

# Asharoken Village Newsletter

## Mayor's Report

November 2010

Our perseverance and your patience is finally paying off for the Village of Asharoken. Many of the projects that I and your Board of Trustees have been working on are suddenly coming to fruition.

This newsletter updates you on many of the projects that are visibly taking place in our Village. Additionally, we have been very busy dealing with several issues to promote safety, preserve and protect property values and improve our quality of life.

Code enforcement, clearing of roadway right-of-ways, additional training for police and Village personnel, and intergovernmental cooperation are some of the things happening in our Village that are not as visible as sand dredges in our waterways, trucks on the beach, and excavators and rocks at the sea wall.

### Enforcement of the Power Plant Operating Permit

National Grid is in the process of complying with the latest US Army Corps of Engineers directive of placing 45,800 cubic yards of sand on Asharoken beach.

Although dredging has been stopped on the west side of the plant, near the inlet lagoon for a lack of sand, dredging continues on the east side of the plant near the discharge channel.

By the time you read this, National Grid is now well on their way of depositing that sand on our beach.

Placement of the sand should be complete by Dec. 31, 2010.



Dredged sand stockpiled for measurement before being deposited on Asharoken Beach

### Restoration of the Sea Wall

Restoration of the Sea wall is well underway and at this time, the work on the south end of the wall is complete.

Work continues on the north end of the wall which sustained most of the damage. The Village Board has authorized the contractor to work 24/7 in order to get this project completed before any winter storms. Although some may find this an inconvenience, it is important for everyone's safety that this project be completed as soon as possible.

The contractor continues to ensure me and the US Army Corps of Engineers that the project is on schedule.



Repaired south end of the Sea wall

### Feasibility Study for Beach Replenishment

The DEC continues to maintain their position that dredging in the Sound is not acceptable, however, communication continues between the USACE and the DEC for alternatives. The USACE is waiting to receive NYSDEC's input on the sand source assessment. Meetings are expected to be scheduled after the November election.



### Local Water Ways

Along with Trustee Joe Affrunti, I attended a series of Water Quality meetings that included representatives from the Town of Huntington, Village of Northport, State and County agencies, scientists and environmentalists. The purpose of this committee is to prepare an agenda to clean and protect our local waterways.

Asharoken has not only participated in all these meetings, we have also been very proactive in undertaking our own steps to improve our water quality.

In the past three months, we have cleaned out all of the storm water catch basins throughout the Village. We repaired the one leaching basin that had a faulty back flow gate that could have permitted storm water to mix with seawater at extreme high tide.

Most importantly, the Village of Asharoken does not have any outfall pipes discharging storm water into our waterways.

We have engaged professional engineers to design storm water catch basins and leaching pools along Asharoken Avenue north of Bevin Road to capture storm water runoff currently entering the wetlands at the intersection of Bevin Road and Asharoken Avenue. The Village is currently finalizing details with the engineers and the contractor and we expect work to begin very shortly.

Repair of the Sea wall should limit, but not eliminate, extensive wash over from LI Sound into Duck Island Harbor.

The Village sponsored a Coastal clean-up this month that drew almost 300 volunteers that collected almost 2,900 pounds of trash on our beaches, including the Huntington Town's Asharoken beach, Asharoken Village beaches on the bay and LI Sound, Soundview beach, Hobart beach and the US Coast Guard Station at Eaton's Neck.

The Village of Asharoken is working to ensure that the dredging of Duck Island Harbor is one of the priorities of this committee.

### Village Hall Update

The Village Hall Expansion Project is continuing to move along.

The Committee recognizes the current economic circumstances and fiscal responsibility regarding this project and has considered these issues in our plans.

Every effort is being made to design a building that is functional to meet our current needs yet expandable to service the needs of the Village in the future. Our architects are continuing to move forward with the design as we continue to search for sources of funding.

The proposed new building will combine our Police Department, the Village Administration, our Village Hall meeting facility as well as Village Court facility. Additionally, we are designing a Village Police dock near the Village Hall.

Updates on all of these projects will follow in our next Newsletter. I look forward to your continued support as I and your Village Trustees protect and maintain our unique waterfront village.

Mayor Patricia Irving



Mayor Irving along with Trustees Joe Tilleli and John Elefante participated in Northport's Cow Harbor Celebration



### **Emergency Planning** **Bill Raisch, Chairman**

Nor'easters, hurricanes, ice storms, hazardous materials releases, fires and automobile accidents can all impact the residents of Asharoken, our homes, our roads and utilities. The Village of Asharoken has been developing a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan through the efforts of a group of dedicated area residents and collaborating officials from a variety of public safety agencies. This "all-hazards" plan focuses on developing the capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from a wide range of emergencies.

This committee identified potential events and impacts of these events on our people, homes and infrastructure. With a special focus on common impacts of these threats, the committee then considered what could be done in advance to either prevent or minimize the impact of these events. They also considered actions for responding to and recovering from these events should they occur. The resulting strategies were incorporated into an emergency management plan for the Village. This plan will form the starting point for actions to be taken before, during and after emergencies.

As part of emergency management effort, key officials (including all of our Village trustees) have been assigned supporting roles in the event of an emergency. On the whole, these officials will focus on supporting the efforts of our Asharoken Police Department and coordinating assistance from outside agencies. Many of these officials have already assisted in the response to recent impacts from Nor'easters under the direction of our Mayor, Pat Irving.

While a comprehensive plan has been developed, emergency management is an ongoing endeavor. Our plan must be regularly exercised and revised based on changing threats and lessons learned from actual emergencies. Additionally, it is an effort that must involve all the citizens of the Village. A key effort going forward will be to engage with our citizens on basic emergency preparedness steps that can be taken by all of us.

### **Accessory Apartments** **Kenneth P. Savin, Village Attorney**

The Village of Asharoken is one of the few local municipalities that permit accessory apartments. However, such permission is not without conditions. Our code only addresses accessory apartments located within accessory buildings, such as a cottage or garage. Therefore one can not only deduce that an accessory apartment is not permitted in the main dwelling, our Code specifically prohibits it.

The only exception would be the existence of such a use predating the provision of the Code in 1984. However, such uses still need to obtain a permit. Our code limits the use of that dwelling within the accessory building to:

- a) servants or employees engaged in work upon the premises, or
- b) members of the family of the resident occupant of the premises, or
- c) guests of the resident occupant of the premises.

Use of an accessory building by any other person is strictly prohibited.

In addition, an accessory building cannot exceed the size of the main dwelling, and if it is used for human habitation, it shall have a floor area of not less than 400 square feet on the ground floor. This means a garage can be used for an accessory apartment, but it must be of sufficient size. A single car garage is not of sufficient size.

Finally, one must apply to the Village Zoning Board of Appeals to obtain a special use permit. Any accessory apartment, whether occupied or not, is not to be occupied until such time as a special use permit has been issued. Accessory apartments that predated the Code are still subject to the use restrictions and must obtain a Special Use permit.

The fines for violations can easily exceed the cost of the permitting process. The application fee for the special use permit is \$250.00. Renewals are only \$100.00. The fine for each day of a violation is \$250.00. It is a relatively simple process to complete the application and appear before the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The Village Clerk would be glad to help you with any questions.



## Fog Line Safety

### Doug Adil, Superintendent of Buildings

Improvements within four feet of the fog line continue to be a problem along Asharoken Avenue. Village Code requires that the first four feet to the right of the fog line remain free of obstructions, with few exceptions. The fog line is the white line that runs down the side of the road and separates the travel surface of the road from the shoulder of the road.

Our code prohibits the encumbering or obstructing the area within four feet of the fog line. With the exception of mailboxes, fire hydrants and utility poles, nothing but plantings under 6" in height can be located within this four foot area.

Mailboxes must be back at least 6" from the paved surface and the posts must be 4" x 4" wood or other break-away material. Driveway curbing within this four foot area must be tapered down so that it is at road level within this area.

With the lack of sidewalks in our Village and our narrow roads, it is important that this area be free of obstructions that suddenly stops or misdirects the vehicle that sways out of its lane or delays pedestrians from clearing the roadway for passing cars.

If you construct something in this area, you will have to remove it. Do it right the first time and you only pay for the installation. Do it wrong, and you will pay to install it, remove it, and install it correctly.

## 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Holiday Dinner Celebration and Save the Fireworks

Another 4<sup>th</sup> of July has come and gone. We are sure that most of you enjoyed our fireworks which have become a tradition and what sets Asharoken apart from our neighbors in our Independence Day Celebration.

When the fireworks were first initiated in the Village, they were paid for by contributions of individual residents.

In the last couple of years, that burden has fallen on our Village government. The Village board, in order to keep taxes at a minimum, has made it clear that in this unsteady economy it is doing everything it can to hold the line on cost minimizing expense. It has become difficult to undertake the full annual expense for this event.

Rather than lose this once-a-year opportunity, a group of volunteer property owners in our Village have undertaken to raise sufficient funds to continue the fireworks show. Invitations have been sent out to all property owners asking them to combine their Holiday Dinner Party and the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Incorporated Village of Asharoken with a fund raiser to support the fireworks.

Almost every home in Asharoken and every property owner of the beach lots host a party each 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Where else can you and all your family and friends get a front row seat for the show? Therefore, in order to continue this wonderful event, the fireworks volunteers are asking you to contribute whatever you can, or whatever you think it is worth to have this annual event in your own back yards.

Please come celebrate the holidays at Indian Hills Country Club for dinner to celebrate our 85<sup>th</sup> year as an Incorporated Village and contribute to our traditional fireworks event (lots of great prizes and surprises are planned). For more information, contact Anna Pollaci at 261-1069 or AMPollaci@aol.com

## Remember to Vote

Elections will be held Tuesday, November 2, 2010. Asharoken residents may vote at Village Hall between 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

You may still file an absentee ballot application up until November 1, 2010. This must be done in person at The Board of Elections in Yaphank, NY 11980.

If you have any questions regarding absentee applications or where you are currently registered to vote, please contact the Board of Elections at 631-852-4500.