

Mayor's Column

Village Hall Renovation Update

The Village Hall renovation is nearing completion. We are not rushing the final weeks of work because we want to make sure that the finishes and fine details are done carefully and conform to all of the design specifications. Activities currently underway include painting, furniture placement and floor refinishing.

By all accounts, the renovation was a success. There were no labor issues, work slowdowns or potential legal disputes, and most importantly, the quality of the work was high. We are now fully handicapped accessible and meet all the requirements mandated for a modern police department.

Renovations do bring forth unexpected field conditions and we had our share. We found more asbestos and lead than originally anticipated and even discovered a bathroom behind a false wall.

We did exceed our construction budget with change orders totaling 6.3% of the contracts. This is an extremely good ratio by industrial standards given such a restoration project.

Trying to keep borrowing to a minimum, we only borrowed for the actual construction costs. We met our goal of covering all soft costs including relocation expenses, trailer rentals, the cost of a construction manager, storage, architects' fees and cost of lending, as well as the above mentioned change orders with monies in the operating budget and tapping balances in dormant capital accounts.

The Calgi Construction management team, the same individuals who oversaw the Library project, in concert with the Village department

heads, provided excellent professional oversight throughout the duration of the project.

The project will be completed with no additional borrowing. Some items such as additional furnishings and artwork will be acquired over time as finances permit. The Historical Conservancy has been very generous in reframing Village artwork and loaning paintings by Bronxville artists of note.

We found a few artifacts, most notably canisters and supplies from the bomb shelter/Cold War era, but not the treasure trove we had hoped.

If we have been successful, we are hoping you will notice little alteration of the beauty and integrity of the 1942 building. We tried very hard to modernize the function while retaining the historical characteristics.

Our new Village Hall will provide our citizens with an up to code and efficient facility to conduct public business for decades to come. The building will hopefully be a source of great pride, only overshadowed by the quality of the people who will inhabit it. Over the past two years, I have been privileged to work with the most dedicated and loyal employees to the Village and its citizens. I am happy that they will have a work space that reflects the professionalism they bring to the governing of our Village.

Thank you to all of you for your support and patience on this project. After 67 years, it was clearly needed, but we are very aware of the financial obligations it added for our residents. We in Village government are the custodians for all of you and believe we have spent your money wisely.

We will have an Open House in late spring to share the building with all of you.