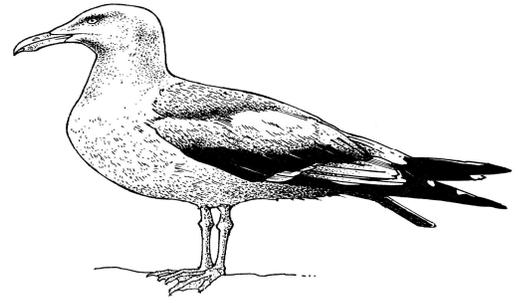


ASHAROKEN NEWS



Mayor's Letter

As I sit down to write this letter, it really feels like Spring has arrived. The week of rain and cold winds have ended and a pathway to the most beautiful time of the year in Asharoken appears to have opened. I would like to take a moment to welcome all of the new residents that have moved to the Village in the last year. If your first summer is coming up, you are in for a treat. The highlight is the fireworks display on the 4th of July. Thanks go out to Carole Casamassima and Linda Letica for their fundraising efforts to pay for the \$8,500 cost of the tugboat and barge.

The Village's 2015-2016 fiscal year has seen several important milestones. The new Village Hall was completed. As of the last accounting, the cost in taxpayer money was a little less than \$2,000. This was accomplished by using resident donations, FEMA support, grants and rebates to cover almost the entire cost of the project, and, donations continue! The Asharoken Garden Club recently donated \$1,000 to help with the landscaping. Thank you to everyone who contributed to support this much-needed project.

For 2016-2017 the Village budget does not call for a tax increase from the prior year. This is the first time the Village has not had a tax increase since 2005.

Asharoken has a tradition of an incredible amount of volunteerism. Thanks go out to all of the people who graciously give their time to help Asharoken, but residents also give to needy people outside the Village. Don't miss the story in this issue about two of our residents, Andy Giffin and Emma Turner, whose efforts have impacted lives in our neighboring communities and around the world. Joe Barry, a high school student, has been collecting magazines for our veterans to read. It is great to see the Village's young adults take it upon themselves to work on such worthy causes.

I would like to ask all of our residents to do their best to help Asharoken look better and function more efficiently. Please try to become ardent about recycling

and put your trash out only on the days of collection. Adding a street garden, replacing an old mailbox or otherwise sprucing up your roadside really makes a big difference in how the Village looks. Finally, if you are going to build anything or are considering taking down any trees please contact the Village Clerk, Nancy Rittenhouse, at 261-7098 prior to commencing. Asharoken is going through a real resurgence following Sandy and if we all work together the Village will be even better. Thanks for your assistance.

This year has started out with a bang on the bird front with the discovery of a pair of Harlequin Ducks, a pheasant and a little blue heron. Pheasants have not been seen in Asharoken for at least a decade and I would like to congratulate Jim Ackeson on his nice sighting. Both the Harlequin Duck and Little Blue Heron are new birds on the Village life list.

We are all extremely lucky to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

I wish everyone a great summer.

Mayor Greg Letica



Linda Letica (l) and Carole Casamassima presenting checks to Mayor

Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project

In our last newsletter update in early December 2015, we announced that the Draft Feasibility Study (DFS) of the Asharoken Storm Damage Reduction Project (ASDRP) had just been released to the public for comment on November 28th by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). A public meeting was held on December 9th at Northport High School which was comprised of a presentation on technical aspects of the project as well as a Q & A session. The meeting was very well attended by both Asharoken and Eaton's Neck residents. The public access requirement, cost of the project, and use of groins were respectfully and thoughtfully questioned. All comments were entered into the public record.

As both the DFS and the public meeting took place during the busy holiday season, the Village of Asharoken (VOA) asked for and was given an extension on the public comment period to January 29th (public) and February 10th (VOA). The USACE & NYSDEC answered follow up questions via a conference call on January 19th. The VOA submitted an extensive response on time.

As of this writing, the USACE is still reviewing all the public comments. Upon completion of its review, USACE will notify the VOA of its determinations which will include the selection of the alternative plan. At that point the VOA will be asked for a letter of support that states the VOA supports moving forward with completion of the Feasibility Study and agrees with the alternative plan selected. The timeline that was given to the VOA in February called for a May 1st date but that has been moved out at least one month. All of the documents and reports referenced can be found on www.asharoken.com. Click on the Government tab and then the ASDRP Archive.

Deputy Mayor Pamela Pierce

Arbor Day Celebrated

A River Birch tree and a Colorado blue spruce were planted in celebration of Arbor Day, thanks to a \$1000 grant from the NYSDEC. Many residents joined the celebration and were given pitch pine seedlings to plant at home. Marty Cohen, chairman of the Conservation Board, hosted the ceremony with Mayor Greg Letica. Letica thanked the DEC for the grant and applauded the efforts of Marty Cohen and Village Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse for their efforts in securing the grant that paid for the two trees and the seedlings that were given to residents.



Photo Credit: Steve Silverman
Mayor Greg Letica and Conservation Board Chairman Marty Cohen plant 10 foot River Birch tree at Village Hall

New Gardens Adorn Village

The first phase of the planting of the Village Hall grounds has been completed, with perennials and shrubs that are salt and deer resistant, low maintenance and drought tolerant. Grass, beach rose, ilex, juniper, perovskia, sedum and sedge were combined with existing grasses and barberry. The Asharoken Garden Club contributed the design as well as a \$1000 donation towards the landscaping material and installation. An equal amount was received through donations. Carolyn Hyatt-Basche, Pam Pierce and Jamie Pierce of the garden club collaborated on the design. The two flanking roadside beds will be done in the future as funds or donations become available. The village and the club have a long relationship spanning decades with Village Hall being used for club board meetings and the grounds being planted with flowers by club members.



Water Quality in Northport Harbor

Resident Stephanie Quarles was instrumental in organizing a water quality symposium earlier this year. Here she offers highlights of the event; thanks to Stephanie for her work in this important area.

Earlier this year close to a hundred people gathered at the Northport Yacht Club to hear about Water Quality in Northport and Huntington Bay. The speakers included Dr. William Spencer, Suffolk County Legislator; Professor Chris Gobler, Associate Dean School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at Stony Brook University; Assemblyman Andrew Raia; Ed Carr, the Director of Maritime Services at the Town of Huntington; Adrienne Esposito, Co-Director of the Northport Water Protection Committee; and Peter Scully, newly appointed Suffolk County Deputy Director of Administration.

The event was sponsored by the women's committee of the Northport Yacht Club with the cooperation of the Greater Huntington Council of Yacht and Boating Clubs.

Professor Gobler reported that there were significant improvements in our water quality, citing a 70% reduction in nitrogen. Northport Harbor went from being one of the worst harbors to average. Much of the credit goes to the newly updated Sewer Treatment Plant in Northport. Also noted was improved water clarity, a reduction in toxins and no shellfish closing since 2014.

Professor Gobler reported that the primary water quality impairments of Northport Huntington Harbor waters are the toxic algal blooms and low oxygen, both of which are intensified by excessive nitrogen delivery from land.

The septic tanks and cesspools are the largest cause of the nitrogen in our waters today and must be upgraded to further improve water quality.

Peter Scully, newly appointed Suffolk County Deputy County Executive for Administration, will help administer \$383 million in grants for proposed sewer projects and clean water infrastructure and combat the nitrate pollution in bays and groundwater.

Dr. Spencer is now actively supporting the Northport Harbor Dredging project which is awaiting approval of a location to put the spoil areas. Progress is being made. Ed Carr showed a map of the Duck Island Harbor depth that was made by the Town.

The Town and Northport village are involved in developing a network of decentralized storm water management practices, such as rain gardens, green roofs, trees, rain gardens and permeable pavement, which can capture and infiltrate rain where it falls.

Adrienne Esposito also informed us that pharmacies, police departments, and municipalities are promoting safe pharmaceutical disposal options, including permanent drop-boxes where you can bring unused drugs for incineration, no questions asked.

It was a very informative discussion. Thanks go to the Women's Committee of the Northport Yacht Club.

Stephanie Quarles

Editors Note: The Asharoken Police accept unused pharmaceuticals for proper disposal.

Welcome New Residents

Newly-married **Judy Dixon** and **Tommy Taylor** moved from Northport to their first home together at 4 Pheasant Lane. Between them, they have five children ages 20 to 26: Sarah, who just graduated from UNC Chapel Hill; Dan who attends SUNY Albany; daughter Alex, who just graduated from Oklahoma State U as a graduate student and will be moving to Tennessee; and Brad and Victoria, who are both in the working world. Says Judy and Tommy "We moved to Asharoken because it is beautiful, serene and out of the way. We hit the strip, put the car on cruise control and decompress. It's all good. We feel very fortunate."

Dominic J. Marino and his three daughters Grace (Sophomore at Tulane), Jane (Saint Anthony's senior), Claire (Saint Anthony's sophomore) and two Saint Bernard's Duke and Enzo recently moved into 103 Asharoken Avenue.

Said Dominic, "We moved from Fort Salonga and love the community spirit of Asharoken. We've been greeted by the folks at town hall and visited by the mayor too."

John Lento and Deidre Elzer-Lento moved to 26 Bevin Road after living in Dix Hills for more than 25 years. Deidre is a teacher / department chair in the Great Neck Public Schools and John is a retired teacher / department chair. Deidre is an avid photographer and looks forward to enjoying outdoor life; John enjoys hiking and biking.

This location fits wonderfully into Deidre's love of photography and John's love of the outdoors. They both look forward to getting a kayak and exploring Duck Island Harbor. They are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren!

Dr. L. Adele Cuinet... Iconoclast

By Ed Carr, Village Historian

The last Asharoken Newsletter highlighted Laura Stewart, a pioneering woman who once lived on the Sound-side of Asharoken. Now we turn our attention to a pioneering woman who once lived on the Bay.

On a crisp Spring morning in 1934, at the depth of the Great Depression, a developer's wrecking ball arrived in Asharoken. By day's end, it had completed its task to collapse the grand Bay-front home of its recently deceased owner. The colossal frame mansion was the former estate of Dr. Louise Adele Cuinet.

L. Adele Cuinet was born in 1855, and was gifted with intellect, and an unstoppable work ethic. By the time she was a young woman, she set her sights on a goal that few women had succeeded in achieving. She desired to be a dentist. As one journal of the era put it, "she realized that, in addition to the ordinary obstacles presented to youth and inexperience, she might also encounter the prejudice which confronts every woman who ventures upon an innovation and threatens to invade a field considered the exclusive province of men."

After graduating with an undergraduate degree from a top woman's college, she defied the odds of the era, and attended the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery graduating first in her class – touching off a debate, and causing the College to "close its doors against women" for a decade. For the next 25 years, she was the only woman in NYC who belonged to the Dental Society of New York, and the only Doctor of Dental Surgery in New York.

But being a woman in a man's field gave her a different perspective, especially in the area of pain management and bedside manner. Her warm, cheerful and charismatic personality stood in stark contrast to the "stiff upper lip" stoic mannerisms of her male colleagues. Cuinet experimented with anesthesia in an era when few dentists used anything beyond rubbing oils to numb a patient during a procedure. Patients were expected to "suck it up" and the tools used in the trade were barbaric by today's standards, yet Adele perfected the process of painless procedures, and soon had created a niche market in NYC.

Soon word spread of her talents, and she hired other dental surgeons who soon performed under her guidance. With business booming, she amassed a fortune, and soon purchased a four story, 18 room brownstone at 152 Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights with offices occupying the two lower floors, and her home on the upper floors.

In 1908, she happened upon a sales brochure advertising land in Asharoken. She soon purchased a 150 foot wide parcel on the bay side at what is today 239 & 241 Asharoken Ave. The parcel was adjacent to a "private road" where ownership extended to the middle (effectively giving her 175 feet of frontage).

On the parcel, she constructed a summer dwelling that was perhaps equal in size to the Carter home (located at what is today the end of Beach Plum Drive). The Cuinet "cottage" had three stories of usable space, with 8 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and numerous "public rooms" on the first floor used for entertaining, plus a bathhouse equipped with restrooms, a formal garden, and garage.

From April to October, numerous city guests in the medical and political fields would travel to Asharoken to "Adele's Cottage." A launch boat was kept to ferry passengers between her bay-front estate and Main Street, Northport.

At the "cottage," Adele would entertain guests along with her life-long partner, Dr. Helene Lassen, who was described in a Brooklyn Daily Eagle article as being a "stunning" modelesque Swedish woman.

Aside from being a pioneer in the medical field, Adele Cuinet was also shrewd in political and civic matters. From her Brooklyn Heights brownstone, she and Helene led the suffrage movement in Brooklyn, and organized women to vote as a block.

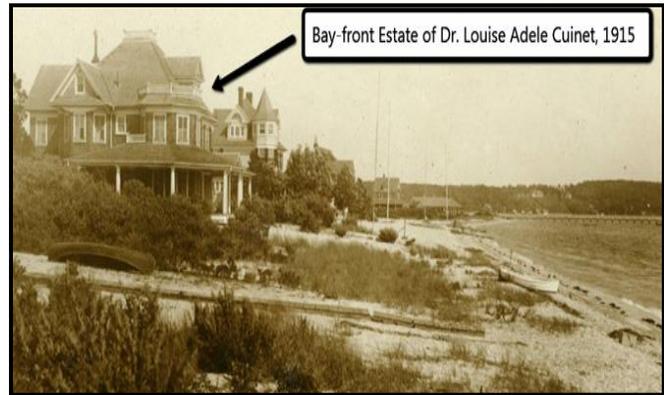
She befriended Raymond Ingersoll of Brooklyn, and worked to elect him as Borough President. It is also quite likely that Cuinet introduced Ingersoll and his brother-in-law Miner Crary Sr. to Asharoken.



Dr. L. Adele Cuinet... Iconoclast

In retirement, Adele Cuinet became so politically influential in the 1930s that the civic association representing Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn was formally named the "Cuinet Civic League." Its endorsement of LaGuardia one month before her death was deemed instrumental in his election as Mayor.

In November, 1933, Dr. L. Adele Cuinet died in her Brooklyn brownstone. Her life-long partner, Dr. Helene Lassen, had predeceased Adele in 1920, and she never pursued another relationship. With no children and dying alone, she willed her estate to various charities. The probate court acted quickly and liquidated her assets. Her Asharoken Estate was purchased by a speculator, and subdivided. And on that Spring morning in 1934, her grand summer home on the center of the parcel was collapsed in hours – demolished with barely a whisper.



Swimming Pools– Things To Know

Having a swimming pool or hot tub can be a great source of activity and pleasure, but with it comes the responsibility to provide a safe environment for our families, friends and neighbors.

There are some basic rules that are outlined in the New York State building code and Asharoken Village code that can provide assistance:

- A swimming pool is any structure intended for bathing or wading that contains water more than 24 inches deep, including in-ground pools, spas, hot tubs and fixed-in-place wading pools.
- Pools, like any other structure, must be installed in conformance to zoning requirements for front, side and rear yard setback, along with the NYSDEC requirements where applicable.
- Outdoor residential pools must have a "barrier", or fence. Fencing (or a building wall) must completely surround the pool and be a minimum of 4 feet tall. All gates or access must be locked with a combination lock, key lock or childproof lock, with the release located on the pool side of the gate.
- Pedestrian access to the pool area must be through a self-closing and self-latching gate that opens away from the pool.
- When a building wall serves as one of the barrier walls, the following must be provided: a powered safety cover, or an audible alarm on the door(s) providing access from the dwelling, or a self-closing and self-latching door that provides at least as much protection as either of the other two methods.
- Ladders or steps providing access to above ground pools must have locking mechanisms or be removed to prevent access.
- Suction outlets should be designed and located to promote circulation throughout the pool or spa, but at the same time must be fitted with a cover that conforms to ANSI/ASME standards to prevent user entrapment.
- Pool wiring to support pumps, lighting and so forth must conform to 2005 National Electrical Code. A copy of the inspections from the NY Board of Fire Underwriters, Electrical Division must be provided to the Village upon completion of electrical work.

There are detail sheets available in Village Hall that graphically provide greater detail for fence requirements, and a pool requirements summary sheet for your use. Feel free to stop by and pick up a copy.

By Doug Adil, Building Inspector

Your Local Police

Asharoken village is well-known for being a safe community. Asharoken police department diligently patrols the streets of the village and its single-access roadway into and out of the village. Traffic and village laws are strictly enforced. This factor is the main reason that would-be burglars and other criminals go elsewhere. Over the years, traffic enforcement alone here in Asharoken has resulted in significant arrests for various crimes.

Asharoken is fortunate to have its own police department. Officers are familiar with residents and their cars. To illustrate, some years ago, two people sitting in a car in a driveway on Asharoken Avenue were arrested because an officer passing by on patrol recognized that it was a strange car for that driveway. Investigation showed the car had been stolen in Queens, and furthermore, a screen had been removed from the vacant house and was lying in the driveway.

Among the special services Asharoken police provide is the vacant house check. The police will be happy to check houses when residents go on vacation. Notify police if you will be away to take advantage of this service. Police have discovered water leaks, storm damage, and doors and windows residents forgot to secure.

Rapid police response is another benefit to residents. Residents requiring police assistance should dial (631) 261-7400 for prompt service (phone stickers available at the police station or village hall). If there is no officer in the station, the phone will be answered by a police radio dispatcher in Northport. The universal 911 may also be used in times of emergency.

Residents are encouraged to call police in a timely manner. Do not hesitate to call if you see something suspicious or out of the ordinary. Too often a resident will stop-in the next day to tell about a car that was parked in front of a house the night before.

Asharoken police are trained in first-aid and carry defibrillators along with other emergency equipment. Northport fire department provides ambulance service for the village. The police provide emergency aid in the precious moments before the rescue squad arrives.

Residents must remember that even in Asharoken, houses should be locked when no one is home and at night. This goes for cars in the driveway as well. There have been incidents in the past where items have been stolen from unlocked cars at night. Last year, two unlocked cars were stolen on the same night. Never leave wallets, credit cards, licenses or other important documents in your car, locked or unlocked.

Thanks to the invention of the wheel, no community is immune to crime, but Asharoken is about as safe as it gets. To keep it that way, the police department needs your help by being alert and promptly reporting anything that seems wrong.

We are always here to help.

Raymond C. Mahdesian
Officer-in-Charge

It's a Doggie Dog World...

In Asharoken, ordinance 57 (Dogs and Other Animals) requires that dogs be leashed off your property that you pick up dog waste and dispose of it properly and that extended barking be controlled. Violations of these ordinances are subject to fines; here's more information:

No dog may ever run loose off your property, either on the beaches or roads. Dogs must be leashed.

Dog poop adds to the pollution of our water by adding harmful bacteria. Please do not think it's okay if your dog does his business below the high tide line! The EPA has classified **dog waste as an environmental pollutant** in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals and its right up there with fertilizer and pesticide run-off as a major polluter of our waters. Properly dispose of dog waste by sealing in a plastic bag and throwing it in the garbage.

Extended barking is also covered by this ordinance. No person owning a dog shall permit it to bark in such a manner and for such a period of time as to constitute a nuisance or interfere with the peace and quiet of neighbors.

Please be a good neighbor and pick up after and silence your dogs!



New Signs Recently Installed at Boat Ramp

Spotlight on Neighbors Giving Back



Bevin Road East resident **Emma Turner** and Bevin Road resident **Andy Giffin** teamed up for the second year in a row to collect shoes for people in need world to support the Soles4Souls program.

Working through Andy and the Northport Rotary, Emma organized a dance at the American Legion Hall for her friends and classmates and collected over 350 pairs of shoes. Combined with the drop box donations from village residents and community collection efforts, over 20,000 pairs were collected, sorted and packed in a 48ø semi-trailer bound for Tennessee for distribution to the worldø poor and victims of disasters.

Both these residents have a strong history of volunteering and helping others.

Emma Turner, an 8th grade student at Trinity Regional school, created the Warmth for our Warriors program that collected blankets for our veterans; she volunteers at Atria Nursing Home; she recently raised \$1200 for the øWater for Sudanø project with her classmates; she volunteers for Project Hope, an organization that feeds the hungry in Huntington; sheø organized a coat drive through Girl Scouts and is now working with the Knights of Columbus organizing a food drive. As if thatø not enough, she does community outreach for St Anthonyø and St Phillipø parishes; teaches soccer to 3-5 year olds and on top of all this, sheø an honor society member. She is planning on attending St. Anthonyø High School next year.

Andy Giffin, a retired insurance executive, has traveled to Haiti five times since 2011. Most recently in April, he joined other Long Island Rotarians and two Westchester dentists to conduct a dental clinic and perform follow-up work on a desalination/solar project on the remote island of La Gonave in Haiti. The dental clinic performed over 900 procedures serving 314 patients, utilizing a clinic maintained by West Indies Self Help, a missionary group.

On prior trips, projects have included opening a medical clinic and installing solar panels designed to power a medical clinic and water well in a small village in the central highlands of La Gonave. In 2012, the team repaired a 30,000-gallon cistern and brought equipment for a peanut cooperative and a sewing school in the same village. In 2014, the team returned with a dental clinic using a portable dental unit allowing for the first teeth restoration work there ever. In 2015, the dental team worked in a coastal city serving over 400 patients, with over 1200 procedures in five days. øThe impact of this work is most evident in the improvement in medical and dental health, particularly better checkups with kids,ö said Giffin. øA local source of clean water means kids can go to school instead of going long distances for water. It improves the quality of life with reduction of deadly water-borne diseases.ö

The teamø visits deal with serious medical issues. For example, in an October 2015 trip an 18 year-old girl appeared with a bone cyst from an infection due to a bad tooth extraction. The grapefruit-sized cyst ate away at her jaw. One of the team members sponsored surgery to correct the problem. øWe are able to impact many lives but many more still donø get the service they need,ö said Giffin.

*Residents: Please let us know about your volunteer activities!
lauraburkel@mac.com*



Andy Giffin (l) with Dentist Anul Patel in Haiti

**Village of Asharoken
One Asharoken Ave.
Northport, NY 11768**



Village Notices

1. Water Ski & Mooring Permits Available

To water ski or wake board in Duck Island Harbor, permits are required. Applications can be picked up at the police booth. Boats must be no longer than 21 feet, have a minimum of \$10,000 liability insurance and have a properly muffled exhaust system. If you wish to moor a vessel behind the village hall, you must obtain the necessary application and a copy of the rules and regulations for the type of mooring necessary for your size vessel. Permit fees apply.

2. Village Elections to elect Mayor and two Trustees (2-year terms) June 21st at Village Hall noon-9 pm.

3. Drop off Magazines for the Vets at Village Hall.

4. Village Notices are sent weekly via email; be sure Village Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse has your correct email address - contact her at rittenhousevc@gmail.com.

5. Tree removal permits are required for any deciduous tree that exceeds 45 inches in circumference (measured three feet from ground) and any evergreen that exceeds 24 inches around. Trees within 15 feet of any structure can be removed without a permit. Drop by Village Hall for more details.

6. Village tax bills will be mailed on or about May 23rd. Payment accepted June 1st through July 1st without penalty.

7. Fireworks Celebration: July 4th; Rain date July 5th.

Visit asharoken.com for forms, permits, and regular updates.

**Asharoken News - Editor Laura Burke
Drop article suggestions at Village Hall.**

