

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAUREL HOLLOW
1492 LAUREL HOLLOW ROAD
SYOSSET, NEW YORK 11791-9603
TEL (516) 692-8826 FAX (516) 692-4198
mayordevita@laurelhollow.org

May 3, 2023

Re: Village Taxes

Dear Neighbor:

Inflation has been described as the cruelest tax of all. Despite living with 6-7% annual inflation (much higher for food and gas), as I stated in the Spring edition of our Village Newsletter, *The Lantern*, there will be no increase in the tax levy for fiscal year June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. You may recall that, because of favorable new contracts with the police and Oyster Bay fire companies, last year we actually had a tax levy reduction resulting in a tax reduction. Our no-increase budget this year is the result of continued conservative budgeting by our Board of Trustees exercising its fiduciary duties as caretakers of our public treasure. I will add that I know of no other municipality at any level where the entire Board sits down together and goes over each and every line of the budget together. This practice promotes a free exchange of ideas, suggestions, and recommendations among our Board members, who consist of financial experts, business entrepreneurs, and others. We live here too and want to continue to see our residents get the best services at the best prices. Consequently, with the 2023-2024 budget, we will continue to provide the services our residents depend upon at the best value possible.

Then as now I must caution, as I did last year, just because the Village is not raising the tax levy, which is the pot of money it raises through taxes to provide goods and services, there may still be a change in your tax bill because of a home's assessed value. The assessment is set solely by Nassau County and is also affected by assessment challenges. The Village has no control over that process. Also, school taxes make up the largest portion of your tax bill, almost two-thirds, over which we also have no control. Your Village Tax bill, the smallest portion of your total property tax obligation, pays for police and fire protection, road construction and maintenance, our building department, beach, court, and other services. Yet we are holding the line.

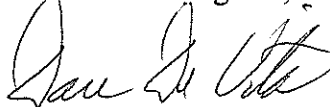
A small portion of the building fees have become due and have been paid thus far by the Cold Spring Harbor Lab for the campus expansion. These fees are treated as deferred revenue, and we cannot budget the bulk of that money as revenue in our current budget. I say this so that you know we are holding the tax line because of good financial stewardship and not through some building revenue windfall.

I also will always remind you that you will never find a budget line for Board member salaries—because there are none. Every member of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Planning Board, and our Village Justices are volunteers motivated solely by their love for our

community. I am proud and privileged to work with such people. I thank them and all who continue to help to make Laurel Hollow the beautiful community that it is.

Enjoy the summer and be well.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan DeVita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being the most prominent.

Mayor Dan DeVita
Cell: (516) 318-1845