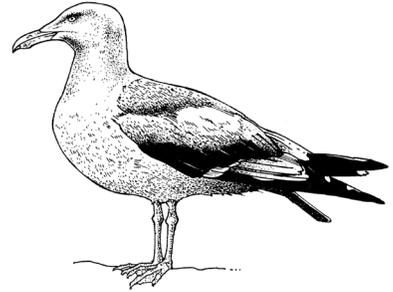


ASHAROKEN NEWS



MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors;

It is my pleasure to assure everyone that spring is on its way and that to paraphrase Shakespeare the fall and winter of our discontent is almost over. Warmer, sunnier and more optimistic days are right around the corner.

Sand on the Beach

Currently we have two Sand-on-the-Beach projects in the works:

- Included in the Sandy Relief Funding Bill is over \$30,000,000 that can be used by the Army Corps of Engineers and DEC to complete the feasibility study and begin the full scale reconstruction project. The study is needed to determine the best offshore locations to dredge and to minimize any environmental impact. I have reached out to all of our state elected officials to encourage the DEC to expedite the completion of the study. Deputy Mayor Pierce and I attended a press conference in Point Lookout hosted by Senator Schumer on Sunday, January 27, where he announced the aid package. At the same time I had an opportunity to publicly thank him for his efforts to have Asharoken included in the bill.

- The existing permit between National Grid and The Army Corps on Engineers requires National Grid to place approximately 45,000 cubic yards of sand on Asharoken Beach every three years. The last deposit of sand took place in the fall of 2010. The ACOE recently advised me that "the next 3 year cycle for nourishment of Asharoken beach is due by 31 December 2013 and should include placement of 45,000 cubic yards of sand." As plans progress I will keep you informed.

Dune Repair

The Village is working with the Federal Highway Administration to have an additional 5,000 cubic yards of sand added to the dune area to increase the size of the dune protecting the road. We have heard back from the FHWA and they will pay for the entire sand placement and 80% of planting the dune. The net cost to

Please turn to Page Two.



GENERATE THIS GENERATOR FUNDAMENTALS

**By Doug Adil, R.A.
Building Superintendent & Flood Plain Manager**

Living in Asharoken has its natural beauty and unique quality of life, but also comes with risks, as recent storms have reminded us. An emergency back-up generator is a device that can supply electricity to your house during the power outages that often result from storms.

During an emergency, a generator allows you to continue using essential appliances such as air conditioners, heaters, refrigerators, as well as lights. In generators for home use, an engine fueled by natural gas, propane or gasoline has a spinning shaft that creates an alternating magnetic field through a coil, which induces voltage. Generators are available as "portable" or "fixed". The main differences between portable and stationary models are in their connection and activation, and each type has its pros and cons. A portable generator has to be rolled out from storage, filled with fuel or hooked up to a fuel line, manually started, and connected to your loads. Portable gas models are relatively cheap; you can buy a 4000 watt set for \$500-\$600. These types typically have a short

Please turn to Page Three.

MAYOR'S LETTER *continued* .

the Village is approximately \$3,500 out of an estimated \$170,000 gross cost. The project is being scheduled and should be done by April 1. No fooling! Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse, Conservation Board Chair Marty Cohen, Highway Commissioner Tony Wenderoth, and Trustee Pam Pierce have all worked very hard to make this project a reality. Thank you all. Although the full ACOE beach reconstruction is still several years away, these two smaller additions, totaling 50,000 cubic yards, should help protect homes and the road until then.

Village Hall Reconstruction

The need for a new Village Hall becomes more evident every day. In doing our due diligence, the Village has solicited three quotes to repair the old structure. Based on our estimates, it makes no sense to repair the antiquated, flood prone, and entirely too small Village Hall. The Village is working closely with FEMA to provide all of the needed documentation to determine the amount of funding FEMA may be able to provide for the new Village Hall. John Ross is doing a great job leading the Reconstruction Committee. Trustees Laura Burke and Mel Ettinger have been instrumental in working on financing and design of the new structure. Great job by everyone involved.

The Village Hall Fundraising Committee

In the last two months, residents have contributed over \$110,000 in additional donations. Our neighbors have been unbelievably generous; approximately 150 families have donated money. Included are 2 \$25,000 donations, 1 \$20,000 donation, 7 \$10,000 donations and 63 donations between \$1,000 and \$7,500. I would like to thank Joan Ettinger and Meg Cleary for their efforts in running the fund-raising committee.

At the moment, we have approximately \$380,000 available to build Village Hall. We will likely need at least twice that amount to complete the project. The building will be functional, appropriately-sized, and represent our community. Along with offices for the Clerk and the Police, there will be an all-purpose room used to hold board meetings, court sessions, community functions and more importantly a place for residents to go in case of an emergency. The Village is working hard to get grants and funding from FEMA as well as exploring borrowing the money to raise the needed additional funds.

Other News

The Village and the PBA are finalizing the new police contract. It is structured around providing a fair salary increase for our present officers and changes to the contract that will allow the Village to keep its police



NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

If you think our climate is different than it used to be, you are right. According to the Weather Channel, 2012 was one degree hotter than any other year since 1895. In weather terms, this is considered a huge increase and a foretaste of the future. Not only that, but the 10 warmest years on record occurred within the most recent 15 year period. It was also the second-worst in a measurement called Climate Extremes. Only 1998 had more disasters. Sandy, at a cost of more than \$60 billion, is a major player in this tabulation. According to the EPA, Long Island Sound is also a few degrees warmer than in the past, possibly impacting marine life, resulting in fewer lobsters and winter flounders and more striped bass.

department for years to come. The final details will be released once the contract is signed. The undermined stretch of Asharoken Avenue has been fixed and the ditch back-filled. Tremendous thanks are owed to Tony Wenderoth and Andy Mendelsohn for the design and supervision of this project. Together they saved the Village thousands of dollars in engineering and construction supervision costs. Finally, the seawall repair is complete. The wooden caps have been removed and replaced with steel ones, several boulders were put back in place, and the stairs to the beach were repaired.

I hope everyone has a great spring and a Happy Easter and Passover.

Mayor Greg Leticia

GENERATE THIS *continued* .

run time, so you would need to refill the tank several times a day if you run them continuously at rated load.

Conversely, a fixed standby generator is already connected to both the house wiring and the fuel source, so it can start immediately either by a push of a button or automatically. Automatic systems have an auto transfer switch, which can sense a power outage, isolate your electrical wiring or designated emergency circuits from the grid, and start the genset. When grid voltage is restored, such a system will connect you back to the utility lines and will turn itself off. You don't even have to be at home to activate it. Fixed emergency standby sets can provide continuous power for the home because they are hooked up to an external fuel source, such as a natural gas line. This is something that residents of Asharoken Avenue can take advantage of, since there is a gas main under the road.

Aside from wattage and cost, the main things to consider are the duration of time you may need emergency power, fuel availability, and convenience of use. With the stationary type, your choice of fuel should be determined primarily by the source you already use for the home's heating or by the fuels available in your area. Note that most fixed residential generators are bi-fuel and can run on both natural gas and propane. You will normally need a simple field adjustment to convert from one fuel to the other, but if your house is already supplied with gas, or if LPG is readily available in your area, a natural gas or propane genset is your logical choice.

A Licensed Electrician is needed to do the installation, and they can help you size the generator for its intended load, depending on how many circuits will be connected. In Asharoken, a Building Permit is required for this work. Remember also that the generator, if fixed in place, will most likely need to be installed on a raised platform for flood considerations. Check with the Village if you have questions about the proper height in your flood zone. For any other questions contact me at 631-935-5501.

BIRDING

By Greg Letica



Bird and Wildlife Report

Several weeks ago, I received a call from the police reporting that there was large white bird that appeared to be ill or injured on the Duck Island



Causeway. I drove over to investigate expecting to find a seagull. To my surprise the bird was a Northern Gannet. Gannets are magnificent sea birds that soar back and forth on the Sound side and plunge from great heights to get fish.

Most often I see them in April in front of my house. Unfortunately, the Gannet was clearly very ill and our neighbor Ed Brown had the compassion to bring it to the Commack Emergency Animal Hospital for care.

Spring is right around the corner and one of the first real harbingers is the return of the Grackles. It was uplifting to see a flock of Robins in my yard the day after the snow storm. The next three months are the best time to see a great diversity of birds in the village as they pass through during spring migration or return for the summer. Just grab a pair on binoculars and a decent bird book (*Petersen's Field Guide, Eastern Birds* is my go to book) and take a look at what is in your yard. I think that you will be pleasantly surprised.



**SEE YOUR BOARD IN ACTION
ATTEND EACH MONTH**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:
March 5, 2013; April 2, 2013**

Trustees Special Meeting: 3/19/13



POLICE REPORT

By Ray Mahdesian,
Officer-in-Charge

BLAME IT ON THE WHEEL

Asharoken boasts one of lowest crime rates anywhere. No doubt about it. In fact, many people whom I meet daily invariably tell me, "Oh, Asharoken, it must be easy being a cop there; nothing ever happens." My stock response is always to agree politely and let it go. In reality, owing largely to the invention of the wheel, things can, and sometimes do, happen here. Frequently, the public is unaware of much of the police activity that occurs.

Case in point. On a cold Sunday this past January, at about 10:00 p.m., when most people in the "land where nothing ever happens" were tucked in, and nothing, of course, was supposed to be happening, my attention was drawn to an interesting event far away from our bucolic village that was unfolding on the inter-agency police radio which we monitor in addition to our own local police radio traffic.

It seems that citizens in Babylon Township were reporting to 9-1-1 that there was an intoxicated driver operating recklessly near Route 109, and police units in the area were searching for it. Updates to Suffolk's police communication system were rapidly being broadcast as patrol cars in a widening area tried to locate this reportedly dangerous driver. As time went on, reported locations were no longer being broadcast in the Babylon area, but right here in Huntington Township. The radio now had my undivided attention as street names such as Pidgeon Hill, Maplewood, and Pulaski were suddenly being announced. Could it be possible?

Sure enough! Several minutes had elapsed after the last radio alert when Officer Alex Rubino, who was monitoring traffic with his radar unit on Asharoken Avenue, radioed that he was stopping a speeding vehicle. When Officer Rubino approached the car, he observed that it had been involved in a recent accident and the plate matched the Suffolk bulletin. The driver, whose address was in North Babylon, then told him that he thought he was in Islip. That was it. What started out miles away over half an hour earlier was now an alleged drunk driver who landed in

Please turn to Page Seven.

NOTES FROM BIG BLUE

By Barry Bradley

Recycling is a positive thing to do for the environment. In addition, it's a way to save our Village money. Last year, the Village earned approximately \$1125 for newspapers and cardboard. Compare this to our cost of \$75



a ton for trash and \$31.50 a ton for bottles, cans and plastic. I'd like to refresh everyone's memory about what can and can't be included in these categories.

Paper recyclables can include magazines, catalogs, discarded mail, newspapers, cardboard boxes, paper egg cartons, cereal boxes, and paper bags. It **cannot** include any paper container that has a waxed or plastic surface, such as milk cartons and frozen food wrappers or any food-tainted items. Pick-up is easier when newspapers are baled and cardboard boxes are folded, broken down, or nested.

It is obvious that it makes sense to put as much as possible in the bottle, cans, and plastic bins as the cost to our Village for its disposal is much less than trash. Items that can be recycled are empty glass jars and bottles, aluminum cans and clean foil, empty tin and steel cans, cleaned frozen food trays, plastic containers for food, beverage, soap and shampoo as well as other items (those labeled #1 through #7). All should be empty and clean.

Here's what you can't recycle: plastic bags, food waste, motor oil bottles, hazardous chemical containers, batteries, DVDs or CDs, light bulbs, drinking glasses, hangers, pots and pans, medicine bottles, flower pots, and plastic toys.

One more note: Please do not put your regular trash out the night before. If varmints get into your bin and toss debris all over the street, I will not be able to pick it up the next morning.

VISIT ASHAROKEN.COM

It's *the* place to go to keep tabs on what's happening around our neighborhood. In emergencies, it's where you'll find up-to-the-minute information. Thanks to Eric Maffei and Steve Trombetti for all their hard work.

BEACH LOT DUNES

By Village Conservation Chair, Marty Cohen

The Village has received formal notification from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that we can proceed with the repair of the dunes on the Sound side of Asharoken Avenue across from the beach lots. This is a distance of about 1400 feet from 413 Asharoken Ave north to 475 Asharoken Ave. FHWA has agreed that this is an emergency repair, eligible for 100% reimbursement to the Village of the approximately \$150,000 cost.

Work is scheduled to begin the week of March 11 and, barring severe weather, will be completed in two weeks. Five thousand cubic yards of sand (from a site on Long Island) will be trucked in, in order to build a roughly triangular-shaped dune, six feet high and 30 feet deep. Given the capacity of the contractor's trucks, there will be 15-20 large truckloads delivered each day. The sand will initially be placed across Asharoken Avenue and then moved across to build the dunes. Work will begin from the north end and proceed south.



Motorists should exercise caution during the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM when the contractor will be working.



Key areas are the vicinity of the intersection of Bevin Road and Asharoken Avenue where the sand delivery trucks will be turning around. The Asharoken Police will be helping to direct traffic so that the sand can be safely deposited, and then moved across the Avenue so that dune construction can proceed.

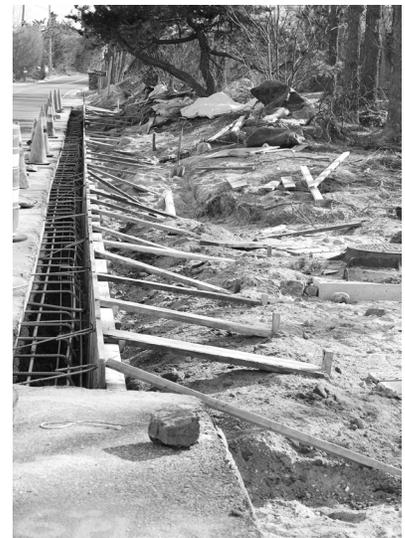
We are hoping to plant beach grass on the dunes as soon as possible after completion of the repair. The approximately \$15,000 cost of this part of the work is not regarded as emergency repair by FHWA, so they will only cover 80% of the cost and the Village will have to contribute the remaining 20%.

The dune repair on Asharoken Avenue is extremely important in order to protect the integrity of the roadway and the safety of those who use it. Please be careful and patient while this work is underway.



ROAD REPAIR

During Hurricane Sandy, the west side of Asharoken Avenue across from the seawall was undermined. The project included repairing 130 feet of Asharoken's shoulder in order to stabilize the roadway. The work was completed in January, designed and supervised by Tony Wenderoth and Andy Mendelsohn. It will be fully funded by FHWA.



THE WAY IT WAS

By Asharoken Village Historian Ed Carr

It's early afternoon on a sunny day. Yesterday, a winter storm dumped approximately 29" of snow on Asharoken. I look out the window and shake my head. My car is still buried; I am waiting for the friend who plows my driveway to call back. My yard still has tell-tale signs of Tropical Storm Sandy. It's been a tough year between that and the snow storm. Looking through the trees over Duck Island Harbor, I can see the imposing outline of the Bevin House on the opposite shore, and so much snow on the tip of the Bevin Road peninsula.

This reminds me of the Bevin House Diary I had the privilege to see some 20 years ago. It's in the possession of one of their descendants living in Cape Cod. The Diary captures the happenings of daily life from 1865 to 1920, when the Bevin Road peninsula, plus half of Asharoken Beach, was a private Gold Coast estate for the DeLamater/Bevin family.

One particular chapter dealt with the Great Blizzard of 1888, still the record holder for the New York Metro area. The storm lasted for three days—March 11th through the 14th—dumping 40 to 50 inches of snow onto the area with wind gusts of 40 mph. People were trapped in their homes as I am now, for over a week.



LIRR stuck in the snow



City blizzard drifts

Public transportation in the city (yes, they had subways and elevated trains then) was brought to a standstill. The LIRR was paralyzed. High winds pushed snow off the roofs of buildings onto the streets, creating many snow drifts against Manhattan and Brooklyn brownstones 20 feet high in some places, trapping occupants. Over 400 people died as a result of the storm.

At Bevin House, the DeLamater family was trapped, too. This included Laura DeLamater Bevin and her 3 year old son, Sydney, who would one day become Mayor of Asharoken and President of the Northport-East Northport School Board during its most expansive era in the 1950's, when Norwood Elementary School was built. Laura had come out to their Eaton's Neck estate (there was no Village back then) from their home in New York. It was mid-March, and spring seemed to be just around the corner.

The diary details their initial joy at the storm, which began with no warning, followed by concern as to how, if the snow topped 3 inches, they would get their coach back to the LIRR station at the end of the weekend to return to New York City. A few hours into the blizzard, when the snowfall had reached a foot, it became apparent that they would be delayed.

Please turn to Page Seven.

The Way It Was *continued* .

The diary continues, detailing their fear of the deepening snow. By the second day, it was a “a mist of fine, icy particles”. By the third day, “drifts of 20 feet” were up against the Bevin House, surrounding barns and outbuildings. Snow drifts now covered parts of the first and second floor windows.

One of these barns was where Laura’s father, nicknamed “Harry” for his middle name, kept the plans for ships he was building at his ironworks, including the iron clad ship “Monitor” built during the Civil War. The “Monitor” bravely fought the Confederate’s “Merrimac” and changed naval warfare for all time.

After the snow stopped, the Bevins went into survival mode. The great house boiler in the mansion was driven by coal to provide steam heat. Survival mode meant shutting down radiators, and keeping the family and servants in isolated parts of the mansion as well as closing down the boiler damper to conserve heat and make the coal last longer. The DeLamaters and Bevins entertained themselves with books, games, and puzzles to stave off the boredom.

After several days, a crew of men from Northport dug a path over what is today Asharoken Avenue to reach the estate. It was reported that the LIRR was still shut, and would remain so for over 9 days. During the dig, dead “rabbits, quail, and fox” were found buried in the snow. The next entry is April 1st, 1888. Spring has finally arrived, but snow drifts are “still above the fence posts” and “15 feet deep still in some valleys.”

Looking out of my window, I feel blessed. I might get out of here by tonight if the plow can get through. Compared with what the Bevins endured 123 years ago, I know I have it easy.



Drifts in Connecticut



POLICE REPORT *continued*.

landed in Asharoken Village, apparently not knowing that nothing was supposed to happen here.

The defendant was arrested and transported to Suffolk for processing and then taken to District Court in Central Islip for arraignment. It was not the defendant’s first brush with the law, and it will be interesting to see how it all plays out in court.

Asharoken police are part of the inter-agency network of law enforcement that provides area protection and service. As such, your local police force encounters many situations which are not home-grown, but end up here thanks to the ‘wheel’.

During my many years of service to the village, I have occasionally seen various types of crime that we usually associate with ‘elsewhere’. Fortunately, these instances are few and far between, and often originate during traffic stops. In addition to the value of safety on village roads, one of the best services we provide is a deterrent to crime through our omnipresence on the ‘strip’. The bad guys don’t want to meet us, and it is the fear of being stopped that keeps them away, unless they’re drunk, of course, and don’t know where they are.

Asharoken is truly as safe as it gets, and the members of our force are proud to keep it that way!

SANITATION SCHEDULE

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Pick Up		NC	Pick Up		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Savings Time	Pick Up		BCP	Pick Up		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Pat's Day	Pick Up		NC	Pick Up		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter	Passover Begins Pick Up		BCP	Pick Up	Good Friday	

APRIL

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

BCP--BOTTLES, CANS, PLASTIC

NC--NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD

YW--YARD WASTE PICKUP

Village of Asharoken

1 Asharoken Avenue

Northport, New York, 11768