



Village of
Roslyn Estates

25 The Tulips
Roslyn Estates, NY 11576

Tel: 516-621-3541 ♦ Fax: 516-621-3109
www.villageofroslynestates.com



From the Office of Hon. Paul Leone Peters, Mayor

November 14, 2023

Dear Neighbors:

As many – if not most – of you know, there was an attempted car theft last week at a home on The Birches. Fortunately, no one was harmed, and the attempt was thwarted because of the wise precautions taken by the residents. Specifically, the criminals pried open a kitchen window to locate keys to the car(s) parked in the driveway, but that triggered the house alarm, which sent them fleeing. The attempt occurred at 3:15 AM on Thursday, November 8, but we did not learn of the incident until later that afternoon, in the same manner as many of you; from local news reports. We immediately contacted our POP officer at the Sixth Precinct, but he had not yet been informed about the incident, and he had no information to share with us. Since there was no imminent threat, and since we had no verified facts to share, we chose not to alarm residents with rumors or hearsay. We were not provided any details until the following morning, when the police came to Village Hall to view video records from our surveillance cameras. At that time, we immediately sent out an e-mail blast that explained everything we knew at that point. As of today, we have not received any updates, but that is not unusual with an active case.

However, one aspect of this incident to note is that our success (and that of our neighboring villages) in convincing residents to lock their cars and remove the key fobs (if they must leave their cars in the driveway) may have caused potential car thieves to “up their game” by employing electronic devices to locate key fobs that are close by; even inside the house or garage. That, apparently, was the case in the incident on The Birches. Our best defense against that technique is to park our cars in our garages, where they are protected from surveillance or theft. (As I’ve noted before, it makes little sense to store items in a garage that can be kept just as easily in an attic, basement, or rented storage unit, while an expensive automobile sits, vulnerable, in a driveway!) If that is not possible, it is important to keep key fobs far from the cars themselves – e.g., upstairs, preferably in a case or sleeve that blocks the signals, and NOT on a counter or hook immediately inside the door.

Meanwhile, please remember to keep your house windows and doors locked at night and alarms set for your own protection. If you don’t presently have a home security system, please consider getting one – especially now that they are readily available, easy

to install, and much more reasonably priced than years ago. And arm them every time you leave your house – even for a few minutes – and when you are in for the night. (You can set them on “STAY” that allows normal activity inside your home, and you can “BYPASS” any windows you choose to leave open for fresh air.) If nothing else, the peace of mind they provide is well worth the cost. And more importantly, if there are no easy targets in a community, there are less likely to be any burglary or car theft attempts. These are almost always crimes of opportunity, so removing the targets usually removes the threats.

Regarding the conversation that showed up on social media when the story broke, please remember that spreading any unfounded rumors, gossip and non-factual information is never helpful and can often be harmful, especially if people take inappropriate actions based on erroneous information or draw inappropriate conclusions based on misleading or false claims or assertions. We will alert residents with pertinent information as soon as we have it confirmed from reliable sources. If you want factual and accurate information as soon as possible, please make certain we have your e-mail address and cell phone number, since that is the quickest way we can alert you. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or concerns about this – or any such incident – please contact Village Hall (516- 621-3541) or me (as always, my contact information is below), rather than relying on or spreading whatever shows up on social media. And, of course, if it’s a genuine emergency, or if you notice anything of concern, please call 911 immediately.

Now to less critical matters that can also have an impact on life in our beautiful Village...

Our latest road improvement project has already begun, with Belgian Block installations and the replacement of some concrete gutters, and it will continue this week with road milling, followed next week by repaving. You will be notified in advance if your house will be affected by the work, or you can contact Village Hall to learn which roads will be involved, and when. The improvements and repaving are important infrastructure projects, and the necessary inconvenience is brief and minor, so please be considerate of the workers so the project can be completed as well and quickly as possible. The result will be safer and more beautiful roads.

Speaking of our beautiful roads, I must again remind residents that we pay a great deal of money each year to have our trash picked up at the backs or sides of our homes, rather than at the foot of our driveways where it is both an eyesore and prone to being spread around the street. In fact, it is a Village Code violation to place trash (including empty boxes, leaves, etc.) at your driveway’s end, so please refrain from disturbing the beauty of our Village – and risking a violation. If you have anything exceptionally large (e.g., furniture, appliances, etc.) or other than normal waste to dispose of, please call Meadow Carting (516-338-0121) to arrange for a special pickup. If they request you leave that material at the end of your driveway, once that appointment is set, please do not place it there until the night before the pickup is scheduled. (i.e., NOT several days before, which can also be a violation.) Also, construction materials (including paint cans, sheetrock, lumber, etc.) are not picked up by our Meadow Carting and should be removed by your contractor. Thanks, in advance, for your cooperation with this.

Finally, our Village Arborist has expressed to me a concern which I share and which I have previously brought to your attention: Too many of our majestic trees – large and small – are covered with ivy. That ivy will ultimately kill any tree on which it is allowed to grow unfettered. Any tree that is damaged or killed in that manner is the responsibility of the homeowner, and consequences will be addressed as if the tree was intentionally killed or removed. All that is required to prevent that is to cut the vines at the base of the tree, and the tree will be saved. Now is the perfect time to perform this simple remedy, as the vines will die over the winter and can be removed easily in the spring. If you or your landscaper are unable to perform that simple task, please contact Village Hall, and we may be able to help you kill the ivy and save your trees.

With Thanksgiving only a week and a half away, the holiday season is upon us. With all the turmoil around the globe – including right here, on Long Island – let's reflect on how fortunate we are to live safely and securely in Roslyn Estates, which remains among the safest – if not the safest – villages in the county. Let's also think of those around the planet – especially today, in the Middle East – who are not nearly as fortunate, and take the time to share the message, good will, generosity and selflessness of the holidays to do our part to help however we can. The best way to feel good is to make someone else feel good, and many of us have the resources to do just that.

Clare and I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving, as we join everyone in praying for peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul", written over a light gray circular stamp.

Paul Leone Peters, Mayor
(516) 220-8166
mayor@villageofroslynestates.com