

EAST HAMPTON'S GIFTED WOMEN, PART I

By Averill D. Geus, East Hampton Town Historian

The ladies of East Hampton, God bless 'em, have over and over again confronted issues that had a negative effect on the quality of their lives. When others protested that nothing could be done to ban dust and mud in the streets, the women built roads by way of their Village Improvement Society. They waged a war against unsightly billboards on highways and loudly protested the introduction of neon signs. Sewing circles and literary groups took on problems overlooked by husbands. A group called "The Ramblers" sponsored the creation of a playground for their children, still used extensively today. Others provided hot lunches for school children. Mrs. Gardiner won a small victory in the mid 19th century. She insisted that J. Madison Hunting's store carry toilet paper although she first had to explain what it was used for. Village women may have learned to speak up and be heard through their education at Clinton Academy, New York's first secondary school, which, surprisingly, was co-ed. Two First Ladies received their schooling there: Mrs. William Henry Harrison, nee Anna Symmes of Greenport and Mrs. John Tyler, nee Julia Gardiner of Gardiner's Island.



Eva Walling Eno, 1878-1961

Almost no one in East Hampton today can recall Mrs. Eva Eno. She was a stately white haired woman with the posture of Queen Mary. During her thirty years as a resident of the village, living in a plain two story gray house on Osborn Lane, she was a mysterious woman. She had few, if any, friends or acquaintances. It was known that she took in children who were always well scrubbed and dressed but whatever her life had been before she came to East Hampton, she kept to herself. After her foster children finished school or rejoined their parents, she started an employment agency, mostly for household help, which was a rare commodity in the last 1940s and early 50s. She was a striking figure to see as she walked along Newtown Lane wearing clothes of another era. Impeccably attired, always wearing a hat, it was sometimes wondered whose grandmother she might be, but no one really knew. She died in Southampton Hospital, October 26, 1961, as quietly as she had lived. She was 88 years old.

It was not until over thirty years had passed since her death that much of her earlier life was revealed through a cache of papers. An anonymous donor delivered a carton of documents

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P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, NY 11937 • www.villagepreservationsociety.org

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton for the Membership Year from January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.

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The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

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THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

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GIFTED WOMEN *(ctd. from previous page)*

to the East Hampton Star office. They had been found in a shed in Bridgehampton and contained data pertaining to Mrs. Eno's life prior to taking up residence in East Hampton. It was learned that Eva Eno had played a significant role in the suffrage movement that finally was concluded when women were given the right to vote in 1917.

Eva Eno was born in 1878 in Monmouth County, NJ. She was the daughter of Jonathan Sproul and Katherine Appelgate Walling and had been raised in Colorado. Her husband was Alfred Joseph Eno, a stockbroker. They had been parents of a son, their only child, who died in 1908, aged 8. The death of her son seems to have sent Eva Eno into doing something few women of her generation did, which was to enter Law School at New York University. She graduated in the class of 1912. With the support of her husband, Mrs. Eno became an activist for women's rights. She became the Chairwoman of the Woman's Citizens League and the Suffrage Party in the boroughs of Richmond and Queens. Through lectures, lobbying and campaigning, rallies, meetings and parades, she fought for women's right with all the ferocity of the national leaders. After winning the vote she continued to march for equality for women in jobs and public housing. Her law degree helped her to work for justice in sexual assaults as well as the reform of the public school system; conditions in prisons and the imprisonment of under age juvenile offenders. She led a housewives revolt that led to regulating food and clothing prices by the Federal Government. She described her husband in one speech as "long suffering, patient and much abused." He too, was politically active and served as the secretary of the Queens Branch of the National Progressive Party. He and his wife were leading supporters of the Victory Democratic Club, and campaigned for Charles Evans Hughes for President in 1916. Mrs. Eno, during these years was a delegate to the annual convention of the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

The good years of action and activism ended in 1929 with the

stock market crash. Having led fairly wealthy lives up til then, Eva and Alfred Eno lost their house in Jamaica Estates and another in Roses Grove, a summer colony in Southampton. They moved to an apartment in Queen's Village where the Enos attempted to live in reduced circumstances, although Alfred was failing. His death seems to have ended Eva's public life and she moved to Southampton and then Bridgehampton in the early 1930s. Desperate for income, she made four attempts to start schools for children but with little success. Coming to East Hampton, she began taking in foster children who came from broken families. After these children grew up and moved on, she opened an employment agency for household help. Her final years were impoverished, sad and lonely. She died in Southampton Hospital on October 26, 1961 and it is not known where she was buried.

The Eva Eno story is sad, but not unique. She lived at a time when social security, pensions, Medicare and women's rights were unheard of but lived to see these social needs remedied. We take the programs for granted today but should be grateful to the women who worked so hard to bring them about. Many suffragettes, who worked diligently for their cause, gave their best working years to establishing women's rights not only in politics but also in every other field once dominated by men. The valor, energy and sacrifice displayed by Eva Eno should not be forgotten in East Hampton. Today excellent women not only vote, head political parties and represent through elective office their constituents, but they also head up companies and serve their community through words and deeds while raising families. It is now time, after a century has passed, to praise Eva Eno and the Suffragettes who enriched the quality of the lives of all women. (Eva Eno's papers are now in the Arthur and Elisabeth Schlesinger Library in the History of Women in America at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University.)

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

FALL NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2017

the Village
Preservation
Society of East Hampton

Be sure to attend the Annual Meeting of Members

Save
the Date!

Saturday, September 23, 2017
4:00 p.m. at the Tennis House
Featuring a debate between Town Board Supervisor Candidates
Councilman Peter VanScoyoc and Manuel Vilar

Save
the Date!

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

By Kathleen Cunningham

Clean, potable drinking water is undoubtedly the most important and challenging quality of life issue we face. Critical to restoring clean water environments, for both humans and marine life, is to understand our role in the pollution of our own drinking water and surface water bodies. Taking responsibility for how we use water, what we dispose in our toilets, and how our cesspools and septic tanks exacerbate the problem is the real solution to our water quality issues. We must also better understand how land use effects water quality and adjust our behavior accordingly.

Suffolk County has the shocking distinction of being the most regressive county in the nation with respect to wastewater governance and nitrogen removal. For decades, nitrogen has been identified as the main pollutant, often referred to by the scientific community as a 'nutrient', that feeds algal blooms. We know algal blooms present serious challenges for marine and human life. These impacts range from destruction of aquatic habitat like eelgrass, essential habitat for marine



Leadership of VPS and 2017 Grant recipient Friends of Georgica Pond, meet to launch Stony Brook University's Dr. Brad Peterson and crew to begin blue crab study.

life to grow, to the proliferation of dangerous neurotoxins, a threat to human health and recorded cases of animal death from exposure. All because of increased levels of nitrogen we are depositing in them.

The Town of East Hampton has adopted groundbreaking legislation, sponsored by Councilman Peter VanScoyoc that performs two critical functions in protecting our sole source aquifer, our only water supply. First, it requires town-wide

use of advanced wastewater treatment systems for new construction, or any reconstruction representing over 50% of the value or size of the existing building, or with a change of use. Second, it provides for a generous, permanent rebate program anchored in the recent access to Community Preservation Fund (CPF) monies for this expressed purpose. This will both stimulate replacement of old aquifer polluting septic systems and help to ease the financial burden of installation for property owners. The Town began to accept rebate applications earlier this month. This is the first local law of its kind in Suffolk County.

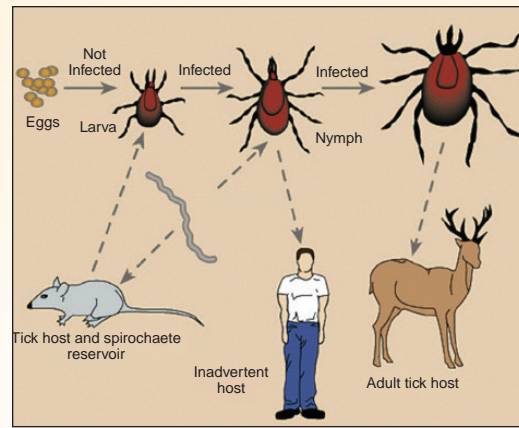
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VPS DEER FORUM, AN EDUCATION

By Polly Bruckmann

Over the past 10 years, the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton has been working diligently to find a solution to the overpopulation of deer in the Village. As a policy position, the Society is agnostic on which mechanism of control is employed. However, our research directed us to recommend a deer-spaying program to the Village Board, as a middle ground to doing nothing or culling the herd, especially given the limited hunting options available to Village residents. In 2014, we raised \$100,000 and gave it to the Village Board to begin a three-phased deer-spaying program, which started that next year. The first two phases of the program were completed in 2015, but phase three never occurred. The Village Board halted the program at that time and is now in the process of soliciting input from Village residents on how to proceed. Results of that survey are expected by the end of this month.

As part of our continuing outreach and education efforts, on July 27, 2017, the VPS conducted an informational forum on the "Impacts of Deer Populations on Our Community" at Hoie Hall. Over 70 people came to learn from Dr. Scott Campbell, Laboratory Chief of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services Arthropod-Borne Disease Laboratory, Dr. Anna-Marie Wellins of



Genome Sequencing: New Tricks of Tick-Borne Pathogen" Alan G. Barbour and Wolfram R. Zückert, Nature 390, 553-554.

called Alpha-Gal, which, like any other serious allergy, can also be life threatening.

While not the carrier of the disease, deer are a vector in the tick borne illness transmission cycle. Some evidence demonstrates that when deer populations diminish, tick populations do also. Deer browse weakens the ability of the forest to tolerate heavy storms, drought and other natural conditions that can challenge their overall vitality. Deer-damaged forests contribute to the proliferation of invasive species, as the natural resistance of the trees and indigenous plants that support the forests is weakened. As certain indigenous plants disappear, so do other plants and animals dependent upon those species for their own propagation, such as whippoorwills and other ground nesting birds.

Worth noting is the City of New York's effort on Staten Island last fall, where 760 bucks were neutered as a first step in controlling the herd there. With unprecedented speed, Mayor DeBlasio and the Staten Island City Managers were able to gain DEC approval for a very aggressive neutering program. The City is engaged in a comprehensive outreach and education campaign to enlist the public in efforts to live cooperatively with the herd, as it is reduced over time.

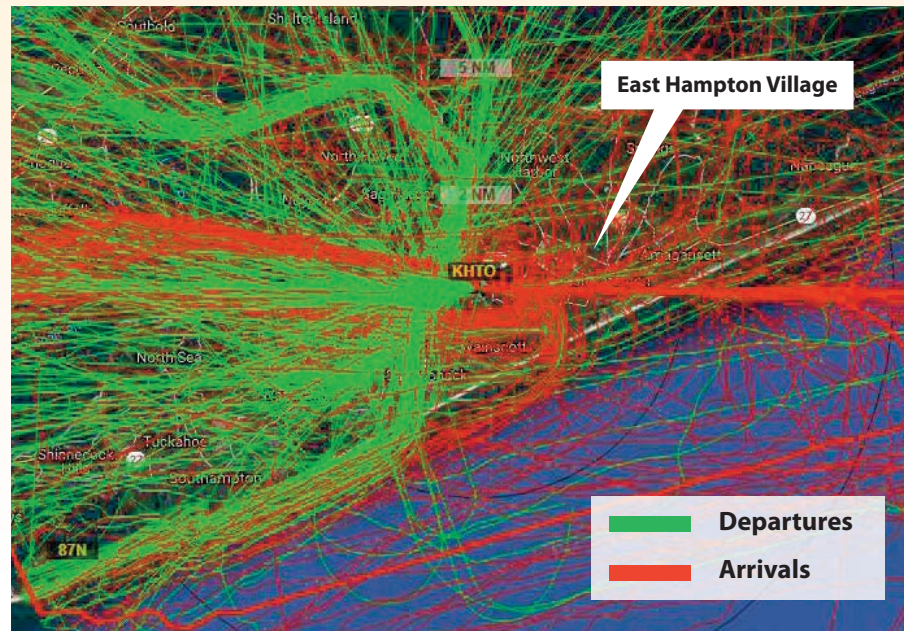
The Society will continue to support deer population control techniques to ensure the viability of the Village deer herd; the health of the ecosystem and the ability to provide habitat for plants and other sentient creatures; the diminishment of vehicular strikes; the diminishment of tick borne illnesses; and preservation of agricultural and landscaped plantings.

AIRCRAFT NOISE UPDATE

By Peter M. Wolf

Aircraft noise impacts on Village residents have been worse this summer than ever before. In late June, the US Supreme Court's refusal to hear the Town of East Hampton's appeal of the Second Circuit ruling eliminated the few restrictions adopted by the Town to reasonably control noise impacts on East End residents.

This leaves the Town with four options. The first is for our Federal representatives in Congress to ratify the settlement agreement the FAA entered into, which accelerated the sunset of four important grant assurances freeing the Town to act on noise mitigation. That settlement agreement was the foundation for the 2015 limited curfews adopted to mitigate noise impacts. Only legislative action by the Congress can ratify that agreement now, as the FAA has abandoned it. The second is a State sanctioned permissive referendum legislation ably ushered through both houses by Assemblyman Fred Thiele and Senator Ken LaValle,



This map demonstrates flight arrivals and departures from East Hampton airport from Friday, 8/11/17 – Sunday, 8/13/17

to whom we are indebted for a heavy lift in Albany. It must be signed into law by Governor Cuomo before taking effect and that has yet to occur. This legislation would require a public referendum before any future Town Board could take more FAA funding which would once again sabotage the Town's ability to govern its airport.

The third option is to engage in a Part 161 Study, which is a FAA governed action that examines the need for and impacts of reasonable, nondiscriminatory, nonarbitrary restrictions to protect the public from noise. While many airport proprietors have engaged in this process, there is only one case that succeeded and that was because of an administrative oversight by the FAA on appeal. The ray of hope here is that the Town has hired the legal firm of Morrison & Foerster, which successfully negotiated the ultimate closure of the Santa Monica, CA airport, to conduct this study. Morrison & Foerster view the FAA as the adversarial agency it is when dealing with aircraft noise and carbon emissions impacts. That much is encouraging.

The fourth option, and one an increasing number of frustrated residents of both the South and North Fork, and parts of western Suffolk are beginning to consider is to close the airport altogether, at least temporarily. And then perhaps to reopen the airport for use by recreational small craft, locally based pilots, as the airport was originally planned. As part of this option, the substantial lease income generated by airport industrial tenants would be redirected to Town of East Hampton uses, possibly to reduce property taxes townwide. Currently all income generated by those properties within the airport land boundary is exclusively dedicated to the airport operations. The Town of East Hampton owns the airport.

Airport noise this summer has been far worse than predictions, reaching intolerable levels in many localities. Aircraft assaults occur at all times of day and night, with increases in helicopter, seaplane and jet traffic completely eliminating residents' rights to the peaceful enjoyment of home and property.

Failed legal attempts have ensured that the Town must seriously consider closing the airport, given its inability to govern it. Previously an unpopular position, it is beginning to look like the only real option for reestablishing the quiet, rural character East End residents cherish and have worked so hard to preserve. Energized by this summer's onslaught by air, the new group, "Say No to KHTO" is finding support among the noise affected. For more information

about this group see: <https://www.saynotokhto.com>.

Unfortunately, the Town Council members are still not doing the maximum possible to gain control of the situation. They still seek evidence of disruption to voters before being willing to do everything possible including fully examining the closure option, to reestablish local control over its property. Consequently, continue to register your noise complaints every time you are aware of a problem by reporting to www.AirNoiseReport.com. This is the easiest way to log your complaints. Two limits of that site are if the aircraft is flying below 200 ft., it isn't visible on the screen and some jets weighing over 12,500 lbs. also don't appear. Those events can be logged manually. The Town's website is still active, although much less convenient: <http://www.planenoise.com/khto> or phone your complaint to: 1-800-736-4817. Also contact members of the Town Board and let them hear from you personally. There is a local election this fall. Let the candidates know how you feel about this issue.

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

By Gene E. Cross, Jr.

The East End has benefited from long established efforts to protect its resources. Some forty years ago, the Town introduced two acre zoning and years later, five acre zoning. In the interim, the Village doubled the minimum lot area size requirement for all residential districts. In the late 1970's the Town recognized the need to control the number of motel units that could be constructed per acre of land. In the following decade, the Village began to address a parking deficiency generated by more intense use of existing stores and offices and the provision of adequate parking requirements for new commercial development. Over these years, preservation of farmland, wetlands, dune lands and other critical areas gained support culminating in a 2% tax on real estate transactions to fund the acquisition of open space. These initiatives to protect our resources reduced man-made impacts by reducing development potential and limiting the future year-round and seasonal population. While these efforts by the Town and Village as well as neighboring communities to the west have succeeded far beyond expectations forty years ago, they are now threatened by new and emerging trends.

The extent to which these community goals have been achieved has made the East End a very desirable place that is now fueling the economy and drawing a multitude of visitors. Enhancing the value of residential properties through redevelopment provides rewarding job opportunities and a driving incentive for members of the trade parade most days of the year as workers travel from more affordable communities to the west. Associated demands have increased the delivery of goods and services. The demand for seasonal accommodations, far beyond the capacity of hotels, motels and the summer rental of homes is met by Airbnb, VRBO and the lucrative rental of rooms in homes on a short term basis. Pop-up businesses move in for the summer season while stores sit vacant in winter months. Daily traffic volumes from the influx and exodus of transients and

day-trippers have made it far more difficult to distinguish Friday and Sunday from the rest of the week. Business districts along the highway provide chokepoints and bring through traffic to a crawl. Trains are filled to capacity and aircraft operations are soaring as vacationers seek alternative means of travel. The impacts generated by the seasonal population have overrun past efforts to protect our resources and rendered transportation a predominant issue.

Following a detailed traffic study and thorough assessment of the commercial districts, in 2002 the Village Trustees adopted the Comprehensive Plan to guide the adoption of land use regulations to protect the health, safety, and general welfare

35TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY CELEBRATION! By Melissa Egbert Sheehan



Party guests enjoy Village Historian, Hugh King's presentation at the Tennis House

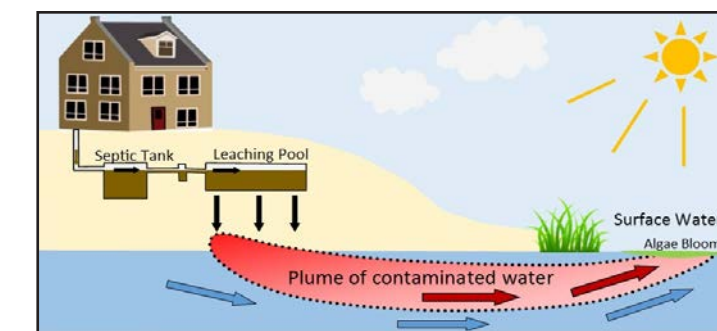
This year, the VPS celebrated 35 years of service to our community. On June 10th, we commemorated the occasion with a special 35th Anniversary Party for our members at the Tennis House on Maidstone Lane. In addition to the usual delicious variety of hors d'oeuvres made by our Trustees, 140 partygoers were treated to the music of the Jane Hastay Trio, providing a wonderful ambience in which to enjoy each other's company. Our Chairman, John McQuirk, welcomed everyone, and Hugh King, the Village Historian, made a few remarks. We also unveiled our fine 35th Anniversary Brochure, conceived and produced by VPS Treasurer, Curt Schade, which gives an excellent photographic overview of the Society's many achievements. With great weather, food, music and conversation, the party was an exciting and special way to begin the summer and celebrate 35 years of the VPS! We look forward to hosting our annual Welcome to Summer Cocktail Party next June.

WATER QUALITY UPDATE *continued from front page*

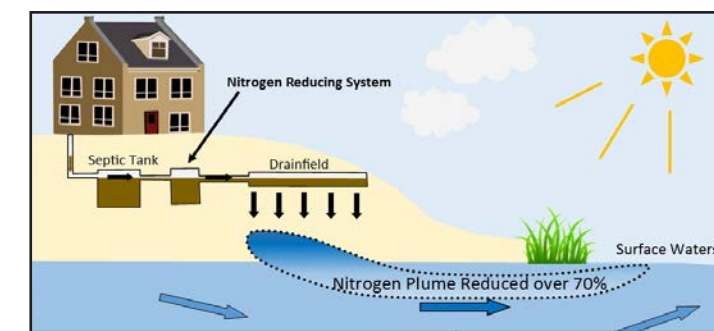
Each septic system creates its own plume, which ultimately drains into the aquifer or surface water body. The travel time from private/public septic systems to salt water bodies is very short. In coastal areas or where depth to groundwater is shallow, it can be as fast as two years. The closer the system is to the surface water, the more quickly it will drain into that body. New treatment systems will remove the nitrogen and help to restore both our aquifer and our surface water bodies.

Nitrogen removal systems recently approved by Suffolk County Department of Health Services, the governing agency, are now being rebated by the Town of East Hampton and by the County itself. Homes located within groundwater protection areas receive top priority and applicants must earn less than \$500,000 annually to qualify.

Alternative and innovative systems add a component between the septic tank and drainfield.



How current septic systems work



How new nitrogen removal systems work



The audience at Hoie Hall learned a great deal from the presenters that evening.

Southampton Hospital's Tick Borne Illness Advisory Committee and botanist Tom Rawinski, Regional Director of the US Forest Service, Northeast Region.

The evening was full of revelations. The audience learned that tick borne illnesses have increased by over 55% from 2016 and that was a mid-summer assessment. Most physicians recognize present medical billing practices do not facilitate comprehensive data collection, so incidents of tick related illness are likely much higher. Tick bites can be the harbingers of several dangerous diseases including babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, anaplasmosis, STARI, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Lyme disease. These diseases can be deadly. A tick bite can also result in an allergy to red meat,