

DRINKING WATER PURITY AT RISK

By Kathleen Cunningham

Clean drinking water, essential for human health and safety, is a fundamental right and important quality of life issue. When residents turn on the tap, they assume their drinking water is safe. However, recent studies by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services reveal that nitrogen infiltration of our drinking water has reached alarming levels, with little to no mitigation of the causes of this contamination in view.

The Society has joined a partnership of environmental organizations, the Clean Water Partnership, committed to developing a Clean Water Action Plan for Long Island. Such a plan calls for state action to establish new management structures to monitor water quality on Long Island and set new enforceable ecological standards for nitrogen that will protect and restore our local bays, harbors and surface waters.

Communities on the East End, including East Hampton, have the greatest concentration of conventional septic systems, the highest number of private wells, the highest levels of pesticide contamination in groundwater and the lightest deployment of advance sewage treatment technology on Long Island. All water is pumped from the sole source aquifer, providing water for all uses, whether delivered by Suffolk County, a Village or some other entity.

Recent studies demonstrate that increasing pollution from sewage, pesticides and toxic chemicals is responsible for closing beaches and poisoning shellfish beds. A 200% increase in nitrogen over the last 15 years, generates “red” and “brown” tides and algae contamination, depleting our bays and surface waters of the necessary nutrients to support sea life. Also detected in drinking water are antibiotics, often flushed into the aquifer via private septic systems. To eliminate this additional source of pollution, do not flush your unused drugs, deposit them in the receptacles provided at all local police stations through East End Medication Disposal Program. No questions asked.

The Society will host a Water Quality Informational Forum in July open to the public. Postcard alerts will be mailed to members. Details to follow.

Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, New York 11937

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton for the Membership Year from January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address: _____

Visit our website at: www.villagepreservationsociety.org

Number of Members in this Membership (please circle one) 1 2 3 Other

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Contributors of \$1000.00 will be listed as **Benefactor** \$ 500.00 will be listed as **Patron**
\$ 250.00 will be listed as **Supporting Member** \$ 100.00 will be listed as **Friend**

Regular Membership (\$50)

The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

I would like to be active. My special interests are: _____

I (We) support VPS principles but do not wish to be listed as a member.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

FLAGPOLE ERECTED AT ATLANTIC AVENUE BEACH

A Town designated historic landmark, the Amagansett Lifesaving Station has an historically accurate flagpole erected on its original foundation, thanks to a \$5,000 VPS grant. A plaque recognizing this VPS donation is to be secured to the foundation at a future date.

Built in 1902 for the United States Life-Saving Service, precursor of the U.S. Coast Guard, lifesaving stations were located all along the south shore of Long Island in the early 20th century. The men who worked at the Amagansett lifesaving station saved many hundreds of mariners and passengers from shipwrecked vessels traveling this major shipping route. The building later became the base of operations for the U.S. Coast Guard Beach Patrol.

During WWII, while on patrol in front of this station during the night of June 12-13, 1942, East Hampton resident and Coast Guardsman John Cullen encountered a group of four Nazi saboteurs who landed at Atlantic Avenue beach aboard a German submarine, ultimately foiling their plot to blow up power stations.

A formal flag raising ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, to dedicate the building and flagpole to which the public is invited. More details about the event will be posted on the VPS web-site as they unfold. Time to be determined.



Photo credit: David Lys

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

SPRING NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014

Mark Your Calendars! “Welcome to Summer” Party

For Members on Saturday, June 14, 2014
from 6-8 pm at the
Maidstone Tennis House on Maidstone Lane.

Reserve Your Tickets Now!

SOCIETY SEEDS DEER SPAYING PROGRAM WITH GRANT

By Polly Bruckmann

To stimulate the East Hampton Village Board to begin to responsibly manage the deer population in the Village, the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton (VPS) announces its 2014 grant initiative will be \$5,000 gift to seed a program to begin spaying does in the Village.

Deer overpopulation is a serious threat to the health, safety and welfare of Village residents, clearly the domain of government. However, efforts to educate the Board about 100% effective methods of deer management, less controversial than the recently aborted LI Farm Bureau/USDA sharpshooting cull, have lain fallow. Town efforts at a deer management program, while laudable, have not yielded the desired results. The VPS conducted two informational forums over the last four years which brought experts in deer management to our area, including most recently, Dr. Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo, a leader in the field of deer spaying as population control, whose efforts have produced extraordinary success.

Newly relaxed discharge requirements for bow hunting were provided last month by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the agency which regulates all handling of wildlife in the state. However, statistics show that 50%



of the herd must be killed each year to keep pace with the birth rate and the new DEC discharge limits will have little impact in the Village. Even with this advantage, the hunting community will be hard pressed to kill half the herd each year. Another method must be introduced to bring the herd to sustainable levels. The DEC recognizes that spaying is 100% effective at controlling reproduction. This would also be an easier method to employ in the Village.

The VPS provides a \$5,000 grant annually for historic preservation projects, and also seeks to fund/incentivize important initiatives relative to quality of life issues, which is why this money has been awarded for a deer population control project. This is the Society’s first grant for deer management and we expect the Village Board will provide a line item in their upcoming budget, so private funding of this important project will no longer be necessary.

The Society has been actively promoting a deer spaying program for the last five years. Because deer live from 10 to 15 years, one doe can reproduce between ten and thirty fawns during her lifetime. Spaying one doe removes that number from the population diminishing the herd by an exponential factor over time, as her would-be offspring will also not reproduce. A surgical procedure conducted by trained veterinarians just as one would spay a pet dog or cat, the operation is performed in a field surgery and takes about one hour.

Surgical spaying is 100% effective, rendering the doe completely sterile for the rest of her natural life. It also creates the additional benefit of reducing the female’s appetite and need for habitat as she no longer reproduces. With fewer does in estrus, the behavior of the

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Photo credit: Dr. Anthony DeNicola

DEER SPAYING, *cont' from front page*

bucks is also quelled to some degree, as the females no longer emit the hormone that causes the highly physical activity males exhibit during the rut.

Immunocontraceptive vaccines like PZP use the doe's own immune system to prevent her eggs from being fertilized. The drug is less effective than hoped, as sometimes the animal's metabolism overwhelms the drug making it completely ineffective and scientists do not know why. To work as intended, an initial dosage must be followed with 1 or 2 booster shots within the first 3-5 years of inoculation, requiring tagging the deer and handling them as many times. It is a lengthy process, and is much less effective than spaying.

The Society is committed to the spaying program and will help the Village identify neighborhoods where deer are prevalent to make sure enough local lands are available to implement the program.

The grant will be contingent upon a commitment by the Village Board to incorporate a deer spaying program into existing lethal methods of controlling deer populations in the Village within a reasonable time frame, something the Board has been promising for some time now. The VPS is confident in the success of a spaying program and the positive impact that diminished numbers of deer will have on the health, safety and welfare of Village residents.

POWER LINE PROJECT DEVASTATES VILLAGE STREET TREES

By Joan D. Osborne

Our community has suffered a devastating blow to neighborhood character and risks to human health from the ongoing efforts of the local utility, the Public Service Enterprise Group, Long Island (PSEG-LI), a New Jersey based, private utility which has assumed operation of the power grid formerly controlled by the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), to upgrade the electrical system for the Town of East Hampton. Ancient street trees in both the Village and the Town are being butchered, destroying the trees and vistas alike.

In February, PSEG-LI began replacing utility poles and upgrading the capacity of power lines along Village neighborhood streets. While this project was brought to light during LIPA's waning tenure last spring, most understood the project to be a replacement in kind, which it is not.

PSEG-LI claims this project will provide uninterrupted service and make our area more resilient to weather related power outages. A time tested and well reasoned approach to providing uninterrupted electrical service is to bury electrical lines as was done in the Town of Southampton. Buried lines reduce potential exposure to electromagnetism conducted by the power lines and provide reliable protection from weather conditions common to our area, largely high wind and rain events. Buried power lines not only assure fewer weather related service interruptions, but also enhance the visual landscape and residential property values.

The Long Island Power Authority and its predecessor, the Long Island Lighting Company, has always been behind the planning curve, forcing substandard equipment on the ratepayers of the service area precisely because they have a



Butchered street tree at corner of Cooper Lane and Cedar Street.

monopoly on service here. Power distribution and related infrastructure has always been second-rate. There has never been an effort to meet the real energy needs of our communities concurrent with our goals as rural, residential communities.

The VPS supports the efforts of two groups of local residents who formed to combat the travesty: Save East Hampton and Long Island Businesses for Responsible Energy.

On Friday, April 4, 2014, East Hampton Town Supervisor, Larry Cantwell, issued a stop work order against PSEG-LI for work at the Amagansett substation, indicating that the company failed to seek site plan approval from the Town for this project in violation of the Town Code. While this may not halt the project altogether, it buys some time and sends the right message to both the utility and the Governor.

However, the power to halt this senseless slaughter and human health risk lies only with New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo. Contact Governor Cuomo by phone at: (518) 474-8390 or e-mail at:

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php>

We must make every effort to stop the progress of this ill-conceived plan. Please do what you can, immediately. Every minute wasted represents a loss to our beloved East Hampton.

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

By Melissa Egbert Sheehan

TED HARTLEY

Educated at Annapolis, Georgetown University and Harvard Business School, Ted Hartley left his Navy jet fighter career after a carrier accident hobbled him. He became the President of Southwestern Development Corporation, a subsidiary of Gulf & Western (now Paramount). He left to pursue his love of film, first in various co-star roles with Clint Eastwood, Carey Grant and

Robert Redford and then the lead in two TV series. He moved on to directing and producing and now chairs RKO Pictures Corporation. During the last 15 years, he has produced 13 films and four Broadway shows. Ted is a published writer of articles and poetry and is a voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as well as the Tony Awards.

Ted is on numerous boards and industry committees and is active in civic affairs and industry organizations in Los Angeles and New York. He is Chairman of Orbis International, a health NGO that prevents blindness worldwide through its flying eye hospital programs. He is a founding director of the Steadman Philippon Research Institute and founded The Story Project, a children's reading institution. He is also active on the board of the Eugene O'Neill Theatre.

CURTIS SCHADE

Curt Schade and his wife, Angel, have been summer residents of East Hampton since 1989 and built their home in East Hampton in 1992. They have had a daughter-term interest in historic preservation and have been supporters of the Historical Society and the Village Preservation Society for many years. Curt has been a Board Member of the Thomas Moran Trust for 6 years and serves on the Renovation and Capital Campaign Committees. He is happy to report that the project is now progressing along well.

In the off season, Curt and Angel have lived in Glen Ridge, NJ for over 20 years. Glen Ridge is a National Historic District, where Curt has served on the Historic Preservation Commission, which functions as an architectural review board overseeing all exterior renovations, for 10 years. He also served as Treasurer of the Glen Ridge Historical Society for 6 years and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Montclair Art Museum for 6 years. Curt currently serves on the Board of the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia.

STORIES IN STONE

By Averill Geus, Town Historian

Twenty stones at the North End Cemetery behind the Hook Mill commemorate the lives of the Pantigo Lane Mulford family, once a prominent name and among East Hampton's first settlers. The descendants of John or brother William achieved prominence wherever they chose to live, including once diagonally across from the present Town Hall.

Jeremiah Mulford (1687-1766), a third generation descendent of William, fathered nine children, including sons Lemuel and Ezekiel Mulford, who lived on their father's farm. The other children moved away. Both brothers were buried at North End with their wives and several of their children.

Ezekiel Mulford (1725-1819), always referred to as "Captain" Ezekiel in post Revolutionary records, was a local hero. He raised East Hampton's company of Minute Men, furnishing each man with a musket. This company was in Col. Josiah Smith's Regiment at the Battle of Long



Photo credit: Peter Robinson

Capt. Ezekiel married Amy Miller, a widow, in 1755. She

gave her name to the charming little road that once cut through the family farm and is still known as Amy's Lane. Among her seven children was a daughter named Amy, who is remembered for her calico dress. In 1780-81, a fleet of British ships anchored in Gardiner's Bay hosted a dance shipboard. The Mulfords were true rebels, or Whigs as they were named, but Amy Jr. was among those invited to attend. Amy, staunchly patriotic, originally had no thought of dancing with the enemy, but her father advised her to go, saying, "We are all English folk although we think differently on various matters; you must accept their invitation and enjoy the pleasures of the occasion." Following



instructions, Miss Amy responded with courtesy and thanks. The local daughters were delighted with the entertainment offered, after which Amy was presented with a length of calico, at that time highly prized and considered as fine as silk. Notable also was Ezekiel's son Edward Mulford (1767-1821), who became the senior partner in the whaling firm of Mulford and Sleight in Sag Harbor sending out eight or more ships to the Pacific. He made a fortune in the early days of the industry and built a handsome house on his family's Pantigo property in 1802, decorated with Honduras mahogany brought back by his ships. In 1980, Patrick and Elizabeth Gerschel bought the house and moved it to Hither Lane. A year ago, it was designated a national historic landmark in East Hampton's survey of shingle style houses.

Ezekiel's grandson, William Rysam Mulford (son of Edward), is remembered for his kind nature and interest in Sag Harbor. In 1835, few Roman Catholics were found on eastern Long Island, though a struggling little congregation in Sag Harbor met on Sundays. A church was beyond their dreams. William Rysam, a Protestant, disregarded local prejudice and helped his Catholic neighbors acquire a former Methodist Church to renovate for their use. It was the first Catholic Church in Suffolk County and became known as St. Andrew's.

MEANINGFUL RELIEF FROM AIRCRAFT NOISE IN SIGHT

By Kathleen Cunningham

The East Hampton Town Board is conducting an historic and comprehensive financial assessment of East Hampton Airport to ascertain whether the facility can be properly maintained without Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding. The new Town Board wishes to remain free of FAA grants, in order to legally impose reasonable access limits as of January 1, 2015, when current FAA restrictions (grant assurances) inhibiting the Town's rights to do so finally expire.

Airport liaison, Councilwoman Kathee Burke-Gonzalez is working hard with the Airport Planning Committee, which has two subcommittees: one focusing on noise mitigation and one on aviation needs. A third subcommittee of the Town's Business & Finance Advisory Committee (BFAC) is reviewing current airport finances to obtain proper funding for needed improvements and to reveal new revenue streams so the airport may be safely run independent of FAA funding. Such an analysis has never before been performed and will offer meaningful insight into airport financial operations, unknown until now. The committee is still at work, but there are early indications that the airport can be run on revenue generated by airport users, without burdening the taxpayers.

Documentation of noise disturbance is an essential tool for the Town to be able to impose access limits based on noise. Aircraft noise-affected residents submitting complaint data to PlaneNoise via phone or e-mail will receive acknowledgments for each complaint, a new feature of this system. The 2014 season represents a critical juncture for the noise-affected as complaint data will anchor the Town's plans to finally have an enforceable curfew and limits on the noisiest aircraft. The VPS urges all members, family and friends suffering from aircraft noise to continue to log complaints on the noise complaint hotline: 1-800-376-4817 or by e-mail hto@planenoise.com. Please record your complaints!

VILLAGE NOISE ORDINANCE REVAMPED

By Kathleen Cunningham

The Village Board is again tackling the issue of noise impacts on the peaceful enjoyment of Village resident's homes and properties. An amendment to the Village code was proposed and based on input during a public hearing, a follow-up meeting was held to incorporate various stakeholder concerns.

On April 2, 2014, Village Preservation Society Chair, Joan D. Osborne, VPS member and Village resident, John Tuohy and VPS Executive Director, Kathleen Cunningham participated by invitation in a meeting with Village Trustees Barbara Borsack, and Rick Lawler and industry representatives to craft a new version of the noise ordinance relative to impacts of construction and gas-powered landscaping noise.

Concessions were made on both sides, and while the amendments as proposed are not all we'd hoped for, there will be an improvement in times of day when construction

and landscaping power equipment can be run. The new regulations will limit the hours that construction power tools and exterior work can be performed by commercial firms from June 1 - September 15 of each year to Monday - Friday (7 a.m. - 6 p.m.) and Saturday (8 a.m. - 3 p.m.). This removes two hours per day of power tool construction noise. Sundays remain free of commercial construction. An additional caveat was an outright prohibition on radios or other amplified sound on the exterior of the premises at any time.

Similarly, commercial use of any gas or diesel powered lawn care equipment including leaf blowers, mowers and hedge trimmers will be permitted only from June 1 through the second Friday in December between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. This eliminates 3 hours of power landscaping noise each day. No commercial operation of this equipment will be permitted on Sundays or Federal holidays. This also removes two hours per day of landscaping power tool noise and eliminates commercial use completely on Sundays and Federal holidays.

Because landscapers are employed by Village residents to provide a service, communication between and among neighbors can help direct the types of services homeowners request and how they may be performed. For instance, homeowners employing landscapers to maintain their lawns can request that leaf blowers not be used on their properties. Hand tools may be just as efficient, especially during seasons when leaves are not that plentiful. Coordinating certain cleanup activities between and among neighbors, helping to mitigate noise impacts of seasonal leaf cleanup work will help direct professionals as well as keeping neighborhoods quiet.

It is also incumbent upon residents suffering from construction or landscaping noise to report these noise incidents to Village Hall. During hours of the day when Code Enforcement officers are available, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., those calls may be directed to Village Hall at 631-324-4150. During off hours, when most noise events occur, residents are required to phone a noise complaint to the police department. Calling the police for a noise incident feels like overkill to most residents, who generally associate calling the police department with a real emergency, a point to which most noise events never escalate.

A suggestion made by the Society to establish a noise complaint hotline, allowing Village residents to properly log complaints against violators without having to take the rather drastic step of calling the police department for a noise infraction, is to be implemented. Once this tool is launched, it will be very important for the noise affected to log their complaints via this mechanism. As more information becomes available, we will post it on our website.

In the meantime, it is very important that residents bothered by construction or landscaping power tool noise during hours when these activities are prohibited, call Code Enforcement during business hours at Village Hall: 631-324-4150 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday, or the Village Police. Please do not dial 911, but call the Village Police Department at: 631-324-0777.

The Village Board will vote to adopt the amendment to the code at its April 17, 2014 meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the Emergency Services Building on Cedar Street.