



Village of Asharoken January 2009 Newsletter

Mayors Report

Sand on the Beach

On December 23rd, I received notification that the Appellate Court reached a decision to uphold the original verdict against Asharoken. Despite the Village's best efforts, the courts seemed unwilling to recognize what the US Army Corps documented in an independent study, that our beach is losing a substantial amount of sand each year as the direct result of the power plant. Our Village has spent a considerable amount of time and taxpayers money to press for a restored beach via the Courts. When I campaigned for Mayor I promised to explore all options. To that end, there are at least two additional efforts that I have set into motion to restore sand on the beach.

First, I reported in my last newsletter that the US Army Corps has instructed National Grid to deposit 15,000 cubic yards of sand on the beach each year and on an ongoing basis. The Army Corps also told National Grid that they must deposit 20,000 cubic yards as a one-time event, and that they must implement a sand bypass system. Although this is not a full restoration, it is a step in the right direction and it is the first time that our Village has been able to get the Army Corps to enforce conditions of the

National Grid operating permit. There is a technical meeting between the Army Corps and National Grid scheduled to address these Army Corps requirements.

Second, during December I participated in a face to face meeting with Congressman Steve Israel and senior representatives from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The Army Corps and the DEC are the two lead agencies that have to help us restore the beach. Together, they are exploring a long term solution to our beach erosion problem.

We have now established a good working relationship with both the US Army Corps and the DEC, and we have a commitment from the Congressman to play an active role in this issue.

Congressman Israel commented that although this may take years to complete, this project was not going to be one of those that is only studied and never acted upon.

Israel said, "With cooperation from all groups involved, we will continue to make progress and restore sand to this beach."

Asharoken Holidays

Our annual Holiday Party was held at the Northport Yacht Club. The waterfront setting was picture perfect and the food was delicious. We had a near record turnout from our residents and a great time was had by all. A special thank you to Catharine Burch, who did a tremendous job organizing this event.

Our second Holiday event was Santa's visit to Asharoken. After traveling through the Village in a Fire Chief's car, escorted by our Police, Santa stopped at Village Hall to spend some time with the children. Each child had the opportunity to sit with Santa and have their picture taken with him. Santa then gave each of the children a 'ho, ho, ho' and a stocking full of goodies. You can see pictures from this event on the Village website, www.asharoken.com.

Village Hall

An ad hoc committee for Village Hall restoration has met with the intent to restart the effort for a new Village Hall. The current building has been sorely neglected. We have had to make significant emergency repairs to the bathroom and to several doors with rotted wood. The donated building fund has not been used for these repairs.

Financial Audit

The Village has just completed its first financial audit in recent memory. The auditors documented a total of 10

questionable past practices. These involve financial procedures and controls that were either non-existent or were not followed. All of these issues have been corrected by this administration.

www.asharoken.com

The www.asharoken.com website has continued to expand. The website is offering the Village a new way to communicate with our residents in an expeditious manner. For example, this past month the garbage truck broke down during Christmas week. The website provided us with a means to immediately communicate the adjusted pickup schedules. When there is an issue that has an impact on the Village that requires immediate information, our residents can access the website and its bulletin board to get the most recent updates. Thank you again, to Steve Trombetti and Eric Maffei for the creation and maintenance of this professional website.

Public Works

National Grid (acting as the contractor for the LIPA owned system) is nearing the completion of their efforts to upgrade the utility poles along Asharoken Avenue. Due to the close proximity to Long Island Sound, we experience powerful winds that create outages for many Asharoken homes.

Improving the systems integrity and reliability can only help reduce the outages we had previously experienced during storms. For the most part, the work has

been completed and their efforts should minimize movement of the wires from the winds.

Thank you to all the residents for your patience as brief power outages were required to transfer the wiring and replace some poles.

During November, I was invited to the Northport power plant for a tour of the facility and an introduction to the National Grid management team. This administration and National Grid recognize the potential benefits if we can work together as neighbors.

An example of neighboring villages working together was evidenced immediately following a recent 'nor-easter' that deposited a large amount of sand on Asharoken Avenue. In the past, the Village would have scrambled for volunteers to perform a cleanup. This time, the Town of Huntington street sweepers were onsite early the next morning conducting the cleanup. We are continuing to build the formal relationships and professional procedures that are necessary to run our Village.

Many thanks to John Elefante for volunteering as Deputy Highway Superintendent and supporting our Highway Superintendent Billy Beach. If you have any concerns regarding the roads, please feel free to email John at jvelefante@yahoo.com or Billy at serenity@aol.com.

Weddings

In my capacity as Mayor, I have had the opportunity to perform weddings. Rather than charge a fee for performing a marriage, all donations will be used for miscellaneous Village expenses.

Volunteer Support

I am very happy to announce that village resident Mel Ettinger has been appointed Deputy Police Commissioner. Mel has a tremendous amount of experience associated with this position and he is one of our most committed residents when it comes to volunteering and helping out at Village Hall.

Village resident Kevin Thompson has also been appointed as Deputy Building Inspector. Kevin will be using his experience in this field to assist Building Inspector Doug Adil.

Both Mel and Kevin are terrific examples of residents volunteering to get involved to help move our Village forward. Please consider participating in one of the many volunteer positions for your Village.

Verizon FiOS

The Village has been negotiating with Verizon to provide their FiOS service to Asharoken Village. FiOS is the Verizon offering that provides telephone, internet and television services in competition with the Cablevision Optimum set of products. The activation of FiOS for the Village has taken much longer than expected as

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negotiations were delayed by Verizon policy and their change of attorney. We believe that the end of these negotiations is in sight and the service should be available within our Village in the near future.

Missing Village Documents

It appears that, in the past, some individuals in their capacity as Village officials had the flexibility of taking official documents out of Village Hall so as to conduct business from their homes. While I also believe in providing flexibility to people that give of their time, this past practice has resulted in many official documents now missing from Village Hall. This includes maps, building plans, original blue prints, official Village minutes, etc. I must remind people that any documents that were removed from Village Hall are the property of our Village and, respectfully, should be turned over to our Village Clerk.

Voter Registration

Asharoken has Village elections every year, alternating two Trustee positions and the Mayor, every other year. Our next election is June 16, 2009. If you are not already registered to vote here in Asharoken, registration forms are available in Village

Hall. Our Village Clerk is also our Elections Officer. Please call Nancy if you have any questions at Village Hall 631-261-7098.

Acknowledgements

In closing I would like to acknowledge the Asharoken Garden Club for the donation of a decorated holiday wreath for our Village Hall.

A special thank you to the Ettinger family, for their donation of a Menorah to display in Village Hall, and thank you to Mel for all his help with Village Hall repairs.

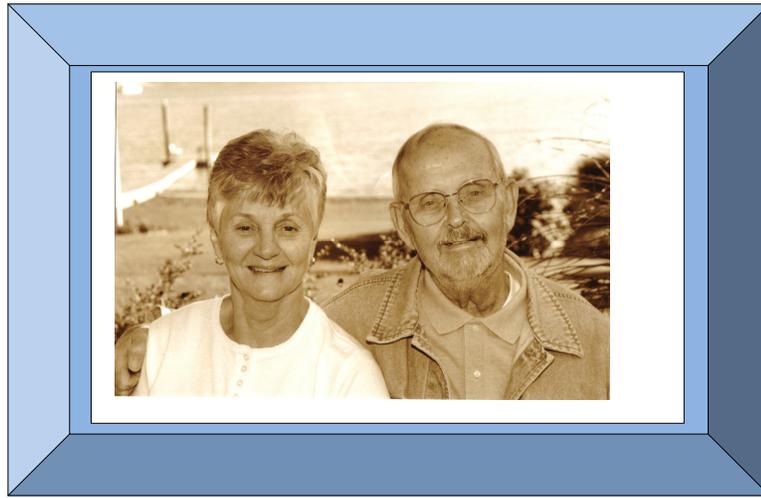
Thank you to Nolan Taylor-Howe Funeral Home for supplying Santa with goodies for the children.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year,

Mayor Patricia Irving



Tim Steffens



Longtime Asharoken resident and humanitarian, Tim Steffens has passed after a brief illness. Tim was raised in Brooklyn and moved to Long Island as a young man. He served in the Korean Conflict and went on to get a masters degree in Education. Tim began his career as an elementary school teacher. He met his soul mate and wife Doris at a roller rink in Queens in 1952. They married in 1955. As Doris says, “they rolled along happily together for 55 years”. Tim and Doris moved to Huntington shortly after they were married. In 1959, Tim went into his family business and took over as Administrator of the Birchwood Nursing Home, a position he held for 45 years. In 1970, Tim and Doris moved their young family into their family home in Asharoken.

Tim settled right into Asharoken, as he was an ardent boater who loved to fish. Tim was also an ardent giver. He served his Asharoken community as a Trustee, a Police Commissioner and a Highway Commissioner. He was generous to all who crossed his path. Tim was a faithful man who was very involved in his church. He was the driving force behind the building of an orphanage in Central America.

Tim passed at Hospice House with all of his family by his side. He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and the anticipated arrival of a great grandchild. All who knew him will remember Tim with love and fondness. Asharoken is the special place it is because of people like Tim Steffens.

Police Department

Deputy Mayor Pete Masterson

As Police Commissioner, with Deputy Commissioner Mel Ettinger, we have reviewed the Police Department budget with Officer-in-Charge Ray Mahdesian. We do not anticipate the budget resulting in any significant Village tax increases.

The Emergency Planning Committee, chaired by Bill Raisch, has made great strides in developing an Emergency Plan. The goal is to develop effective, safe and precise protocols to mitigate any damages that may result from natural or man-made disasters that may occur within or near our Village. With the Committee, I participated in completing a Risk Assessment analysis. We are now engaged in a process to develop a mitigation plan that coordinates with other agencies, including Suffolk County, Northport Police and Fire Departments, Eatons Neck Fire Department, US Coast Guard Station Eatons Neck, the Town of Huntington and NYS Department of Emergency Management.



Stormwater Management and Our Quality of Life

Trustee Avrum H. Golub, M.D., J.D.

Stormwater management and the amelioration of the adverse effects of the pollutants contained in runoff such as:

Nitrogen containing materials from fertilizers

Animal waste

Road oils and salts

Sediment

are significant for maintaining the beauty, health and safety of our Asharoken.

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Asharoken has received \$100,000 in State Assistance Funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for a project entitled the “Asharoken Avenue Stormwater Catch Basin Project” (AASWCBP). Asharoken has entered a contract with NYSDEC.

The intent of the AASWCBP is to use appropriate structural means and technologies to lessen the input of pollutants that are carried by stormwater runoff into our waters and wetlands. Also, we plan to reduce water puddling, especially at the corner of Bevin Road and Asharoken Avenue – a location at which many of our children wait for school buses.

We have met with licensed professional engineers representing firms that are expert in designing structural means that will effectively lessen stormwater runoff associated problems. We hope that the AASWCBP will be accomplished during the warmer weather to come.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and input.

Thank you, as your Commissioner for Environmental Matters, for the opportunity to participate in working for and toward a better Asharoken.

Code Corner - Do I Need A Building Permit?

Building Inspector Doug Adil

One question that has come up a number of times in my short tenure as Building Inspector is “do I need a building permit for this work?”. Alternately, I also hear a version after the project has started, “I didn’t know that I needed a permit for *that*” ...

Chances are, you need a building permit for work done on your house (or outbuildings) if any of the work to be done is described in the Residential Code of New York State and the Village Code of Asharoken. New York State code describes in detail the construction requirements that help maintain the health, safety and welfare of our residents. Asharoken Code builds on this to add specific requirements for zoning (where, how large, type of use and so forth). If the standards and requirements describe the work, whether it be siding, roofing, window replacement, additions or new construction, even driveway aprons and decorative pillars at your driveway entry, then you need a building permit before you can proceed.

Remember that we live in a high-wind zone area where there is open exposure to the elements. Work standards that might be adequate in many other less exposed areas of Long Island do not apply in our area. The beauty and pristine character found in Asharoken brings with it risk, and our codes mandate that the risk be mitigated within reason.

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As an example, let's say you want to install a storage shed on your property. 'Shed City' has a deal that includes installation on blocks anywhere in your yard. The issues you need to consider are whether and where it can legally be installed, how large can it be, if a foundation is required, how must it be attached to the foundation and what do I need to submit to the Village to document all of this.

In cases where the proposed use doesn't conform to the basic requirements, there is an appeals process in the Zoning Board of Appeals that addresses this. Even if that storage shed you like looks more like a tent or awning structure, the same rules apply; it must conform to the building and zoning requirements.

If you have any questions at all about work that you may be performing, please don't hesitate to contact me before the work starts.

Not a Dumpster

Trustee Joe Affrunti

As you all know, we experienced a disabled garbage truck a few days before the Holidays. Rodents chewed through the wiring in the engine compartment. The damage caused by the rodent chewing resulted in costly repairs to our garbage truck and our need to borrow a truck and crew from the Village of Lloyd Harbor.

Some of our residents have taken to depositing trash at Village Hall, using the parked garbage truck as a dumpster. Please, we must ask that this practice be stopped. It is NO LONGER permitted. This dumping of garbage is unsafe, unsanitary and attracts rodents which damage the truck, Village Hall, and results in the expenditures of monies for costly repairs.

Please familiarize yourself with the collection schedule. The schedule is available on our website, www.Asharoken.com, and is included in this newsletter. Any last minute changes are posted at Village Hall and on the website.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Santa visits Asharoken



All photos are courtesy of Steve Silverman. For all pictures from Santa in Asharoken, please visit the Village website: www.asharoken.com

<http://www.asharoken.com/calendar.htm>

January 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1  New Year's Day No Mail	2 Trash Pickup
5 Trustees Meeting (Village Hall)  Trash Pickup	6	7 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	8  Trash Pickup	9
12  Trash Pickup	13	14 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	15  Trash Pickup	16
19  Martin Luther King Day No Mail Schools Closed	20  Inauguration Day Trash Pickup	21 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	22  Trash Pickup	23
26  Trash Pickup Special Trustees Meeting (Village Hall)	27	28 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	29  Trash Pickup	30

February 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Trustees Meeting (Village Hall)  Trash Pickup	3	4 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	5  Trash Pickup	6
9  Trash Pickup	10	11 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	12  Trash Pickup	13
16  Presidents Day No Mail Schools Closed	17 Trash Pickup Schools Closed	18 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling Schools Closed	19  Trash Pickup Schools Closed	20 Schools Closed
23  Trash Pickup	24	25 Ash Wednesday Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	26  Trash Pickup	27

March 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Trustees Meeting (Village Hall) Trash Pickup	3	4 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	5 Trash Pickup	6
9 Trash Pickup	10	11 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	12 Trash Pickup	13
16 Trash Pickup	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	19 Trash Pickup	20 First Day of Spring
23 Trash Pickup	24	25 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	26 Trash Pickup	27
30 Special Trustees Meeting (Village Hall) Trash Pickup	31			

April 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	2 Trash Pickup	3
6 Trustees Meeting (Village Hall) Trash Pickup	7	8 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	9 Passover Begins No Trash Pickup: Truck in for Service	10 Good Friday No Trash Pickup: Truck in for Service
13 Trash Pickup	14	15 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	16 Passover Ends Trash Pickup	17
20 Trash Pickup	21	22 Newspaper / Cardboard Recycling	23 Trash Pickup	24
27 Trash Pickup	28	29 Bottles / Cans / Plastic Recycling	30 Trash Pickup	



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11768

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