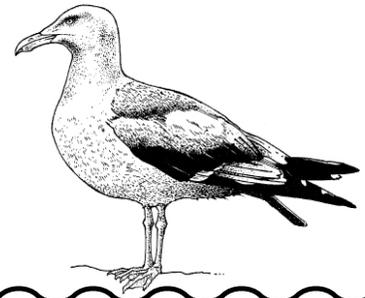


ASHAROKEN NEWS



MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday with their family and friends, and I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Hurricane Sandy has put us through quite a bit as a community, but Asharoken Village has prevailed and is moving forward and getting back on its feet. We have several goals that are very important to our Village. We will be spending much of our time working hard to accomplish all of these goals for 2013.

Our three main priorities for the near future are: Sand on the Beach, Dune Restoration, and the Reconstruction of our Village Hall/Police Station.

Sand on the Beach

I have spent a great deal of time working with our federal and state officials, Army Corps of Engineers, and the NYSDEC to make the full restoration of Asharoken beach a reality. Senator Schumer's office has assured me that they are adding Asharoken to the list of communities that need sand and funding. His office is working hard to expedite the process. The NYSDEC has, in principal, agreed to allow dredging from offshore, pending the completion of their feasibility study. This is the first step toward restoring the beach. The cost of the final phase of the feasibility study will be approximately \$150,000. I have lobbied our elected state and federal officials to help us minimize the cost to the Village. Just recently, I sent out a letter to all of you urging you to reach out to those elected officials asking for their support. Please take the time to do so. We can really make a difference if we work together as a community. I also reached out to the residents of Eaton's Neck to join our cause; they will benefit from a far safer road as well. This is going to be a long process, but the more we communicate with our elected officials, the more chance we have of accomplishing our goal of Sand on the Beach.

Dune Reconstruction

The Village is working with the Federal Highway Administration to receive funding for sand and

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AFTER SANDY

FLOOD RESISTANT FUNDAMENTALS

By Doug Adil, R.A.

Building Superintendent & Flood Plain Manager

With the passing of Hurricane Sandy, we are left with the awareness that our homes may be a lot more vulnerable than we thought. Some homes in Asharoken were "substantially damaged", which by FEMA definition means that the cost of repairing the damage to the house is greater than 50% of the market value of the structure (without land). In such cases, rebuilding of the home must follow the latest FEMA requirements and current NY State Building code for its design. There is no "grandfathering" of requirements based on the age of the structure. As a result, it will be a more expensive repair, but also more flood resistant and better prepared for the future. Many other homes in Asharoken were not damaged to this 50% threshold, so the measures that will most likely be taken will be more modest, and the tradeoff is that they will be less floodproof, but the cost to repair is lower.

Most of us in Asharoken have houses that have been around for quite a while. They may have been

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MAYOR'S LETTER *continued* .

vegetation to fortify the dune area and protect Asharoken Avenue. The decision of the FHWA as to whether this is an emergency repair or maintenance will determine what percentage the Village will have to pay. I have asked Congressman Israel to lobby on behalf of the Village to have the FHWA classify our dune restoration as an emergency repair, so they can then reimburse the Village 100% of its cost for the dune repair.

Village Hall

It became very obvious during Sandy that our Village Hall needs to be replaced. The structure was flooded and became unusable. Due to the age of the structure as well as the present damage and future exposure to flooding, it is clearly not worth fixing. A Village Hall that floods just when its government is most needed is simply not acceptable. The Reconstruction Committee, led by John Ross, has worked very hard to finalize the design. In parallel, every means of funding (FEMA, NY State Aid, Federal Aid, grants, bank borrowing, and bonding) are being explored.

Super Storm Sandy has forced the Village to incur expenses of approximately \$85,000 as of today. We have already submitted our storm expenses to FEMA. Typically, FEMA will reimburse the Village 75% and New York will add 12.5%, which leaves the Village responsible for the remaining 12.5%. There has been discussion that FEMA's share may increase to 90%, but this has not yet been confirmed. Although we will still have some additional costs, the majority of the bills are in. The Village has the funds to cover these costs until we are reimbursed by FEMA. We are presently working with FEMA to fast-track a good deal of these reimbursable expenses. The Village was able to secure a grant with the Department of Labor, which provided funding for four laborers to help clean up storm debris as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

In closing, I want to thank the amazing residents of Asharoken for all they did following Sandy. You had patience and understanding as the Village government got up and running, you provided food and snacks for our staff, you gave us engineering and technical support, and you helped clean up the Village to make it look better than ever. Incredibly, you did all of this while dealing with your own storm-related issues. We could never have accomplished what we did without your help. Thank you again for all your support.

Sincerely,
Greg Letica, Mayor

After Sandy *continued*.

designed with a full basement in a flood zone that makes it prone to flooding, or may have a main floor that is not elevated above the 100-year flood elevation. There are some options available to homeowners when considering what can be done. Short of spending a significant amount of money to elevate your house (physically elevate it to a higher elevation) you may want to consider:

- Elevating heating and other equipment in cellars and basement such as boilers, furnaces, water heaters and electric service panels to the main floor.
- If this is not an option, elevating the same equipment to the highest available level in the space it is currently located in.
- Relocating the equipment to an attached garage.
- Elevating existing or new exterior A/C condensers on a raised platform.
- Consider using below grade areas only for storage.
- Installation of backflow prevention valves and sump pumps.
- Installation of emergency back-up generator (natural gas or propane fired), installed on an elevated base.

If you are in the planning stages for repairs or floodproofing for the future, or are considering any new work of the type mentioned above, feel free to call me if you have any questions. Remember that the work described above requires a Building Permit with the Village of Asharoken. See Nancy Rittenhouse in Village Hall for further information about permits and additional information provided by FEMA and national flood insurance programs.





POLICE REPORT

By Ray Mahdesian,
Officer-in-Charge

“STORM OF THE CENTURY”

The police column in the last issue of the newsletter provided the history of how towns and villages in the early twentieth century were able to create their own police departments. While many of these departments have since been absorbed by larger agencies, such as the Suffolk County Police Department, I indicated that the next police column would discuss how municipalities that still maintain their own police departments are glad that they do. Little did I imagine that monumental proof of this was so close at hand.

Although there are many examples of the various special services that local police departments are able to provide for their residents, no better illustration of this can be found than in the events surrounding the disastrous super-storm Sandy which struck Long Island on October 28, 2012. This event was a text-book case of how a local government and its police department met adversity head-on to provide critical emergency services in a time of peril.

As soon as we learned of the approaching storm, plans were put into action. Equipment was checked, personnel were scheduled, and contacts were made with the various agencies that could assist us. This planning involved our local officials at every step of the way, especially Mayor Greg Letica, Police Commissioner Mel Ettinger, Emergency Manager Bill Raisch, Village Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse, and the entire Board of Trustees.

When the storm hit, all available off-duty officers had already been summoned to duty and emergency vehicles were fueled and placed strategically throughout the village, so as to be able to provide police service in every area in the event access was cut-off. I am proud to say that our police officers stepped-up and manned their posts admirably throughout this emergency, many staying for 24 hours straight. This, of course, meant that the officers had to leave their own families at a time of hardship in order to protect and serve the village residents. For several days your officers kept the village safe under adverse conditions, and without complaint.

Our eleven-member police department could not handle this catastrophe alone. We had vital help from the village officials. Mayor Letica was there to make the critical decisions. Emergency Coordinator Raisch assisted us throughout the day, and then slept

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BIRDING

By Greg Letica

Bird and Wildlife Report



The total number of bird species seen in 2012 totaled 118.

The first of the year was a Long Tailed Duck and the last was a pair of Hooded Mergansers. In between was a terrific mix of warblers, hawks, flacons, sparrows, wood peckers and too many others to cite. Unfortunately, none of the species sighted were new to Asharoken leaving the all time total at 168. Not bad for a village whose area is truly a speck on our planet.



The seals have returned to Asharoken and can be seen on the rocks off Eaton’s Neck at low tide. Or, if you prefer the armchair approach, just go to youtube.com and search Asharoken seal.

Finally, the deer have put in a banner year with almost everyone I speak to reporting multiple sightings. Without doubt, everyone should use extreme care and caution while driving at dusk and at night to avoid hitting one of them.



VISIT ASHAROKEN.COM

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Eric Maffei and Steve Trombetti despite their own loss of power during Sandy, our Asharoken web site received more than 2,000 hits a day as it provided up-to-the-minute information on the crisis. For more than emergencies, it’s the place to go to keep tabs on what’s happening in our neighborhood.

BEACH LOT DUNES

By Village Conservation Chair, Marty Cohen

My last column in the Asharoken newsletter was written prior to Hurricane Sandy, so it will not surprise any resident to hear that much has changed with the Asharoken Avenue dunes and the Village's plans for dune restoration.



Back in September, the Village was working on submitting all the paperwork necessary to continue work under a grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to repair the Asharoken Avenue dunes, including sand restoration and beach grass planting. That grant had been obtained after the damage done by Tropical Storm Irene in 2010. (The first funds from this grant had already been used for the repair of the road and shoulders at the Bevin Road intersection.) Both federal and state agencies were involved, including the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC),



which requires a permit for work done on any Long Island Sound beach.

After the extensive damage done to the dunes by Hurricane Sandy, the DEC issued an emergency repair

permit to the Village, which is now in force. The FHWA has advised the Village to submit a new work proposal (to supersede the Tropical Storm Irene grant), which will be expedited through its channels to enable work to start within two months or sooner. The Village will be proposing the building of a dune, to run 1340 feet from 413 Asharoken Avenue to 475 Asharoken Avenue. It will 5-6 feet high and 20-30 feet deep, utilizing roughly 5000 cubic yards of sand, which will be trucked in. As a point of reference, this is about one third of the amount of sand National Grid deposited on approximately one mile of Asharoken Beach in the fall of 2010. Following sand deposition and dune formation, the dune will be planted with beach grass. Research into additional plantings is ongoing. Also under discussion is the questions of what to do about staircases once the new dune is complete.

Since FHWA grants may require 20% cost-sharing from the Village, we are working to minimize and hopefully eliminate this expense. We have already asked our congressional representatives for help with FHWA, and we have approached FEMA to see if emergency funding for dune repair is available.

In the meantime, I urge all residents to keep off the "piles of sand" that are serving as an emergency dune on Asharoken Avenue. This sand is all that is protecting the road in the event of another major storm and should not be disturbed.



VILLAGE HALL

By John Ross, Chairman,
Village Restoration Development Committee

Since our initial meeting of the Restoration Development Committee in July, we have reported at all the subsequent village meetings of our continuing progress,, updates, and developments. We have collectively and individually met with a number of major representatives of governmental departments, *Please turn to Page Five.*



VILLAGE HALL *continued.*

light and power agencies, construction contractors and many concerned individuals with constructive ideas, to come up with a design solution for a new Village Hall that will be practical and best serve our community. The extremely poor and unsanitary condition of our existing Village Hall, in the aftermath of the Sandy Storm, has placed this endeavor with other priorities in the Village.

At this point in time and after meeting with DEC representatives and environmental consultants on the site, we have developed an updated survey and site-plan that places the proposed building in a very favorable location on the property. After a preliminary and successful review of that information in my office with a supervisor from the N.Y.S Department of Environmental Conservation, we are proceeding to make a formal application to that department. As I stated at the last Board of Trustees meeting, the DEC has speeded up its application and permit process for municipalities; however they give no timeline as to their approval. As required, we will also make application to the Suffolk County Board of Health for the construction of the new septic system.

After many modifications and revisions, we have come up with a preliminary floor plan and elevations for the new proposed building. The committee criteria for the design were first, that it service the current and future needs of the Village Clerk, our Police Dept. and the Village Residents. Second, that it is aesthetically pleasing and the architecture is representative of our area. And third, the design and construction materials reflect practical cost considerations to the Village without sacrificing quality, or recommended construction practice. To this end we are exploring alternative methods for construction, one of which is modular construction.

POLICE REPORT *continued.*

in his car while flood waters swirled around us at night. Commissioner Ettinger was ever-present, helping in every possible way throughout the critical periods. The true value of having local police was clearly obvious as the various decisions by officials concerning road closures, utilities, resident-safety and various repairs were made. Critical plans were immediately implemented at the execution level without red tape and dealing with bureaucracies. Amazingly, the road, which was closed Monday night at the height of the storm, was opened at 11:35 a.m. Tuesday.

As Village officials and police worked around-the-clock throughout the critical times, help was also received from other agencies. Northport Village provided gas for our police cars when we couldn't get it elsewhere. Suffolk County police assisted with traffic control at the sea-wall area. Huntington Harbormaster personnel helped direct traffic during road work. Huntington Highway Department equipment and personnel worked to clear the roadway. Eaton's Neck Fire Department used saws to clear trees and poles. Dix Hills Fire Department mechanics changed damaged tires on a police car. National Grid pumped water from the flooded roadway. And this list is not complete. Residents provided food for weary cops, as well as words of encouragement and thanks which were equally appreciated.

The days following the storm emergency were difficult as well. We moved into our temporary quarters, and that required lots of effort. Paul Rittenhouse salvaged the old police desk and installed it in our new quarters. Mel Ettinger ran wires and put computers into operation. In short, lots of help from lots of people got us through our crisis.

The Village has bounced back quickly. I am pleased to report that there were no injuries or fatalities related to the storm. The police department thanks all those who helped: Village officials, residents, and personnel from other agencies.

At times like this, it becomes readily apparent how fortunate our local residents are to have such an efficient local government and police department.

SEE YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:

1/8/13; 2/5/13; 3/5/13

BUDGET WORK SESSION: 1/22/13

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Photos by Steve Silverman, Village Photographer

THE WAY IT WAS

By Asharoken Village Historian Ed Carr

Growing up in Asharoken, I became accustomed to storms. They would come and go--some worse than others. It wasn't until I was a young man out of college that a memorable one hit the area.

For me, this was the winter storm of December 12, 1992. I was working as a young engineer at the LILCO station in Northport. Around lunchtime, I noticed that the Nor'easter was creating a tidal surge that was filling the Town Boat Ramp parking lot across from the power plant. So I got in my car, and drove over to the boat ramp area. It was there I met Asharoken's late Village Justice, Charles Brown, who had left the city early to head home. He had not been able to pass beyond the bottom of the road leading into the Village by the public beaches. So he had driven back up Eaton's Neck Road and pulled into the road leading to the Town Boat Ramp area.

Both of us parked our cars on the high road and walked down the wooded hillside opposite the Police Booth. It was then that we realized the magnitude of the tidal surge. Asharoken Avenue was flooded, with sea water lapping at the door of Village Hall. Charlie called over to Officer Jeff Josephson, who was standing in the open door trapped with Village Clerk, Dot Aiello. In front of the Village Hall Chief Asharoken statue, one of the police cars was stalled and abandoned on Asharoken Avenue with water rising as high as the dashboard.

After a brief conversation with Jeff and Dot, Charlie and I retreated back up the hill and walked along the high ground northward towards Long Island Sound until we came to #100, the first house on the Sound. We found a dinghy there with oars, so we launched the dinghy from the side of the house into the flooded driveway, rowing our way out to Asharoken Avenue. Once on the road, we took turns rowing down the middle of Asharoken Avenue from #100 until the pavement could again be seen, about 50 feet before Beach Plum Road. During the trip, it was surreal to pass mailboxes and familiar trees as we floated in a good two feet of water above the road.

After safely stowing the dinghy near Beach Plum, we walked the rest of the way to Charlie's house (#290) and then continued beyond that. It was the first time I had ever seen all the utility poles fall across Asharoken Avenue on the open stretch between #415 and #475. The dunes were swept across the road and pieces of the road were missing.

The following day, the full extent of the damage

became known. The sand dunes at the Bevin Road intersection were gone, leaving a couple of feet of sand on the road. The Gallo home at #182 was rendered a total constructive loss.

In the aftermath of Sandy, many residents who had moved to the area after 1992 were alarmed to see the dramatic effects of the storm. One person commented to me that "Asharoken will never be the same." I remember having the same feeling in 1992. The damage was more extensive than any I could have ever imagined, and so much worse than anything I had experienced growing up. Yet within a year, things were back to normal. I also learned that the poles had fallen across the road in the Thanksgiving storm of 1950 and twenty years before that in 1938. Who knew?

Humans are resilient. Little by little, communities come back, whether it's Battery Park City after 9/11 or Asharoken after 1992, or the storm to end all storms --the hurricane of 1938. In this more recent Sandy storm, the water rose to lap at the door of Village Hall as it had done in 1992. But 1938 had a tidal surge that was about 4 feet higher. I know this because prior to the rebuilding of Village Hall in 1991, there was a chiseled mark denoting the water height. It was shown to me by former Asharoken Police Department Chief Charlie Johnson--chest high on the window trim--and had been shown to him by the man who put it there when Charlie was a young man.

The old meeting room windows and casement trim-work with its high water mark are long gone, but it clearly showed what the 1938 surge was like. Local newspapers that covered the storm reported furniture floating on the first floor of most homes, including the one that the LaGuardias were renting adjacent to Duck Island Road (#275/277). Remembering the past, and taking those events into account, I am sure that if Asharoken recovered from 1938, it can--and will--recover from just about anything.

Editor's Note: *We, too, lived through the Nor'easter in 1992. We had little or no warning about the approaching storm. I realized how serious it was when I saw the phone poles in front of our house (#483) slowly topple one by one as I was talking to my son in California. Later, I was evacuated. Assisted by the Coast Guard, I waded through the water up the hill past Bevin Road to the Eaton's Neck Firehouse clutching a puppy we had just adopted. Dick was stranded on Ocean Avenue--with no dinghy. When we finally found each other and returned home, we felt lucky to have sustained no damage. There was a heartening air of camaraderie amongst all as we faced recovery with cheerful determination.*

SANITATION SCHEDULE

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		New Year's Day ¹	2 BCP	3 Pick Up	4	5
6	7 Pick Up	8	9 NC	10 Pick Up	11	12
13	14 Pick Up	15	16 BCP	17 Pick Up	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Day	22 Pick Up	23 NC	24 Pick Up	25	26
27	28 Pick Up	29	30 BCP	31 Pick Up		

FEBRUARY

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

BCP--BOTTLES, CANS, PLASTIC

NC--NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD

YW--YARD WASTE PICKUP

Village of Asharoken

1 Asharoken Avenue

Northport, New York, 11768