

## Emergency Services Hero Lauded



Shown above: Mayor Curran presents a citation to Cathy Aresta as fire chiefs look on.

The honorable works and selfless acts of Dominick DeCarlo, a 60-year member of the Lynbrook Fire Department and a former member of the Village Board of Trustees, and Cathy Aresta, former Captain of Emergency Medical Company, were celebrated at a recent meeting of the Village Board.

Aresta was applauded for her life-saving action to remove a person pinned inside a car involved in a serious traffic accident. DeCarlo was cited for his 60 years of community service to Lynbrook.

# Village Begins Campaign Against Underage Drinking

Acting on Mayor Brian Curran's promise, the Lynbrook Police Department and Village Hall are cracking down on the village-wide prevalence of underage drinking.

The joint action is already producing immediate results. During the months of April to August, the Police Department issued a total of seven tickets to persons under 21 years of age who were found in possession of an alcoholic beverage and have issued tickets to three persons for selling alcoholic beverages to a minor. Those individuals who sell alcoholic beverages to a minor face criminal penalties as well as their liquor license suspension.

"We are sending a clear message that underage drinking will not be tolerated," said Mayor Curran. "This is one way we are going to tackle the issue of the problem, and to ask people not to pass alcohol on to youths. It is also a way we can help reduce incidents of anti-social behavior that results from underage drinking."

Joined by Deputy Mayor and Trustee William Hendrick and Trustees Alan Beach, Dave Penso and Richard Clifford, Mayor Curran says it's time for parents to initiate conversations with their children about alcohol, and the community to take an active role in order to deter underage drinking.

Lynbrook police are on the watch for minors possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages. Person under the age of 21 years who are found in possession of an alcoholic beverage will receive a ticket to appear in court. Retailers licensed to

sell alcoholic beverages and all other persons, who are caught selling, delivering or giving away alcoholic beverages to a minor will be arrested, photographed, fingerprinted and charged with a crime. "This includes parents who permit alcohol consumption in their homes and minors giving an alcoholic beverage to another minor," said Mayor Curran.

"We want you to help us take the responsibility to say it's not a right of passage, it's not okay for a 15, 16-year old to drink," said Deputy Mayor Hendrick. "Know where your kids are. Know what they're doing. Know who they're with. We need to be the first line of defense for our kids."

Aside from stopping the sale or furnishing of alcohol to minors, the initiative is emphasizing the message "think before you supply".

Part of the campaign will involve a concerted effort to catch licensees selling to minors, and "shoulder-tap" operations will target strangers who are offered money by young people outside liquor outlets to buy them alcohol.

It is a crime to sell, give or cause to be given an alcoholic beverage to an individual who is under the age of 21 years. Individuals arrested face up to a \$1000.00 fine and a year in jail. In addition to the criminal penalties, those retail establishments who sell alcoholic beverages face administrative penalties against their liquor license, which may include paying a fine, license suspension or license revocation, added Mayor Curran.

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PERMIT #316  
LYNBROOK, NY  
11563

# Lynbrook U.S.A.

## Tax Cuts Designed To Bring Relief To Residents, Attract New Business

For the first time in years, the Village of Lynbrook under the direction of Mayor Brian Curran and its Board of Trustees, took significant steps to address the burden of the tax crisis on residents and merchants.

The final approved budget for 2007 contained a 1/4-percent reduction in the tax rate which will result in about 2 percent less overall taxes being collected from the residents. Research by Mr. John Giordano, Village Administrator, found that this is the first tax reduction in fifty years.

"We are planning for the future. The tax relief and budget cuts to government spending are for the long haul. They do not rely on gimmicks or drain our surplus. In fact, we are planning ahead so that we continue to use our resources efficiently, to reduce government spending, and to further stabilize taxes," said Mayor Curran. "We will not yield, we will not relent in our mission to develop and implement the plans that will make our great Village an even better place to live for our residents and build and maintain successful businesses."

The final budget also included reductions of \$509,773 to the tentative budget put forth by the previous the mayor and administration. Cuts included a wage freeze for the mayor and trustees; reduction in village wide newsletters from 6 to 3 a year; and a reduction in conferences from various departments. The tax cuts and reduced spending are a direct result of team work and the new administration's commitment to eliminate frivolous government spending that is detrimental to the vitality and well-being of our community, residents, and merchants.

"While I commend all department heads for their hard work, it is necessary for me to bring attention to the Lynbrook Fire Department," said Mayor Curran. "The Fire Department and its chiefs managed to reduce budget expenditures to generate the funds needed to purchase a system called 'Red Alert.' This potentially life-saving technology will help the Fire Department and Lynbrook's emergency responders better protect our community, residents, and businesses."

In addition to the tax cut and budget cuts, Mayor

Curran and the Board of Trustees unanimously passed into law an amendment to the Real Property Tax Law that allows senior citizens of the Village of Lynbrook to deduct from their income all prescription drug expenses actually paid which were not reimbursed or paid for by insurance.

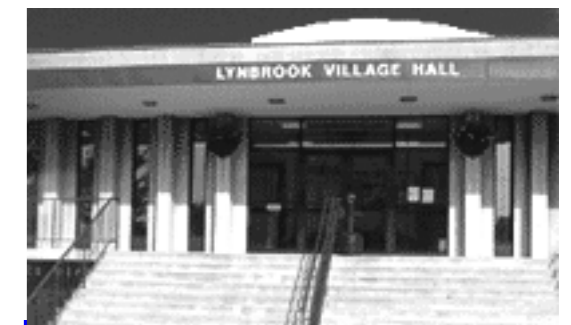
This amendment will increase seniors' tax exemptions by reducing their declared income level. The quality of life that the residents of the Village enjoy today is a direct result of the hard work and commitment to community of its senior citizens.

"This is a break that our senior citizens deserve and have earned," said Mayor Curran. "All board members recognized that and worked hard to ensure that this measure was passed under the new Administration."

The amendment is part of New York State Legislature Assembly Bill A607, which amended the Real Property Tax Law to exclude from the definition of income all medical and prescription drug expenses actually paid by a senior citizen which were not reimbursed or paid for by insurance. The amendment is enacted at the discretion of each municipality in New York.

Prior to the amendment, the Real Property Tax Law defined 'income' as "...income from all sources after deduction of all income and social security taxes and includes social security and retirement benefits, public assistance benefits, interest, dividends, net rental income, salary, or earnings, and net income from self-employment, but shall not include gifts or inheritances, payments made to individuals because of their status as victims of Nazi persecution...or increases in benefits accorded pursuant to the social security act which take effect after the date of eligibility of head of household receiving benefits hereunder whether received by the head of household or any other member of the household."

For more information about the amendment to the Real Property Tax Law, please call (516) 599-8300.



**NEWSLETTER**  
OCTOBER, 2007

"The Village That Leads The Way."

**DON'T MISS OUT!**



You're Invited to Attend  
**LYNBROOK EXPO**

**2007!**

**Saturday, October 13**  
**@ Greis Park**



## Inside:

**Water, Water, Everywhere...**

Village Adopts Flood Ordinance

**Page 2**

**Happy Days Are Here Again!**

Village Administrator's Message

**Page 2**

**Thrills For All Ages**

Lynbrook Expo Takes Off Oct. 13

**Page 3**

**Job Well Done!**

Awards Night Celebrates Excellence

**Page 3**

**Sobering Development**

Crack Down On Underage Drinking

**Page 4**

**SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!**



**LYNBROOK EXPO 2007**

**Saturday, October 13 @ Greis Park**



### Message From The Village Administrator:

On behalf of Mayor Curran and members of the Board of Trustees, I'm pleased to report on the year end financial results of 06/07. I will briefly account of the key challenges faced, successes achieved, and the State of the Village today.



John Giordano

As reported herein, the reduction of the tax rate on the heels of last year's tax freeze attests to the financial strength of your Village. This has all been accomplished despite the limited expansion of our commercial tax base, the nation's less than robust economy, and the maintaining of all levels of service without additional new revenues or taxes. We ended the year with a \$1.3 million surplus to bring our total surplus to \$6.9 million -- a healthy 22 percent of the Budget! We also maintained an upgraded Moody's "A1" bond rating, the best rating the Village has ever had since Moody's started rating the Village 35 years ago. Thanks to our stable surplus and over \$500,000 in new savings by Mayor Curran's sharp pencil, Lynbrook experienced its first time ever cut in taxes for the new 2007 budget.

The Budget was honed to develop various strategic themes to set the foundation for short and long term priorities:

- Strong and Safe Neighborhoods
- Diverse Recreational Activities
- Economic Development
- Cost effective government and fiscal stability

Supported by a Budget of \$31,365,262, your full service Village provides Police and Fire protection, Garbage collection, Building code enforcement, Street maintenance, Library, Justice Court, and expansive parks and recreation facilities. All Departments ended the year within budgetary limits, including adjustments made as necessary by the Board.

We are at a modest 56 percent of our State Constitutional Tax limit, and have only exhausted 17.2 percent of the Debt limit, making Lynbrook USA a relatively low taxed, low debt community.

*John Giordano's career in municipal management spans 27 years, including service as Lynbrook's deputy village clerk and grant consultant. He served as a member of the State Comptroller's Local Officials Advisory Team and as President of the New York State Association of City and Village Clerks, where he was credited with authoring the statewide "Certified Municipal Clerk" program. As a '74 Lynbrook High graduate, he earned a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from Adelphi University and Masters degree in Public Administration from Baruch College.*

## Village Adopts Flood Ordinance So Residents Can Purchase Insurance

Residents of the Village of Lynbrook can now purchase federally backed-funded flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Village received approval to participate in the NFIP following a successful application process and pledging to adopt and enforce ordinances to reduce flood losses.

"The availability of this important program to residents the residential and commercial property owners in Lynbrook is a result of teamwork," said Mayor Brian Curran. "I commend Trustee Dave Penso for his hard work in coordinating the application process and ensuring a successful outcome."

The program allows residents to purchase flood insurance up to the limits under the Regular Phase of the program. There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage goes into effect. For single-family dwellings, the building coverage limit is \$250,000 and the contents coverage limit is \$100,000.

Renters can protect their belongings by purchasing contents coverage. For commercial properties, the building and contents coverage limits are both \$500,000.

Lenders must require borrowers whose properties are located in a designated flood hazard area to purchase flood insurance as a condition of

receiving a federally backed mortgage loan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Protection Act of 1973. The Village of Lynbrook is not in a designated flood hazard area.

"The facts show that flood insurance is a prudent choice," said Trustee Penso. "The flood insurance from the NFIP puts the homeowners, business owners, and renters in control. Flood insurance claims are paid even if a disaster is not declared by the President."

In addition, if a flood insurance claim is filed promptly, an advance partial payment for immediate needs may be requested. The flood insurance program is implemented through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). There are more than four million flood insurance policies in more than 20,000 participating communities nationwide.

According to FEMA, floods are the most common, and most costly, of natural disasters. In the past several years, about 60 percent of all Presidentially declared disasters involved flooding. In areas with the greatest risk of flooding, called Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), a building has a 26 percent chance of being flooded during a 30-year mortgage. About 20-25 percent of all flood insurance claims paid by the NFIP are for property outside of SFHAs.

## Remembering The Victims of 9/11

More than 500 residents gathered at Village Hall for a memorial service to remember loved ones, friends and the more than 3,000 civilians and emergency services personnel who were killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.



William Hargrove (center) with bagpipe band.



William Wren's granddaughter.



Michael Horn's parents, Moira and Charles, with junior LFD member.



The Smithwick Family for Dennis Buckley with junior LFD member.



The Wall Family.

## Lynbrook EXPO '07 Set To Kick Off!

The Village of Lynbrook, Deputy Mayor Bill Hendrick, and the Lynbrook Expo Planning Committee invite residents of Lynbrook and the South



Shore communities to attend Lynbrook Expo 2007. Set for Saturday, October 13 at Greis Park, this year's theme for Lynbrook Expo 2007 is Patriotism.



The opening ceremony will feature a Military Color Guard and a fabulous performance by The Silver Dolphins Silent Drill Team from the United States Navy Submarine Training School in Groton, Connecticut.

The U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and the New York Army National Guard will be among the exhibitors at the Expo, which coincides with the birthday of the

United States Navy.

During the Expo, U.S. Army blackhawk and Nassau County Police Department helicopters will conduct landing and lift-off maneuvers. There will also be a static display of replica World War II era military



aircraft.

In addition to celebrating the birthday of the U.S. Navy, the Expo will recognize Crime Prevention and Fire Prevention Month. The Lynbrook Fire Department will display its equipment and provide fire prevention information and the Police Department will distribute crime prevention information and materials.

Want to know what it's like to command a submarine, be a crime scene investigator, fight fires, or fly a police or military helicopter? The Lynbrook Expo is an opportunity to find out. Want to learn about life as an F.B.I. Agent, Secret Service Agent, a police officer, or a conservation police officer? The Lynbrook Expo is the place to learn firsthand.

Lynbrook's educational institutions will also be on display, providing information about their curriculums, extracurricular activities and performing arts, music, and athletic programs. Entertainment at the Expo will feature Lynbrook musicians and school bands.

Remember to bring your children, who will be able to obtain "Kid Pix" child ID cards done by the Lynbrook Police Department.

### A Look Back...

## Lynbrook's WWII Air Raid Wardens

December 1941 was a frightening time in America. When Germany's declaration of war followed on the heels of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, some military planners believed that Long Island's villages could become targets, albeit unintended ones. They feared that an errant air or sea attack against New York City could result in bombs or shells raining down short or wide of their goal, and landing in places such as Lynbrook and East Rockaway. Steps were taken to deal with such an emergency.

In the event enemy ships or warplanes approached the South Shore of Long Island, or if an actual bombing or gunnery attack began, Lynbrook's WWII Air Raid Warning System stood ready, starting with a one-minute continuous blast of the fire siren. This would trigger volunteer air raid wardens to go into action. First off, they had to make sure that all cars and pedestrians were off the street.

If the alarm came at night, they had to ensure that all homes and businesses in their sector had blackout curtains over their windows to prevent

enemy pilots from using lights as targets. The wardens took training classes in extinguishing fires, dealing with gas leaks, caring for casualties and



The Lynbrook train station, circa 1945.

roping off any unexploded ordnance. Fortunately, unlike London, Coventry, and Plymouth, nothing much happened here.

During the war, Jack Shea lived with his parents in their newly-constructed house on Hart Street in Lynbrook. It was built in 1939. Jack hasn't moved far. Today he lives on Grace Avenue, a few steps

## Awards Night Celebrates Citizens

At the Village of Lynbrook Awards Night, the Village celebrated the achievements and accomplishments of police officers, firemen, village employees, residents, homeowners, and commercial businesses that make Lynbrook a special place to live.



Shown above (l-r): 1st Chief John O'Reilly, Chief Robert Occhipinti, Mary Kelly, former Trustee Kevin Kelly, Mayor Brian Curran, Citizens' Award winner Capt. Chris Kelly, his fiancée, Allison Yodice, and Deputy Mayor William Hendrick.



Shown above: Lynbrook Woman of the Year Mary Ann Strunk and her family.



Shown above (l-r): Mayor Brian Curran, Lynbrook Citizens' Award winner James Hillgardner, and Deputy Mayor William Hendrick.

around the corner from where his parents lived. In celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> year in their Grace Avenue home, Jack and his wife, Virginia, donated Jack's father's WWII air raid warden helmet to the Lynbrook Historical Committee. The senior Jack Shea wore this bright-red helmet when he patrolled the streets behind what is now Cross Island Fruits. The helmet, with its crumbling leather headband, reminds us of a less complicated time, when Americans were united in war, stood behind their government, and were proud to be patriots.