



2023 / 2024
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 **thirteenth year in a row**, the budget in East Hills contains an unprecedented zero-tax increase for our residents. Thirteen years without tax increases no doubt sets a record among all surrounding municipalities. The continued passage of our budget without a tax increase required considerable constraint and is a great accomplishment.

We are proud that we continued to earn one of Moody's highest bond ratings, Aa1, of any village our size. We are also invigorated that this past year we once again received a strong and vibrant evaluation on the financial stress tests given by the New York State Comptroller.

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

I thank my fellow Board Members, Deputy Mayor Manny Zuckerman, and Trustees Clara Pomerantz, Brian Meyerson and Stacey Siegel for their support for this budget and other issues that confront the Village, including security, pollution, employment matters, new vehicles, road replacement, union contracts, and code revisions. I want to express my gratitude to our Village Justice Howard Jaslow, Village Attorney Bill Burton, Village Clerk Donna Gooch, Village Building Inspector Tom Murphy, Code Enforcer James Trotto, Superintendent of Public Works John Salerno, Park and Recreational Director Dave Squillante, and Security Director Jason Schwartz. 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 fire protection.

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

Best Services – for sanitation, security, road re-pavement, 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 – The tennis facilities, basketball courts, pickle ball courts, community lounge, swimming pool, Park Grille, Snow Mountain, nature trails, Dog Park, walking, jogging and biking paths, and sports playgrounds, the Park, and the facilities, are preserved.

The Budget Helps Provide Excellent Village Events and Programs:

Spectacular Village-wide Events – This year we will hold our incomparable Fire Works Extravaganza. We also will enthusiastically support Baseball for Roslyn Little League and Challengers, Albertson Soccer League Challengers, Women’s Softball, Young Children’s Flag Football, Concerts if possible, and the Blood & Pill Drive.

Outstanding Children’s Programs – The Village supports 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 East Hills Social Committee – This year we formed a new and exciting committee to present programs which interest residents of all ages. Due to the hard work and commitment of the co-chairs the Village now has another highly successful program of events with lecturers, painting and features a new book club. Additional events are in the planning stage.

New Residents' Days - We will once again welcome our new residents through brunches in their honor which was suspended due to COVID. At the brunches, we provide information, facts and an introduction to our Village services. We distribute information on the Village's facilities, programs, and services and explain the regulations and code requirements in the Village.

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 through emails, We also offer, through this program, immediate responses to issues, questions, or suggestion made by residents. These regular messages proved to be particularly beneficial during the Coronavirus Crisis which, hopefully, is now behind us. The messages also inform our residents of various weather concerns, and contain important information provided by the Nassau County Police Department relating to safety issues.. We also provide an updated website and publications, including a one-of-a-kind East Hills Calendar.

The Budget Is Contained by Utilizing Dedicated Volunteers as follows:

Our cost savings are due, in part, thanks to our dedicated residents who serve as volunteers on our 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, East Hills Social 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 couple of years, almost all incidences have involved unlocked cars with key fobs left in the vehicles. Our residents must stay alert and take the keys to their cars, leave the lights on at night, and call 911 if they see any suspicious activity.

Our new Security Entrance Cameras have come online and added another layer of detection and deterrence which is only available to the Nassau County Police Department.

The Annual Budget includes a Robust Repaving Program for 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. We thank the federal and state governments for their grants to help reduce the costs.

The Budget Ensure 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 Provides for the Funds Necessary to Operate and Run the Justice Court System:

A significant portion of the funds raised from fines and penalties are added to the budget and offset other costs and expenses. My thanks to Village Justice Howard Jaslow, our Prosecutors and Village Court Clerk.

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

The Village's Code Enforcement ensures the lifestyle. 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 fire contract in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for 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 and our Parks and Recreation Supervisor we will continue to maintain and improve all areas of the Village clean and picturesque. 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:

"Green Day" - We continue to 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 strong, our Village continues to be a trend-setter, and East Hills highly desirable, we will, through this zero percent increase in taxes, preserve the finest services, programs, events and facilities for East Hills. At the same time, we will protect the safety and well-being of our

residents through our Security Department and our camera system.

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

We, therefore, are proud to present for adoption the 2023/2024 Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael R. Koblenz
Mayor