

INCORPORATED 1952
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Website: tuxedopark-ny.gov

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
P.O. BOX 31
TUXEDO PARK, NEW YORK 10987

Mary Jo Guinchard
Mayor

October 6, 2015

Dear Residents and Neighbors:

This is the third Mayor's newsletter to the Village since I took office on July 6, 2015. Previous versions of these newsletters can be found on the Village website at www.tuxedopark-ny.gov under the heading "Mayor's Newsletter".

Main Entrance to the Village of Tuxedo Park

On the first day of Labor Day weekend (Saturday, September 5, 2015), at approximately 3:45AM, a female motorist driving an SUV with New Jersey plates, crashed into the Village Police "Booth" located in the center of the Main Entrance to Tuxedo Park. The SUV driver actually struck the Booth entering the Village driving on the wrong side of the road. The Police Gate Guard on duty at that time was Jake Conklin. The severe impact pushed the entire Booth backward off of its foundation causing it to list. The front window broke into many shards and all of the contents, electronics, etc. of the Booth were thrown backward with the impact of the crash. Gate Guard Conklin was also thrown backward, but fortunately was shaken and not seriously hurt. The driver of the SUV was charged and arrested by the Town of Tuxedo Police.

This was not the first time the Village Police "Booth" was destroyed by a vehicle. In the late 1980's, a Village plow-truck struck the Booth, completely tipping it over with the Police Gate Guard on duty inside at that time. The Gate Guard was trapped inside until being extracted by first responders. The Village built a new Booth at that time and such Booth was the subject of this recent Labor Day weekend accident.

The Labor Day weekend crash caused all of the electronics to stop functioning in the Booth, including the Main Entrance Gate-opening mechanism, the South Entrance Gate-opening mechanism, the video surveillance camera feed for the South Gate surveillance cameras, the phone connection to the South Gate allowing voice communication between the Gate Guard in the Main Entrance Booth and drivers wishing to enter the Village through the South Gate. In addition to all of this, the Gate Guard is the dispatcher for the Village Police and is also responsible for fielding all 9-1-1 calls to the Village Police, which was also disabled with the crash. The Main Entrance Police Booth was, until the accident, the communications center for allowing access to the Village by any means.

Most of you received a series of CodeRed alerts (including updates on the Village website) from me during that Labor Day weekend. I also made calls to the Tuxedo Club, the Tuxedo Park School, St. Mary's, the Town of Tuxedo, the Tuxedo public school, the Wee Wah Beach Club, etc. to please include the updates with respect to Main Entrance Gate and the South Gate in their respective email distributions. First, I want to thank all of the Village employees that worked tirelessly during that time and the Village Police. I also want to thank the Town of Tuxedo Police for their assistance. Most importantly, the Village Trustees and I want to thank you, the Village residents for your patience and understanding during this very unusual period.

As most of you know, the Booth was condemned, demolished and all debris removed immediately. The original Police Headquarters used to be located in the "Keep" (before there was a Booth), which is the building on the northern side of the Main Entrance. Fortunately, much of the communications connections that were moved to the Booth, were originally moved from the Keep. We made the decision to move the Police Gate Guard (and all of their functions) back to the Keep (on a temporary basis) since all of the original communications were already there. The Police Gate Guard continues to operate from the Keep at this point.

We are planning several Special Meetings of the BOT to discuss the pros and cons with the public of (1) rebuilding a much more reinforced Booth, (2) having the Gate Guard continue to operate from the Keep and (3) any other solutions being put forward by the Village residents, Boards, and employees.

Through our insurance company, the Village has already begun receiving advances on the claim. The motorist's insurance policy has acknowledged the claim and has it under review.

Friday, October 2nd, John Ledwith (Village Building Inspector) received a new survey, commissioned by the Village, of the VOTP Police Department property at the main entrance. The survey shows that the location of the Booth is located on Village property within the Village limits.

CodeRed

We encourage all residents to sign up to receive CodeRed announcements. If you haven't done so already, please go to the Village website at www.tuxedopark-ny.gov and click on CodeRed to sign up. If you don't have computer access or wish to speak to someone, please call CodeRed at 866-939-0911. The recent Labor Day weekend incident highlights the importance of emergency notifications.

Wee Wah Dam

The Wee Wah Dam remains a top priority. With respect to the Village dams, we will no longer be working with Weston & Sampson for the engineering. After conducting a comprehensive search/interview process, we have selected Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP (CHA) headquartered in Albany, New York, as our engineering firm for this purpose. With regard to timeline, CHA is hoping that the engineering study will be done by Spring 2016, construction by Q4 2016-Q1 2017, and completion by Q2 2017. By the next BOT meeting, we will have an update from CHA on their progress.

Lakes

The Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC ("AIM") diving team was present the last week of September and did their scheduled "pull" of the Eurasian Milfoil. Trustee McHugh will give an update on the success of the "pull" at the next BOT meeting.

Car Tags

Non-resident Car Tags - New Non-resident "orange" car tags are now available to be purchased and picked up at the Main Entrance. The new Non-resident car tags will expire on July 31, 2016. For more information, please call Denise Spalthoff at 845-351-4741. Old non-resident tags include the "black" series, "yellow" series, to name a few. All old series tags will not be allowed entrance through the South Gate after October 22nd. Please do not wait until the last minute to replace your old tags.

- Only residents and orange tag holders will be permitted access from the South Gate after October 22nd
- All other non-resident vehicles must use the Main Entrance
- Non-resident tags are available for purchase only to members of the Tuxedo Club or Tuxedo Park School
- If your request is received on or before October 22nd, the cost of Non-resident tags will be \$60.00 each
- If your request is received after October 22nd, 2015, the cost of Non-resident tags will be \$75.00 each

Resident Car Tags - Resident tags are still valid, available at no cost to residents and expire July 31, 2016.

Grant Writer

In early September, the Board of Trustees engaged Mr. Fred Rella to pursue grant opportunities to help offset the large expense of Village infrastructure upgrades/improvements and equipment/supply purchases. Mr. Rella brings over ten years of experience in successfully writing and obtaining grant money for municipalities throughout the Hudson Valley.

During the month of September, Mr. Rella met individually with members of the BOT and the DPW to identify Village infrastructure and equipment needs of which can be funded by grants. Some significant areas for grants include: the Wee Wah Dam, the Pond #3 Dam, Village buildings, water and sewer system upgrades, and DPW equipment. Additionally, grants will be sought for the Police Department.

Mr. Rella is working with a number of elected officials to help secure grant monies. These officials currently include State Senator Bonacic, Assemblyman Brabenec, US Congressman Maloney and U.S. Senator Gillibrand. We look forward to Mr. Rella successfully obtaining grants for the Village.

Emergency Response Committee update from Jeff Simet (Chair) jssimet@aol.com, and Trustee John Kilduff (Liaison) TrusteeJohn10987@gmail.com

Although Hurricanes Irene, Sandy, the Blizzard of 2010, and most recently, Joaquin are well behind us, the lack of a comprehensive response and recovery plan for the Village has not gone unnoticed. These events highlighted our vulnerability in the event of a true emergency. While we are in the early stages of assembling a true effective plan, with hurricane season upon us, it is important that, as homeowners, we are prepared.

Formal plan or not, it is very important that all residents have the basics needed to get through risks such natural disasters may pose. This preparedness comes at the most basic level in the form of a Disaster/Emergency Supply Kit. A list to prepare such a kit may be found at: www.ready.gov. We have also placed a few lists on our website.

While we continue to prepare a comprehensive emergency plan for the Village, please take the time to prepare yourselves and your homes in the event of any upcoming potential emergency by ensuring that you have your own emergency kit assembled in your homes. Fortunately there was no need for it with respect to Joaquin, but be prepared none-the-less...and don't forget your pets!

If you would like to be involved with this committee, please email Jeff Simet at jssimet@aol.com.

Update from Trustee Guazzoni, TrusteeClaudio10987@gmail.com

DPW – Department of Public Works

Tuxedo Park is the proud owner of 25 miles of paved roads. The DPW has been very busy this past month patching and paving all of our roads. We are looking forward to having 100% of the roads filled and patched by late autumn. If you are aware of any extremely large potholes or areas that desperately need our attention, please contact me directly on my e-mail listed above. All issues will be addressed accordingly.

DOT – Road signs, street lights, safety barriers

Stop, Yield, No Right Turn...! We have over 100 road signs in Tuxedo Park. Each year that number seems to grow. It seems that each year we become more and more suburban in look and feel. Where do we stop...?

I am currently studying which Village road signs are absolutely necessary... and which ones are not-all-that-necessary. Road signs costs taxpayers real money each year to maintain and eventually replace. It's a scenario of need-to-have versus nice-to-have. If you are aware of a less-than-necessary road sign, please contact me directly on my e-mail listed above. All questions will be answered.

Village Code-writing – Dark Sky Initiative

To be able to see the Milky Way... or not to be able to see the Milky Way...? That is the question we need to answer for the sake of our children and our Village. Light pollution is an adverse effect of artificial light, including sky glow, unsightly glare, light trespass, decreased visibility at night, energy waste, and more. Light pollution wastes energy and money, disrupts global wildlife and ecological balance, and has been linked to negative consequences in human health. The nighttime environment is a precious natural resource for all life on Earth, but the glow of uncontrolled outdoor lighting has hidden the stars and changed our perception of the night.

Until recently, for all of human history, our ancestors experienced a sky brimming with stars – a night sky that inspired science, religion, philosophy, art and literature, including some of Shakespeare’s most famous pieces. The natural night sky is our common and universal heritage, yet it is rapidly becoming unknown to our newest generations. I will propose to draw together a committee of Village residents concerned with the long-term planning of nighttime outdoor lighting in the Village. Please contact me at TrusteeClaudio10987@gmail.com if you’re interested.

Bulk pick-up

Saturday, October 17th, 2015 (all items curbside by 7:00AM)

Suggestions

Your suggestions are always important. The Board of Trustees will be given all suggestions to review and, if warranted, discussed at the meeting following such suggestion.

E-mail to suggestions@tuxedopark-ny.gov, mail, drop off in person, or after hours slide under door to:

Village of Tuxedo Park
Attn: Suggestions
80 Lorillard Road
P. O. Box 31
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987

Reminder

Check the website for updates and dates of various Village board meetings.

Next Board of Trustees Meetings

October 27, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.
November 18, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.
December 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Village Office
80 Lorillard Road
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987

Mayor of the Village of Tuxedo Park Open House

Come as you are and stop by to say hello or discuss anything on your mind
194 East Lake Road
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987
3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 11, 2015

Help us to be green, to reduce paper use and postage costs. You can elect to receive future editions of this newsletter via e-mail by sending your name(s) and e-mail addresses to suggestions@tuxedopark-ny.gov and requesting to be put on the newsletter email distribution list. Please state whether you will like only electronic, mail, both, or neither.

As always, please call, text, e-mail or come see me at your convenience. To accommodate your calendar, I am always available at the Village Office by appointment. I will also have scheduled hours on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Regards,



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713-501-9960 (c)