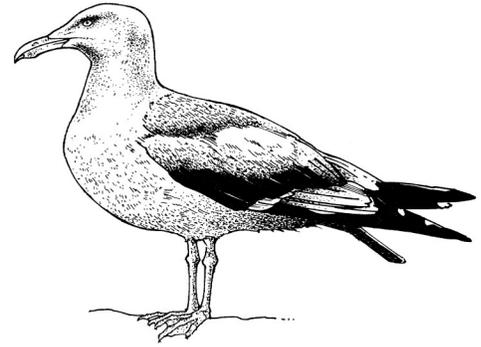


# ASHAROKEN NEWS



## MAYOR'S LETTER

Village of Asharoken Celebrates  
Its 90th year Anniversary!

Dear Neighbors,

After almost 20 years of service, Joan Hauser has retired as editor of the Asharoken News. Joan started the newsletter and was there every step of the way. Her dedication to the village, attention to detail and incredible ability to cajole everyone to get their stories in on time made our village newsletter the terrific publication that it is. Joan was determined to build community spirit and keep our residents informed of all of the activities going on in Asharoken. She succeeded brilliantly on both fronts. The Asharoken News has become a significant part of the fabric of what it means to live here and it's not an understatement to say that we owe it to Joan. Thank you Joan for your contribution to our village.

The village hall project is moving along well in spite of the weather challenges. The foundation for the new building should be completed within the next few weeks and as framing follows much more tangible evidence of construction will be visible. Thanks again to Congressman Steve Israel and State Senator Carl Marcellino for their help in getting the funding for the project.

The village is still awaiting news from the USACOE on both their plan for the village beach restoration and their response to our proposed public access plan.

Thanks to an introduction from one of our beach lot owners, I was able to reach out to a professor at Stony Brook University who has offered to review the plan for the proposed restoration once it is received. I will keep everyone updated as soon as there is something new to report.

Village officials are working on completing the tentative budget for fiscal year 2015-16 which will be ready for review on our website the week of March 23rd. A public hearing is on the agenda during our next regularly scheduled board of trustees meeting, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to page 2 for additional detail on the proposed budget.

As for the wildlife report, in 2014 a new village record was set with 124 species of birds seen in Asharoken. For those of you who have noticed the large flock of ducks congregating by the sea wall, these birds are called Scaup. They are easy to identify as they form very large groups called "rafts."

Lastly, 2015 is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Asharoken. With the completion of our new village hall, it will truly be a milestone year in our village's history. We plan on celebrating during our holiday party November 7th at the Northport Yacht Club.

Wishing everyone all the best,

*Mayor Greg Letica*

## **More on the Budget for 2015-2016**

Mayor Letica reports that the tentative budget for 2015-2016 proposes a 1.58 % tax rate increase and complies with the NYS 2% property tax freeze credit relief program. As a result, village residents who are eligible for a property tax freeze credit can expect to get a rebate check from NYS for their tax increase. The average home will have a \$54 increase. The tentative budget maintains all current services, continues to put money aside for Asharoken's future needs, and will continue to keep Asharoken in a strong financial position .

Changes from last year's budget reflect increases in expenses including contractual police salary, contractual fire & EMS, administrative salaries, snow removal, insurance costs, utility costs and tax grievances. Decreases in expenses include reductions in net police and employee pension costs as a result of NYS pension rate reductions, decrease in infrastructure reserve account due to pending completion of village hall and other expenses to better reflect actual costs. Additionally, money has been allocated for a coastal engineer to review the ACOE plan. Several revenue items were changed to better reflect anticipated receipts for the upcoming year.

The Mayor explained that the yearly budget is a spending plan for the upcoming year and is best considered in its totality. The complete tentative budget and other related schedules will be available the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> on [www.asharoken.com](http://www.asharoken.com) and at village hall.

Public Hearings are scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm on the tentative budget and on a local law to repeal the tax over-ride law passed in February.

Comments may also be directed to [mayorgregletica@gmail.com](mailto:mayorgregletica@gmail.com).

## **Understanding The Property Tax Freeze Credit**

The Property Tax Freeze Credit is a two-year tax relief program that reimburses qualifying NYS homeowners for increases in local property taxes on their primary residences.

For homeowners to qualify, the village in year one must stay under the NYS 2% property tax cap and repeal the tax over-ride law that was adopted in February. In year two, the village must again stay under the NYS 2% property tax cap as well as provide a NYS approved efficiency plan. Both requirements in year one and in year two must be satisfied by the village for homeowners to be eligible. In addition, homeowners must also have household income less than \$500,000 and their property must be a primary residence to be eligible.

The village plans on satisfying both requirements in year one & year two for eligibility.

# Accessing Essential Police & Emergency Services

To reach the Asharoken police for any type of police service or response, call (631) 261-7400. A good idea is to program this number into both cell and house phones, so that a push of a button will do the trick. This number rings at the Asharoken station and will be answered by an Asharoken officer if he is in the building. If after the second ring the call is not answered, it immediately forwards to the Northport police station where a dispatcher is always on duty. That dispatcher will immediately call the Asharoken officer on the radio, and will also notify Northport Fire Department fire and rescue services if necessary. (Northport Fire Department also has a dispatcher in fire headquarters 24/7. The emergency contact number is (631)-757-1111).

If 911 is called on a cell phone it will most likely not go to a local dispatcher but will probably be answered at S.C.P.D. headquarters in Yaphank. Once the call is answered, the operator will connect you with the same 261-7400 number after determining that the Asharoken Police are needed.

Furthermore, cell phone 911 calls can possibly go to a few different answering points besides Yaphank or Northport. A Bevin Road resident had a cell 911 call go to Nassau County. Sometimes 911 cell phone calls roam to Connecticut. Help will be received when calling 911, and will be rerouted to Asharoken Police.

Years ago, when the 911 system was created, the “land lines” (non-cell phone) in houses in Asharoken were programmed to be answered by the Northport Police dispatcher. If the phone line in your house correctly routes 911 emergency calls to the Northport dispatcher, this is a very efficient way to summon emergency assistance. (Remember, the 911 dispatcher in the Northport station is the same dispatcher who answers (631) 261-7400 for Asharoken.)

Asharoken also maintains a police office phone (631) 261-8677, which is only answered if an officer is in the station. This number should not be used to request police response but should be used for routine business, court matters, vacant house check requests, and requests for information (“Is the road open?”).

To summarize, Northport provides great dispatching service for Asharoken. Be sure (631)261-7400 is programmed into cell and house phones and if you are not sure where your house phone sends 911 calls, dial it and see. If it is not being answered in Northport, let us know. Phone stickers are available at the station and Village Hall if you need them. Questions? Stop in any time; we are here to help.

—Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian



Fire & Ambulance (631) 757-1111

Police (631) 261-7400

Police Information & Court

(631) 261-8677

## Deer Safety: Tips for Avoiding a Collision and What To Do If You Do Collide With A Deer

Asharoken police responded to four vehicle-deer collisions in 2014 and two so far in 2015. Hitting a deer can be a scary experience, and one that unfortunately can cause bodily injury and damage to your car. Every year, as many as 200 people are killed in deer related car accidents, not to mention the over 1.2 million deer that are injured yearly after being struck by a car.

The best advice is to avoid a collision and drive defensively. Here are some tips on avoiding an accident:

**Stay Alert:** Pay attention to “deer crossing” signs, which are placed in active deer crossing areas. Be especially watchful near woods and water. Keep in mind that deer generally travel in herds--if you see one cross the road, there is a strong possibility others are following.

**Be especially vigilant during peak season:** Though collisions can happen any time of year, fall is peak time because it's both hunting and mating seasons, forcing deer to roam outside their normal territory. If you see deer in the road, sound the horn.

**Use headlights smartly:** If you see a deer far ahead, flick the brights on and off multiple times. Deer tend to fixate on headlights, so flashing them may cause the animal to scurry away.

**Watch out at mealtime:** Pay attention at dusk and dawn, when deer usually venture out to eat. Deer are most active between 6pm and 9pm.

**Brake as necessary:** If you think you have time to avoid hitting the animal tap the brakes and sound your horn. If there's no vehicle close behind you, brake hard while maintaining control of the vehicle. Report the accident to the police and your insurance company.

**If a collision seems inevitable:** Don't swerve or veer off to avoid the animal. Your risk of injury may be greater if you do. Move your vehicle to a safe place and turn on hazard lights. Avoid contact with the deer. Deer are very strong animals; a frightened, wounded deer could use its powerful legs, sharp hooves, or antlers to cause severe injury. Stay away from the animal.

Alert local police and report the incident. The report may be important for insurance. Document the incident. Take photos of the road, surroundings, damage, hair or blood on the vehicle, the deer and of any injuries sustained. If witnesses stop, take down their accounts and ask for contact information. Don't assume your vehicle is safe to drive. Double check that the car is drivable after colliding with a deer. Contact your insurance policy provider. Too many drivers find out after hitting a deer that the policy doesn't cover this type of damage. It's best to double check insurance coverage before an accident occurs.

—Ian Jablonski



# Asharoken Launches New Recycling Program

Single Stream recycling kicked off in March, and combines all recyclables into one weekly pick-up. Toss all recycles into a garbage pail, recycle bin or paper bags (no plastic bags) and put out every Wednesday. See the expanded list of items that are now eligible to be placed in the recycling bin. Please support this program and help reduce solid garbage waste. E-Waste & Hazardous waste can be dropped off at Huntington's Recycling Center 641 New York Ave. Call 631-427-6377.

**No plastic bags please!**

## Acceptable Items for Recycling

- Cans, beverage and food containers foil
- Cardboard, paper boxes, egg containers, pizza boxes, shoeboxes
- Mail, junk mail, catalogs, magazines, etc.
- Metal, beverage & food containers, aluminum, tin, steel
- Paper, all colors, newspaper, (shredded paper only in a clear bag), wrapping & office paper
- Plastic containers, detergent, bleach, juice milk, soda, yogurt, etc.
- Rigid plastics, laundry baskets, crates, coolers, flower pots, large water bottles, etc.
- Waxed cartons for milk, juice, etc. Please empty and clean
- Spray cans, emptied



## NOT Acceptable Items

- Anti-freeze containers, batteries
- Cat Litter, ceramics and chemicals, oil, pesticides
- Coat Hangers, dry cleaning bags
- E-Waste products, food waste, garbage, hazardous waste
- Hoses, mirrors
- Paint and paint cans, plastic bags, shopping, grocery and newspaper covers
- Styrofoam packaging material or food containers
- Plastic utensils
- Waxed paper
- Yard waste & no grass Clippings
- Window or auto glass



# Village Hall Construction & Funding Update

The village hall project is still on schedule despite the cold winter weather. The retaining wall that runs the length of the building has been installed with the foundation and framing soon to follow.

It should be noted that the retaining wall was funded with a \$50,000 grant from a State and Facilities Municipal program. Thanks to Senator Carl Marcellino for his support in obtaining this grant.

In addition, the village received a Justice Court Assistant Program grant for \$27,000 to be used for building materials.

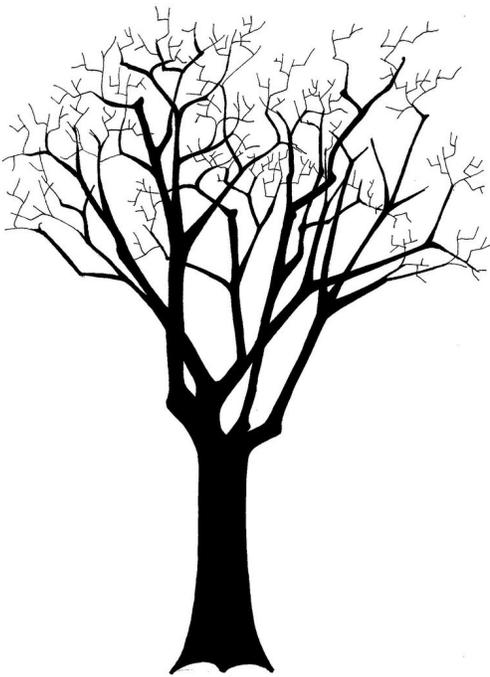
With the help of Congressman Steve Israel, the village was able to secure 90% of the \$593,172 FEMA reimbursement dollars for village hall construction. Additionally a Hazard Mitigation grant application for \$25,000 for a new generator and an application for lighting rebates from PSEG were submitted. We are waiting for approval on both applications.

The village has received approximately \$320,000 of donations from village residents since 2006 which includes 27 new donations totaling \$13,395 from December 2014 through February 2015.

In the upcoming months, the Fundraising Committee will begin designing a commemorative wall plaque that will acknowledge all resident donors.

—Mel Ettinger

## Arbor Day Grant



Arbor Day is officially celebrated each year in New York State on the last Friday in April. It commemorates trees and the many important roles trees play such as beautifying our environment and providing clean air.

Last spring, the village learned that the grant application it had submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's program to foster the planting of trees and to celebrate Arbor Day had been approved.

The grant amount that was awarded to the village was \$1000 and will be used for new plantings at village hall. Our Arbor Day event will be coordinated with the opening of our new village hall & police station.

—Marty Cohen

## Village Election June 16th, 2015

The village election will take place at the Eaton's Neck Fire House. (55 Eaton's Neck Road). 12 noon to 9pm. Positions up for election are:

- Trustee, Two (2) years
- Trustee, Two (2) years

Voter registration forms, and absentee voting applications can be found at the Village Hall.

To register to vote, an individual must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age on Election Day
- A resident of NYS and Asharoken Village for at least 30 days preceding the election.

To find out if you are registered to vote call the Suffolk County Board of elections 631-852-4500.

## Sanitation Calendar

Please refer to the Asharoken website for holiday changes in the sanitation pick up.

Printed copies of the yearly calendar are available at the village hall.

## E-Waste Items

According to NYS law the village is no longer allowed to collect electronic waste items curbside.

Please drop off items at the Town of Huntington recycle site 641 New York Avenue.



## Village Real Estate Taxes

Village tax bills are sent out once a year and will be mailed by June 1st.

Tax payments are due by July 1st without penalty. After July 1st, outstanding taxes are subject to a 5% penalty for July and 1% for every month thereafter.

Cash or Checks only.

Questions? Call Village Hall at 631-261-7098.

## Permits

**Building Permits**-Most renovations, alterations, additions or replacing a driveway, require a permit. When in doubt, call the building inspector, Doug Adil at (631) 935-5501 or call village clerk, Nancy Rittenhouse at (631) 261-7098.

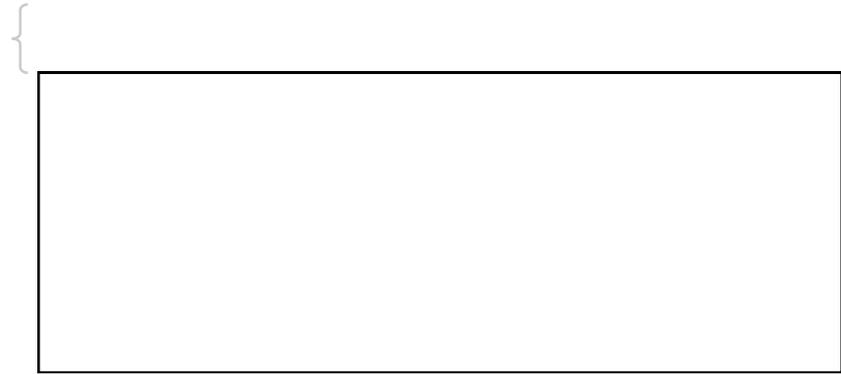
**Tent Permits**-Planning a party? Tent permits are required at a cost of \$10.00.

**Tree Removal Permits**-Size and locations are listed on the application.

**Water Ski Permits**-Skiing/wakeboarding in Duck Island Harbor requires a seasonal permit for \$70. Boat lengths cannot be greater than 21 feet.

**Mooring Permits**-Permits are only required for mooring boats in the bay waters located in front of village hall.

All applications and forms are available at [www.asharoken.com](http://www.asharoken.com) or village hall.



Village of Asharoken  
1 Asharoken Avenue  
Northport, NY 11768



## Village Notices

### Upcoming Events & Information:

1. Board of Trustees/Public Hearings on April 7th.
2. Beach Parking Passes mailed out in April.
3. Village Real Estate Taxes mailed out by June 1st.
4. All permit & application forms can be found on the website.
5. Need copies of the sanitation schedule? call village hall 261-7098.
6. Holiday Party November 7th at the Northport Yacht Club.
7. Yard waste pick-up May 12th, June 9th and July 14th.

Meeting dates, trash calendar, permit and application forms, and so much more can be found at [www.asharoken.com](http://www.asharoken.com), or call village hall.

