

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

## **Village Baa2 Bond Rating Reaffirmed by Moody's** *Hempstead Village Maintains a Stable Fiscal Outlook*

Village of Hempstead Mayor Wayne J. Hall and the Board of Trustees announced this week that the independent Wall Street bond rating agency Moody's Investor Service has assigned a stable outlook to the Village's \$2.5 million General Obligation Serial Bonds and reaffirmed the Baa2 bond rating.

According to the report, "the Village's financial recovery has begun, as evidenced by the surplus operations in the General Fund, the return to a positive fund balance for the first time in at least eight years and enactment of a fiscal recovery plan, including revenue increases, improved property tax collection efforts and budgetary practices." The financial recovery plan also includes controls and appropriate budgeting for tax certiorari liability.

"We are moving forward," said Mayor Hall. "I'm pleased that Moody's has recognized our accomplishments and hard work towards restoring fiscal strength back to the Village. The Village continues to make responsible choices to maintain fiscal integrity for decades to come."

The Village's 2009 budget included a property tax increase of 2.3% and a \$500,000 appropriation from the fund balance. Applying these monies from the fund balance helped to offset additional property tax increases for our residents.

Earlier this year, the independent Wall Street bond rating agency Moody's Investor Service upgraded the Village's bond rating from Baa3 to Baa2 with a stable outlook for fiscal 2008. Moody's stated that the upgrade reflects "*a positive fund balance in the General Fund for the first time in at least eight years and the concrete steps management has taken to strengthen the Village's financial position.*" The stable outlook factors positive steps the Village has taken toward its self-identified goal for financial improvement.