

Newsletter

Juniper Hill Civic Association - September 2011

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

Summer is officially over and Fall is here. Our beautiful gardens are now touched with fall colors. Children are back to school and Juniper Hill is getting ready for lots of activity and holiday fun.

Summer was a mixed bag of gorgeous weather, incredible heat past the 100 degree mark, torrential rains with amazing amounts of water cascading down the hill with the tail end of Hurricane Irene and some of you even felt the earthquake that shook the whole eastern seaboard. Whew!

Given the iffiness of the weather and other factors, we were unable to mount our end of the summer BBQ for which I am heartily sorry. However, perhaps we can still manage to organize a Fall Bash. Let me know if this is something you and your neighbors would like to participate in perhaps around the end of October?

A big welcome goes to Illayne Parker our newest Board Member At Large. Illayne consented to join our efforts to ensure residents of Juniper Hill have the best representation possible at the Town level. Illayne was so helpful in updating our Constitution that the Board unanimously enlisted her.

Our next general membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th. I hope you will join us for a lively discussion on **TAXES!!!**

Best regards,
Sue Mirialakis

Executive Board

President - Sue Mirialakis

Vice President - Alphonso Leonce

Treasurer - Arthur Chisolm

Recording Secretary - Millicent Stewart

Corresponding Secretary - Seth Segall

Member-at-large - Illayne Parker

In and Around Juniper Hill**FEMA Assistance**

If you had damage to your home or property due to Hurricane Irene, you may be eligible for Federal Emergency Mitigation Assistance. On Tuesday Sept. 27th at 9a.m. The Greenburgh Town Board will hold a work session to discuss flooding in the Town. There are areas of Greenburgh that continually end up under water. The Town hired a consultant to develop a Plan to enable us to apply for Federal Grants to address areas where flooding is a continual problem. Please let the Town know of your needs and interest in taking steps to mitigate the damage.

Traffic

At our last General Meeting we formed a committee to look into traffic safety issues on Juniper Hill. Much of what we noted related to pot holes and overhanging trees. Most of the potholes were filled and the overhanging branches were trimmed. The following areas of concern will be communicated to the Chief of Police as follows:

- Fulton and Prospect: Al's Moving Trucks block site lines on the streets.
- Prospect: Parking for the Repair Shop creates a problem for residents trying to get through this area of the street.
- Greenvale Circle: Pot holes are a constant problem on this street. It needs to be repaved.
- Juniper Hill and Walnut: Bushes make it hard to look for oncoming traffic.

If we've missed something please let us know so we can address the problem.

Town Budget

Early in 2011, Town Supervisor, Paul Feiner requested volunteers to form the Greenburgh Budget Oversight Commission (GBOC). Recently, the members of the commission held a series of meetings with leaders of 36 civic associations to apprise us of the work they've done, solicit our

Newsletter

Juniper Hill Civic Association - September 2011

input and to briefly describe what recommendations they will be making to the Town to help rein in budget costs while continuing to maintain the services for which Greenburgh is known in the face of dire economic conditions. Twenty-five members of which 24 are Greenburgh residents with experience in Industry, Engineering, Management, Transportation, Insurance, Accounting, Real Estate etc. have worked tirelessly alongside the Town Controller and with every department of government to find areas of duplication of services, eliminate wasteful practices and to increase revenue. A full report will be available on the Town website in early October. Some recommendations are:

- To strengthen the roles of Town Supervisor as Chief Financial Officer and of the Controller.
 - Systemic changes in the the budget and reporting processes for all departments.
 - Strengthen accountability measures
 - Institute Zero-based budgeting.
 - Annual audits.
 - Quarterly reports and budget projections.
 - Cut redundancy in operations of community agencies.
 - Provide a more comprehensible Budget document to the public.
 - Study for assessing consolidation amongst agencies.
 - Privatizing EMS
 - Changes to Health and Pension - ask employees to contribute to these - currently no contribution.
 - Consolidation of funds for legal counsel.
 - Collect \$5million in past due traffic tickets.
 - Five year plan for Capital Improvements.
- The list promises to be very lengthy and the Committee believes they will be able to hold the line within the State cap of 2%.

Our input:

- Capital budget should be considered to use where Federal Grant funds require matching funds to upgrade infrastructure.
- Consider asking folks to bag their leaves rather than waiting for them to be vacuumed up by the

Town. Much more sanitary and safer - Wet leaves are a driving hazard. Would save man hours.

- Eliminate fiefdoms - open up government to the public lens and encourage cooperation between Towns, Villages etc. where it makes sense to achieve economies of scale for example buying supplies.

Tax Grievance

During May and June all of us were bombarded with mail from agencies wanting to help us file for tax reductions based on the current market value of our homes. Many of us actually did file what is known as a Tax Grievance. Along with the September School Tax bill many of us also received notification of whether our grievance would make any difference.

We'd like to hear how many of you were satisfied with the outcome.

If your grievance was denied and you were told to go to Small Claims court to get the forms to fill out, you can download them online from:

http://www.westchesterclerk.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19&Itemid=13

Tip: Call the Town Assessor's Office 993-1520 and ask them to help you fill in the form. It can be very confusing.

JHCA Constitution Update

The committee used the summer to review and update our Constitution. It will be presented at the next General Meeting for review and acceptance. Until then it will be posted on the JHCA website. Please take a few minutes to look through it and give us your thoughts. Our goal was to make it user-friendly and inclusive recognizing the needs and concerns of our members.

*** Next Meeting ***
Tues. Oct. 25th - 7:30 pm
Town Hall - 177 Hillside Ave.

Newsletter

Juniper Hill Civic Association - September 2011