

# INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE



## **A Farewell Message**

**From Mayor Alex H. Edelman**

As I prepare this final State of the Village Report, I am happy and proud to report that thanks to our residents, the efforts of the public-spirited volunteers on our Boards, and the professionalism and dedication of our devoted Village employees the state of the Village of Lawrence is strong and vibrant as it continues to be Long Island's premier destination community and a sought-after location in which to raise a family.

Lawrence remains Lawrence because of the unparalleled services it provides its residents: Concerns and requests for assistance are immediately addressed by a responsive, respectful administration; construction, home improvement and Code compliance are facilitated by an accessible and continuously trained Building Department; justice is meted out by a fair-minded, balanced Court; safety and security are assured by a Village-monitored camera

system and a close, cooperative relationship with the Nassau County Police Department, the Auxiliary Police and the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department; roads and streets are kept clean, plowed and repaired by a Highway and Public Works Department rapidly responding to a newly established Pot Hole and Street Light Outage Hotline; and body, soul and spirit are nurtured by a refurbished Zion Park Playground Complex, top tier marina, tennis and golf facilities a Kosher Snack Bar, and a simulator room at our well-managed “jewel”, the Lawrence Yacht and Country Club.

And all this is accomplished without a tax increase.

Indeed, despite continuing property tax abatements, inflation and increased fuel, insurance, utility and other costs ... Village taxes have not been raised. Every year the Village is audited by an independent auditor and monitored by the New York State Comptroller and, especially with a prospective influx of \$8.5 million from the completed sale of our decommissioned water treatment plant, the Village of Lawrence will have a cash reserve of over \$12 million surplus and will enjoy a uniquely outstanding financial position.

To look back over the past eight years, is to see our Village successfully confront and overcome a wide variety of crises and challenges: the Covid 19 pandemic; the threat of civil unrest invading our neighborhood; constant systemic flooding; a disruptive State project that nevertheless resolved that flooding; sporadic upticks in petty crime; the challenge of several over-development projects just over our border; pest management; fire hydrant management and water quality; the successful struggle to recover \$4.7 million from the County; protecting the LY&CC Marina bulkheads from future damage by moving ahead with a \$5 million Federal grant project, several portions of which have been approved; resisting State efforts to saddle Lawrence with the cost and responsibility of a capital lighting project on Route 878; installing lights

at that and other locations; negotiations to transform a “6<sup>th</sup> Town” with nearly 300 homes that threatened to overwhelm us with traffic and over burden our infrastructure into an “over-55” complex that will meet community needs and avoid a potentially destructive lawsuit; supporting democracy and security in the State of Israel; and a myriad of other issues that impacted our quality of life. Each was addressed and resolved, along with countless personal requests, concerns and suggestions, in a manner that accrued to the benefit of every resident.

My friends, together we have done a lot.

Together we have ensured that Lawrence is a thriving center of education, philanthropy, recreation and activism. Others can announce that they live in the 5-Towns. We can proudly proclaim that we reside in Lawrence .... a financially stable, safe, well-run, efficient, beautiful community of people who care.

That wide-range of people who care – from committed Village staff to involved residents – has made my years as your Mayor a privilege for which I thank you.

My wife and family join me in wishing the Village of Lawrence and those who make it great, a future filled with good health, success and peace.

Very truly yours,

Alex H. Edelman

Mayor