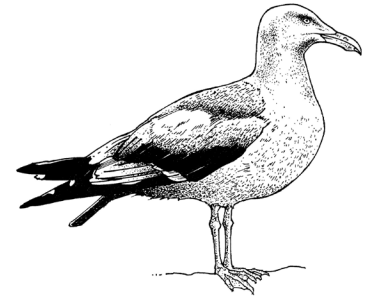


# ASHAROKEN NEWS



## VILLAGE ELECTION RESULTS

On June 17, 2014 at the Eatons Neck firehouse, 100 Asharoken residents voted for the unopposed Asharoken Integrity Party. Greg Letica received 92 votes, Melvin Ettinger, received 83, Laura Burke received 83 and Mark D. Kleczka received 89. There were five write-ins. All will take office on July 7th at noon.



**Mayor Greg Letica**, has been a resident of Asharoken for 57 years. In the past, he served as Mayor, Treasurer, Trustee, Police Commissioner, and as Deputy Harbor Master. His wife, Linda, is an educator. Together, they parent her sons, John, a videographer, and Dan,

a medical student, as well as a Golden Retriever, Kendall. Greg, a dentist practicing in Northport, attended the University of Rochester and received his D.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Trustee Laura Burke** has followed the example of her parents, Pat and George Rittenhouse, whose combined service to the Village was over 40 years. She was a Trustee for Mayor Kelly as well as for Mayor Letica. Formerly VP Marketing for Barnes & Noble, Inc. and Foot Locker Corp, she served on the Board of the Northport Little League and is a member of the Red Hot Mamas, a professional senior tap dancing company. She has three children and is married to former bank president, Anthony Burke.



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**Trustee Melvin A. Ettinger** has been a resident of Asharoken for the last 24 years. In the past, he served as a Trustee, Police Commissioner, as Highway Commissioner and as Superintendent of Public Works. Most recently, he was CEO and Vice Chairman of Applied

Graphics Technologies, NASDAQ (AGTX) and prior to that, the CEO of Xerox Graphic Systems. His distinguished service awards are too numerous to mention. He and his wife, Joan, have three grown daughters and five grandchildren.

**Judge Mark Kleczka**, a 10-year Asharoken resident, has practiced law in Northport since 1984. His Masters in Public Administration is from N.Y.U. and his Law Degree is from Seton Hall Law School He and his wife Susanna, a Registered Nurse, are the parents of six and owners of 5 dogs, plus many cats and rabbits. He has been a coach for Little League as well as other youth sports and is a Trustee of both the Northport and Genola Rural Cemeteries.



# MAYOR'S LETTER

On June 3rd the Army Corps of Engineers and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation made a presentation on the proposed beach restoration of the Long Island Soundside beach from the National Grid jetty to west of the seawall. Following the presentation our residents asked a series of insightful and sophisticated questions and they left the meeting much better informed about the project. If you were not able to attend I urge you to visit [Asharoken.com](http://Asharoken.com) to see the ACOE/DEC power point presentation and read my invitation letter to understand where the project stands today. **It is critical that everyone in Asharoken be well informed on this topic.** Because of Sandy there is now federal funding to finish the feasibility study that began in 2001 and construct the project. The DEC has agreed to allow a one-time dredging of Long Island Sound.

To paraphrase what Gene Brickman with the ACOE said during the presentation, the Village will have more storms, more beach erosion, more road wash over by the seawall. If the Village decides not to move forward with this project; then we are accepting the fact that we do not want to be protected. We have every favorable rule on our side because of the Sandy bill and it will be a very long time before we see an opportunity like this one come again.

## **The benefits of the beach restoration project are significant:**

- Stability of real estate values of everyone's homes and beach lots in the Village
- Protection of the soundside homes by having an enlarged beach
- Protection of Asharoken Avenue
- Periodic beach re-nourishments following the initial construction
- An ACOE policy, that if a major storm damages the beach, the shoreline will be restored to its pre-storm condition at no cost to the village
- Federal and State government will pay for 89.5% of initial construction cost and 85% of re-nourishment cost.
- This is a one-time opportunity; if the village decides not to accept the ACOE/DEC project plan the funding that has been earmarked for the Village by Congress will likely never be offered to us again. By not accepting the federal funding the cost to individual homeowners to restore the beach could likely be up to \$100,000 per home.

## **The Village's obligation will be:**

- To pay for 10.5% of the beach restoration project cost and 15% of the re-nourishments
- Provide six foot wide public access strips approximately every ½ mile and public access to the entire beach as required by federal and state law. These access points may not necessarily lead to substantial public beach use, based on a similar situation in West Hampton Dunes.
- Provide some parking

The Village will look to mitigate some of these issues by reaching out to Suffolk County and the Town of Huntington for financial assistance. Secondly, Asharoken will reach out to Huntington and National Grid to provide a satisfactory parking area. Finally, the Village will have discussions with Senator Schumer's and Congressman Israel's offices to seek other assistance.

To reiterate, if we turn down this beach restoration project, our Village will likely never see an opportunity like this again. I encourage everyone to go to the website and learn about the project and feel free to contact me at [mayorgregletica@gmail.com](mailto:mayorgregletica@gmail.com) or the ACOE/DEC (contact names and numbers on the website) with questions or comments. I will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available, and if you have not given your email address to the Village I urge you to do so to get these important notifications.

I would like to congratulate our newsletter editor, Joan Hauser, on the publication of her first novel, *A Life of Her Own*. The book is story of a Jewish family that immigrates to the United States from Russia in the early 1900s. The story follows the family's life in Manhattan and is semi-biographical historical fiction.. The book is a terrific read. Thanks to Marty Hakker for a great job in procuring our fireworks show this year. Carole Casamassima and Linda Letica also deserve many thanks for raising and donating \$8500 to cover the cost of the barge and the tug for the fireworks (see article).

Linda and I wish everyone a great summer and a happy Fourth of July. Please review the enclosed insert letter regarding Fourth of July. Thank you and enjoy!

Mayor Greg Letica

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# POLICE REPORT

By Ray Mahdesian,  
Officer-in-Charge

## Narcan

Police work is always challenging. We find ourselves constantly preparing to provide service in a changing society.

Consider, for example, the tremendous rise in the use of heroin, as well as prescription pills, all around us. Addiction to opiates of all types is widespread among all age groups and is largely responsible for a rise in crime, from burglaries to bank robberies to murder, as those addicted will stop at nothing to finance their craving. While a dose of heroin is relatively cheap at about five dollars compared to the cost of prescription pain pills, the addict's increasing need can easily result in a twenty-bag daily habit costing well over one hundred dollars. Pills cost even more. How does someone who cannot hold a job finance that? You read the papers.

In addition to dealing with crimes being committed, the problems police face with drug abusers are wide and varied, including people driving under the influence causing accidents and drug abusers overdosing as they try to satiate an ever-increasing need. Police everywhere are responding to calls for help as addicts are found unconscious, some with needles still in their arms.

In an attempt to save lives, police throughout Suffolk County are being equipped this year with naloxone (NARCAN<sup>tm</sup>) kits. Every Asharoken police officer was recently trained through Suffolk County Health Department to administer intranasal doses of this life-saving drug to overdose patients, and each Asharoken police car carries a NARCAN kit. It should be emphasized that we are concerned not just with reversing heroin overdoses, but with accidental overdoses of prescription pills as well – any opioid.

It would have been hard to imagine just a few years ago that your police would someday be called upon to administer a drug to combat an opioid overdose. It is unfortunately a sign of the times and just one example of how police work is constantly adapting to cope with new problems.

As in all aspects of police service, you may rest assured that your police always stand ready to meet the task at hand.

# ARBOR DAY

By Conservation Chair, Marty Cohen

Last fall Asharoken Village applied for an Arbor Day grant from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). On April 25, 2014, Governor Cuomo released a letter announcing the awarding of grants to many communities around the State, including a \$1000 grant to our Village. (No matching funds are required). Since then, we have been waiting to receive specific information about a contract, which must be signed before any of the funds can be spent. Our hope is to have all the paperwork taken care of in time for a Village Arbor Day Celebration in the fall.

Arbor Day is celebrated nationally on the last Friday in April and is an observance that promotes tree planting and tree care, and also highlights the importance of trees to our environment, our economy and our quality of life. The DEC, with these \$1,000 grants, encourages municipalities like ours to hold a celebration emphasizing how trees help improve air quality, reduce energy consumption and beautify the landscape. In addition, these grants will help community green professionals and volunteers to protect existing trees and plant new trees.

In Asharoken, the effects of Hurricane Sandy were devastating to many of our trees. In addition to the trees blown down by the high winds, many others were killed or severely damaged by the salt spray and flooding salt water. On Village Arbor Day, we will celebrate the replacement of two trees lost in front of the Village Hall parking lot and we'll also provide educational material to all residents about trees that are tolerant to the conditions that arise in our seaside location. (Note: the tree planting area will not be affected by the potential construction of a new Village Hall.)

For those interested in learning more now about salt-tolerant trees and shrubs, a guide for coastal planting along Long Island Sound, produced by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, provides an extensive list of species along with tolerance ratings. Not surprisingly, the Eastern Red Cedar, Beach Plum and Bayberry are all highly rated. The guide can be found by searching at [uconn.edu](http://uconn.edu).

In our next newsletter, we should be able to give more information about the date and schedule for the Village Arbor Day Celebration.



# BLOOD DRIVE



Once again, Asharoken turned out to donate blood. This year, we collected only 12 units, significantly less than the 66 units we collected last year. For health reasons, the Blood Center cannot accept donors when the temperature rises above 85 degrees. Due to the weather, the Blood Drive had to close its doors early.

The New York Blood Center, established in 1964, is one of the largest community-based non-profit blood collection and distribution organizations in the United States. It annually provides one million blood components to nearly 200 local hospitals, aiding patients with safe transfusions as well as participating in blood research.



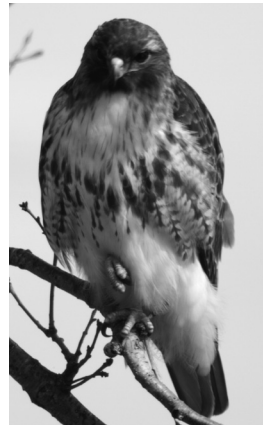
# BIRDING



By Greg Letica

## Home To Many Birds

The Village of Asharoken is home to many birds of prey and thanks to the sharp eyes of several residents I have some cool sightings to report. The Whitcombs found an active Red Tailed Hawk's nest high up in one of the trees near their house. The picture to your left



was taken by Brian McNally in March near Duck Island. The Dosantos found a Snowy Owl in their yard this winter. And finally, Bill Froehlich spotted a Great Horned Owl on his flagpole several weeks ago. Eastern Screech Owls are also commonly found throughout the village. All three species of falcons, Merlin, Kestrel and Peregrine are usually seen at least once

a year. So as you can see, Asharoken is not all about seagulls and ducks when it comes to birds.

2014 has been a good year with 101 species found to date. The Village seemed overrun at one point with Ovenbirds, a small ground loving wood warbler. Although I had not seen one in Asharoken for a few years, this spring I found them on multiple days. There were also several days where both species of orioles, Baltimore and Orchard, could be seen together in a flowering tree on Bevin Road.

The Piping Plovers have returned and several pairs have nests on the beach. For the second time in three years one pair has selected Chateau Letica to settle in front of. My hope is that they will all hatch their eggs well before the 4th of July. Our two pairs of nesting Osprey are also doing well and with a little luck the ones on Asharoken Avenue will have their first chicks in a few weeks.



*Please send pictures of Asharoken animals, scenic or event sightings with details for inclusion in the next issue. E-mail to [joang30@gmail.com](mailto:joang30@gmail.com). Call 631-261-5897.*

# ASHAROKEN, POLITICALLY SPEAKING

By Ed Carr, Village Historian

The Village of Asharoken was formed 89 years ago. The Mayor and 4 Trustees have terms of 2 years. So elections have been held each year in an alternating fashion. On odd years, the elections are for two Trustees, and on even years (such as this one in 2014) a Mayor, two Trustees, and a Police Justice. The only time that Asharoken has had an entire slate of officials serve who were all appointed at once, and never elected, was in 1925 when the village was formed. The Mayor and Trustees who were named on the original incorporation papers that were filed with the New York State Secretary of State simply assumed office without an election.

Village government, like Town government, is a microcosm of our national and state levels of government in that there is a distinct executive, legislative, and judicial branch. The Mayor is the executive. Basically the Chief



Executive Officer of the Village is similar to a Town Supervisor, Governor, or President. The Trustees are the legislative branch of government similar to a Town Councilman, State Senator/Assemblyman, or Congressman/US Senator. And the Village Justice is the judicial branch, similar to the Town's District Court Judges, or State and US Supreme Court Justices. The only oddity occurring in Villages and Towns is that the executive also sits on the dais with the legislative branch, and votes. In state and federal government, the executive is not a member of the legislature or congress, but the Lieutenant Governor and the Vice President are, so they preside and vote.

In Asharoken, a third of the Mayors were initially appointed due to the death of the previous Mayor. This was the case when Miner Crary Sr. assumed office after the death of Mayor Young. Later, Sydney Bevin took over after the death of Mayor Crary and Mayor Mudgridge took over after the death of Mayor Bevin. Mayor Bill Kelly was our longest serving mayor for 26 years edging out Mayor Walter Young who was Mayor for 19 years.

Prior to Village Hall being built in 1939, Village elections and meetings were held at the home of the Village Clerk, Victor Bevin, who first lived where #69, #71, and #73 Bevin Road stand today, and then resided at the home of Edith Storey at #489 Asharoken Avenue.

Perhaps the most politically charged and controversial election occurred in 1976 involving a proposal to cluster rezone the Morgan Estate in order to accommodate developer Otto Papparazzo. The proposal was favored by the incumbent Mayor Verzyl, and opposed by the challenger Peter Anderson. A record turnout ensued, and Peter Anderson and his slate were elected.

The longest serving Village officials in Asharoken history were Charles D. Brown and Miner D. Crary. They served for over 30 years each when combining their service in various capacities as Trustee, ZBA members or Village Attorneys, and as Village Justices and Associate Justices.

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## **ASHAROKEN.COM IS THE PLACE TO GO**

This web site, created by Eric Maffei and Steve Trombetti, provides answers to all your questions about our Village and its scheduled events plus emergency information when required. The larger local community is represented as well.

**CHECK IT OUT!**

# POOL SAFETY REMINDERS

By Doug Adil, R.A.

## Building Superintendent and Flood Plain Manager

This is the time of year in Asharoken when many homeowners start pool installation projects, spend time (and money) to repair/upgrade their existing pools, or get their pool open. With this focus on recreation comes the need to be aware of pool safety tips.

Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years old in the United States, and is the leading cause of injury-related death for children ages 1 to 4 years old. Most drownings occur in residential swimming pools; many of these young children were last seen in the home, had been out of sight less than 5 minutes, and were in the care of one or both parents at the time.

### Supervision

- Never take your eyes off children in the water - not even for a minute! Parents may think they'll hear splashing and screaming when a child is in trouble, but when a child drowns, it usually happens quickly and silently.
- Don't allow a young child in the pool without an adult.
- Knowing how to swim doesn't make a child drown-proof. Never use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

### Install Barriers at Home Pools

- A barrier, such as a fence that is at least 4 feet high, must surround the pool or spa. The gate or door must be self-closing and self-latching with the latch out of a child's reach. If the house serves as one side of the barrier, there must be an alarm on doors that have direct access to the pool.
- A power safety pool cover or safety cover for spas is another barrier option. The safety cover must meet ASTM standard F1346-91.
- If the safety cover meets standards, additional barriers, such as fencing, may be optional - check with the Village Building Inspector.

### Avoid Entrapments

- Don't play or swim near drains or suction outlets, especially in spas and shallow pools.
- Keep long hair away from suction drains by using hair braids, bands, or swim caps.
- Never enter a pool or spa that has a loose, broken, or missing drain cover.
- Know where the electrical cut-off switch for the pool or spa pump is and mark it for quick turnoff.
- If someone is entrapped against a drain, cut-off the power to the pump immediately. Instead of trying to pull the person away from the powerful suction, pry a hand between the drain and the person's body to break the seal.
- Have a professional regularly inspect your home pool or spa for entrapment hazards.
- Ask your pool professional if your pool or spa's drains are compliant with the Pool and Spa Safety Act. If they're not, find out what options you can take to prevent entrapment from drains.

Lastly, if your pool and/or pool equipment was under water from the storm, the electrical wiring that supports the filter, pump, lighting etc. may have been damaged by the salt water. If you are concerned that this may be an issue, contact a Licensed Electrician, who can inspect the wiring for evidence of damage. When you are dealing with water and electricity, it is better to be safe.

# REMEMBERING BILL KELLY



Willaim H. Kelly, our Mayor for 26 years, died on April 6, 2014 at the age of 73 in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Ann Kelly, and his daughter Morgan and son Kevin

Bill was first elected Mayor in 1982. He remained in that position until 2008. During his tenure, Village Hall was enlarged, Asharoken Avenue was repaved, the Village began re-cycling newspapers, cans, and plastic, and he instituted the 4th of July fireworks and *Asharoken News*.

He was a colorful and controversial man who enjoyed the spotlight, particularly when it involved his neighbors. He loved playing Santa Claus and hosted an annual St. Patrick's Day party for all residents. Officiating at weddings was a particular pleasure of his. It was during his terms that the Village instituted an annual Newcomer's Tea, a Village Picnic, and other Asharoken get-togethers.

He began a relentless battle against Long Island Lighting Company and its successor, Long Island Power Authority in an attempt to force the power suppliers to replenish the eroded sand on the Sound-side. Eventually, under his aegis, the Village instigated a lawsuit against the power company.

While he was Mayor, he served as President of the New York State Conference of Mayors in 1988 and as President of the Suffolk County and Tri County Village Officials Associations in 1989. He ran and was defeated for the post of County Executive in 1991 and for Huntington Town Supervisor in 1993, both on the

Conservative ticket. He was a life member of Kiwanis, receiving the Legion of Honor for 30 years of public service.

Bill grew up in Kingston, New York. He graduated from Villanova University with a Degree in Electrical Engineering and from Georgetown University with a Masters Degree in Economics. In 1976, he formed WHK leasing, a company specializing in leasing main frame computer equipment to large corporations.

Family members say that he had a passion for reading, with personal library of more than 6,000 books. His favorite subject was Civil War history, one he pursued enthusiastically after his move to Williamsburg.

Ann, Morgan, and Kevin Kelly are planning a "Celebration of Life" for Bill on Wednesday, July 2nd, between 5 and 8 at their home on 220 Asharoken Avenue. As with Bill's annual St. Patrick's Day parties, it will be open to the Village, with light fare and an open bar. All are welcome.

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## GIFT TO VILLAGE



This year, residents have defrayed one-third of the cost of our annual Fourth of July fireworks. Carole Casamassima provided her part of the fund from the raffle she organized at the annual Holiday Party she runs. Linda Letica created a line of Asharoken clothing to raise her part of the \$8,500 amount. The donations will pay for the cost of the tug boat and barge, which is approximately one-third the cost of the fireworks display. In the last 4 years, Carole has raised over \$20,000. As Mayor Letica said, "This type of volunteerism is what makes our Village such a terrific place to live."

Carole urges everyone to save the date for next year's Holiday Party on November 1st. It will be the sixth year this event has taken place. It's a chance to spend a delightful evening with friends and neighbors—and participate in a lavish raffle!

# BOATING SAFETY

By Bill Raisch, Emergency Manager



## Boating Safety Checklist

Some key items that you should have aboard your boat for a safe boating season include the following items. More detail is available from your local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla where you can also arrange a free Vessel Safety Check and Decal as well as safe boating classes ([www.uscgaux2202.org](http://www.uscgaux2202.org))

**Always Start with a Plan:** consider in advance the weather, sea conditions, your crew and boat capabilities; let others know where you are going and when you intend to return

**Life Vests (Personal Floatation Devices or PFDs):** one for each person onboard, readily accessible and in good condition. A throwable device should be immediately accessible

**Fire Extinguishers:** (number required varies on boat size)

**Marine VHF Radio**

**Visual Distress Signals:** three day/night flares and/or distress flag and emergency lights

**Sound Producing Device:** bell, whistle, horn, siren

**Navigation Lights:** for display between sunset and sunrise

**Dewatering Device & Backup:** bilge pumps with hand pump or bucket

**Anchor and Line:** a key safety item to keep you in place should your engine fail

**First Aid Kit**

**Local Navigation Chart**

**Display of Numbers:** registration numbers on both forward sides of hull and current state tax sticker

**Registration / Documentation:** must be onboard

**Engine Ventilation:** powered ventilation for gasoline engines with closed compartments

**Backfire Flame Control:** for gasoline

powered inboard/outboard or inboard motor boats

**Pollution Placard:** for oily waste on boats 26 feet and over with a machinery compartment

**MARPOL Trash Placard:** for boats 26 feet and over

**Marine Sanitation Device:** toilets must be Coast Guard approved and capable of being sealed from overboard discharge

**USCG Navigation Rules:** current copy onboard for boats 39.4 feet and over

**Overall Good Vessel Condition:** deck free of hazards, clean bilge, safe electrical and fuel systems, safe galley and heating systems



## VILLAGE HALL UP-DATE

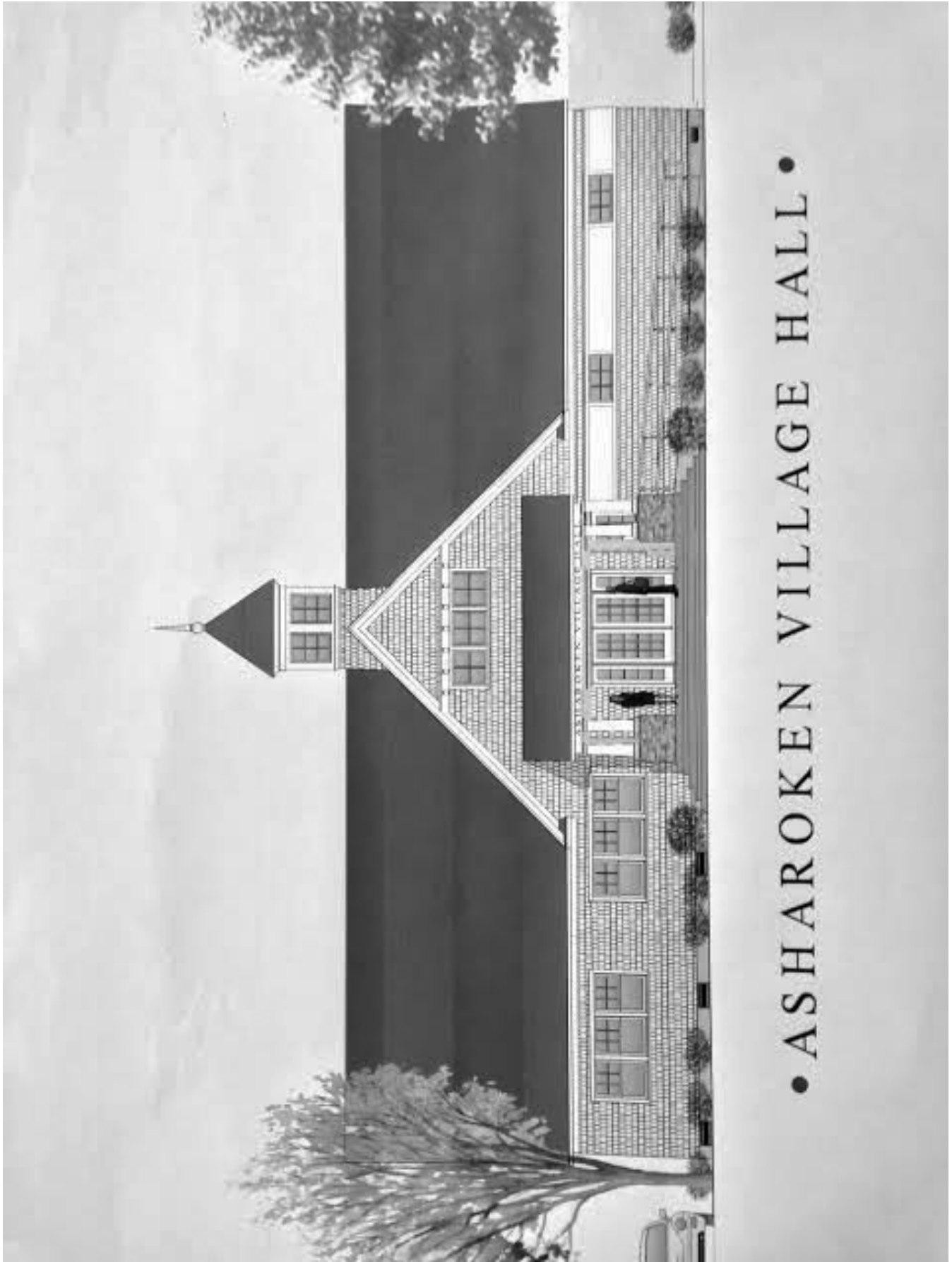
(See Picture on Page Nine)

By Mayor Greg Letica

On Friday, May 30th, the Village received the final approval for the Village Hall project worksheet. After approximately ten months of gathering information, inspections and reaching out to Congressman Israel for support, we finally received the final funding amount from FEMA. The amount the Village will receive will be \$533,855.45 which is net of our 10% local share as well as all insurance deductions. We are very close to completing our bid package and expect to begin advertising this month.

In addition the Village received notice from FEMA that our request to extend 90% coverage of the cost of the Village Hall and police trailers has been extended to November of 2015. The Village is waiting for final approval for reimbursements in the amount of approximately \$12,000 net of our local share.





• ASHAROKEN VILLAGE HALL •

# A BLAST FROM THE PAST

## An Old Time Fourth

By Ed Carr, Village Historian

Note: This article first appeared in the *Asharoken News* on July/August, 1998

The changes that occurred in Asharoken in the past one hundred years would shock the casual observer. In 1898, Asharoken Beach, (then known as East Beach) was devoid of houses and trees. Virtually nothing grew taller than beach grass or low-lying bushes. Nonetheless, the Fourth of July celebrations on the beach were not so different from those of today.

From various newspapers of the time, it is known that many Northport families would arrive on our beaches every Fourth for a day in the sun. In the evening, huge fires were lit—much larger than the “big” bonfires we see today. Groups of thirty to forty people would compete to build perhaps ten giant fires along the beach. Sometimes, the fires would spread to the dry grass and burn several acres of brush above the beach. Since there were literally no houses for miles, this presented no problems.




On Duck Island, the Rowland family utilized the western (Crary) half of the island as the site for an annual Fourth of July picnic. As many as five hundred families would arrive by excursion steamer from Northport and beyond for a day of swimming and fireworks. In later years, the Edward Thompson family (Northport’s largest employer with their law book publishing company) purchased the island and held opulent parties every year for Northport’s well-to-do.

On Eaton’s Neck, the DeLamater heirs would gather at the house of Mr. DeLamater’s oldest daughter, Laura Bevin, for an “old time Fourth”. This included an open invitation to all the estate’s servants (sometimes as many as twenty) as well as the field hands from the family’s Beacon Farm (now the Morgan Estate). With no electricity, the entertainment consisted of joke-telling, small skits and plays, recitations, and happy interchanges with neighbors and friends. Food was plentiful and fireworks were always launched from the front lawn.


To sum it up best in Laura Bevin’s words:

*“The boys had lots of firecrackers and Dewey bombs during the day...balloons were loaded with crackers...a gathering of more than fifty on the lawn...adjourned to see a minstrel performance by Will Donnell. Very good and funny...the Gardiners arrived in two carriages...Raymond sang and played a song for us, Dr. Raymond got up a charade on the word idiosyncrasy which played splendidly...cake and lemonade...To bed about midnight...an old time Fourth!!”*

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**CELEBRATE THE FOURTH THE ASHAROKEN WAY**  
**NO FIREWORKS PERMITTED ON OUR BEACHES**  
**9:15 on Friday, July 4th (Rain date is July 5th)**  
***Soundside residents are urged to invite***  
***their Bayside neighbors to enjoy the show.***



# THE ENEMY IS NEAR

By Joan G. Hauser, Editor

Your garden is under attack! Alien plant invaders are poised, ready to leap onto your prized turf, flower bed, or vegetable garden. Their weapons are manifold. They are hardy, often outnumber your chosen crops, and can be wafted through the air by birds and wind if they're not tunneling under the soil. How can you cope short of lining up a cannon and taking aim?

Begin with the definition of a weed: *a plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth; especially one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants.*



So, according to the dictionary, it's all in the eye of the beholder.

In the plant world, competition for the basics—water, nutrients, and light—is a fact of life. Weeds are simply far more vigorous than the

rest. (That's why they're called weeds!) Some produce thousands of long-living seeds from a single plant and may live dormant in the soil for up to 30 years. The top inch of soil in any single acre contains an estimated 3 million weed seeds.

Timely removal—before seeds set and proliferate—will help to keep your garden healthy. Weeds may act as hosts for insects and bacterial diseases that attack crops, particularly in the vegetable garden. It makes sense to get rid of them before they mature.

Herbicides are not always the best solution because they are detrimental to the environment and may inadvertently kill some of your other plants, or contaminate your vegetables. However, when removing potentially dangerous plants, such as poison ivy, oak, and sumac, don't hesitate to use commercial products. Eradicating Asharoken poison ivy by hand is almost impossible.

Knowledge is power. Try to identify the intruders when they first emerge and are easiest to remove by hand. When you dig them out, make sure to pull up the roots, using a special weeder, a screwdriver, or an old knife depending upon what's handy. When the soil is moist, it's a lot easier.

Your lawn is probably surrounded by marauding armies of weeds. There are armies of dandelions, plantain, knotweed, violets, purslane, chickweed, crab and twitch grass just waiting to lay siege. Some, such as violets, are charming at first and overwhelming when they take over.

The best defense is to keep your turf thick and healthy. Determine the sunny and shady areas of your property and plant grass seed accordingly. Mow at approximately 3 inches. Add fertilizer in late April, late May, and September. If possible, use organic fertilizer, manure, compost, or a mixture of your own. An inch of water per week should be enough. Grass clippings left on the lawn after mowing will promote growth.

If weeds have completely taken over and you want to begin again on your quest for the perfect croquet venue, use heavy black plastic sheeting to stifle them and begin again. You can always “go natural” and create a wild-looking un-mown jungle in front of your house. Don't think it will turn into a magnificent pastoral “meadow,” though. That can only be achieved by careful planning.

Keep your eyes open. Consider yourself an advance scout. Any plant suited to our climate and your tending can become a weed if it is allowed to proliferate unchecked. Remember, when you are preparing your beds, the mere cultivation of the soil will bring previously hidden weeds to light. Use mulch to stop re-occurrence. A few of the local bullies trying to take over Asharoken beds are violets, phlox, hardy ageratum, buttercups, dame's rocket, golden corydalis, goldenrod, forget-me-nots, honeysuckle, and bittersweet.

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## FRESH & LOCAL



For more complete information about farm stands and farmer's markets in our neighborhood, go to: long island farm bureau on line. If you prefer to pick-your-own, go to: [www.Discoverlongisland.Co](http://www.Discoverlongisland.Co).

# SANITATION SCHEDULE

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 	5
			BCP	Pick up		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Pick up		NC	Pick up		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Pick up		BCP	Pick up		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Pick up		NC	Pick up		
27	28	29	30	31		
	Pick up		BCP	Pick up		

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Pick up		NC	Pick up		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Pick up		BCP	Pick up		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Pick up		NC	Pick up		
24	25	26	27	28		
	Pick up		BCP	Pick up		

BCP--BOTTLES, CANS, PLASTIC

NC--NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD

YW--YARD WASTE PICKUP

Village of Asharoken

1 Asharoken Avenue

Northport, New York, 11768