



# Village of Asharoken October 2008 Newsletter

## Mayors Report

### Important News.....

As I repeatedly said when I ran for Mayor, we needed to explore other alternatives to the LILCO lawsuit in order to restore our beach.

I also campaigned on a promise to build relationships with other elected officials to bring them to the table to assist us on this, and other issues facing our Village.

Since my election I have been working very closely with Congressman Steve Israel to get sand on the beach.

Meetings had been held in the past between Village representatives and the US Army Corps seeking the Corps assistance in this matter. For whatever reason, those efforts have failed to yield any results.

In my first meeting with Congressman Israel, I let him know it was a priority of this administration to get the Army Corps of Engineers cooperation in addressing our erosion problem. This is a multi-stage process, the first of which was to get the Army Corps to acknowledge the special conditions of the Department of the Army's permit to LILCO. The second, is to get the Corps to enforce those conditions.

I am pleased to report that on September 24, 2008 a letter was sent from the US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch to National Grid, LILCO's successor. That letter is the first

step in the enforcement of the special conditions of the LILCO permit. It can be summarized with the following excerpts,

#### From the Army Corps letter to National Grid:

"Therefore...to be in compliance with the subject DA permit you are required to (1) now and in the future, on an annual average basis place 15,000 cubic yards of sand on Asharoken Beach...and (2) make up the deficiency of sand....by placement of 20,000 cubic yards of sand on Asharoken Beach."

"To help determine past and future permit compliance...you are required to identify all dredging events performed at or offshore of the plant since March 2, 2001...and the location where the material dredged in each event was placed."

"That the permittee shall provide artificial means for sand bypass around the intake channel and jetties if permanent adverse effects of beach erosion or accretion result from the permittees operation in the determination of the District Engineer."

National Grid has been instructed to respond to this directive no later than this Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The next stage in this process is to work with the Army Corps to devise a plan whereby the replenished sand will remain on the beach.

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I intend to continue working with Congressman Israel and the Army Corps to obtain a long term solution to this problem.

Finally, we hope to do this in an amicable and long term cooperative manner with our neighbor, National Grid. Preliminary contacts have already been made between myself, our professional staff, and the appropriate individuals at National Grid. I look forward to working with them as well, in obtaining a long term solution.

### **Our Village**

It has been very rewarding for me, as your Mayor, to interact with our residents. First with the Pot Luck Dinner committee, and second with our trustees and those residents who participated in our first float/march in the Annual Cow Harbor Day Parade. The Pot Luck dinner was a huge success, attended by many residents and beach-lot owners. The variety of home-made food was terrific and the conversation was even better. Fun was had by all who attended. Asharoken participation in the parade was wonderful. It was our opportunity to show off our community pride and enthusiasm. The parade included our residents carrying the new Asharoken banner, and our float carrying Chief Asharoken (Mitchell Rittenhouse) and Pocahontas (Katie Burke). Many Asharoken residents and children joined us. With the trustees, I marched for the first time as Mayor. The crowds (including many Asharoken residents) cheered us all the way down Main Street. Again, thank you. A special thank you to Nancy Rittenhouse, our Village Clerk, for coordinating this entire effort.

As I write this report, it is also International Coastal Cleanup Day. This important event is coordinated by Eva and Stanley Browne. Clean

beaches are crucial to our environment, and our pride as a Village. I want to thank Eva and Stanley for the time and effort they put forth in putting this event together. Our beaches and shoreline are precious and must be maintained. Thank you to the Brownes and to all those who participated.

### **Government Relations**

In addition to my work with Congressman Steve Israel, I have been working on opening up communication and reestablishing relations with other elected officials at all levels of government. These officials are key to helping Asharoken address the issues and problems that affect our Village.

Not only will I continue to work with Congressman Israel and the Army Corps of Engineers, but I have asked the Congressman to seek additional federal funding for our seawall and erosion issues.

I attended an open forum with NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and his senior staff, for Long Island towns and villages. He has offered the full power of his office for such issues as internet fraud, consumer rights and environmental protection.

I met with Senator Marcellino on September 10<sup>th</sup> and he had confirmed that the allocation for catch basins within our village is still available. He did express some concern that the catch basin funding (allocated during the state fiscal year of 2006/2007) has not been spent already and he is researching to see if there were other allocations designated for Asharoken that have not been used in the past.

Legislator Jon Cooper and I have spoken several times, discussing possible opportunities for our Village.

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Assemblyman Andrew Raia and I have met to discuss future opportunities for capital funding for our Village.

Huntington Highway Superintendent, William Naughton is reaching out to help us establish a documented maintenance plan for our Village roads. Until now, there is no such plan in writing that the Village can refer to. We owe him a thank you for extending this help. Bill was instrumental in working with Billy Beach and John Elefante towards getting our roads cleaned and re-stripped this past month.

I have been working closely with Northport Fire Chief Robert Varese Jr., in order to ensure that the needs of our Village are understood. We have established a solid working relationship. It may be a little early, but rest assured, Chief Varese has already confirmed Santa's visit to Asharoken.

Finally, I have had the opportunity to meet CWO Rob Craighead, the new Commanding Officer at Coast Guard Station Eatons Neck. Over the next few weeks we will be exploring how we, as neighbors, can have a mutually beneficial relationship.

### **The LILCO Lawsuit**

As you all know, the Village is currently in the process of appealing the dismissal of our erosion lawsuit against LILCO, now National Grid. I conducted a conference call between our Village attorney, Ken Savin, and the lawyer handling the appeal, Michael Marcus. Attorney Marcus stated that he is confident, fully briefed, and that he requires no additional support or information from our Village. He believes the appeal will be heard within the January to February time-frame. Winning the appeal would

grant us the right to go back to the trial court to negotiate an agreement with National Grid to restore sand to our beaches. We will continue to move forward in exploring all options to solve the crucial erosion matter. We will not allow our Village to rely upon a single plan, with no contingencies.

### **Financial Status**

An independent auditing firm began a review of our Village financials on September 22nd. Your Village Clerk and Treasurer are working very hard to collect the necessary deliverables for this review. Results are anticipated in the next few weeks. This is the first time, in recent memory, that the Village has conducted a proactive, financial self-assessment

### **Formal Training in-progress**

This past month, several Village Officials attended the NY Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), fall training school. During this conference we were able to participate in sessions that included:

- enacting legislation
- open meetings law
- public integrity
- inter-municipal cooperation
- elections
- ethics and conflicts of interest
- employee relations

As your Mayor, I am firmly committed to maintaining an ongoing professional training program. I am of the belief that this will foster a professional atmosphere that we require at Village Hall.

### **Committees in Progress**

We have a wealth of talented people in our Village. I feel fortunate that some have come

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forward to offer their participation on our committees. One of our professionals who has volunteered is Mr. Bill Raisch. Bill is a professional emergency planning expert. He has volunteered to head up the team that will develop a comprehensive emergency management plan for our Village and its residents. A tremendous thank you goes out to Bill for helping us develop this much needed plan.

We have additional openings for volunteer positions. Please contact me if you have some free time and want to get involved.

### Plans are being developed

One of the major challenges that my new administration has faced is that written documents are very difficult to come by. A good example is an issue that we face with the collection of sediment on the corner of Bevin Road and Asharoken Avenue, every time we experience a substantial rainfall. What compounds the issue is that also on the corner are environmentally sensitive wetlands. The village needs an established procedure to deal with this important issue.

We reached out to people familiar with how this issue was handled in the past, and for every person that we spoke with we received a different response. We have since outlined a draft formal procedure with the help of the DEC. Next time this happens, our goal is to have village staff respond in a planned, repeatable manner. Only with documented plans and predetermined courses of action, can we properly budget our Village resources.

### Our Website

[www.Asharoken.com](http://www.Asharoken.com)

Steve Trombetti and Eric Maffei have generously donated their resources to establish a professional website for our Village. This exemplary website is yet another example of our residents talent and generosity. The Master Plan has been added to the website and Steve and Eric are making efforts to add Village forms and permits to be downloaded. Thank you to Steve and Eric. There have been over 2,500 visitors to this website since it was first activated on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Up-Coming Events

There are two events that are scheduled for the next months.

Blood Drive:

October 13th ( Columbus Day )

At Village Hall

Your attendance/donation is much appreciated.

Annual Holiday Party:

November 23rd 12pm - 4pm

Northport Yacht Club

Here is a great opportunity to celebrate the holidays with our residents at the beautiful waterfront setting of Northport Yacht Club. Please purchase your tickets now. Flyers are attached to the newsletter. Thanks to Catherine Burch for coordinating this effort.

I am committed to doing the best job possible as your Mayor and I look forward to seeing you at the Blood Drive and Holiday Party.

Warmest Regards,  
Mayor Pat Irving

**Former Asharoken Village Trustee  
In Memoriam: Edward Hoffman**



Asharoken lost one of its most outspoken and influential residents with the passing of Edward Hoffman on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Born in the Bronx. Ed grew up in Bayside, Queens, where he met his wife Frances, and married her in 1940. He served in the Navy during WW2, and worked for Shell Oil until his retirement in 1971. They purchased an acre of land on Clam Shell Lane in 1958 and built their home, moving in by 1961.

Ed wore many Village hats in his 50 years as a homeowner on Clam Shell Lane. One of his first village positions was Harbor Master in the early 1960's; he was a driving force behind the purchase of the first patrol boat, a Boston Whaler. He subsequently served as Police Commissioner, and was a Trustee from 1964 though 1968. He served his final term of office as a Village trustee in 1994.

Ed and Frances were gifted and dedicated horticulturists. They were ardent sailors, and had many boats, including their 31 foot C & C *Flirt*". Ed enjoyed woodworking, especially making half-models of sailboats and miniature furniture. The Hoffmans were also life-long environmentalists, gardening without the use of pesticides, protecting the sea grass, and recycling until Ed could no longer get down the steep cobblestone driveway that they both built by hand some 50 years ago. Even when they could no longer be actively involved in Village politics, Ed and Frances followed Asharoken events as closely as they did the national scene, and voted diligently by absentee ballot.

Ed died in his home following a brief illness, with his wife of 68 years at his side. He leaves behind his wife, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 5 great grand children, and a legacy of service to his village. Frances will move to Wading River to live with her daughter, Toni. They will both be missed, and remembered by all who knew them.

Patricia Matos-Puente MD

## Code Corner- The Fog Line

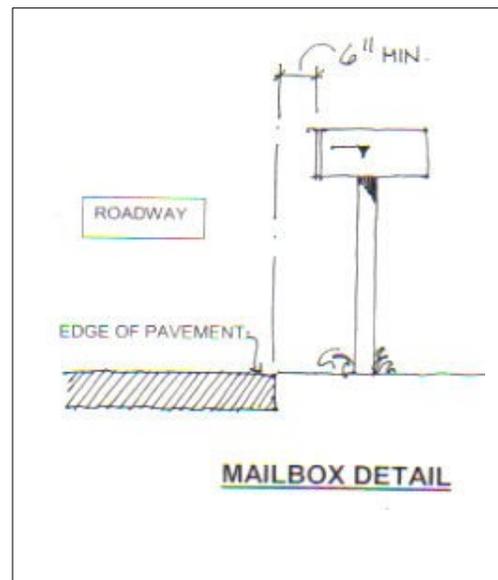
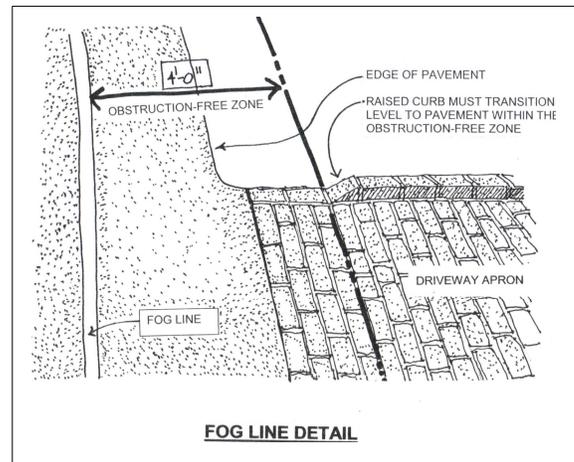
Doug Adil, Building Inspector

For those of you out there contemplating improvements or alterations to your driveway or curbing, I'd like to pass along some information regarding what's called the "fog line". The Asharoken Village Code section 104-1 defines the fog line as "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". It helps you to see the road, or the limits of it, in the fog, and marks the edge of the legally drivable portion.

Village Code specifies homeowners should not obstruct or encroach upon any road or street in the Village with any material, substance or structure, and that no obstruction should be placed in the zone from the fog line to all points 4 feet towards the side. This includes any raised object like driveway curbing, planters, rocks, etc. This zone needs to be clear to avoid obstructing the path of snow plows, cars, bicyclists, and such. Additionally, mailboxes, although allowed to be within the 4-foot clear zone, should be placed at least 6 inches away from the edge of pavement of the roadway.

A copy of the Village Code is available in Village Hall for those who would like to see the full text of this topic.

For any questions, email me at:  
dhadil@optonline.net



**Recycling and Sanitation**

Thank you to our residents for your continuing efforts to recycle. It is in our best interest both environmentally and financially to recycle as much as possible. It cost our village \$40.00 per ton to recycle bottles and cans, and no cost at all to recycle newspapers and card board, keeping it dry equals less wear and tear on our equipment. The cost for refuse is \$75.00 per ton to dispose of. Since the demand for newspaper and cardboard is high we currently are negotiating with companies to sell this recyclable.

The more we can take out of the waste stream by recycling, the less we will be spending on disposal of our unwanted items. Keep up the recycling effort.

Calendar is also available at: <http://www.asharoken.com/calendar.htm>

October 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	2 Trash Pickup	3	4
5	6 Trash Pickup 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting (Village Hall)	7	8 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	9 Yom Kippur Trash Pickup	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day No Mail	14 Trash Pickup	15 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	16 Trash Pickup	17	18
19	20 Trash Pickup	21	22 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	23 Trash Pickup	24	25
26	27 Trash Pickup	28	29 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	30 Trash Pickup	31 Halloween	

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November 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends – Set clocks back 1 hour	3 Trash Pickup 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting (Village Hall)	4 <b>Election Day</b>	5 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	6 Trash Pickup	7 Newsletter Materials Due	8
9	10 Trash Pickup	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> No Mail	12 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	13 No Trash Pickup Truck being serviced	14	15
16	17 Trash Pickup	18	19 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	20 Trash Pickup	21	22
23	24 Trash Pickup	25	26 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	27 <b>Thanksgiving</b>	28 Trash Pickup	29
30						

December 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Trash Pickup 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting (Village Hall)	2	3 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	4 Trash Pickup	5	6
7	8 Trash Pickup	9	10 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	11 Trash Pickup	12	13
14	15 Trash Pickup	16	17 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	18 Trash Pickup	19	20
21	22 <b>Hannukah Starts</b> Trash Pickup	23	24 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 Trash Pickup	27
28	29 <b>Hannukah Ends</b> Trash Pickup	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling			

*Northport Cow Harbor Day*



Chief Asharoken: Mitchell Rittenhouse  
Pocohontas: Katie Burke



Leading the Cow Harbor Parade was  
Asharoken resident Russell Fredericks.

Photo by: Rich Valeo (Observer)



Representing our Village  
Photo by: Rich Valeo (Observer)



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11768

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