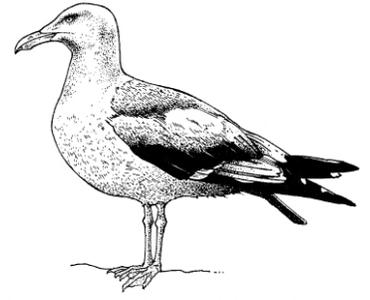


ASHAROKEN NEWS



MAYOR'S LETTER

I am happy to report that things are going well in Asharoken. As the summer winds down and fall arrives, we can take a minute to reflect on a few events that really define us as a community. We had another wonderful 4th of July fireworks display to open our summer months. And to ease into fall, the annual coastal cleanup was a rousing success removing thousands of pounds of debris from the shoreline. If that weren't enough, the Village blood drive netted over 30 units of blood. Community spirit and participation is what makes Asharoken special, thanks to all of our organizers and participants.

As a community, if we are mindful of how our actions affect our neighbors, we can make everyone's life just a little better. Simple things like putting out our garbage on the day of pickup, stopping construction at the time stated in our village code and trimming plants that obstruct driveway views of the street are easy ways to make Asharoken safer, cleaner and more relaxing. The Code of the Village of Asharoken is available on Asharoken.com and you can always either check the code or contact the police to find what practices you should follow.

The Village has been working very hard to get everyone who has an e-mail address to add it to our contact list. By utilizing e-mails, Asharoken will be able to save postage costs and allow easy, rapid and environmentally respectful distribution of information to residents. There is a form in this newsletter which you can use to add your name to our e-mail list.

Finally, an update on a few important ongoing projects and issues.

- The Village is waiting for our neighbors at Sandpiper Farm to prepare a proposal for their use of the property. We expect to meet with them in the coming months.

- As I mentioned at the September board meeting, we could have a substantial tax increase next year. The increase could be impacted by the assessment of Sandpiper Farm and any payment in lieu of taxes they agree to, the need to fund the beach feasibility study, the new police

Please turn to Page Two.



POLICE REPORT

By Ray Mahdesian,
Officer-in-Charge

The Beginning

I am pleased to have been asked to write a police department column for the Village newsletter. For the first issue, the best place to begin would, of course, be the beginning.

In the early 1900's, when many villages were newly incorporated, dozens of police departments were formed in Nassau and Suffolk by these new governments to provide protection. Up until then, law enforcement was the job of part-time constables, sheriffs, and the New York State Police (formed in 1917). But growing towns and villages wanted to have their own police to fill the expanding need for police service, a concept very much alive today.

Asharoken Police Department was formed by the village in 1925, at about the same time as many other new departments which were born in the 1920's (Huntington Town in 1927; Lloyd Harbor in 1926; Huntington Bay

Please turn to Page Two.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This paper is meant to be a reflection of our unique community. Please call or e-mail me if you have suggestions, want to write for the paper, or have interesting Village news to share with your neighbors. Photographs are welcome. I hope to hear from many of you.

Joan Hauser, Editor

Phone: 261-5897

E-mail: joang30@gmail.com

The next issue will appear in January. Subsequent issues will appear every two months.

Police Report continued from Page One.
in 1928).

At one time there were close to 80 separate police departments in Nassau and Suffolk. In Nassau, villages such as Bayville, Bellerose, Mineola, Sea Cliff, and Valley Stream, to name only a few, each had their own forces. The Nassau County Police Department was formed in the same year as Asharoken's force, and over the course of the next two decades absorbed many of the smaller Nassau agencies, such as Farmingdale, for example, which closed its police station in 1942.

In 1960, the Suffolk County Police District was created by legislative act, and the ten towns and numerous villages that had their own departments voted on whether to join the new district or keep their own departments. Villages like Babylon, Brightwaters, Lindenhurst, and Patchogue voted to give up their own police and join the new district, as did the five western townships (Babylon, Huntington, Islip, Smithtown, Brookhaven). Locally, residents of the villages of Asharoken, Northport, Lloyd Harbor, and Huntington Bay voted to keep their own police departments, as did the five eastern townships (Riverhead, Southold, Southampton, Shelter Island, Easthampton) and all the villages contained within. Today, there are approximately 20 separate municipal (no such thing as 'private') police agencies operating in Suffolk.

Those Suffolk towns and villages which turned over the job of policing to Suffolk County in 1960 are prohibited by the Suffolk County Charter from ever being able to restore their own departments. There have been attempts by many villages to do so over the years, but it is not possible.

In the next column, I will discuss why the Suffolk towns and villages that have their own police departments are glad they do, and how smaller forces such as Asharoken coordinate with the larger agencies to make it all work to the advantage of the residents.

SANTA'S COMING TO ASHAROKEN



Plan to greet the season's Main Man. Mr. Claus will stop by on December 16th and dash through the Village in his favorite fire engine. Afterwards, he'll arrive at Village Hall to welcome all, share in holiday refreshments, and distribute small gifts to the children.

A COASTAL CLEANUP CELEBRATION

In conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day, Eva and Stanley Browne hosted a celebratory lunch at their home on Asharoken Avenue. A lavish spread, prepared by a local restaurant, was served to all.



Mayor's Letter continued from Page One.

contract and other unexpected events. The board will do all it can to minimize any tax increases.

- Discussions have begun with our police department to negotiate a new contract.

- Village Hall reconstruction is moving along, spearheaded by John Ross and his committee. An excellent preliminary design has been arrived at and site location is the next step. Our biggest hurdle to completing the project may be the need to pay workers prevailing wage. During the next month or two we will work on a construction cost estimate and determine how to proceed.

- Highway Commissioner Tony Wenderoth and Andy Mendelsohn have spent many days out in the rain studying why we have a puddle at Bevin Road and Asharoken Avenue. They are in the final stages of coming up with a proposal to minimize or solve the problem.

- The repair of the seawall caps is scheduled to begin at the end of October or in early November.

I look forward to the opportunity to give everyone an update on the state of affairs in the Village in the upcoming newsletters. If you have any concerns or questions please join us at our monthly board meeting or give village hall a call, 261-7098.

Have a great fall.

Greg Letica

ASHAROKEN WILDLIFE



All kinds of animal and seashore creatures live in Asharoken. Write in about your sightings--whether it's a raccoon on your porch, a turkey amongst the flowers, or a turtle on the beach. Include a picture if you have one.

Don't forget the deer. Let's find out together just how many there are around. According to the Police Department, they have caused five motor vehicle accidents here in the last few years. Please send in your anti-deer garden tips, too.



If you find a dead animal, call the Town of Huntington Animal Control Department at 754-8722 and tell them about its location. They'll take it away.



Send your sightings to **Joan Hauser at 483 Asharoken Avenue** or to: joang30@gmail.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? ATTEND VILLAGE MEETINGS AND FIND OUT

Save the first Tuesday of each month
7:30 at Village Hall

Tuesday, January 8th, 2013

Special Meeting, Tuesday, January 22nd
Tuesday, February 5th, 2013

Tuesday, March 5th, 2013

Tuesday, March 19th, 2013

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2013

Tuesday, May 7th, 2013

Tuesday, June 4th, 2013

Special Meeting, Tuesday, June 25th

Tuesday, July 2nd, 2013

Tuesday, August 6th, 2013

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2013

Tuesday, October 1st, 2013

Regular Meeting, Monday, November 4th

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013

The complete minutes of all Board Meetings may be found at: asharoken.com as well as much other Village information.

BEACH LOT DUNES IN JEOPARDY

By Village Conservation Chair **Marty Cohen**

As most of you know, a storm in 2010 destroyed part of the seawall at Bevin Road and Asharoken Avenue. This storm also severely damaged the dunes located along Asharoken Avenue in the vicinity of the beach lots, i.e. between 413 and 475 Asharoken Ave. Sand, rocks and debris from the beach washed up on the roadway, which fortunately was not significantly damaged. Now, the dunes are very low in many places and a similar storm could cause serious damage.



Since the dunes are the only protection for the beach lot section of Asharoken Ave, it is very important to prevent additional destruction and weakening. Please don't walk over or on the dunes and don't disturb any dune vegetation, for plant roots help hold the sand in place if waves generated by a strong storm batter the dunes. Please use the nearest available staircase if you want to cross the dunes. We ask that staircase owners cooperate and allow their neighbors access to their stairs. As we are approaching the winter storm season, beach lot owners should remove or securely fasten down furniture to prevent its washing onto the roadway in a nor'easter.



WATCH
OUT
FOR
GHOSTS!

ASHAROKEN CLEANS UP

On Saturday, Sept. 22nd, Asharoken hosted the 27th Annual Littoral Society Coastal Clean-Up. The committee, led by Cathy Zimmermann, Michele Tilleli, and Deb Masterson, reported that the weather was beautiful and the clean up was a big success.

Two hundred and fifty-two dedicated volunteers began arriving by 9 am, with the last trash bags being tossed into Big Blue at 5 pm. Children and adults collected approximately 4000 lbs of shoreline trash from 10 different locations.

Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and Asharoken residents Tracy Aboff and Linda Letica gave generously of their time, helping with all aspects of the Clean-Up. Special thanks are also due to the Deputy Mayor's brother Jaime as well as Tracy Aboff, who created beautiful educational displays. Mayor Letica was on hand to encourage the hard-working youngsters.

The committee wants to give very special thanks to all of the wonderful people who cared enough to come out and give of their time to make our shores cleaner. As one of them said, "They are truly a great group of volunteers."



BIRDING



As residents of Asharoken, we are blessed to live in and be stewards of a nature preserve. The animals and birds are proof of how biologically diverse Asharoken really is. The combination of tidal wetlands, pristine water, coastal beach habitat and mature woodlands allow Asharoken to sustain this vast array of life.

Since the last time this column appeared the total number of species of birds found in the village has risen to 168. The last member of this list is a Purple Sandpiper found last fall. A new annual record total of 123 species was reached in 2010. Maintaining such an historical list is critical for encouraging the creation of more of Open Space. These are rather remarkable numbers considering how small Asharoken is and how tiny the parts of the village are where I actually spend time birding. If you have a feeder in your yard and a good pair of binoculars, I am sure you will be amazed at the diversity of birds you will see.

The mammalian wild life population of Asharoken has also exploded in the last couple of years. Both fox and deer have become everyday sightings in many parts of the Village. And, our group of seals has grown to almost 20.

Thanks to our Mayor for this amazing Asharoken tally.



VIEW FROM THE HARBOR

By Harbormaster Joseph Affrunti

We had a nice season with a good amount of sunny days. I would like to thank all of our marine officers for the great job they did this summer. The police department, as always, did a terrific job with boating safety and patrolling the waters of Asharoken. As we are coming to the end of another boating season I would also like to thank my deputies for sharing the work load. Our vessel will be coming out of the water within the next few weeks and stored for the season. I look forward to doing it all over again next year.

I hope you all have a safe winter. Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind when you are putting your boat away this year.

Winterize Your Boat

1. Put non-toxic anti-freeze into your fresh water system.
2. Change the oil.
3. Put the boat away clean.
4. When winterizing the motor, make sure there's no water in the engine that can freeze.
5. Disconnect all batteries. If possible, remove and store.
6. When your boat is out of water, check the bottom to see if it needs bottom paint.
7. Change the sacrificial zinc to protect the metal parts that are in contact with the water.

ASHAROKEN DONATES BLOOD

Thanks to Chairman Avrum Golub and to Village Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse for all their hard work and to the many willing donors, Asharoken met its goal of 31 units of donated blood.



DRIVEWAYS AND STORM WATER RUNOFF

By Doug Adil, Superintendent Of Buildings

When making improvements to our driveways, we need to address two main Code constraints that will mold their design. **Storm Water Runoff** is described in Chapter 44 of the Asharoken Code as "Flow on the surface of the ground resulting from precipitation." When replacing a driveway, we are required to prevent unnecessary storm-water from running off our paved surfaces and into the waterways. Environmental benefit is provided by minimizing increased pollution which will degrade our water quality. When converting an existing driveway that has a "permeable" surface (such as pea stone or gravel) to an "impermeable" surface (such as asphalt, concrete, or pavers). this must be taken into consideration. Runoff from paved surfaces water moves more rapidly and is more likely to travel to roads and adjacent properties, carrying soil and silt along its path. If you are paving a formerly unpaved surface, you will need to provide on-site drainage basins (dry wells) to capture the runoff. Sized to accommodate a 2-inch rainfall, these structures can usually be designed, located, and installed by your paving company, landscape designer, or contractor. As defined in Chapter 104 of the Village Code, **The Fog Line** is "The white line that runs down the side of the road and separates the travel surface of the road from the shoulder of the road." All areas within a 4-foot distance from the Fog Line is regulated by the Asharoken Code. This may include apron material, block curbing, mailboxes, plantings, and anything else that may be considered an obstruction in this area.

For more information on these topics, see the Village Code or stop by Village Hall for detailed printed sheets to take home. Please e-mail me a dhadil@optonline.net with any questions.



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING
TO ALL**

NOTES FROM BIG BLUE

By Barry Bradley

Please **DO NOT** put your garbage out the night before pickup. Animals will attack it, creating a mess that I can't pick up. It will also look extremely unattractive to your neighbors. Please remember to put all garbage outside by 8 am on pickup days.



Also, make sure you save all paper and cardboard in a separate bin for recycling. The Village is paid for it, which adds to our revenue.

ASHAROKEN COMMUNITY E-MAIL REQUEST FORM

Our goal is to collect e-mail addresses from all residents. This will enable us to communicate with you in a more timely manner and help save costs.

- If you are interested in sharing your e-mail address with us, we will then include your e-mail in our "Village Resident Contact List." The e-mail will be used to send out announcements, trash schedule updates, road closure information, newsletters, etc.

- **Future newsletter issues will automatically be sent to the e-mail address provided. If you prefer to have the newsletter mailed to you, check the box below.**

- If you have a caretaker or relative whom you feel should be informed of this information, please provide their e-mail address under "Secondary e-mail address."

- All e-mail addresses will only be used for village business and will not be distributed or shared with anyone.

- If you have updated phone or cell numbers, please include them below for our phone list.

Please fill out the form below and either drop it off at Village Hall, place in the police mailbox, or email the information to Rittenhousevc@gmail.com.

Name:

Address:

Primary e-mail address:

Secondary e-mail address:

Phone Number (Optional)

Cell Number (Optional)

Please check the box if you prefer this newsletter to be sent to you as snail mail via the Post office.

THE WAY IT WAS

By Asharoken Village Historian Ed Carr

The Tragedy of the Gwendoline Steers

Back in the early 1990's, Joan Hauser approached me about writing a local history column for the Asharoken Newsletter. Back then, I'd create a story on my word processor, copy it to a floppy disk drive, and leave it in Joan's mailbox. It's amazing that now, 20 years later, I can write a story on my iPad while sitting on a train, attach a photo, and email it to her in seconds. Sometimes, it's hard to remember the days before cell phones, faxing, texts, and emails when the only way we could communicate long distance was with hard-wired telephones, snail mail, and police and citizen's band radios.

Lack of immediate communication years ago is an important part of my article for the inaugural issue of the "new" newsletter. This December will mark the 50th anniversary of our area's worst shipwreck in modern times. It's a tragedy that might have had a different outcome if modern communication had been available.

It began on a typical early winter day--December 30, 1962. The temperature at 1 AM was in the mid 40's and it had been over 50° F the previous day. Yet by sunrise, the temperature dropped hourly. Few anticipated that it would drop a full 50 degrees by late afternoon to 5° F. (27° below freezing). At the same time, winds were recorded at the Coast Guard Station at Eaton's Neck of sustained 65 mph with gusts to 90 mph.

Caught in the fury was a returning tugboat, the Gwendoline Steers, owned by the Steers Sand & Gravel Company. The tug had left Throg's Neck that morning under placid conditions, bound for its home at the Northport Sand Pit (Steer's Pit). At about 4 pm, the tug reported to the Coast Guard that it was entering Huntington Bay between Eaton's Neck and Lloyd Neck and taking on water. As waves of epic proportions crashed on the stern deck, they froze instantly with the frigid winds. Communication was soon lost. As the sun set, the tug disappeared.

The Coast Guard station at Eaton's Neck didn't have a boat big enough to launch and called their headquarters in Groton requesting the Cutter Yeaton, the largest clipper available. Shortly after being dispatched with 25 seamen, the Yeaton was forced to turn back due to severe icing and listing. It's one of the few times that a Coast Guard rescue mission was aborted.

The next morning, a lifeboat washed up on Hobart Beach with the frozen corpse of Second Engineer Hugh Reid. *Life Magazine* sent a photographer. Other bodies began to wash up. Northport Bay froze over the following day as temperatures remained in single digits with winds averaging 30 mph.

Today, the Gwendoline Steers still lies in Huntington harbor and is a dive spot for local residents. The question is this: would such a tragedy have occurred nowadays, with satellite forecasts and modern communication equipment? The tug would have been forewarned about the changing weather and the Coast Guard would also have been able to communicate and advise them.

When I was researching this story 20 years ago, some Asharoken residents remembered that day as the coldest, most bitter they had ever experienced. Ray Ingersoll told me that from his home on Duck Island he could see foam lift from the crest of the whitecaps in Northport Bay, freeze immediately, and roll on the top of the waves like a series of snowballs--a phenomena he never saw again. Tony Wenderoth remembered that when you exposed any portion of your face or skin, the wind immediately froze the uncovered surface. Speed Young wrote in his journal that his well-insulated home on the Bay fell to 48° with the heat on full blast. It was just impossible to keep it warm during the storm.

This fall, there will be two events to mark the 50th anniversary of the Gwendoline Steers tragedy. On Wednesday, October 24th at 7 pm, the Northport Library will host an description of the sinking. On Sunday, October 28th at noon, a plaque will be dedicated at Hobart Beach followed by a reception. Both events are free and open to the public.



SANITATION SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Pick Up	2	3 NC	4 Pick Up	5	6
7	8 Colum- bus Day Pick Up	9 Pick Up	10 BCP	11 Pick Up	12	13
14	15 Pick Up	16 YW	17 NC	18 Pick Up	19	20
21	22 Pick Up	23	24 BCP	25 Pick Up	26	27
28	29 Pick Up	30	31  NC			

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Pick Up	2	3
4	5 Pick Up	6	7 VOTE! BCP	8 Pick Up	9	10
11	12 Veterans Day Pick Up	13	14 NC	15 Pick Up	16	17
18	19 Pick Up	20 YW	21 BCP	22  Pick Up	23	24
25	26 Pick Up	27	28 NC	29 Pick Up		

BCP--BOTTLES, CANS, PLASTIC

NC--NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD

YW--YARD WASTE PICKUP

Village of Asharoken

1 Asharoken Avenue

Northport, New York, 11768