

A Message from the Mayor

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. We are off to a great start this year. In fact, I am pleased to report that the Village of Islandia is in high spirits and financially sound. This year, we celebrate 32 years since our incorporation in 1985 and we are “second to none.” We will continue to be a village that our children will be proud of.

The Village Board recently adopted the 2017 budget. This year’s budget reduces spending while increasing revenue, resulting in a **25% tax cut**. Good fiscal responsibility is allowing the village to continue to reduce the tax burden on its residents. For the eighth consecutive year, the budget includes the **elimination of the garbage collection tax**. If the Town of Islip were responsible for contracting a garbage carter to pick up your waste, you would pay over \$500.00 a year for that service. This latest tax cut, combined with the elimination of the garbage tax, provides **real and significant savings for every homeowner of approximately \$700.00 per year**. That’s more “money in your pocket.”

The 2017 budget reflects the two priorities that I have had since taking office in 2005: 1) do everything possible to reduce the tax burden on village residents; 2) improve upon the quality of life experienced by village residents.

In the past several years, we have made significant progress towards reaching these goals, while providing the best possible services to all of our village residents. From garbage pickup to snow removal, we strive to give the residents the quality of life that all of us want living here. But I have long felt that providing outstanding services was not enough to have a positive impact on people’s lives; that’s why, in times of trouble, we have also provided generators to our residents in need, when available. Meanwhile, our long-standing **Senior Bus service** is active and residents are using it. I continue to urge everyone 60 years and older to take advantage of this great service at no cost to our seniors. The service helps many of our older residents retain their independence and keep them in their homes and our community.

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Village Responds to Jet Sanitation Fire



Pictured (left to right) are Building Inspector Jerry Peters, Trustee and Fire Marshal Michael Zaleski, and Mayor Allan Dorman assessing the damage to the Jet Sanitation building located on Blydenburg Road.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, January 11, a fire erupted at Jet Sanitation, located at Blydenburg Road within the village. Twenty-two Suffolk County fire departments responded to the fire which was coordinated by the Central Islip Fire Department. The village assisted in coordinating the response. Building Inspector Jerry Peters determined that the building was to be condemned and demolished. Fire Marshal Michael Zaleski is leading the investigation into the cause of the fire. The Village Board joins in thanking the first responders for all of their hard work and professionalism.

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Residents Get into the Holiday Spirit during the Eleventh Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



Mayor Allan M. Dorman (right) is joined by Santa Claus (fifth from left), Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (second from left), Santa's elves and village officials at the eleventh annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Also pictured: Deputy Mayor Michael Zaleski (fifth from right), Trustee Barbara Lacey (fourth from right) as Mrs. Claus, Village Activities Director Denise Schrage (third from right), and Trustee Patty Peters (second from right).

Islandia residents came out to celebrate the holidays at the village's eleventh annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 10, 2016. "Joe the Singing Bus Driver" performed under the big tent as he played guitar and sang holiday songs, while residents enjoyed hot cocoa, coffee and cookies. After the tree was lit, Santa Claus came down to give out toys to the good little boys and girls of Islandia.

Islandia's Whitsons Culinary Receives CNA's Risk Control Leadership in Safety Award



Pictured (left to right) Whitsons Culinary Group Chief Operating Officer Barry Street, Mayor Allan M. Dorman and CNA Long Island Branch Vice President Bob Schmid.

On December 14, 2016, the village hosted a special ceremony in which CNA honored Whitsons Culinary Group, a business located in Islandia, with its Risk Control Leadership in Safety Award.

Children Listen to Holiday Tales at Story Time



On December 16, 2016, local resident Maureen Esposito volunteered to read to the children of Islandia at Story Time.

Ms. Esposito, a teacher at Andrew T. Morrow Elementary School, read the holiday favorite *The Elf on the Shelf* and the classic *The Night Before Christmas*. Each of the children received a small stuffed toy and joined their parents for hot cocoa and cookies. A fun time was had by all.

The village thanked Ms. Esposito for volunteering her time and reading to the children.

Bolla Charity Foundation Honors Village of Islandia and Mayor Dorman



Mayor Allan M. Dorman (left) accepts an award from Kamjit Singh (center) and Harry Singh (right) of the Bolla Charity Foundation during the organization's Second Annual Gala.

The Bolla Charity Foundation honored Mayor Dorman for his commitment and service to the Village of Islandia during the organization's Second Annual Gala on December 7, 2016. During the event, the mayor was handed a symbolic key to the village's First Responders Recreation Field, which is currently under construction on Old Nichols Road in the village. The Bolla Charity Foundation donated the construction of the restrooms, estimated at a cost of \$500,000.

Based in Garden City, the Bolla Charity Foundation provides funding to numerous charities and holds special events to benefit other nonprofit groups.

A Message from the Mayor

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We continue to maintain our roads and increase our **landscaping enhancements**. A **beautification requirement** in our code requires the commercial property owners to install white fencing, shrubs, etc. Our **privacy walls** on Old Nichols Road and Veterans Memorial Highway protect all of us while adding an enhancement for all to see.

The village recently completed the expansion of the **Village Hall parking lot**. This addition, we hope, will eliminate illegal parking on Old Nichols Road in front of the ball field. We have started reconstruction of the ball field, renamed as **First Responders Recreation Field**, and I will keep you informed as we continue to make progress. When completed, it will be an enjoyable recreation field for our residents to be proud of.

Neighborhood safety patrols continue to be a great success. A sense of security in our community is a good thing. We have **increased our patrols** without increasing cost and that's another good thing. We have also initiated our own **Trap Neuter Release program**, which continues to grow at a high rate. We are trying to control an ongoing problem in a very humane way. Keep it up, trappers!

The village has continued to be at the forefront in recognizing the contributions of our veterans. As the founder and past commander, I am proud to say that **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #12144**, located at 1250 Old Nichols Road, is now officially a VFW post. Our **Veterans Memorial Triangle** continues to be a landmark for our village and Suffolk County. The recent vandalism that occurred at the site will be repaired

and the United States Marine Corps medallion will be replaced. Justice will be served when the time comes.

An important aspect of our quality-of-life goal has been to bring residents together as a community. I am proud that village residents continue to attend village events at increasing numbers each year. It's a time for all of us to enjoy the company of our neighbors and to show our children what it is like to live in the Village of Islandia. Our **Bar-B-Que** had a record number of residents attend – over 750. Our **Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Fest**, and **Christmas Tree Lighting** with a visit from Santa, are also big successes. And, by the way, mostly everything needed for these events are donated by local businesses. This is a great indication that we are united as a village and our children will benefit from that. Please join me at the mayor's blueberry pie eating contest during the BBQ. You'll have a blast.

Open communication has been at the foundation of everything that we have accomplished. Our **village web site** continues to be a great source of information for everyone to use, along with our **Village of Islandia calendar, our newsletters**, and, of course, **our Cup of Joes** with the mayor.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you. I look forward to seeing you at our village events. And remember: this is only the beginning!

Sincerely,

Allan M. Dorman

Allan M. Dorman
Mayor

Village Budget Features Tax Breaks for Residents

The Village Board recently approved the 2017 budget. This year's budget reduces spending while increasing revenue, resulting in a 25% tax cut. Good fiscal responsibility is allowing the village to continue to reduce the tax burden on its residents. This latest cut, combined with the elimination of the garbage tax for the eighth consecutive year, provides real tax relief for village households of approximately \$700.00 per year.

Among the highlights in this year's budget:

- A reduction of the tax rate from \$1.62 to \$1.21 per \$100.00 of assessed value of the home. That translates to a 25% reduction in taxes, saving homeowners an average of \$200.00 a year.

- For the eighth year in a row, the line-item cost for garbage removal has been eliminated, saving residents approximately \$500.00 a year.
- Funding for the construction of the First Responders Recreation Field to come from outside sources, so no taxpayer monies will be used.
- Revenue from other than real property taxes have increased by over \$2,000,000.00 starting in 2017 and continuing for a total of twenty years.

"While serving as your mayor, our goal has always been to reduce the tax burden on our residents while improving our local quality of life that residing in a village affords," Mayor Dorman said. "I am pleased that this year's budget reflects these goals."

Job Fair Was a Huge Success



More than 300 local residents came to Village Hall on November 30, 2016 for a job fair sponsored by Delaware North. Qualified applicants interviewed for positions at the Islandia Marriott Hotel, such as finance, marketing, surveillance, cage personnel, drop team members, floor attendants, bell staff, front desk agents, housekeeping, security, night audit, room attendants, bussers, bartenders, cocktail servers, restaurant servers, culinary and guest service representatives, including various supervisory positions.

Village of Islandia Offers Reward in Missing USMC Medallion from Veterans Memorial

A \$5,000.00 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the unlawful removal of the United States Marine Corps medallion from the Veterans Memorial located on Old Nichols Road and Johnson Avenue.

The theft occurred on January 15 at approximately 11 p.m. The removal of the medallion has left the memorial damaged and vandalized.

Mayor Dorman says village officials are working with the police to find the people responsible for this act. In the meantime, the village will continue to have its Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Triangle.

"The memorial has become a landmark not only in Islandia, but throughout all of Suffolk County for our veterans," Mayor Dorman said. "This act of vandalism shows total disrespect for veterans and the sacrifices that so many of them have made for our country."

Those with information are asked to call Village Hall at (631) 348-1133 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS. All calls will be kept strictly confidential.



More Christmas Tree Lighting Photos



Calendar of Events

Easter Egg Hunt: April 8

Children will have the chance to collect Easter eggs, some of which will contain a ticket allowing the children to redeem it for a special prize. The Easter bunny and Islandia's own "Singing School Bus Driver," Joe Guida, will be on hand to entertain the kids.

Memorial Day Ceremony/Veterans

Memorial Triangle: May 27

The village will host a Memorial Day ceremony in front of the memorial at the Veterans Memorial Triangle, located at the intersection of Old Nichols Road and Johnson Avenue. War veterans and local elected officials will join in an invocation and a ceremonial placing of the wreaths at the memorial.

Ye Old Fashioned Tag Sale: June 3 and September 16

It is said that one man's junk is another man's treasure. Residents are being asked to clean out their garages, attics, basements and closets and bring down their unwanted items.

Toys, books, clothes, lamps and assorted knick-knacks will be on sale. Spacing is limited, so register early.

Village BBQ: July 15

The 12th Annual BBQ will be held on the grounds of Village Hall. Village volunteers and local Boy Scouts will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, soda and water. Children will enjoy the day with train rides, games, music, pony rides, a petting zoo, arts and crafts, face painting, piñatas and a hula hoop contest.

13th Annual Pumpkin Fest: October 21

Children and their parents will come out, dressed up in their favorite costumes. There will be pumpkin decoration stations, a costume parade, cookies and hot cocoa. Prizes will be awarded for best decorated pumpkin and best costume. There will also be a petting zoo and hayrides for the children, as well as live music from "Joe the Singing Bus Driver."



Village of Islandia

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