



2022/2023
BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE
INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF EAST HILLS

by
Michael R. Koblenz, Mayor

As the Mayor and Chief Budget Officer of East Hills, I am proud to announce that for an unprecedented **twelfth year in a row**, the budget in East Hills contains a zero-tax increase for our residents. While it is unconfirmed that twelve years sets a village record for all surrounding municipalities, the continued passage of our budget without tax increases in a year of the highest inflation in 40 years is a proud accomplishment.

With the continued plight of COVID, and its variants, we continue to face many new and significant challenges. However, even with the obstacles we face, the Village is projected to maintain a very healthy surplus at the close of the fiscal year.

We are proud that we continued to earn one of Moody's highest bond ratings, Aa1, of any village our size.

Our housing prices are booming, and East Hills continues to be one of the most sought-after communities on Long Island. Our off-spring and next generation of children continue to move back to our community.

I thank my fellow Board Members, Deputy Mayor Manny Zuckerman, and Trustees Clara Pomerantz, Brian Meyerson and Stacey Siegel for their support. I further thank the Board for their consideration of this budget and other issues that confront the Village, such as COVID protections, security, pollution, and code revisions. I want to express my gratitude to our Village Attorney, Bill Burton, Village Justice Howard Jaslow, Village Clerk Donna Gooch.

It should be stressed that Village taxes generally amount to only 16-17% of all taxes paid by our residents. Yet, even with our rather limited portion of all taxes paid, we shoulder the entire costs of sanitation, snow removal, paving our roads, security, the pool, the park, fees for Nassau County Police, administration for our programs and our contract for fire protection.

This Budget Ensures the Finest Services and Facilities will be continued in East Hills:

Best Services – for sanitation, security, road repavement, snow removal, beautification, tree trimming and replacement, administration of the Justice Court for traffic and code violations, creation of new legislation on zoning, building and administration of our village services, laws, regulations and services.

Best Facilities – for the Tennis Facilities, Basketball Courts, Community Lounge, Swimming Pool, Park Grille, Snow Mountain, Nature Trails, Woods, Dog Park, Walking, Jogging, Biking Paths, Sports Playgrounds. the Park, and the facilities, are preserved. This year we will add Pickleball, on one of our basketball courts.

The Budget Helps Provide Excellent Village Events and Programs:

Spectacular Village-wide Events – This year we will hold our incomparable Fireworks Extravaganza. We will enthusiastically support the Mayor's Trophy Softball Tournament, Baseball for Roslyn Little League and Challengers, Albertson Soccer League Challengers, Men's Softball League, Women's Softball, Shooting Stars Basketball, Concerts if possible, and the Blood & Pill Drive.

Outstanding Children's Programs – The Village sponsors the Kids in the Park programs. The calendar of events includes various performances, events, competitions and celebrations. These functions are exciting and add vitality to the community.

New Residents' Days - We will once again welcome our new residents through brunches in their honor. At these events, we will provide information, facts and an introduction to our Village. We distribute information on the Village's extraordinary facilities, programs, and services and explain the regulations and requirements in the Village and our elected officers.

The Budget Ensures Our Residents are Informed of News:

Up to the Minute Village News and Dynamic Website – We will continue to provide regularly “Messages from the Mayor” which contain important information for the residents, an updated website, including, a one-of-a-kind East Hills Calendar. We also offer, through our Instant Message Program immediate responses to issues or suggestions made by residents.

Best News Updates - We continued to send regular e-mails during weather emergencies by having daily meetings and preparing and writing updates which have proven to be particularly beneficial during the ongoing COVID Crisis.

The Budget Continues to Minimize Paid Staff by Utilizing Dedicated Volunteers as follows:

Our costs savings is due, in large measure thanks to our dedicated residents who serve on various committees. We will continue to enlist the finest talented residents to volunteer their time and effort.

Our Boards include the Board of Zoning and Appeals, the Planning Board, the Architectural Review Board, Tennis Committee, Kids in the Park Committee, the Mayor's Trophy Tournament Committee, Park Rules Review Committee, Security Committee, and several other committees which can be found on the Village website.

The Budget Protects and Safeguards the HEALTH AND SAFETY of Our Residents:

Safety remains our number one priority and the budget provides the means to achieve these important objectives. For the past year, all cars taken at night are the result of **unlocked cars with key fobs left in the vehicles.**

Our new Security Entrance Cameras are 90% online and add another layer detection and deterrence.

The Annual Budget includes Repaving our Roads:

We continue to have a very comprehensive road re-pavement project. This program is necessary to respond to the extreme weather we now face in the Northeast.

The Budget Ensures Open and Transparent Government:

We continue to be accessible to our residents through our unique "Instant Access Program." We also schedule "Meetings with the Mayor" on weekends to give added open access with face-to-face meetings with the Mayor to discuss issues, ideas, and suggestions.

The Budget Continues to Protect the Envable Lifestyle in East Hills:

The Village's Code Enforcement ensures the lifestyle of the of the Village. Whether it is finding and stopping construction after hours, excessive noise, an absence of necessary permits, or improper protections at work sites, the Code Enforcement Staff vigilantly enforce our local laws.

Continuing to Fully Fund the Volunteer Firefighters - The Village budget provides for a contract in excess of \$1,000,000 with the Roslyn Fire Companies for firefighting, equipment, trucks, and retirement fund for Roslyn Highlands, Roslyn Rescue and their ambulance services.

Fostering Beautification - Through our Department of Public Works, we will continue to maintain and improve all public areas in the Village and keep them clean. We will continue to plant flowers, trees, and bushes. Falling trees on roads are extremely dangerous and present

potential liabilities for our village. We continue to examine trees on our right of way to protect motorists and pedestrians.

The Budget Continues to Support and Sponsor Environmental Programs, as COVID allows, as follows:

“Green Day” - We encourage recycling, buying fuel-efficient vehicles, separating residents’ disposable items, and collecting these disposables.

Continue the Special Pick-up Program - We are continuing the one-time special pick-up for free in our Village. The program allows our residents, once during several months of the year, to discard their unnecessary items.

Continue to Comply with Federally Mandated Storm Water Requirements - Our Village participates and complies with all Federal mandates on runoff and spill programs. We will continue to institute all added measures necessary to support this important effort.

Conclusions and Strong Budgetary Projections for the Upcoming Budgetary Year:

With our fiscal condition proven strong by the State’s Stress Tests and Moody’s highest ratings, we will once again keep the Village of East Hills on the strongest fiscal footing. At the same time, we will preserve the finest services, programs, events and facilities for East Hills.

Through this budget and the close cooperation of the Board, we have implemented - for the **Twelfth Year** in a Row - a zero increase in taxes. It is an accomplishment we are proud of achieving. This is a challenge that was met head-on, even in a climate of inflation, needed repairs and enhancements to the Park, raising health care costs, added fire and police protection costs, and increased compensation for employees.

We, therefore, are proud to present this 2022/2023 Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



MICHAEL R. KOBLENZ
Mayor