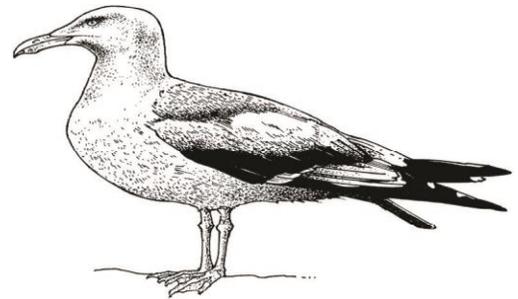


ASHAROKEN NEWS



Mayor's Letter

The Village of Asharoken's 90th year is turning out to be its busiest ever. Between the construction of the new Village hall, the Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project, the resurfacing of a section of the pavement on Asharoken Avenue and all of the routine matters that need daily attention there is never a free minute. It is amazing how much is being accomplished by the hard work of the Village Trustees (Pam Pierce, Mel Ettinger, Laura Burke and Ian Jablonski) and our terrific staff, especially Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse. Their unwavering commitment allows Asharoken to do so much and saves the Village thousands of dollars in the process. In my 25 years of service to the Village I have never seen a Board of Trustees take the initiative that they have and work as hard as they do. Thank you to one and all.

I would like to highlight the efforts of Trustee Ettinger. It was Mel's idea in 2006 to renovate or rebuild the old village hall. Although many earlier efforts were shelved due to lack of funding, Mel continued to believe that a new Village hall was possible. Now that his vision is taking shape, Mel, who also serves as our Police Commissioner, has taken on the role of supervising every aspect of the project to make sure it comes out right. Mel is there every day at 8am and stays until the end of the workday. He then goes home and reviews the next day's schedule. Whatever it takes and whatever is needed, Mel's only response is, "I'm on it." He has gone above and beyond, exemplifying what it means to volunteer for his community. Great job Mel!

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe 4th of July. Please read the enclosed letter explaining the guidelines for bonfires and please cooperate with our police department should they ask you to change your bonfire to make it safe. Our Independence Day tradition of fireworks and bonfires depends solely on everyone acting responsibly. Also included is an extremely important letter regarding the Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project (ASDRP) update.

Regards,

Mayor Greg Letica

Village Hall Update

Construction progress follow-up: The interior of the building is moving along; mechanicals have been installed; insulation, tile work and sheetrock are next. The siding is going up and drywells are going in. We are making every effort to accommodate for parking; your patience is appreciated. Our expected completion date is on or about September 1st. The Village Hall Donation Committee is working on a commemorative plaque design which will be placed in the main meeting room, recognizing the more than 240 families who have generously donated to the building fund. This is truly a remarkable accomplishment for the village.

For more information feel free to contact Joan Ettinger, the fund raising committee chairperson at pupeluvr@optonline.net

Board of Trustees Letter

Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project (ASDRP) Update

Dear Neighbors,

As announced at the village Board of Trustees (BOT) June meeting, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and New York State Department of Environment (NYSDEC) met with Mayor Letica and Deputy Mayor Pierce on June 5, 2015 to discuss three alternatives up for consideration for the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The TSP is the construction plan for the beach restoration that will specify how much beach fill (sand) will be placed on the beach as well as structures (groins). A copy of the full draft engineering report is available at www.asharoken.com for review.

The three alternatives presented were:

- 600,000 cubic yards of sand
- 600,000 cubic yards of sand and 3 groins at the west end (seawall area)
- 600,000 cubic yards of sand, 3 groins at the west end (seawall area), and 8 groins at the eastern end (starting west of the Power Plant). This plan was discussed but generally not acceptable to the Village and the DEC.

The group also reviewed information needed to complete the low use designation of the public access plan and other questions that the ACOE had about the Village's draft public access plan. The agencies requested that the entire BOT review and comment on the plans under consideration. A special meeting will be held on June 30 2015 for this purpose.

With the Feasibility Study nearing completion and the TSP nearing selection, a series of steps to move forward were formulated:

- The BOT will meet with the ACOE and the DEC to review the construction proposals and overall plan.
- Asharoken BOT will decide to support one of the three proposals to allow the ACOE to create a TSP.
- The ACOE and DEC will complete the TSP and it will be open for public comment.
- ACOE & NYSDEC will present the TSP to the residents of the village at a special meeting. At this meeting, ample time will be available for the public to ask questions.
- At a later date, The Village of Asharoken will hold a formal public hearing on the project to get residents' input.
- The BOT will then decide how to proceed based on the comments from the public hearing.

As you can see, the village is approaching a time when it will have to make major decisions regarding the ASDRP. The project offers a long-term solution to our ongoing erosion problem, which in turn will help ensure our personal safety as well as protecting our roadway, homes and seawall. This may be the most important decision that the Village of Asharoken will ever make. It is our opinion that the acceptance or rejection of this project will affect the entire village for many years to come, both from a safety standpoint as well as everyone's property values. After two decades of seeking a solution, Asharoken is finally in the unique position of actually having that solution.

But it comes with requirements, most notably the almost certain requirement of public access and a financial cost. This is the decision in a nut shell: Do we opt for public and personal safety and preservation of our property, or do we opt to go it alone and keep the status quo and subject Asharoken to future storm damage?

Board of Trustees Letter continued..

In order to make this decision, we need to consider all the facts. Listed below are the important points worthy of your consideration. Additionally, we would like to reach out to our residents and property owners to attend informational meetings to review and discuss the project. Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce has volunteered to host the meetings in groups of a dozen or so. Call (631-261-1899) or email (pamelapierce@optimum.net) to be included in these meetings.

Considerations:

The seawall at Asharoken Avenue and Bevin Road was constructed in 1997 due to a breach caused by the December 1992 nor'easter. It was constructed to last 15 years with the expectancy of the beach restoration to be completed during that time. The restoration did not happen and the seawall was extensively damaged and repaired after the March 2010 storm. The Feasibility Study was signed by Mayor Kelly in February 2001. The study began in 2004 and proceeded until funding ran out. In 2008, the village was informed by NYSDEC of a ban on dredging in

Long Island Sound due to environmental concerns. The project restarted with the funding from the Superstorm Sandy Relief Bill, enacted January 29, 2013. Asharoken was one of three North Shore municipalities to receive funding. All other projects are on the South Shore and NY City where dredging is allowed with permitting. NYSDEC lifted the ban on the dredging of LI Sound for just these three projects, on a one-time only basis. The project calls for the initial placement of 600,000 cubic yards to be dredged from the Sound and the re-nourishments to come from upland sources (trucked or barged in). The village will know the re-nourishment amounts and cycles when the Construction Plan (TSP) is finalized. The draft Engineer's Report cites 100,000 cubic yards in either 3 or 5 year increments. The amount of funding allocated to Asharoken is \$30,000,000. The village was advised by the ACOE that both the funding and the dredging waiver will not be offered to Asharoken again.

Benefits:

- Personal and Public Safety
- Protection of Asharoken Avenue
- Protection of homes and property
- Likely stability and appreciation of real estate values for the entire village
- Long term protection; the project is designed for 50 years and can extend beyond that as ACOE's first priorities are existing projects.
- Beach will be rebuilt at 100% Federal Cost following a catastrophic storm to the condition preceding the storm
- Federal and State government will pay 89.5% of initial construction and 85% re-nourishment

Costs: Provide 5 six foot wide access paths approximately every half-mile over the project area. In the village's proposed access plan, parking will be limited to the seawall and Soundview Boat Ramp areas. Along Asharoken Avenue, curb cuts are proposed for drop off.

The Village would be responsible for 10.5% of the initial construction and 15% re-nourishment.

Lastly, we would like to state again that we are approaching decision time. No final decisions regarding the project will be made until we have gone through the previously described process. As trustees, we are tasked with doing our due diligence to do what is best for the entire village. Let's all work together during these upcoming pivotal months to ensure that the Village's future is secure and what we, as residents, want it to be.

-Mayor Greg Letica, Deputy Mayor Pierce, Trustee Ettinger, Trustee Burke & Trustee Jablonski

Building Permits

Recently there have been many questions regarding driveways...here are some details that will help to clarify permit needs relating to driveways and other issues.

Homeowners need to obtain a building permit when installing a new impermeable driveway (asphalt, pavers, concrete), when replacing a previous driveway that was permeable (stone or dirt) or for installing an impermeable driveway that did not previously exist, such as with new construction.

Building permits are also required for new driveway aprons made of asphalt, stone (including, but not limited to, bluestone, cobblestone, brick, and Belgian block), or when drains, cement, concrete or other driveway construction or border material is to be placed on or adjacent to a village roadway. All driveway aprons must be in conformance with section 104 of the Village Code. Also note that impermeable driveways require storm drainage capacity, such as drywells.

Building permits are not required for:

-Resurfacing an existing driveway without any expansion / extension from the existing configuration in connection with a residence.

-Simple re-roofing of a residence (involving a maximum of two layers of asphalt roof shingles), not involving the removal or replacement of plywood or other sheathing, roof planks, or other roof structure.

-Wood or vinyl siding of a residence, where the siding is simply applied to an existing exterior, without removal or replacement of the sheathing or other wall structure

-Simple re-surfacing of a driveway

-Painting a house

-Direct replacement of windows (windows must meet energy code compliances for New York State) where header sizes do not need to be changed due to the replacement.

-Decking that is on-grade (elevated decking needs permit)

When in doubt, call Doug Adil, Superintendent of Buildings, at 631-935-5501 or Nancy Rittenhouse, Village Clerk for clarification at 631-261 -7098.

Building applications are available on the website or at Village Hall.

Asharoken Holiday Party

This year's Asharoken Holiday Party will be held on November 7th, at the Northport Yacht Club.

Tickets sell fast! Invitations will be mailed out in October. Dinner, dancing, great food and a special night to get together with your neighbors. Call Carole Casamassima with raffle donations at 631-261-1895.

Fourth of July

The Fourth of July fireworks event will be held on Saturday July 4th. Rain date will be on Sunday, July 5th. Please remember there is no parking along Asharoken Avenue.

A letter has been inserted explaining all the guidelines and details for our special event.

Thank you —Happy Fourth of July!

Harmful Algal Blooms HAB's The Colorful Tides

Algae are members of a very diverse group of organisms, plankton, that include microscopic organisms such as bacteria and microscopic animals as well as large organisms such as jellyfish. Plankton flow with tides and are an important food source for fish and whales.

Algae (singly, alga) are phytoplankton. Phytoplankton, meaning wandering plants, generally cannot swim, so they follow the waters' current. Most phytoplankton cannot be seen individually with the unaided eye.

But, when present in large numbers, some phytoplankton can produce visible colored areas in our waters. This color is due to the presence of chlorophyll, green, within their cells, while other chemicals can lead to blue, blue-green, red and yellowish colors.

Harmful Algal Blooms, HABs, tend to occur seasonally and are promoted by increased availability of nitrates, phosphates, other nutrients and chemicals. Coastal water pollution due to septic system/cesspool wastewater migration underground, liberal use of fertilizers, stormwater runoff, climate change and increased seawater and fresh water temperatures are possible causes of increasing size, location and numbers of HAB events.

HABs can affect human, animal and marine life by producing toxins. HABs can cause structural and mechanical damage in marine life. We are now witnessing all these effects on Long Island's waters and water-borne wild life - HABs may be responsible for the current turtle and fish die-offs being reported. Fortunately, we are not seeing these effects on human beings.

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services' (SCDHS) Office of Ecology and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Marine Biotoxin Monitoring program are actively protecting us from the adverse effects of HABs. **“RED TIDE”**

“Red tide” (RT) is the unofficial, colloquial name for the HAB that caused DEC, in the past, to close temporarily the Huntington-Northport Bay complex to shellfishing, often from Mid-May to Mid-June. This RT is caused by a specific type of phytoplankton, a dinoflagellate named *Alexandrium fundyense*. *Alexandrium* species can produce a neurotoxin called saxitoxin. Saxitoxin can be deadly to fish and shellfish.

Saxitoxin and analogs may cause a human disease called paralytic shellfish poisoning. Shellfish feed on *Alexandrium* and concentrate saxitoxin. Consuming shellfish containing saxitoxin can cause human illness. Saxitoxin poisoning/PSP has a wide variety of symptoms and may be a serious or fatal disease. The toxin cannot be destroyed by cooking, freezing or other types of food preparation.

Fortunately, DEC has a regular saxitoxin monitoring system and knows the seasonality of RT. When saxitoxin is detected, DEC preemptively issues a temporary emergency shellfish closure order. Due to this action, no one locally has come to harm from RT and PSP.

This year, DEC's Bureau of Marine Resources has not implemented a toxin closure in the Huntington-Northport Bay complex. The samples DEC collected in certified waters, water suitable for commercial shellfishing, showed elevated toxin levels but below the level that causes DEC to close these shellfishing areas. As a precaution to protect public health and to make it easier to recall any shellfish harvested, shellfish buyers were asked not to sell such product obtained on or after May 26, 2015.

Toxin levels in shellfish from the DEC monitoring sites in Northport and Huntington Harbors were slightly elevated indicating that the algae are producing the toxin. Northport and Huntington Harbors are uncertified areas, i.e., not suitable for shellfishing. DEC continues to monitor shellfish throughout Long Island.

—Avrum Golub, Stormwater Superintendent

Boating Safety & Marine Regulations

The Asharoken Police Department, along with its specialized marine patrol vessel, responds to calls for assistance which requires an understanding of the laws found in Chapter 122 of the Village Code. These laws address matters of environmental protection, boating safety, and waterway management.

In 1965 the Village purchased its first patrol boat and enacted the Waterways General Provisions, “to avoid water pollution and to protect and secure navigation, bathing, fishing and other recreational uses.” Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, no vessels with enclosed cabins or berths of any kind are permitted in Village waters unless they are equipped with a marine toilet with a sewage treatment unit. In order to manage and control water skiing in Duck Island Harbor the Village issues permits to boaters who meet certain requirements. The application for a water ski permit can be found on the Village website. Motorized vessels are prohibited from operating within 150 feet of a marked swim area or a beach used for bathing. Anchoring is prohibited within 150 feet of the mean low water line, and mooring is restricted within 100 feet of shore. Generally speaking, a boater’s speed is restricted to 5 miles per hour within 500 feet of shore and all of Duck Island Harbor except when engaged in water skiing. Personal watercraft, or jet-skis, are not permitted in Village waters which extend 1,500 feet from shore. Special provisions to the jet-ski prohibition are enacted for upland and adjacent property owners so they may continue to enjoy their craft. Finally, anchoring or mooring a vessel and tying, attaching or securing a vessel to, or alongside another, commonly called ‘rafting’, is also prohibited.

The management of our waters is a combined effort of the Village, the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County and New York State. The Village has enacted specific minimum mooring standards which can be

found in Chapter 122-4H of the Village Code and requires a permit for boaters who choose to secure their vessels in waters, in Northport Bay in the area directly behind Village

Hall. However Asharoken requires a mooring permit at a fee of \$125. Applications are available at Village Hall.

In addition the Town of Huntington requires a mooring permit number to be affixed to the mooring marker. There is no fee for this registration which is acquired at Huntington Town Hall.

New York State laws governing the operation of motor vessels are also very important. Any person born on or after May 1, 1996 and at least 10 years old who operates a motorboat must be the holder of a boating safety certificate. Any operator under 18 without a safety certificate must be accompanied on the vessel by someone at least 18 who holds a certificate (if required by age, or someone at least 18 who is not required to hold a certificate). All operators of personal watercraft must be at least 14 years of age and hold a boater safety certificate or be accompanied on the vessel by a certificate holder over 18 years of age.

Safety boating certificates are available through 8 hours of classroom instruction or through online class providers. Additional information can be obtained on the New York State Parks and Recreation website.

Finally, the State of New York has published a most informative Boater’s Guide which details the safety equipment required for the vessel you are operating. The guide can be downloaded at www.NYSPARKS.com/recreation/boating.

-Police Officer James Cox

Save the Fireworks Donations

At the May 5th Board meeting Carole Casamassima and Linda Letica presented the Village with donations to help fund the Village's Fourth of July fireworks. Carole who is the chair of the "Save the Fireworks" committee raised \$7,500 through raffle prizes at the Holiday Party and Linda raised \$1,000 from sales of a line of Asharoken clothing. Both Carole and Linda raised \$8,500 which pays for the tugboat and the barge; it represents almost one third of the cost of the fireworks. Thanks again to Carole and Linda for all their efforts.



Wild Asharoken



The number of active Osprey nests in the village have risen to three. All three of the breeding pairs have hatched their eggs and are actively out fishing for food for their chicks. It is remarkable how Gerhard Spielmann's inspiration to install an Osprey nest on Duck Island has led to this influx of nesting pairs. Enjoy the show on Asharoken Avenue as a new generation of these magnificent raptors grows up and fledges from their nests.

Year to date I have seen 107 species of birds in the village. What makes this year special is the mass migration that came through on April 3rd. With the unusually cold winter the spring migration was delayed. On the first warm day accompanied by a southwesterly wind an incredible flight of birds headed north and many paused for one day in the village. In a matter of less than an hour, I found eight new species for the year, many of which are only seen in the fall and often very difficult to locate. The technical term for an event like this is a fallout. The next day they were all gone on their way to their summer breeding grounds. Really amazing!

-Greg Letica



Village Notices

Upcoming Events & Information:

1. Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting on July 7th.
2. Village Real Estate Taxes due on or before July 1st.
3. All permit & application forms can be found on the website.
4. Yard Waste pick-up July 14th, August 11th, September 15th and October 6th.
5. Holiday Party November 7th at the Northport Yacht Club.
6. Fourth of July event on Saturday, July 4th, (rain date is July 5th). See Fireworks Letter

Meeting dates, trash calendar, permit and application forms, and so much more can be found at www.asharoken.com, or call village hall.