition to the Meeting Flyer delivered by our intrepid block captains. If you did not get an email and have an address, please send an email to be added to our contact list to juniperhillcivic@gmail.com

Westchester County Resources

Westchester County has a wealth of information and services available to all residents and especially for Senior Citizens. Below is a listing of publications available to download from the county website.

www.westchestergov.com/seniors

Directory of Services Rights & Benefits for Senior Citizens

Benefits Checkup

A Guide for Caregivers: What You Need to Know

Livable Communities

Healthcare Proxy

Home Repair Energy Assistance Directory

Growing Older- Who Do You Trust?

Financial Benefits and Savings Guide

60 Plus LC Newsletter

Living Well

At the Crossroads - Guide to Residential and Health Care Facility options

Westchester Senior Housing Sites

Older Driver Family Assistance Program

Good Programs including :

Job training for workforce re-entries

Nutrition Program

Medicare Basics workshops

*JUNIPER HILL RESIDENTS
COME ONE COME ALL!*

JUNIPER HILL BBQ!

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPT. 6
(RAINDATE - SUNDAY SEPT. 7)

WHERE: SARATOGA ST.

WANT TO HELP? BRING A FAVORITE DISH?

LET US KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO COME...

CALL: 448-0035