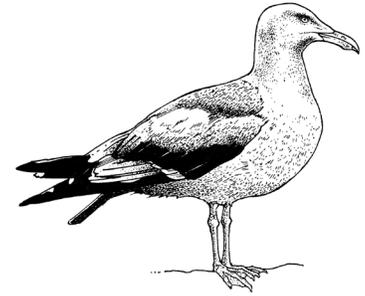


ASHAROKEN NEWS



MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

As 2013 comes to a close, I have been reflecting on what it means to live in Asharoken. How lucky can we be? Mornings begin with sunrises over Long Island Sound and end with sunsets over Northport Bay. Beautiful blue waters surround our Village and our beaches are perfect for long, leisurely walks. The Duck Island wetland has shimmering, golden marsh grass swaying in the winter breezes. Everywhere you look you can find wildlife sharing our Village. The residents of Asharoken are stewards of one of the most beautiful, unique and biologically diverse parts of Long Island. There is no doubt that we are blessed to live here.

But what also really sets us apart from many other communities is the spirit of volunteerism that our residents display on a daily basis. Their efforts make our village hall fundraising, website, newsletter and fireworks a reality. Qualified residents donate their expertise and time to help design our new Village Hall and provide engineering support for road repair projects. Our beaches and wetlands are improved with the annual coastal cleanup organized by Asharoken residents. Our holiday party gets us together, thanks to yet more dedicated neighbors. And if that were not enough, the Village's Planning Board, Zoning Board, Conservation Board, Harbormasters and Village Justices are all staffed by unpaid volunteers. Their efforts are really remarkable.

These volunteers are responsible for making Asharoken special, improving our quality of life and keeping our taxes down. I am humbled and awed by their dedication and commitment. We owe all of these remarkable people a big thank you for a job very, very well done in 2013. Please take a moment to read the list of volunteers on page four of the newsletter and if the opportunity presents itself, thank them in person. They have earned it.

Please turn to Page Two.

VILLAGE PROCLAMATION



On December 3, 2013, Mayor Greg Letica designated a proclamation of recognition from the Village of Asharoken to Eric Maffei and Steve Trombetti for their service to our community "for over five and half years as creators and communicators of a significant and well-needed tool for the Village, the Village website".

Santa Comes To Asharoken on Page Five.



MAYOR'S LETTER *continued.*

Important Village Updates

On Friday, December 6, 2013 Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and I met with Ron Pinzon from the USACOE and Sue McCormick from the NYSDEC. At the meeting we discussed the Army Corps of Engineers restoration of Asharoken's Long Island Sound shoreline. A Preliminary Calendar of Milestone Dates, the Draft Tentatively Selected Plan for the restoration and a Draft Preliminary Groin and Beach Fill Plan were reviewed. Copies of all of these documents are available in Village Hall for review. Please keep in mind that all of these documents are draft/preliminary and are subject to modification and change as the process goes forward. Also the milestone calendar is very optimistic and should be considered a best-case scenario. The meeting was very constructive and the village expects to meet with the NYSDEC and USACE in the near future to continue moving the process forward.

The Village is in the final steps of completing the purchase of a beach lot that Suffolk County foreclosed on. This cost of the lot was \$792.47 plus a title search fee of \$225. This is an important acquisition for the village as it will provide an access point to the beach which will be required as part of the USACE restoration of the Long Island Sound shoreline.

National Grid has completed the 45,000 cubic yard addition to the Long Island Sound shoreline. The village is still awaiting a final answer from FEMA as to how much money Asharoken will receive for the damage done to Village Hall during Superstorm Sandy. During December, FEMA began a comprehensive re-evaluation to the village hall situation and we are hoping to hear from them in the coming weeks.

I wish all a happy and healthy New Year.

Mayor Greg Letica

Neighbors In Need

This idea came out of the post Sandy Emergency Management meeting. The goal is to identify and help neighbors who might need extra support during future extreme weather events, such as winter storms and power outages. Let us know if you would like to be on this list or would like to volunteer to help those who need it. Email or call Village Hall to be part of Neighbors in Need.

Volunteers Wanted

Help is needed now to plan and organize the 2014 Holiday Party on November 1st. Call Carole Casamassima at 261-1895 to participate.



**POLICE
REPORT**

**By Ray Mahdesian,
Officer-in-Charge**

2013 IN REVIEW

In reviewing the statistics for 2013, it is obvious that your police department was quite busy providing protection, as well as a variety of emergency and non-emergency services to residents.

One of the most important services we provide is immediate response to medical emergencies. Police responded to approximately 40 calls for medical assistance in the village, and needed to use the defibrillator 3 times. Our rapid response is critical because we are able to assist patients with emergency aid before the ambulance arrives by providing oxygen or controlling bleeding, for example.

The police also performed hundreds of daily house checks during the year. When residents notify us that they will be away, we systematically patrol their houses. On occasion we have found frozen burst water pipes and open doors. We responded to dozens of house alarms, but fortunately there were no activations by burglars. We are proud of the fact that there were no reported burglaries in the village in 2013.

The motor vehicle crash rate is low for the village (several involving deer), averaging about one per month. This is largely attributable to ever-present traffic law enforcement. The department issued over 300 summonses on Asharoken Avenue, with one speeder actually being clocked at 63 miles per hour!

Crime is almost non-existent in Asharoken. We investigated one grand larceny, several instances of criminal mischief, and a half dozen cases of harassment among other minor offenses. Sadly, some of our cases involved domestic problems. There were arrests for driving while intoxicated, possession of marihuana, one case of criminal impersonation, and traffic-related violations such as operating unlicensed or with a suspended license.

There were no major fires in Asharoken this year; however, Asharoken police assisted our neighbors and responded to two house fires on Eaton's Neck, assisting with extinguishing the fires.

The department conducted a successful marine patrol

Please turn to Page Three

SIGHTINGS

A Seal



Paul Rittenhouse sighted this seal on December 27th at about 5 PM. It was on the rock off-shore on the Sound-side near the seawall. Harbor Seals and Gray Seals are the most common in our area, seen from late fall to April, when they swim north to Cape Cod and Maine. Harp Seals and Hooded Seals are newer arrivals.

Long Island's seal population has grown exponentially in recent years. Experts believe there are more than 4,000 of them found between Montauk and Queens. The reasons for this population explosion are unclear. Some say it is due to the banning of seal hunting, others that they have extended their southward migration for various environmental reasons.

A Snowy Owl



Seen on our Sound-side beach on December 28th, the Snowy Owl has been expanding its range over most of the northeastern United States. Two theories

explain the unusual number seen this year. It may merely be an extremely good breeding season for the species or there may be a deficit in their food supply at their normal wintering grounds farther north, in coastal Alaska, Canada, Greenland as well as northern Scandinavia, Russia, and northern Siberia.

Snowy Owls are 21 to 28 inches tall with a 50 to 65 inch wing span. With striking yellow eyes, the male is almost all white while the female has dark markings. Their diet consists of small rodents, such as lemmings. They are especially beloved because of Hedwig, Harry Potter's faithful feathered friend in J. K. Rowling's series.

On December 9th, Snowy Owls were in the news. Nesting on an airport runway at JFK International Airport, one was sucked into an airplane turbine. After the event, Port Authority wildlife specialists exterminated two more on Saturday to prevent further problems, stating that five planes were hit by Snowy Owls at Kennedy, La Guardia, and Newark..

Local bird experts and activists were outraged that the birds were killed. It was noted that Boston's Logan Airport uses non-lethal control techniques. As a result of the publicity, the Port Authority changed its approach and is now implementing a program to trap and relocate the birds.

Note to Readers:

Please send pictures of your sightings with details for inclusion in the next issue. E-mail to joang30@gmail.com. or call 631-261-5897.

POLICE REPORT *continued.*

season during the summer as well. We assisted boaters in distress and enforced waterways ordinances.

The largest police operation of the year was the Village fireworks display on July 4. It was a successful event with no injuries and residents and guests had a good time.

Your police officers perform all kinds of services. For example, officers on patrol are asked to be alert to residents not complying with Village Codes, situations such as constructing without a permit. We are involved with these quality of life issues in addition to all the tasks that police officers everywhere perform.

Whatever the assignment, Asharoken officers are always there for you and are happy to serve the Village. Best wishes for 2014.

THANKS TO THE VILLAGE OF ASHAROKEN RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS

Your service to our community makes our Village work.

Mayor and Trustees

Greg Letica (Mayor), Pam Pierce (Deputy Mayor), Mel Ettinger, Laura Burke and Ian Jablonski

Village Justice

Mark Kleczka and Murray Schwartz (Acting)

Police Commissioner: Mel Ettinger

Board of Zoning Appeals

Russell Matthews (Chair), Tony Winger, Kevin Barry, Michael Elsas, Tracy Aboff and Jim Izzo

Planning Board

Patrick Cleary (Chair), Cai Eberhardt, Dick Hauser, John Wachter and Bruce Harris

Board of Conservation of the Environment

Marty Cohen (Chair), Rita Rover, Michele Tilleli, Meg Cleary and Catherine Wallack

Environmental Review Board

Douglas Vaughn and Michael Elsas

Stormwater Superintendent: Avrum Golub

Emergency Manager: Bill Raisch

Historian: Ed Carr

Newsletter Editor: Joan Hauser

Web Masters

Steve Trombetti and Eric Maffei

Harbor Master

Joe Affrunti, Barry Bradley (Deputy) and Bill Raisch (Deputy)

Village Hall Design: John Ross

Highway and Infrastructure Consultants:

Andy Mendelsohn and Tony Wenderoth

Coastal Cleanup Committee

Debbie Masterson, Cathy Zimmermann and Michele Tilleli

Duck Island Dredging Committee

Jean Bonawandt (Chair), Douglas Whitcomb, Joe Affrunti, Ian Jablonski and Craig Bonawandt

Fireworks Committee

Martin Hakker (Coordinator) and Joe Affrunti (Safety Officer)

Village Hall Expansion Committee

Mel Ettinger, Doug Adil and Richard Pandolfi

Asharoken Building Fundraising Committee

Joan Ettinger, Meg Cleary and Barbara Raisch

Holiday Party

Carole Casamassima and Janet Pancir

Deer Committee

Catherine Wallack and Barbara Johnson

SANTA COMES TO ASHAROKEN

Photographs by Steve Silverman, Village Photographer & Pam Pierce



HISTORIC WELLS & CISTERNS OF ASHAROKEN

By Ed Carr, Village Historian

Shortly after the incorporation of the Village in 1925, the Northport Water Works was granted a franchise license for water service in 1928. The impact of having “city water” installed cannot be understated as it changed life for Village residents. Prior to 1928, residents could only rely on three sources for fresh water: rain barrels, cisterns, or dug wells. Residents who lived on higher elevations off the shoreline had a clear advantage in that

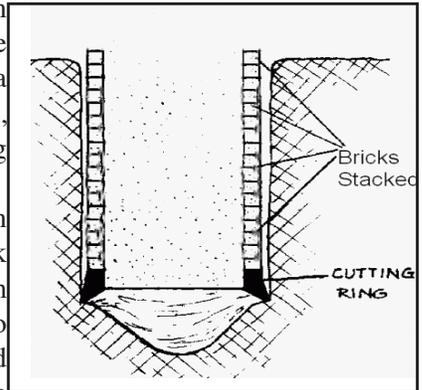


they could have hand dug or drilled water wells with little chance of salt water intrusion. Residents on the shoreline had to rely on elaborate roof drains leading to rain barrels or cisterns.

The oldest water well in the area is a hand dug, brick lined well that is still operational, and is located between South Harbor and New Harbor Road in the basement of historic “Oak Leaf.” Built around 1784, this brick lined well is 3 feet wide, and descends 65 feet to reach the water table. It then descends another 4.5 feet to a total depth of 69.5 feet. Looking down, one feels that they are standing on top of a brick chimney, and looking into an abyss. Although public water has been installed at “Oak Leaf,” the old well is

still used for irrigation.

Brick lined water wells were an engineering marvel. They were constructed as follows: A cast iron “cutting ring” would be purchased from a local foundry, and delivered to the site in a horse drawn buck-board carriage. The ring would then be placed upon the ground. The ring was basically a 3-foot diameter piece of iron shaped like a large donut. It stood about 1-foot high with a wall thickness of about 6 inches, and weighed over 2,000 pounds. Underneath, the ring had a sharp edge along the outer circumference that sloped inward and upward (see diagram).



To build a well, a worker would stand inside the ring, and begin removing soil ... slowly undermining the heavy ring. As the ring would sink into the ground, curved bricks would then be placed on top of the ring to form circular rings of locking brick. Eventually, the cutting ring would sink into the earth as bricks were added at the surface. Workers would continue hand digging from within, and passing buckets filled with dirt to the surface. These tradesmen, known as “Diggers” could undermine specific areas to keep the ring straight and level as it sank into the earth. Once the ring reached the water table, the “diggers” would continue until only their heads were above the water’s surface. The job would then be finished. The last four feet working in water was excruciating given the constant 54 degree temperature of the water. As a result, diggers were among the highest paid tradespeople of their time.

It is known that brick lined wells existed on both halves of Duck Island since both wells eventually failed with salt water intrusion, and on the Bevin Road peninsula west of 11 Bevin Road, and in the vicinity of 64 Bevin Road. Another water well was, no doubt, built near the barns on the former Morgan property beneath an old windmill that is shown on old lithographs, and I also believe that a brick well would have been constructed somewhere on Bevin Road west. Once public water arrived, most brick lined wells (including the one at “Oak Leaf”) were abandoned, and covered with wood planks, and then had cement poured on top to create a protective slab. In the “Oak Leaf” case, the slab was carefully removed to expose the historic well about 10 years ago (see photo), and a steel grating installed.

By contrast, a brick cistern is a shallow well, with a cement floor. A cistern would be used as an underground storage vessel to simply hold water. At Laura Stewart’s “Pink Palace” at 200 Asharoken (perhaps the finest home on Asharoken Beach after the Carter Estate in its day) a brick lined cistern was built some 15 feet in depth to hold rain water from the roof. The top of the cistern was framed out of the ground with a decorative “well shaped” cast ring with friezes. The same was true of the Grout/Lippman home formerly at 277 Asharoken, and countless other homes. In fact, it’s safe to say that just about every pre-1928 home on Asharoken Beach would have had either a cistern or rain barrel connected to gutter downspouts. If you live in such a home, there is a good chance you

HISTORIC WELLS *continued.*

may have a buried cistern or remnants of one on your property (look for a concrete cap or slab).

After the advent of electricity, the grandest cistern in the area was built around 1900 by the Bevin family just west of Oakley DeLamater's "Crest" at 563 Asharoken Avenue. This 15-foot wide brick lined cistern would receive pumped water from the brick lined wells at Oak Leaf and one near the Bevin House, and being at an 80 foot elevation, it would supply pressure and volume to the end of the Bevin Road peninsula. Today, this cistern is located at 9 North Harbor Road and has been converted into a beautiful circular basement beneath a cottage. The vast array of pipes leading to and from this cistern run under countless properties in the Bevin Road and South Harbor Road areas, undoubtedly without the knowledge of homeowners.

The hand-dug wells and cisterns of Asharoken that remain are testament to something we now take for granted today; the basic need for fresh water that existed for humans and livestock, and the great lengths that residents of that time were willing to undertake to ensure access to this resource.

START THINKING GARDEN

By Joan G. Hauser

By early February, many gardeners in Asharoken will have already ordered seeds to start indoors. Never fear, spring truly will arrive one of these days.

Annuals to be sown indoors should be started in the first weeks of the month. These can include browallia, begonias, violets, alyssum, coleus, lobelia, petunia, snapdragons, vinca, verbena, and all your other favorites. Use a propagating medium and broadcast seeds, pressing slightly before adding a thin top layer of



soil. Keep the seeds evenly moist in a sunny location and transplant into 2-inch pots, cell packs, or other containers when the first set of true leaves emerges. Fertilize.

While you're in the planning stages, think about your choice of vegetable seeds. What's your end goal? Do you want an immediate supply of produce for your table or do you want to stockpile by freezing and canning? Check out your garden conditions, including soil, sun, space, and prevalence of insect or other pests in choosing seeds. Most catalogs will supply all the relevant information to suit your needs.

BIRDING

By Greg Letica



BIRDS FOUND IN 2013

It really is amazing that every time the deadline for the nature column approaches and I have nothing to write about Asharoken bails me out. Last week on a morning walk on Bevin Road I heard an unusual bird call. When I located the source I discovered that it was coming from a Yellow Bellied Sapsucker. The sapsucker is the rarest of the five species of woodpeckers that can be seen in Asharoken: Downy, Hairy, Red-headed, Flicker and Sapsucker. Sibley's Field Guide to Birds rates the Sapsucker as uncommon and notes that it feeds on sap from the trees it has drilled holes in and the insects attracted to the sap.

The Sapsucker brought the 2013 total to 112 birds. Although this number is down from the last two years it includes three new species to the village. The Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager and Winter



Wren increased the all-time total of species I have seen in the village to 171. Simply put, this is an incredible diversity of birds for such a small geographic location.

During the winter it is a great idea to put up a feeder in your yard. If you add a suet feeder you will also attract woodpeckers. Please keep the feeder well stocked as your feathered friends will begin to rely on your help to get them through the winter.

A brand new birding year is right around the corner and I am eagerly anticipating all of the surprises that it will have to offer. But regardless of what happens, the joy of enjoying the natural wonder that we call Asharoken will be enough of a reward.

SANITATION SCHEDULE

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

BCP--BOTTLES, CANS, PLASTIC

NC--NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD

YW--YARD WASTE PICKUP

Village of Asharoken

1 Asharoken Avenue

Northport, New York, 11768