



DECEMBER

VILLAGE BULLETIN

2021

Mayor's Update

by Mayor Elena Villafane



Mayor Elena Villafane

I have come to find that writing the Mayor's Letter is an exercise in taking stock of the preceding quarter. I am always surprised to see how much has transpired. This quarter was no different. The board was very busy, considering and moving various pieces of legislation forward.

The Village Social Media policy was amended, and the village now has an official Facebook page. This platform is another vehicle for sharing village information. We are trying to meet residents where they choose to get their information. The official Facebook page for the

village is Inc Village of Sea Cliff. The first official post was in regard to the memorial ceremony held on the 20th anniversary of the attack of September 11.

Most recently, after twenty months of consideration, the board has adopted a local law regulating the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. A synopsis of the law, which takes effect on January 1, 2022, was published on the village's official Facebook page. In addition, the law is available on the village website and can be secured from Village Hall. There has been a significant amount of misinformation circulating about the extent of the law, most notably that there was no public discussion or input. In all, this issue, which was brought to the board by residents, has been the subject of inquiry for twenty months and was not adopted quickly, lightly or without significant public outreach, dissemination of information and resident input. I urge all residents to read the law as it is a moderate limitation on gas-powered

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Sea Cliff Holiday Celebration

We are happy to announce that Sea Cliff will celebrate the Holidays at Clifton Park on Sunday, December 5th at 4 p.m. This will be an in-person, live event featuring a roster of talented local musicians, as well as community icons and spiritual leaders. We look forward to sharing song and the spirit of the season at this village-wide event, which is made possible by the generous donation of the Lions Club. Please plan on being at Clifton Park on Sunday, December 5th, 4 - 4:30 p.m. for this new twist on an old tradition.



Village Taxes

by Marianne Lennon, Collector of Taxes

Payments are due December 1, 2021. Taxes may be paid by mail or dropped off at the Village Hall locked mailbox located at the Summit Avenue entrance of the building.

When Penalties Apply: On all Second Half Taxes paid on or before January 3, 2022, no penalty or interest will be

charged. If paid after January 3, 2022, interest will be added monthly or for any fraction thereof until paid at the current rate in effect as set by the State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance as prescribed in subdivision 2 of Section 924-a of the N.Y.S. Real Property Tax Law.

Incorporated Village of
Sea Cliff
P.O. Box 340
Sea Cliff, NY 11579-0340

Occupant
Sea Cliff, NY 11579

Sec. 34.65(e) P.L. & R
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Mayor's Update
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leaf blowers during the summer months. The regulations during the fall and spring seasons, when leaf blowers are much more vital to business operations, are much less restrictive.

The board continues to consider the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act legalizing marijuana for recreational use, and has created a regulatory and taxation structure around the retail sale of cannabis products. The Village Board had a public hearing on November 8 to consider a local law authorizing Sea Cliff to “opt out” by December 31.

In addition, the board continues to discuss the adoption of a moratorium on subdivisions. The issue has been before the board for a number of months and dovetails with the efforts of the of Long-Range Planning Committee.

Veteran's Property Tax Exemptions Expanded

by Bruce Kennedy, Village Administrator and Director of Public Works

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees have approved increases in property tax exemptions for our veterans that served in active duty.

The maximum benefit for the Alternative Veterans Tax Exemption has been increased by 50 percent, as follows:

1. Standard Exemption: to the extent of 15 percent of the assessed value not to exceed \$45,000 (previously \$30,000);
2. Veterans that Served in a Combat Zone: to the extent of an additional 10 percent of the assessed value, not to exceed \$30,000 (previously \$20,000);
3. Veteran with a Service-Connected Disability: calculated as the product of the assessed value multiplied by 50 percent of the veteran's disability rating not to exceed \$150,000 (previously \$100,000).

The only service people that previously qualified for the Alternative Veterans Exemption were those that that served during a period of war as follows:

“A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service of the U.S. during a period of war (Spanish-American War, Mexican Border War, World War I, World War II, Korean War (6/27/50 - 1/31/55), Vietnam

As I write this letter, Governor Hochul signed legislation authorizing the creation of a North Shore Water Authority. This is an incredible victory for the citizens of the NYAW Sea Cliff service area. It was through the incredible efforts of former Mayors Bruce Kennedy and Edward Lieberman and their boards, who undertook the fight and steadfastly pushed forward in the quest for safe, clean and affordable water for our residents. As we move forward, I will keep you up to date on the process to municipalize our water.

In closing, I want to extend my best wishes to all for a very happy and healthy holiday season and a New Year's wish for a COVID-free 2022.

War (2/28/61 - 5/7/75), or Persian Gulf conflict (on or after 8/2/90) and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions.”

The village has now expanded this benefit to include what is known as the Cold War Veterans Exemption which expands the exemption to any veteran who served in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States between September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991.

Providing these partial property tax exemptions is permitted through and regulated by NYS Real Property Tax Law and as such, there are a few exceptions. Ultimately these partial property tax exemptions are simply a small stipend that will not significantly impact our taxpayers and our community's way of acknowledging the service of our residents that honorably served our country.

Applications and instructions for all partial property tax exemptions are available in Village Hall and on the village website under “Taxes.” Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Curbside Pickup of Bagged Leaves

Your cooperation is needed in our effort to help the environment, ensure your safety and save taxpayer dollars. Before you put leaves in a bag for removal, please consider the environmental benefits of mulching your own leaves and utilizing this free fertilizer on your own property!

Landscapers MUST take all yard debris with them. Landscapers are PROHIBITED from leaving bags of leaves and yard waste at curbside. Summonses will be issued for violations of this law. Residents who maintain their own property should put all leaves in cans, paper bags or plastic bags.

During the autumn season, bags of leaves will be picked up with regular sanitation collection. A maximum of six (6) bags, weighing no more than twenty pounds each, will be picked up per day.

Do not rake or blow leaves into the street! Raking or blowing leaves into the street becomes a safety hazard and is prohibited by the Village of Sea Cliff Code. Summonses to those in violation may be issued to both the homeowner and the landscaper if one is involved.

Composting is great for growing flowers and vegetables: it returns nutrients to the soil and saves the village labor and equipment costs as well as tipping fees. This keeps taxes low and is good for the environment. More information on composting is available at Village Hall.

NEW LEAF BLOWER LAW

Beginning January 1, 2022 this law will be in effect:
Landscapers Homeowners

From June 1st – September 30th:
Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Prohibited

Electric/Battery-Operated Leaf Blowers Permitted as follows:

- Weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sundays & Holidays: prohibited

From October 1st – May 31st
Gas & Electric/Battery-Operated Leaf Blowers Permitted as follows:

- Weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sundays & Holidays: prohibited

From June 1st – September 30th
Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Prohibited

Electric/Battery-Operated Leaf Blowers Permitted as follows:

- Weekdays from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sundays & Holidays: prohibited

From October 1st – May 31st
Gas & Electric/Battery-Operated Leaf Blowers Permitted as follows:

- Weekdays from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sundays & Holidays: prohibited

This law was written and passed at the request of an overwhelming majority of the residents of the Village of Sea Cliff. Tremendous effort was made by the Board of Trustees to reach out to the community for their wishes as it relates to the issue of leaf blowers, as well as multiple public hearings on the subject. The village received responses from residents primarily expressing concerns about peace and quiet, as well as potential environmental impacts of leaf blowers. Residents wanted to obtain comfort, peace and repose in their homes and yards, and not be exposed to the overuse of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Penalties for Offenses

- A. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine, as follows: (a) for a first offense, a fine of not more than \$100, (b) for a second offense within a one year period, a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$250, and (c) for a third or subsequent offense within a one year period, a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500.
- B. Any landscaper who violates any of the provisions of this chapter also shall be subject to license suspension or revocation, as provided in Village Code section 70-8.

*For full context of the law, see Sea Cliff Village Code Chapter 81: LEAF BLOWING EQUIPMENT

Mayor Villafane asks, “Did You Know?”

The area in front of your home, the strip of land between your property line and the street (commonly known as the Village Right-of-Way), is your responsibility to maintain. This also includes the “gutter” area of the roadway.

- Did you know you have to cut the grass?
- Did you know you have to maintain the trees and bushes?
- Did you know, that you have to keep it clean and free of litter and weeds?
- Did you know that, if there is a sidewalk, you have to shovel the snow?
- Did you know that, if there is a fire hydrant, you have to keep it clear of snow and/or growth?
- Did you know that, if there is a storm drain in front of your house, you have to clear it of any obstructions?

As a resident of more than twenty-seven years, I, too, was surprised to learn of these responsibilities that we as individual homeowners owe to the large community that makes up our village. The Village Department of Public Works proudly does all the heavy lifting, but we all need to do our part in keeping Sea Cliff clean and beautiful. Many hands make light work. I thank everyone for doing their part in keeping Sea Cliff safe, clean and beautiful.

Sea Cliff – Climate Smart Communities

by Mark Sobel, Environmental Conservation Committee member (ECC)

Sea Cliff's Environmental Conservation Committee, volunteers appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Trustees, has been working diligently on certifying and attaining bronze-level status as a Climate Smart Community (CSC). CSC is a New York State program that supports local governments in leading their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the effects of climate change, and attempt to thrive in a greener economy. The benefits for the Sea Cliff community of participating include recognizing the need to and creating leaders in the battle, free technical assistance from New York State and, most importantly, access to funding grants and saving taxpayer dollars. Sea Cliff's Board has signed the voluntary pledge and is using the CSC framework to guide progress toward creating healthy, long-standing, aware and equitable places to live, work, sustain and play in our beautiful village.

In order to be designated a Certified Climate Smart Community, the municipality must go beyond the CSC Pledge by completing and documenting a course of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change at our local Sea Cliff level.

There are over one hundred climate mitigation and adaptation actions Sea Cliff can enact or participate in. The initial goal is to earn the required 120 points toward the bronze certification by completing and thoroughly planning mandatory and priority actions. Achieving the goal will

make Sea Cliff eligible for up to \$10,000 in initial grants from the state, but will also place Sea Cliff in higher competition for Clean Energy Community (CEC) grants totaling \$100,000. These grants will be used to mitigate the effects of climate change on our waterfront community and hopefully reverse the trend, so we as a community will flourish for many years to come. But we should not fool ourselves for one minute. If we don't act now, villages like Sea Cliff will be relegated to the devastation that is just a few short years in the coming. The following ten-point plan is the guideline, and within each point, there are sets of actions the Sea Cliff task force and the community-at-large can and will try to implement:

- 1) Build a climate-smart community;
- 2) Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action;
- 3) Decrease energy use;
- 4) Shift to clean, renewable energy;
- 5) Use climate-smart materials management;
- 6) Implement climate-smart land use;
- 7) Enhance community resilience to climate change;
- 8) Support a green innovation economy;
- 9) Inform and inspire the public;
- 10) Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

The ECC is working with several other Sea Cliff volunteer committees such as the Traffic

& Safety Committee, the Tree Commission and the Long-Range Planning Committee to achieve its goals. Some of the actions the board has enacted to achieve the CSC goals include changing all street lighting to LED, promoting car-free days and bike-to-school days, promoting the continued use of recycling with education and awareness, enacting a leaf-blower law that will lessen the effects of gas-blowers used by landscapers, proposing to make electric-car chargers accessible, and keeping an inventory of energy consumption by town vehicles, and that's just the beginning. The hope is to engage the community as a whole, no matter the age, no matter the years one has lived here, no matter the politics.

One of the many ideas being floated by our commission is creating forums for public engagement and making the Sea Cliff Community committed to the evolving process; that their participation will be essential in moving forward. Achieving the work as a joint effort of government and its citizens will be the construct that wins us the day and protects the air we breathe, the harbor we swim and sail in, the water we drink and the earth we inhabit. Protecting all that Sea Cliff is and the reasons we all live here is all our responsibility, so our children and their children can enjoy all that we have been so lucky to inherit.

What Are Safe Routes To School And Why Do We Need Them?

by Daniel Flanzig, Esq., Chairman of Village of Sea Cliff Traffic and Safety Commission

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a nationally recognized approach for promoting biking and walking to school. By encouraging parents to eliminate vehicular traffic around our schools, the roads automatically become safer. It is no secret that it is the parents rushing to get kids to school on time that is the greatest hazard for our children in these areas.

SRTS initiatives are multifaceted. They are achieved through infrastructure improvements, traffic enforcement, safety education, and by incentives to encourage walking and bicycling. Nationally, 10–14 percent of car trips during morning rush hour

are for school travel. Not only is it the goal of SRTS to improve safety, it is also a method to increase physical activity for students. Studies show that by biking and walking to school, students have higher physical activity levels throughout the day and have better academic performance. If that isn't enough to get your family out of your car, think about the air quality around a school when dozens of SUVs sit idling waiting to drop their kids off.

It is the long-term goal of the Sea Cliff Traffic and Safety Committee to identify and create SRTS for our children. SRTS programs are not easy, as

they are implemented through partnership with local municipalities. Some of our roads in our village cross over multiple jurisdictions. SRTS programs also require coordination with school districts as well as the individual schools. Our committee is always exploring best options to create SRTS for our children, identify funding for these projects, and continue to encourage parents to leave the car at home and promote and encourage biking and walking. You can help us to lead by example; leave your car at home and encourage others to do the same.

Sea Cliff Beach Update

Any boats stored on Village Boat Racks at Sea Cliff Beach must be removed by the owner no later than December 31st. Boats and equipment not removed before December 31st may be removed and/or stored by Sea Cliff Village at the owner's expense and WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE. Costs for removal and/or storage shall be paid by boat owner prior to pickup in an amount to be determined (on an annual basis) by the Board of Trustees.

The beach parking lot is now available for parking by permit only. Beach Parking Permits will be available on Jan 1, 2022. Application is available on the Sea Cliff website: seacliff-ny.gov.

A Few Important Reminders About Opioids

by Alison Camardella, Pres. – NSCASA and Kevin McGilloway, V.P. - NSCASA

As volunteers for the North Shore Coalition Against Substance Abuse (NSCASA) for the last four years, we have worked to educate our community in general and our youth in particular on the dangers of harmful substances. Two recent events in our own lives have demonstrated that the casual overprescribing of opioids continues to be a huge challenge that requires constant vigilance. In Kevin's case, as he was being discharged from a local hospital after a hip replacement, the nurse listed the medications he would be given, including two opioids (oxycodone and tramadol). Although Kevin stated that he had virtually no pain and would prefer not to receive these drugs until or unless they were absolutely needed, the nurse insisted, saying "it's always good to have them around the house." When he got home, he counted SIXTY opioid pills with only a one-line label stating "Warning: Opioids may be habit forming or addictive." There was no cautionary talk from a doctor, nor any advice on how to safely store or dispose of them.

In Alison's case, her nineteen-year-old son was prescribed eight oxycodone pills after a dental procedure "in case he experienced any pain." Four years of working through CASA with experts in the field of substance abuse led to a talk with her son about the risks involved in taking opioids. The result: her son chose to use Advil with the assurance that if pain became an issue they could turn to the stronger medication. Happily, her son did not find it necessary to take even ONE of the opioids, which have now been

safely disposed of at one of CASA's SHED THE MEDS events (with the alternative to drop off anytime at CVS 201 Glen Street Glen Cove).

In recounting these experiences to friends and family, we have heard many similar stories that confirmed the continuous flood of dangerous but prescribed substances into our community and homes. Exacerbating this situation is the increasing presence of deadly fentanyl being laced into street drugs, making 'safe' prescription pills prime targets for theft.

As other matters rule our news headlines, it is easy to forget that the opioid crisis is not over. According to the CDC, drug overdose deaths in the US reached an all-time high of 93,000 in 2020. This article is our reminder that opioids are very powerful and dangerous drugs that must be managed carefully and used only to deal with severe pain as prescribed by a doctor. We need to remind our medical caregivers to stop their dangerous overprescribing of opioids and remind ourselves to try non-addictive alternatives before turning to opioids. And as crimes and deaths associated with opioids mount across our country and community, we need everyone to lock these harmful substances in a safe place at home, and whenever possible dispose of them safely altogether.

Go to www.nscasa.org to learn more and join our coalition as a member. And one final reminder: together we can make a difference! Thank you.

Mutual Concerns Committee

by Peggie Como, President, MCC

As a welcome respite from the eighteen months of social isolation, the senior lunch program is up and running again at St. Luke’s Parish Hall every Tuesday. Sue Giordano and Lorraine Boehm are the lunch directors and Christine Newton is back as the “chair yoga” instructor. Seniors are kept busy with bingo, puzzles and trivia. Sue, a talented artist, shares her passion by giving seniors art lessons.

As a special treat for our seniors, former Mayor Ed Lieberman has been giving historical tours of local areas on Fridays. Ed is a lover of history and so far the seniors have traveled to Oyster Bay, Sagamore Hill, the Culper Spy Ring Tour, which goes along Rt. 25A to Northport and the Roslyn/Great Neck historical tour. We can’t wait to see what other tours he has planned. The village bus is provided and seniors receive a picnic lunch. All seniors can join in on the fun even if they don’t attend the lunch program. If any seniors would like to join any of the tours in the future, they can call Peggie Como at 516-675-7239 for more information.



Ed Lieberman sharing some interesting facts about Sagamore Hill
Courtesy of Lorraine Boehm



The senior tour is about to begin.
Courtesy of Lorraine Boehm

Sea Cliff Civic Association Welcomes Newcomers



Sea Cliff Civic Association’s 2021 Newcomers’ Party.
Courtesy of Heidi Hunt

A New Leaf

by Ken Krumenacker, Sea Cliff Tree Committee

Now is the time to reflect on the beautiful fall colors, the changing season and look to a new year, or a new leaf, so to speak.

We wish to thank all residents who continue to recognize the importance of a treed Sea Cliff environment and seek and support the Village Tree Ordinance.

The Sea Cliff Tree Commission is made up of volunteers whose mission is to serve the village. We seek to foster a sense of shared commitment by residents and officials to maintain a village tree canopy through the preservation and restoration in our community by planting new trees. And we provide information on choosing and caring for trees and by offering advisory and consultation services on tree issues.

Just a note: Live-cut conifer Christmas trees are a renewable and sustainable resource, and provide jobs and support American families. Live-cut trees also provide the benefits of oxygen production, CO2 take-up, erosion control and wildlife food and shelter, and are biodegradable and recyclable.

Landmarks Preservation Commission Launches Campaign to Protect Historic Sea Cliff Homes

by Alison Frankel, SCLPC member

Bruce Treiber and Leslie Guerci are counting on Sea Cliff homeowners to help preserve our village’s unique architectural and cultural history.

As the chairman and vice-chair of the Sea Cliff Landmarks Preservation Commission, Treiber and Guerci are launching a renewed campaign to grant landmark status to historic homes in the village.

“Landmarking appropriate properties will enhance and preserve the history and culture of the village,” said Treiber, who was named chair of the SCLPC in April. “Those factors have been a major reason why Sea Cliff is so popular as a place to live and visit.”

More than 200 buildings in Sea Cliff were constructed before 1900, lending Sea Cliff its distinctive Victorian flair. But landmark status is not reserved only for Victorians. Under the Village Code, any historically

or architecturally significant building, site or even district is eligible for landmarking.

The SCLPC has devoted years to developing a database of all 1,700 structures in the village, many complete with photos, architectural descriptions and, in some cases, historical information. (Many Sea Cliff homes, for example, were rooming houses or inns during the village’s heyday as a resort in the early 1900s.) Members of the commission are combing through the database to identify homes whose owners will be notified of potential landmark eligibility. Homeowners can also initiate the landmarking process by proposing their homes as candidates. The SCLPC will help owners research the history of their houses using village files and newspaper databases.

“Landmarking enables property owners to ensure that the character of their home is pre-

served for the future,” said Guerci.

Landmark status applies only to building exteriors that can be seen from public streets or sidewalks, not to house interiors. Building plans for exterior changes to landmarked structures are reviewed by the SCLPC as an advisory group to the Architectural Review Board. The village discounts building permit fees for owners of landmarked homes and businesses.

“I’m excited to fulfill and continue the work of the Sea Cliff Landmarks Association, past village officials, past SCLPC members, and the many volunteers who have worked since the 1980s to protect, preserve and celebrate our architectural and cultural history,” Treiber said. “I see our efforts as a culmination and appreciation of more than forty years of work.”

Sea Cliff Museum Update

by Courtney Chambers, Museum Director

Since its founding in 1979, the Sea Cliff Village Museum has accepted over 2,500 donations from current and former Sea Cliff residents and friends of the museum. Our collection of photographs, papers, textiles, and artifacts numbers nearly 10,000, and as you can imagine, we are bursting at the seams. The museum has been closed since June as we work behind the scenes to create more archival-quality storage space for our collection. Among the improvements we’re working on include a new HVAC system so our attic and basement storage areas can safely house our ever-expanding collection. Although most of the work will not be in public areas, there will be improvements to our main exhibit area that we’re excited to show when we reopen in 2022.

The museum would like to thank the Good of the Village Association for its recent generous donation, which has enabled us to purchase acid-free archival quality textile boxes and tissue paper to properly house our textile collection.

The museum continues to collect documents, artifacts, and photographs related to the COVID-19 pandemic—and all other aspects of our village’s history. Please consider sharing your historical items with the museum so we can continue to document our village’s stories. If you have any spare time, please consider volunteering with us. We are looking for individuals to help us catalog our collection using our new collections management software. If interested, please call director Courtney Chambers at 516-801-3401 or email museum@seacliff-ny.gov.

Tips for a Green Winter and Holiday Season

by Anastasia Yankopoulos, Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor

There are a number of ways to lower your environmental impact during the cold months and especially around the holidays. Here are some suggestions for going green this season.

Recycle Holiday Trees and Decorations

Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands can be repurposed once the holidays are over, so long as all artificial decorations and wires are removed. Trees can be anchored in some fashion in the yard and used to hang birdseed and suet “ornaments,” offering food and shelter for winter birds. Garlands and wreaths can be dismantled and used in the compost pile or as mulch until spring. Trees can also be turned into chips for mulch. Local communities have different tree pickup and recycling programs. In Sea Cliff, trees can be placed out on the curb for pickup on normal trash pickup days.

Reduce Holiday Waste

When reorganizing closets for winter, collect unwanted clothes, toys, books or holiday gifts and donate them to local thrift shops, charities, or bins set up for receipt of such items. For holiday gift-giving, consider homemade items or purchasing fewer but more durable items that won’t quickly end up in the waste stream. Another option is to gift experiences instead, which can’t be thrown away and will last a lifetime.

Minimize purchases of packaging and wrapping products. Reuse packing and shipping materials and find creative ways to present gifts. For example, old newspapers, comics, maps,

and posters can make interesting wrapping paper.

Consider reducing your holiday energy impact by buying EnergyStar, energy-efficient LED lights for your holiday needs. If you are planning a large holiday gathering that makes it impractical to use your usual dinnerware and flatware, compostable plates and utensils are a good alternative.

Select Lower-Impact Products for Ice Melt

Unfortunately, there are no perfect solutions for melting ice, but making sure walks and driveways are shoveled can help the sun do most of the work. There are also a number of products available that can offer more environmentally friendly options to melting ice and snow. Potassium acetate has been found to be very effective in this regard, but it does come at a higher cost. Other options can at least provide better traction, such as using sand or kitty litter or reusing coffee grounds. Alfalfa meal, which is a natural fertilizer and has fewer environmental impacts, melts snow and provides traction in icy conditions.

Although salt and other chloride-based deicers are widely available and easily applied to ensure snow and ice removal on roads and driveways, these deicers have negative environmental impacts for soil, vegetation, and our water resources and marine life. These deicers can easily enter into our groundwater through soil filtration and aquifer recharge areas. Through runoff, they can also eventually find

their way into our coastal waters and throw off the balance of marine ecosystems and cause harm to marine life. They also are irritants that can affect pets’ paws.

Keep Winter Activities Trash Free

Beaches and parks can be beautiful destinations for winter activities. When leaving these areas, be sure to take all your belongings and trash with you. Litter left behind on shorelines and other areas can pose just as great a risk to wildlife during the winter as it does during warmer seasons. As temperatures drop and ponds freeze over and are used for skating and hockey, be safe on the ice and make sure trash, chairs, and equipment are not left on the ice to be retrieved at a later time. As has happened with Scudder’s Pond, quick increases in temperatures and subsequent thaws have sent chairs, brooms and garbage to the bottom of the pond.

Support CSHH Shop

Finally, for holiday gift-giving that can provide a lasting benefit for the environment, support the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor’s Shop at www.shop.coalitiontosavehempsteadharbor.org. You’ll find CSHH-themed merchandise, along with a varied collection of items—including paintings, photography, jewelry, woodworking, and more—from amazing local artists who are donating a portion of the proceeds from your purchases to CSHH.

The Sea Cliff Gardener

by Donna Kianka, Winter’s Edge Micro Farm

December is a time of reflection, as the year draws to a close after the celebration of the holidays. It concludes on New Year’s Eve with the promise of a fresh start and a laundry list of improvements for our lives. But there should be plans for our gardens also. Our gardens are our sanctuaries as well as a source of beauty and food. The months of January and February are a time to plan and learn. One book that we often recommend is *The Vegetable Gardener’s Bible* by Edward C. Smith. In addition, there are books available through the libraries that will offer literature on all aspects of gardening or just one—be it herbs, edible flowers, growing under row covers etc. We always like to have the *Farmers’ Almanac* handy and purchase it yearly. In addition, there is a daily email you can receive from *The Farmers’ Almanac* (just search almanac.com newsletters). There are not only daily newsletters but webinars!

The winter is a good time to sketch your property and note what vegetation you have and plan for the future. Always be mindful of what a plant needs to thrive. So, shade plants will

need to be in the shady part of your property. Herbs, vegetables, and fruit like the sun. Do not be afraid to rip out the English ivy and replace with zinnias and sunflowers. Do not allow English ivy to climb up the foundation of your house as it will cause damage as well as hide termite tubes. Make plans to remove old and decaying structures like fences, old BBQs, and artificial ponds.

On the better weather days, there is always weeding to do. Do not compost weeds, but rather dispose of them. Those seeds need not be reintroduced back into your gardens. And shake the snow out of bushes, as the extra weight will damage the branches. Trim or prune storm-damaged limbs, and use wood ash from the fireplace sparingly as a useful source of potash. Avoid the use of salt if possible, as that will damage the plants and your soil. Remember to feed the birds; as the winter wears on it is harder for them to find food. And be patient, as spring is not as far as it always seems in the winter. One day in March you will walk out, look around your gardens and say, I forgot to plant the peas!



Where Is the Bacteria in Hempstead Harbor Coming From?

Feds Use a Type of DNA Analysis to Help Find Out

by Eric Swenson, Executive Director, Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee

Bacteria levels in Hempstead Harbor (and other harbors) have always been a concern. Unfortunately, bacteria have many possible sources (human, pet, and wildlife) and different approaches to reducing them are needed depending on the source. Until recently, there was no easy way to determine those sources. In recent years, advances have been made using a type of DNA analysis called Microbial Source Tracking to help determine these sources.

Between June 2018 and July 2019, the United States Geological Society sampled four-

teen sites in Hempstead Harbor to determine if bacteria found were of human, dog, waterfowl, or deer origin. They recently released their report. This article will give a very brief summary of their findings.

They tested in dry and wet conditions, in winter and summer; from outfalls, groundwater, surface runoff, sediments, and locations in the middle of the harbor; looked at isotopes of nitrogen to see if septic wastes were involved and looked at land uses near each sampling site.

Overall, they found:

- Human and dog markers were found throughout the harbor in roughly half of all samples. In only two samples were deer markers found.
- In all but one sample, waterfowl markers were found in the winter months (when populations increase).
- Higher levels of human markers were found in dry weather. This may indicate a constant source of contamination unrelated to weather events. In fact, stormwater may dilute the levels.
- The highest levels of contamination came from three

sites: 1) the culvert at Glenwood Road (a/k/a Powerhouse Drain); 2) the outfall at Skillman Street in Roslyn; and 3) Glen Cove Creek.

- In general, high fecal coliform concentrations did not relate to weather condition or season.

- Groundwater was sampled at Tappen Beach, and while human markers were found in shallow groundwater (8 feet below ground surface), fecal coliform bacteria were not found. However, high nitrate levels were found. This implies septic influence.

- No fecal bacteria were found in groundwater samples at Sea Cliff Beach.

- There is strong evidence to suggest that direct groundwater seepage to Hempstead Harbor is an unlikely contributor to the concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria.

For more information, please contact HempsteadHarbor@gmail.com.

My Town

On Sunday afternoon, October 17, music filled the air on Highland Avenue in Sea Cliff. Lisa and Scott Schubach hosted a backyard concert at their home to raise funds for NOSH, the North Shore Soup Kitchen's home delivery program created in the wake of the pandemic. Antigone Rising, Sea Cliff's well-loved all female rock band, generously provided the music as their gift to this important cause that continues to deliver food to so many local families in need of assistance.

The concert opened with musical performances by two outstanding young female vocalists, Mae Curiale and Charlotte Marchioli, currently being mentored by Antigone Rising's not-for-profit Girls Rising. The band followed with a long list of favorites, including their iconic "My Town," bringing the enthusiastic crowd to their feet. It was a great afternoon that yielded much needed support for NOSH and the North Shore Soup Kitchen: www.northshoresoupkitchen.org.



Pictured left to right: Lisa Schubach, Cathy Henderson, Mae Curiale, Nini Camp, Kristen Ellis-Henderson, Charlotte Marchioli



Sea Cliff residents enjoying the snow on Prospect Avenue, c. 1906. Photo credit: Sea Cliff Village Museum, Henry Otto Korten Collection.

Art Lovers and Creatives: Connect with Sea Cliff Arts Council

by Kathleen DiResta, President, Sea Cliff Arts Council

Hello from Sea Cliff Arts Council. We are thrilled to be planning community events once again.

Thank you to everyone who was able to visit the work of Miranda Best at Sea Cliff Village Library. Currently on view, check out the still life photography by the late Eric Kamp. Coming up this January through February, will be a group show "Views of Hempstead Harbor"—if you would like to submit art, photography, or poems inspired by our harbor, please reach out via email to seacliffartscouncil@gmail.com.

com. Proceeds of the Harbor Art show will go to Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor.

Sea Cliff Arts Council is happy to organize Sea Cliff Second Sunday—an afternoon to support local business, enjoy music and give back to our community. Shop our local stores, dine at our restaurants, swing by to see music and discover new finds with vendors on the Village Green and Pirie Park.

Poetry in the Park has been a wonderful addition to our lineup. In warm weather months, find our featured readers and open mic at Spooky Park on the

last Wednesday of the month. If we find a winter location, we will share in our newsletter, Facebook or SC Circle. Reach out to mattcuriale@gmail.com for more info.

Follow us on Instagram @seacliffartscouncil to get the latest updates on our next events. Please email seacliffartscouncil@gmail.com to be added to our newsletter with the latest art news. Thanks for your continued support! Want to share your creativity with us? Send us images or post on our Facebook page: Sea Cliff Arts Council. Thank you!

A New Local Holiday Festivity: Shimmering Solstice

by Elizabeth Winchester

For close to ten years, Maura Brush dreamed of bringing a holiday light show to Old Westbury Gardens. As the director of horticulture of the historic site, Brush had wanted to extend the season for visitors. A holiday light show, she felt, was the perfect way to do just that.

This winter, Brush's dream will become a reality. Shimmering Solstice opens November 20 and runs through January 9. Tickets are on sale now. The light show is presented by Catholic Health and was built especially for the landscaping by the Los Angeles-based company Lightswitch.

Unique features include light displays twinkling in rhythmic patterns in the formal Rose Garden and Walled Garden, and oversized dandelions made of light that line the edge of the pond. "It looks like their tops are blowing away in the breeze," says Brush. A giant Christmas tree, made of lit globes, is on display in front of Westbury House. There are interactive elements and a secret finale (hint: it follows Old Westbury Gardens through the four seasons).

Refreshments are available for visitors to enjoy as they walk along the trail. The menu, catered by Lessing's Hospitality Group, includes things that can be eaten with one hand, from butternut squash soup and veggie chili to chicken sandwiches, holiday treats, and hot cocoa.

The pandemic has helped people learn to bundle up in cold weather for outdoor socialization and entertainment. Brush's son Hudson, 11, thinks the timing and season will make the experience even cooler—figuratively.

"So many people never get to see the gardens at night or in the winter," says Hudson, "so this is going to be extra cool for them." Brush, who hopes for Shimmering Solstice to become a new holiday tradition for people in the area, couldn't agree more! For tickets and details visit shimmeringsolstice.com.



The Library in Winter

by Camille Purcell, Library Director

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has supported the library during the past year and a half. Whether it is through donations to the Friends of the Library Annual Appeal, attending our programs (in person or virtually), using our online resources, coming in to use the computers or taking out library materials, you have demonstrated just how important it is to have and use a public library.

As we move through this pandemic, many of our patrons have expressed their thanks for all that the library has done to help them during this difficult time. It has been very rewarding to see many of our patrons returning to use our resources and browse our shelves. We

extend a warm welcome to the newcomers who are making Sea Cliff their home and welcome them into the library family. If you haven't been to the library lately, please stop by to renew your library card or sign up to get your first Sea Cliff Library card. The library offers many ways to take advantage of its resources. Whether online or in person, we have committed ourselves to helping the community come together.

Our children's department continues to provide innovative programming for our youngest patrons. The librarians at the main library have reached out to middle-grade students with book discussions and craft programs. We now offer an opportunity for members of our

senior population to learn how to use new technology with our TeenTech volunteers. We hope to continue to build on these offerings as much as our staffing allows.

YA author M.T. Anderson, when accepting an award, said, "You're standing on this Earth for a little while. I'm standing behind you. Let me tell you about the world I see. You tell me about the world you see. And together, we're going to make the world that you wish to inherit."

That is a very hopeful idea and one that the Sea Cliff Library extends to everyone as we move into a brand New Year.

Children's Library Update

by Ann DiPietro, Children's Library Coordinator

Latest happenings from the Children's Library: Our Storytimes are continuing outdoors on the front lawn of the Children's Library, with almost 200 people participating every week, broken into small groups with multiple sessions throughout the mornings. Afternoons the Children's Library is open for browsing and checking out books. Our crafts and curated book bags are available, with over 700 books circulating each month. Our popular Pretzels and Picturebooks book discussion groups meet four times a week. Every day since March 2020, we have had a virtual Storytime—over 600 stories—all accessible on YouTube #seacliffstorytime. We have exciting special events coming up, including the "Introduction to The Nutcracker" on the front lawn of the Children's Library on December 4 at 2 pm. To register for any of these programs, email us at scchildrenslibrary@gmail.com.

Something for Everyone at the Children's Library

Photos courtesy of Ann DiPietro



Kindergarteners, Pretzels and Picturebooks



First Graders, Pretzels and Picturebooks



Second Graders, Penguins and Paperbacks



Ms. Sue's Crafts—a weekly take-home craft project for grades 1-5—register at seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com. Limited to twelve children each week.

Photo by Jenny Bernholz

Sea Cliff Civic Association Halloween Fun!



Some of the winners of the SCCA Haunted House Competition. Photos by Heidi Hunt.

Sea Cliff Civic Association's Village-Wide Halloween Parade



Photo by Heidi Hunt.

Nutcracker 2021



Join us on the front lawn of the Children's Library for "Introduction to the Nutcracker" Saturday December 4th at 2:00 p.m.

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF SEA CLIFF				
	day(s) of the month	time	Meeting location	additional information
Board of Trustees Conference	1st Monday	6:00 p.m.	See website	no comment period
Board of Trustees Meeting	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m.	See website	comment period
Architectural Review Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	See website	
Planning Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	See website	
Zoning Board	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	See website	
Environmental Conservation Commission	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m.	See website	
Landmarks Preservation Commission	4th Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	See website	
Tree Commission	2nd & 4th Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Field site visits	Call Village Hall for details

Days, times and locations subject to change - please check the village website at www.seacliff-ny.gov or call 516-671-0080 to confirm information.

Recycling, Garbage & Other Refuse Information

Pickup and Drop-Off days and policies are subject to change - please check the village website at www.seacliff-ny.gov

or call 516-671-0080 for more information.

Village of Sea Cliff reserves the right to limit pickup or drop-off quantities

Recycling, Garbage & Other Refuse Pickup Schedule

Pick Up Type	North of Glen Avenue	South of Glen Avenue
Single-Stream Recycling	Wednesday	
Garbage	Monday	Tuesday
	Thursday	Friday
Metal Pickup	call 516-671-0080 to schedule	
	for pickup on Thursday (<i>fees may apply</i>)	
Heavy Pickup/Rubbish	call 516-671-0080 for more information	
	and pick up schedule (<i>fees may apply</i>)	

Recycling & Garbage Holiday Schedules 2021

Holiday	Date Observed	Change in Schedule
Christmas	Saturday 12/25/21	No Change
New Year's Day 2022	Saturday 1/1/22	No Change

Dept. of Public Works Garage on Altamont Ave. - "Village Yard"

Open Only to Sea Cliff Village Residents on days and times below

Drop-Off Type	Day & Time
Single-Stream Recycling Only	Thursday 7 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Yard Waste, Garbage, E-Waste, C&D and Recycling	Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

IMPORTANT VILLAGE YARD INFORMATION

please call 516-671-0080 during business hours with questions

- Village Yard access is limited to Sea Cliff Residents only -
- The Village Yard does not accept liquids and various other materials -
- A \$50 fee is required to dispose of construction debris (C&D) at the Village Yard -
- Landscapers are required by law to take yard waste with them and are prohibited from leaving at curbside or taking to the Village Yard -

GO TO www.seacliff-ny.gov AND SEARCH FOR "CodeRED" TO SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS RELATED TO GARBAGE PICKUP

Addiction Resources

In Case Of Emergency Call 911

Long Island Crisis Center
Hotline: 516-679-1111

Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD) licadd.org
Hotline: 631-979-1700

NY State HOPEline
1-877-846-7369 or Text: 467369

Nassau Alliance For Addiction Services (NAFAS) nassaualliance.org
516-481-4000

Nassau County Overdose Prevention Events
Naloxone/Narcan trainings throughout Nassau County:
www.nassaucountyny.gov/3378/Nassau-County-Overdose-Prevention

Would you like to join the Village Bulletin staff? We are looking for volunteers. Contact scvillagebulletin@gmail.com

The Sea Cliff Village Bulletin is available online at www.seacliff-ny.gov

Join the Sea Cliff Circle—an online semimonthly calendar. Email: seacliffcircle@gmail.com

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING DATES 2021-2022

Days, times and locations subject to change

Please confirm on the village website

www.seacliff-ny.gov or call 516-671-0080

Monday	December	6	2021	Conference
Monday		13	2021	Meeting
Monday	January	3	2022	Conference
Monday		10	2022	Meeting
Monday	February	7	2022	Conference
Monday		14	2022	Meeting
Monday	March	7	2022	Conference
Monday		14	2022	Meeting
Monday	April	4	2022	Organizational Meeting

Village of Sea Cliff Justice Court

All Courts Dates are WEDNESDAYS

7:30 p.m. - Village Hall DOWNSTAIRS

	Arraignment	Conference
December 2021	8th only	
2022		
January	5th	19th
February	9th	23rd
March	9th	23rd
April	13th	27th
May	11th	25th
June	8th	22nd
July	13th only	
August	17th only	
September	7th	21th
October	12th	26th
November	9th	30th
December	14th only	

Please call the court during business hours at 516-671-0080 with any questions



To comment or to contribute to the Village Bulletin email scvillagebulletin@gmail.com



SEA CLIFF VILLAGE BULLETIN

Sea Cliff, NY 11579

Telephone 671-0080

www.seacliff-ny.gov

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Kevin McGilloway, Nicholas Pinto, James Versocki
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