

Asharoken Village Newsletter

December 2011

As 2011 comes to a close, the following is an update from your Village Officials of on-going projects, plans and activities that keep your Village Board, employees, staff and volunteers making Asharoken the best place to live.

Asharoken Sea Wall



As many of you know, our newly rebuilt sea wall suffered damage in the October storms. Some rocks were displaced, the staircase was severely damaged and the wood caps have broken loose. The Village is still waiting to hear from the US Army Corps of Engineers as to whether this work is warranted by the contractor or must be repaired as on-going maintenance by the Village.

Due to the loss of sand in front of the sea wall and the damages sustained, the staircase became unusable. The Village has contracted to rebuild and extend the staircase so that the beach in that area will remain accessible. That work is now complete.

The concrete shoulders on both sides of the roadway have replaced the sand and gravel shoulders.



In addition, we have replanted the sea grass at both the north and south ends of the sea wall.

This will not stop the wash-over at the wall, but it will limit the amount of sand, gravel and debris left on the roadway. Furthermore, it is unlikely that the roadway will be undermined after a major storm, minimizing the frequency of road closings and eliminating the need for engineering inspections after each washout.

This will eliminate much of the inconvenience to our residents at the north end of the Village as well as our friends in Eaton's Neck.

New highway and safety signage will be installed in that area and elsewhere on Asharoken Avenue, shortly.





Road Repairs

As part of the sea wall shoulder project, much of Asharoken Avenue was repaved in the area of the sea wall. In addition, the worst part of Asharoken Avenue just north of Bevin Road has also been repaved.

We plan to clean and seal all of Asharoken Avenue before the end of the year. New striping will take place in early spring.



Storm/Snow Fencing & the Dunes

Now that extensive work has been done in the area of the sea wall, the most vulnerable area of Asharoken Avenue is in the area of the beach lots and the sand dunes. In order to naturally restore the dunes, the Village undertook a new project of installing storm/snow fencing along that entire area.

This project is strongly encouraged by the DEC. The fencing has been up less than a month and already we are seeing positive effects from this project. Although access to the beach may be limited, there is an opening in the storm/snow fencing wherever there is a staircase crossing the dunes. If you have left any personal property such as beach chairs, umbrellas, kayaks, picnic tables, etc., be sure to remove them from the beach immediately.



Sand on the Beach

It has only been a year since National Grid completed its latest replenishment of Asharoken beach. Under the US Army Corps of Engineer's directive, National Grid is required to place 15,000 cubic yards of sand per year, every three years on Asharoken beach. Already, the utility company is repeating its argument that that requirement should be substantially less. Your Village officials continue to meet with National Grid and the US Army Corps to make sure that the Village gets as much sand as possible.

The USACE and NYS DEC are still discussing the Feasibility Study and dredging in Long Island Sound.

Quality of Life

This administration has engaged in enforcing quality of life issues in the Village. As unpopular as it may be for some of our residents, the Board is enforcing those sections of our Village code that impact our quality of life. This includes the parking of recreational vehicles and campers on private property, accessory buildings such as sheds in the side yard, improper placement or disposal of garbage, accessory apartments without permits and off hour construction. It also includes construction or renovations without building permits. Unfortunately these violations are by our residents and property owners but these violations interfere with our peaceful and quiet enjoyment of our homes and adversely affect property values.



Storm Preparedness

It is important that we prepare our homes and property in the event of a storm. All moveable objects in yards or on the beach should be placed indoors or securely tied down. If you think you are going to need pumps or other equipment because of flooding conditions, it is important that you have them at your premises prior to an event.

In the event Asharoken Avenue or any other streets are closed because of storm conditions, the road is closed to the public. This includes residents living on those roadways. The only exception during a road closure is Police, Fire, Highway and other emergency vehicles.

In the event of snow, it is important that residents clear fire hydrants near their homes. The Village of Asharoken has a limited number of fire calls each year and the location of hydrants is not readily known to the first responders.

It is important that hydrants remain visible at all times. Your house number should also be clearly visible to Police and Fire personnel. Information regarding storms, road closings and other emergencies is regularly posted on the web site, www.asharoken.com.

Storm Preparedness is not limited to our beaches, backyards and roadways. In anticipation of damage expected from Hurricane Irene, your Mayor, Village Board and staff took substantial measures in protecting Village Hall and its contents.

All files were removed from the floor level and all computers and electronic equipment were placed on desks before being completely protected by waterproof tarps.

Fortunately, we had limited leakage and no flooding in Village Hall.

A tremendous effort was made to protect equipment and records of the Village.



New Village Hall

The condition and limitations of Village Hall, particularly during storms and emergencies reminds us that we must seek alternatives to the current conditions.

Therefore, we are proceeding with the plans and permitting process for a new Village Hall. Once all necessary approvals are obtained from the NYS DEC and the Suffolk County Department of Health, we will review the financial commitment and available funding sources a Village Hall will entail.





Other Projects

The Village is seeking grant funding for Phase II of the Catch Basin Project on Asharoken Avenue north of Bevin Road. The second phase calls for additional catch basins and leaching pools between the most recent installation and the Village border at the north end of the Village.

The Village is in the process of obtaining permits for a police dock behind Village Hall. These approvals are expected sometime next year.

Your Mayor and Trustees have met regularly with the residents of our Village and the surrounding communities regarding their concerns that effect Asharoken.

Mayor Irving has met with residents whose properties border the bight, at the end of Beach Plum Drive to discuss their dredging of that area.

Mayor Irving and Trustee Joe Affrunti have met with residents surrounding Duck Island Harbor regarding the proposed dredging.

Trustee Pam Pierce has met with residents of Eaton's Neck in regards to controlling the deer population.

Trustees Joe Tilleli and Joe Catanzano have met with residents near Bevin Road to address flooding issues.

The Board is working to assist all these residents in developing plans and finding funding. For those projects that are on private property, the Village cannot spend public tax dollars but we can work with government agencies and all levels of town, county, state and federal government to coordinate these projects and the permitting process.

'tis the Season

Santa's annual visit to the Village of Asharoken this year will be Sunday, December 18, 2011. After an escorted tour by our Police Department and the Northport Fire Department, Santa will greet visitors at Village Hall at 4:00 PM. It is a great opportunity to meet and welcome our new residents and celebrate the holidays.

Please join your neighbors for refreshments and snacks on Sunday, December 18th at Asharoken Village Hall.



Photo by Steve Silverman

*Have a Happy Holiday Season
and a
Healthy, Happy and Prosperous
New Year*

*Mayor Patricia Irving
&
Your Board of Trustees*