

**Village of Lawrence**  
**2023 State of the Village Report**

**Mayor Alex H. Edelman**

Dear Resident and Neighbor:

It is my privilege as Mayor to report on the State of the Village of Lawrence for 2023.

2023 is a middle-year: it stands between 2022, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Incorporation of the Village of Lawrence, and 2024, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lawrence Village Golf Course.

I'm proud to report that in 2023 as we stand between these two crucial dates, the state of the Village is strong and solid in every way.

While fiscal conditions nationally are fragile, **Financially** the Village enjoys a uniquely outstanding position.

Despite continuing property tax abatements and increased costs due to inflation, the Village taxes have not been raised.

\$8.5 million is expected from the completed sale of our decommissioned water treatment plant, and the Village remains current with all New York State Comptroller requirements.

Online tax payments have been a boon to office efficiency and taxpayer convenience, and there has been a reduction in staff (due to retirements) with no reduction in services.

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While fiscal integrity is vital, of great concern to all residents is the state of our **roadways**.

Since 2021, the Village has invested more than \$1.2 million in road, street and curb repair.

Under the direct supervision of our contracted Village Engineer the following streets have been repaired or repaved:

Cumberland Place, Lord Avenue (North of Central Avenue), Richmond Place, Winchester Place, Martin Lane, Beach Second Street, Merrall Drive, Briarwood Crossing, Willow Way, Arrowhead Lane, Heather Lane, Mann Place and Sutton Place. Scheduled for completion are Herrick Drive (Central to Broadway), Rosalind Place (Central to Broadway), Sunset Road and Breezy Way.

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The Village has sought to resolve traffic congestion from beyond our borders and has successfully prevailed upon Nassau County and the New York City Department of Transportation to coordinate Rockaway Turnpike's collective traffic signal devices to ease traffic flow.

Following the Village's extensive lobbying, the County has recently announced the repair and repaving of Broadway.

While its ultimate disposition remains unknown, the Amazon Distribution Center has yet to open, and the Village has been able to have the State adjust the timing of the traffic lights on portions of Route 878 to facilitate pedestrian crossing.

Most significantly the decades-old problem of disastrous **flooding** was finally addressed after the Governor's New York Rising Program (promised after Superstorm Sandy in 2012) was finally completed.

Though admittedly a major imposition on residents, homeowners, golfers and drivers, this \$9 million project has alleviated the threat of damaging flooding on Meadow Lane, Marbridge Road, Muriel Avenue, Margaret Avenue, Monroe Street, Harrison Street, North Street, Causeway and Barrett Road.

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Beyond this State project, the **Lawrence Department of Public Works** addressed flooding at Waverly Place, Washington Avenue and Broadway,

Cumberland Place, and retained a specialized vacu-truck and underground cameras to keep drains and water basins clear.

At a cost of \$260,000.00 a new state-of-the-art street sweeper has been purchased for the **Highway Department** which, working together with our **Building Inspectors** issuing tickets to commercial and residential litterers, is making a concerted effort to keep streets and sidewalks clean.

Effort is also underway to keep sidewalks and walkways safe for pedestrians as the Building Department enforces regulations regarding obstruction of public thoroughfares, intrusive shrubs, overhanging tree branches and broken sidewalks. The Village has increased its own tree trimming program and has demanded utilities maintain their poles, remove double-poles and trim trees near wires. We've also worked with utilities to reduce inconvenience to residents by coordinating their work schedules.

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Beyond enforcement, the **Building Department** has processed a record number of permits and building applications generating more than \$80,000.00 a month in fees, while ensuring compliance with building and Village codes to guarantee the safety of every resident.

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Speaking of safety, this year **Public Safety and Security** commanded the Administration's greater attention.

An interim private security firm was retained to have two manned vehicles patrol the Village seven nights a week, while an extensive camera monitoring system (funded by the Village and County) was being installed.

As of last week, that monitoring project has been completed with 33 cameras scanning ten locations throughout the Village with an actual person reviewing the action and, in real time, notifying Village personnel and the police of any suspicious activity.

This service supplements our Auxiliary Police and the Nassau County Police Department which itself has increased patrols in the Village including a special unit on Fridays and greater enforcement to reduce speeding and traffic violations.

Darkened streets pose a safety concern and residents are urged to report broken lights to the Village office for immediate action.

Of course, residents are again urged to lock cars, provide outdoor lighting, secure delivered packages and report any suspicious activity to police without hesitation.

This year the Village has also renewed and extended its contract with the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department, thus ensuring quality fire and emergency protection for the next five years.

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2023 marked a dramatic change in demographics as an increased number of younger residents required additional recreation space for growing families.

Toward that end, a program under the supervision of Trustee Paris Popack to modernize and upgrade Mayor Zion Memorial Park was implemented.

To date, at a cost of \$300,000.00, the existing playground was upgraded and refurbished, three age appropriate playgrounds were installed containing swings, slides and wall and rope climbs. Temporary lavatory facilities are being placed with permanent ones planned for the near future.

Additional playground swings have been ordered, a gazebo and splash pad are under consideration and the Peninsula Public Library has scheduled an event with a Village movie being planned for this summer.

At the Marina, a resident sitting area is under consideration.

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All are invited to the Mayor Zion Memorial Park's ribbon cutting ceremony featuring ice cream trucks, balloon sculptures, music and fun this Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Beyond these major developments, the Village continues to provide the services that residents need, deserve and expect:

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The **Village Court** continues to enforce traffic and Village ordinance matters at a new and more convenient time without the necessity of motorists traveling to Hempstead. It also offers a summer internship program to Village students interested in the law and our meters now allow motorists to pay by phone and even remind you when to pay and avoid a ticket!! We've also increased the number of handicapped spots.

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The **Business District** has increased store occupancy, the unsightly corner of Central Avenue and Rockaway Turnpike has been rejuvenated, additional hanging flowerpots now line Central Avenue, outdoor dining is permitted and thriving, and decorative lighting has been placed on poles. Once again, the Village's LCFD Memorial Day Parade was successful in no small part thanks to the increased participation of local businesses.

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**Beautification** extends beyond Central Avenue, as Lawrence has been designated a Tree City thus ensuring the planting of additional trees and foliage throughout the Village. The Village continues to replace old signage and to paint and refresh public spaces.

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**Pest Control** is vigorous with the placement of more than ninety fly traps at specific sites and an even earlier-in-the-season commencement of a pest control service to reduce the Village's flying insect problem. We've also added additional, more powerful pumps and fountains to the Village's ponds.

Last but not least, at this time, after a tough year enduring the State's intrusive flood mitigation project, the **Lawrence Yacht & Country Club** truly deserves the title "Jewel of Lawrence".

After some disruption, the LY&CC is no longer a financial burden on the Village and is forging ahead on all fronts:

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Under our new house caterer, Greenview Catering, the Park House restaurant has been redone with a new bar, new entertainment and PA systems, and a new, exciting menu and range of services. The patio dining area has been refurbished and the snack bar area upgraded. With new tables, updated fixtures, customized welcome mats throughout and a whole host of improvements large and small, the LY&CC is indeed a welcoming jewel on the south shore.

The brand-new kosher snack bar is nearing completion and promises to be an exciting addition to our Club and the Village's dining options.

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As to the LY&CC's recreational components I'm happy to report that, under the management of Cory Menking and Kemper Sports, in its One Hundredth Year the **Lawrence Golf Course** is in nearly pristine condition. Following the Metropolitan Golf Association's experts' recommendations, we have expanded all fairways, greens and surrounds. Hole Six has been restored to its 1924 Devereaux Emmet design and Hole Seven has been extended with a new tee box.

We have enlarged the bag room and completed an irrigation system that services not just the eighteen golf holes, but also the practice areas, Clubhouse and tennis courts.

This year saw the renovation of the Driving Range with a teaching tee, three target greens and a state-of-the-art short game area.

Play has been enhanced by eighty new golf carts, two new beverage carts, a new driving range picker and new rollers and mowers.

Most dramatic of all is the newly constructed Golf Simulator Facility which will feature two hitting bays and a multi-service golf shop.

All of this improvement and activity is under the direction of an expanded staff that includes a Head Pro, Teaching Pro, Assistant Pro and an Intern Pro.

**Tennis** also features a newly retained, well known and respected Tennis Professional as well as an expanded maintenance staff.

Beyond their annual resurfacing, the courts have been laser-leveled, pumps have been upgraded with new sprinkler heads and broadened irrigation coverage, new nets have been placed as well as a new “sneaker cleaner”.

New fence weaves have been provided to ensure better optics, and a new court-reservation system allows for more orderly play. Plans are being considered to increase and expand pickleball and a kids’ tennis clinic has been created.

A \$5 million federal grant is being sought to dredge and replace the bulkheads at our **Marina**. Netting is being repaired to ensure the safety of vessels, additional storage space is being provided and new staff has improved the maintenance of the entire facility.

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The Village continues to keep a watchful eye on the threat of over-development as it opposes the placement of 268 homes on the Woodmere Club Site, monitors the towns for transit hub building (notwithstanding having obtained a one-year moratorium on construction there), and confers with neighboring villages regarding any actions on their part that might impact on the Village of Lawrence.

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All of the above cannot be accomplished without the unselfish devotion of dedicated community leaders. Special thanks to Deputy Mayor Jeff Landy, Trustee Michael Fragin, Trustee Paris Popack and Trustee Eli Kutner. Thanks as well to the numerous Village residents who share their talents, time and resources by serving on the Park Commission the separate Boards of Zoning, Planning,

Building Design and Beautification, the Court, Historian, TVASNAC and County Emergency Management Liaison.

These folks work with our incredible Village employees who are unmatched in their loyalty and professionalism.

Finally, thank you to every resident for making the Village of Lawrence such a unique and special place in which to serve and to live.

Sincerely,

*Alex H. Edelman*

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Mayor