



DECEMBER

VILLAGE BULLETIN

2023

Mayor's Update

by Mayor Elena Villafane



It is hard to believe that I am filling up my Halloween pumpkin for trick or treaters and writing this letter that will reach residents shortly before the holiday season. But as I look back, so much has happened over the last three months, and we have so much to look forward to through the year's end.

In September, after more than a year of sustained effort by numerous volunteers and overwhelming resident participation, the Board adopted a Comprehensive Long-Range Plan, 44 years after the adoption of the last plan. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those residents who participated in the village dialogue, as well as those who spearheaded and shepherded the process forward. I want to recognize the efforts of Dina Epstein and Nick Pinto, who in their role as Trustee liaisons kept the process moving to-

ward the eventual adoption of the plan. Erinn McDonnell, on the staff side, was instrumental in keeping dates, documents and deadlines organized and tending to all the administrative work. The Board is now preparing to start the next phase of the process, which is an examination of our Zoning Code.

This summer was also a busy time for the Department of Public Works. We saw a major paving project completed, the installation of a new outflow pipe at the bottom of Tilley, and drainage improvement projects on Stenson Avenue and Porter Place. Our staff worked diligently to keep up with the parks, roads, recycling and garbage pick-up. It is through their efforts that our village looks so great. Finally, we accepted delivery of the new streetsweeper.

For the first time since 2019, Sea Cliff Mini Mart went off without a hitch. In the weeks leading up to October, we held our breath and, thankfully, Mother Nature smiled on us all. Through the amazing efforts of Kiwanis, a seamless event took place where thousands enjoyed a wonderful day

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2023
SEA CLIFF
Holiday
CELEBRATION
DEC 3RD • 3:45-4:30PM
SEA CLIFF VILLAGE GREEN

Please join friends and neighbors as we
celebrate the festive holiday season
together with songs, blessings, and if
we're lucky, a Santa sighting!

Happy Holidays!

Incorporated Village of
Sea Cliff
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A Very Sea Cliff Autumn



SCCA Newcomers Welcoming Party 2023
Photo courtesy of Ann DiPietro.

Happenings at the Museum

by Courtney Chambers, Museum Director

We hope you have been able to visit the museum this autumn to view our latest exhibit, "A Suburban Village: Sea Cliff in the 1950s." Village life was swell during that decade as new houses were built, the population expanded, and residents celebrated the 75th anniversary of the village's incorporation. The exhibit runs through December 16, so don't wait to visit.

After closing for the holidays and the month of January, the museum will reopen in early February with an exhibit on the history of the Sea Cliff Fire Department. Organized in 1884, the fire department will celebrate its 140th anniversary in 2024. Do you have a family member who volunteered for the fire department? The museum would love to borrow any artifacts your family may

have. If you are interested in sharing your family's memories, photographs, or other ephemera from the fire department, please email or call the museum.

We're always looking for docents to join us! If you're interested in serving as a docent at the museum, or would like to get more involved in any other capacity, please email museum@seacliff-ny.gov.

The museum is also still collecting COVID-19 artifacts for its collections. If you, your business, or your family have any photographs, signage, documents, masks, or other items dating from the recent pandemic, please consider donating them to the museum. Thank you for helping preserve Sea Cliff's history for future residents of our village.



The Sea Cliff Fire Department, circa 1959.

Photo courtesy of the Sea Cliff Village Museum.

Updates from the Sea Cliff Landmarks Association

by Gwynne Lennon, Vice President, Sea Cliff Landmarks Association

Sea Cliff Landmarks looks forward to a full schedule of events in 2024 as we end this year's lecture series and host our popular Holiday Party. Attendees at our third 2023 lecture were fascinated by the history and upcoming restoration of the Sea Cliff Firehouse bell and clock. The project will result in a bell that rings as it did when cast in 1833 by the Holbrook Company, founded by an apprentice of Paul Revere.

Matt Dougherty, lifelong Sea Cliff resident, will speak on "preservation carpentry" at our first lecture in the new year. The story for Matt begins at one of the oldest trade schools in America, the North Bennet Street School in Boston. His talk will bring historic preservation to life and

have practical implications for our own projects big and small. His projects range from a "camp" in Montana to the Roslyn Grist Mill. Be on the lookout for the confirmed date to join us by the fire for wine and dessert at the Sea Cliff Yacht Club on a Wednesday evening in late February to early March.

In the meantime, Landmarks is working on updating our website as a resource for anyone interested in Sea Cliff's architectural heritage. The website is being designed to provide and connect to information about village buildings, streetscapes and pathways. An emphasis is being placed on interfacing with social media in order to provide an up-to-date connection about our endeavors.

The SCLA House Tour

returns in 2024 on Sunday, May 19. The tour has been a tri-state favorite for well over 30 years. We are looking for homes to feature on the tour, which historically has included between six to eight homes, showcasing the wide variety of architectural styles in Sea Cliff from small to grand, historic to contemporary, and relics or design showcases. In 2024, Landmarks will continue to work on Sea Cliff's system of public pathways that have provided passage since the late 1800s. Join now: \$20 per household. Mail check to: to SCLA, PO Box 69, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. For more information, call 516-662-2821.

The Graveyard Walk: A Stroll into Sea Cliff's Past

by The Good of the Village



Christine Abbenda, Ann DiPietro and Miranda Best (left to right) performed as founding GVA members.

Photo courtesy of Renee Swanson.

On Saturday, October 28, the spirits came alive in the Carpenter Cemetery as more than 100 people came to hear their stories told by live actors using a script researched and created by Sea Cliff's own Peggy Costello. The event was sponsored by the Good of the Village Association, GVA, Sea Cliff's oldest organization, founded in 1898 by Mrs. Coles Carpenter and 23 other civic-minded women. For those who missed this year's event, you can read the stories in the book GVA created based on Peggy's extensive research, *Conversations with Our Past*, available at both the Sea Cliff Library and the Sea Cliff School Library.

This year's event was directed by Fred Stropel and performed by a band of Sea Cliff actors, who became the spirits of those buried here as they told stories dating back to 1797 and ranging from the naturalist who learned to live off the land from nearby Indian tribes to the brothers who served in the Civil War. As one attendee noted, "There was so much history involved here! I never realized; it was fascinating!"



Mayor's Update

(continued from page 1)

in Sea Cliff, all in support of the Kiwanis mission of service. Numerous residents, visitors and vendors marveled at the wonderful experience that is Mini Mart. We were fortunate and grateful to have the assistance of the Nassau County Police Department and the mounted unit in helping to bring Mini Mart to a safe and successful close.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the efforts of all our DPW staff who, on a tight timeline under the able leadership of Village Admin-

istrator Bruce Kennedy and DPW Foreman Gary Ketchum, prepared the streets and parking for the influx of Mini Mart visitors and an amazingly speedy cleanup. By 7:00 that night, it was as if it had never happened!

So, as we look ahead, there are many projects on-going and wonderful events to come as we enter this holiday season. On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees, our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Carl's Concerns

by Elizabeth Winchester

Carl Rumatoski wears many hats, including village building, plumbing and fire inspector. He's also head of animal control. But Carl's best-known role as Sea Cliff's Code Enforcer does not make him the most liked around town.

"We don't go looking for violations—we usually act on complaints," explains Carl. "It's much easier for all if residents comply [to code policies] in the first place." That's a tall order when some policies might not be clear.

One such fuzzy policy is dog licensing. The Town of Oyster Bay requires dog owners to obtain a license for their dog at four months of age and renew it annually. "Half the people don't and don't even know they have to," says Carl, "and it's always good to make sure dogs are up to date on shots." Licenses, which are issued at Oyster Bay Town Hall (North and South) and at the Town Animal Shelter in Syosset, require proof of rabies vaccination. The application for original and renewal licenses can be obtained in person or online

at oysterbaytown.com.

Carl would also like to clarify the issue of house numbering. According to New York State residential code, house numbers should be at least four inches high. This requirement may seem small or even petty, but it's an essential safety measure that helps firefighters and other first responders locate homes in need of help.

Stay tuned for more clarifications from Carl and remember that code enforcers "are just trying to get peace and keep everybody happy."



Carl and his new friend Walty.

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Winchester.

Village Property Tax Assessment Calendar

by Bruce Kennedy, Village Administrator

It is getting to be that time of the year again. To assist residents in keeping fully informed, we have prepared the following important dates and information.

November 1

First day that applications for partial property tax exemptions are accepted. Various exemptions are available for qualified taxpayers that can help reduce their tax burden. The most common exemptions are Veterans, Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons, and Firefighters. If the exemption you are seeking is income-based, then you have to apply annually and provide proof of income for the previous calendar year.

January 2

Last day that applications for exemptions can be submitted.

February 1

Tentative Assessment

Roll is published. This roll will indicate the assessed value of your property. If you feel the assessed value is too high, you can file a complaint, also known as a grievance, on a form that is available in Village Hall and on the village website. The assessment should indicate the fair market value of your home on January 1, 2024 (the valuation date).

February 20

"Grievance Day." This is the last day that complaints can be submitted to the village.

March (day to be determined)

The Board of Assessment Review will meet on a day yet to be scheduled, to review all complaints and after careful review, make determinations on whether to lower particular assessments.

April 1

Final Assessment Roll

is published. This final assessment roll will be used to determine the tax bills for the 2024/2025 Village Fiscal Year. If you filed a complaint and are not in agreement with the determination of the Board of Assessment Review, you can file a Small Claims Assessment Review (SCAR).

May 1

Last day a SCAR can be filed with the Nassau County Clerk's Office.

This is simply a screenshot of the dates. More detailed information, instructions and forms are available on the village website, under Taxes. Furthermore, we are available to any residents with questions during normal business hours.

Stay Warm, Stay Safe

by Emmy Chabowski, member, Sea Cliff Fire Department

The Sea Cliff Fire Department wants all the residents of the village to stay fire and emergency safe this winter by following these great tips! In the winter, there are various hazards that increase emergency activity; by following these tips, you can help keep your family and community safe.

The change to daylight savings time is a good reminder that smoke detector batteries should be changed every six months.

When burning candles inside the home, never leave them unattended, or near curtains, drapes, blankets, or lampshades. Portable heaters are a great way to keep warm, but make sure to leave three feet of space between heaters and any flammable materials at all times, and never leave a portable heater on while not home!

Planning to enjoy a nice night in front of the fireplace? Make sure the fire

is completely out before turning in for the night.

When it snows, we know you want your car close and warm for those work commutes, but remember to never warm up a vehicle by running it inside an enclosed space.

During storms, remember that streets need to be clear of cars so the plows can do their jobs, and help keep emergency responders safe on the road. In order to help firefighters, and prevent problems during a fire, remember to keep all fire hydrants clear of snow and ice by promptly shoveling a few feet around each one. This helps quick and easy access during an emergency.

Lastly, there is an increase of carbon monoxide emergencies during the winter months. Carbon monoxide is known as the "invisible killer" due to its odorless and colorless properties. In the home, heating and cooking equip-

ment are potential sources of CO if things aren't working appropriately. CO alarms should be placed in central locations within the home, on every level within a home, and outside each sleeping area. For best protection, use alarms that interconnect throughout the home so when one sounds, they all sound. Only use detectors that are listed by qualified testing laboratories, and remember to follow all manufacturer's instructions for proper placement and testing procedures. Test all alarms monthly. In the event a CO alarm sounds, move to a fresh air location outdoors, and make sure everyone inside is accounted for. Contact 911 and remain in a fresh air location until emergency services arrive and declare it is safe to re-enter the home.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!

A Musical Gift

by Elizabeth Winchester

Sunday, October 15, was an extra special one for the Ferrara family, and for about 125 local music fans who packed St. Luke's Church. John Ferrara, son of Sea Cliff guitar guru Frank Ferrara, turned 40. The bassist and composer is recognized worldwide for his "unorthodox approach to writing and performing." John couldn't imagine a better way to ring in the next decade than with a repeat concert with his father.

"I wanted to have my 40th birthday where my father and the rest of my family live, to celebrate the path I chose in life with those who have always understood and have supported my creative side," explained John. "I also have seen firsthand the way the amazing Sea Cliff com-

munity comes together to appreciate and support the arts and wanted to share with them the music that my father and I create."

Similar to the duo's first Sea Cliff Arts Council concert, which was in March of 2022, Frank and John each played a solo set. In between, they played together, sharing a piece of their intimate connection with the crowd. They also showed their love of family, particularly through a song that John wrote for his grandmother, who had a front-row seat to the show. John dedicated his closing song to his late grandfather.

While John and Frank don't perform together often, it is always exceptional when they do. They are musicians who often improvise, a skill which re-

quires the type of listening that leads to close collaboration or symbiosis. As father and son, continued Frank, "we have a shared history, sensibility and affection. One way this manifested in our performances was in the form of humor and shared laughs." The biggest laugh was when John explained their history with a familiar guitar riff that they played during one of their pieces. When John had first heard the riff in a Green Day song as a teen, he couldn't wait to share it with Frank, who quickly told him it was really from Chicago's *25 or 6 to 4*.

John and Frank, please don't make us wait for another big birthday for your next local show. This concert was a true gift for the community.



Chef Terrence Cave with wife and partner Jaime Glowinski-Cave.

Photo by Elizabeth Winchester.

Keep Sea Cliff Caffeinated

by Elizabeth Winchester

It was a very sad day in October when Walter and Lily posted a sign on the window of the beloved Sea Cliff Bistro announcing their retirement. After 13 years of friendship and keeping our coffee cups and stomachs happily filled, Walter, Lily and the welcoming cafe they created will be deeply missed.

"Our favorite time of day was always when we would stroll into the Sea Cliff Bistro, the Cheers of Sea Cliff, where everybody knows your name," said Dave Keenan. "The food and beverages were top notch and the love it was served with was even better!"

But soon, word percolated through the village that local caffeine cravers and lunch lovers need not fear. Walter and Lily had reached out to Terrence Cave and Jamie Glowinski-Cave to keep the vibe of a coffee shop alive. The coffee- and food-loving couple knew they had to jump on the opportunity.

"As local members of the community," said

Jamie, who owns Glowinskin Esthetics, also on Sea Cliff Avenue, "we are looking forward to sharing our passion for great coffee and food with everyone."

Passion and expertise! Terrence's more than 20-year career in the culinary industry ranges from working as a chef in fine dining in Manhattan to sports entertainment, cooking for the Mets and Islanders. Terrence is ready for something more quaint, where he can use his skills in serving the community.

Now called Sea Cliff Daily Grind, the menu includes coffee, espresso, tea, breakfast bites, lunch and some surprises.

"We look forward to delighting our guests with seasonal specials," said Terrence.

"We will put our own spin on it," added Jamie, "and it will remain a place where everyone will feel comfortable visiting and hanging out." Including Walter and Lily, who can finally take a well-deserved break and enjoy!



Father-son duo, Frank and John Ferrara.

Photo by Alan Klein Photography.

Senior Lunch & Fun

by Peggie Como, President, MCC

The Mutual Concerns Lunch Program has been in existence for many years now and has grown to be a vital part of our community. This popular lunch and socialization program is open to all seniors every Tuesday at St. Luke's Parish Hall. For a \$4.00 donation, you can enjoy a full lunch and partake in programs such as gentle chair yoga, games, crafts, and special presentations, films, and field trips! All seniors are welcome. If you need transportation to and from St. Luke's, it is

available by calling Village Hall at 516-671-0080. The village's bus will pick you up and drop you off at your door. For more information, call Peggie Como at 516-675-7239.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of our senior community. Former Mayor Ed Lieberman has planned several presentations starting in November, including on Teddy Roosevelt, FDR and Jackie Kennedy. He will also resume his historical tours of local areas. Special events and informational

programs are scheduled throughout the year, and we are continually adding to our list of program offerings.

We help seniors stay connected with people because remaining socially involved can shield us from the emotional stress of isolation and loneliness. Building new relationships and new ways of becoming engaged can take place at any time of life! We certainly have a lot to offer and it is our hope that you will join us!





Lee Lefkowitz, circa 1989, in a vintage Victorian dress.

Photo courtesy of Amy Pedolsky.



Beach News

by Cate, Elaine, and Joni, Sea Cliff Beach Managers

Summer 2024 will be here before we know it! Winter is the perfect time for aspiring lifeguards to get their certification. Teenagers must be 15 or older to take the class and must be turning 16 to be a lifeguard for Sea Cliff Beach. Visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class to find locations and upcoming courses. This is the first step in becoming a lifeguard at Sea Cliff Beach.

As a reminder, when enjoying the beach off-season, please take your trash with you or use the cans on the Boulevard. If you see any trash on the beach, kindly pick it up and throw it away.

Please remember that all kayaks and paddleboards must be removed by **December 31, 2023**.

We wish the residents of Sea Cliff a joyous holiday season, a healthy and fast winter, and we will see you in the spring!

Why You Should Move Your Car During A Snow Emergency

by Bruce Kennedy, Village Administrator

Snow emergencies are common in our area. During a snowstorm, it is important to move your car off the street so that snowplows can clear the roads effectively.

There are several reasons why you should move your car during a snow emergency:

- It helps to keep the roads clear for emergency vehicles. During a snow emergency, emergency vehicles need to be able to get to people who need help quickly and safely.

- It helps to keep the roads clear for other drivers. If you leave your car parked on the road during a snow emergency, it can make it difficult for other drivers to get around. This can lead to traffic accidents, which could put people in danger.
- Moving your car helps to prevent accidents. If you leave your car parked on the road during a snow emergency, it is more likely to be hit by another car.
- Finally, it allows our DPW crew to clear the snow off the roads, from

curb to curb, so that everybody will have a place to park after the storm.

Far too often, our snowplows have to work around cars left parked on the side of the street. Then after the storm, people clean the snow off their cars onto the already plowed street creating an even more hazardous condition. Further, the mounds of snow left surrounding your car by the snowplows become big mounds of ice, making it impossible for others to park.

Legendary Leewood

by Elizabeth Winchester

Why does a banner reading “Leewood Celebrates 100 Years” hang in front of the brick Tudor home at 25 Downing Avenue?

The historic home was built by Jacob J. Levison in 1923. The esteemed landscape-architect is known for his design of the grounds at famous North Shore estates including OHEKA, Caumsett and Panfield. He also designed the landscape at his private residence. The house architect was Harrie Lindeberg, who was known for his work designing country houses.

When Levison built and owned the 12-room home, the property included 23 acres. When Jack and Lee Lefkowitz bought the

home in 1980, the property was two acres.

The Lefkowitzes named the house Leewood — “Lee” for the owner, who was a professional interior designer known for her work creating miniature rooms. The “wood” part of the name, explained Lefkowitz’s daughter Amy Pedolsky, “is because the house is set back in the woods. We would not take down the natural habitat,” which includes Levison’s original plantings, and specimens and two fountains that Lee added.

The house had been empty for 12 years before the Lefkowitzes bought it and was in a state of much decay. Jack, a builder, and Lee took two years off

from their professional work to painstakingly restore the home. They kept original features, such as the slate roof, tile and hardwood floors, fireplaces and French doors. Lee designed the interior with early 20th century English furnishings, in keeping with the year the house was built.

Lee Lefkowitz passed away in October. Amy said her mother would be thrilled for the community to continue the centennial celebration. “My mother loved Leewood,” said Amy. “This was her abode. It couldn’t get any better.” Take a seat on the bench in front, as the sign Lee had inscribed next to it invites, and celebrate the beauty.

Sea Cliff is a Little Arboretum

by Sea Cliff Tree Committee

“Arboretum” is defined as a collection of cultivated shrubs, plants and trees to enhance, study, enjoy and celebrate what can be called a ‘living museum.’ Sea Cliff’s square mile is like a ‘little arboretum’ with a variety of diverse plantings on display.

Autumn is “leaf season,” nature’s annual color festival. Long Island is situated in a temperate deciduous forest ecosystem. Our biome has four distinct seasons: winter, spring, summer and fall. Leaves

change color (or senesce) in autumn, fall off in the winter, and grow back in the spring; this adaptation allows plants to survive cold winters.

Tall trees in a temperate deciduous zone are Oak, Birch, Beech, Elm and Maple. These trees form a forest canopy. In our area, we are fortunate to witness and enjoy the spectacular show of fall color provided by Chestnut, Hickory, Linden, Sweetgum, Sassafras, Serviceberry, Tulip and Walnut.

The mission of the Tree Committee is to share knowledge, offer advice and, most importantly, to protect the diverse tree canopy we all admire and appreciate in our beloved village. Trees have a lifespan. Sometimes, they need to be removed for safety. Replanting can get the right tree in the right place so future generations can enjoy the “arboretum-like” place where we live. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the Tree Committee.

areas where cars had been left behind during a storm.

A couple of other things to keep in mind: please keep out of the way of snowplows, whether in a car or on foot. And please do not shovel or snowblow your driveway into the streets. Shovel snow to the sides of your driveway.

We appreciate everybody working together to help to keep all members of our community safe during a snow emergency.

But where to go? If you do not have a driveway, you can ask a neighbor or friend to accommodate your vehicle for the night. You can even take your car to one of the parking garages in Glen Cove, which means you would not have to clear any snow off your vehicle after the storm.

One thing is certain though, the Village cannot suspend Thursday parking rules as the result of a snowstorm. It is the only day guaranteed to allow the snowplows to clean up

Here We Come A-Wassailing

The Magic Continues

by Sea Cliff Arts Council

Hello from Sea Cliff Arts Council!

We are so grateful to celebrate one year at 86 Roslyn Avenue. We are thriving here because of you! Thank you for becoming a member, signing up for a class, teaching or performing, showing your movie or play, or donating.

The magic continues this winter. Frank Ferrara, known for his talent as a guitarist, is going to exhibit his artwork at 86 Roslyn Avenue through December. Then in January and February, we will showcase the colorful work of Joanne Gray. At Sea Cliff Library, the artwork of Julia Lanotte, on view through January, will add texture and craft as a change of pace.

The music is always playing... the winter lineup includes Siobhan Esposito (December) and teens Mae

Curiale and Abby Niece (January). Look for Teen Open Mic too. Speaking of teens, our Improv for Teens is a new addition.

SC Arts Council celebrated the holidays with Fred Stroppel's Twisted Shorts - Seasons Readings!, an evening of festive comedy one-acts and monologues written by Fred Stroppel in celebration of the holiday season. This festive evening took place on Giving Tuesday at St. Luke's, with proceeds going to NOSH. It was performed by Sea Cliff luminaries Ann and Dan DiPietro, Paul Marchese, Jen Sebetic, Liz Stroppel, Maggie Odell, Michael Papaleo, and Al Reres.

Our 2nd Annual Wassail Day is December 3. Enjoy sipping wassail, a holiday cider drink, all around town as you shop locally all afternoon before the

Holiday Lighting that day.

Our Second Sunday Holiday Market will be at St. Luke's on December 10, from 1 to 5 p.m., featuring many talented local artists and musical performances by an all-star lineup of kids and familiar favorites. On December 16, join us at 86 Roslyn for a holiday jazz concert with Siobhan Esposito and friends.

In addition to art classes and lectures, we have many yoga classes, meditation, and reiki. Don't forget our on-going programs at SCAC: Poetry Night on the third Wednesday of the month, music lessons with Aaron, Frank, and Max, and Art Hang twice a month.

To join our mailing list, for our schedule, to become a member, or to sign up for events, visit www.seacliffartscouncil.org.

Winter Holiday Celebrations

by Lisa Cashman

The 2023 winter holiday season will launch in Sea Cliff with a flurry of festivities on Sunday, December 3. In addition to the annual musical Holiday Lighting event, it is the Sea Cliff Arts Council Wassail Day, followed by the Sea Cliff Civic Association Scrooge Stroll with all local shops open for holiday shopping.

Start out at Sea Cliff Arts Council at 86 Roslyn Avenue to get your Sips of Sea Cliff Wassail card and visit the pop-up market featuring the wares of local artists and artisans. Next, make your way around the local shops to sample the wassail (hot spiced cider) while completing your holiday shopping. Be sure to vote for the best wassail and redeem your card back at the Arts Council. To step back in time for an enactment of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," do not miss the Scrooge Stroll meeting in front of the Children's Library at 2 p.m. Lastly, come to Village Green at 3:45 p.m. for the annual Holiday Lighting where local musicians will grace us with song, local leaders will inspire us with their words, and our community will welcome in the holidays. We might even have a visit by a certain jolly couple!

Sea Cliff Arts Council Presents:

The 2nd Annual Sea Cliff Wassail Day!

Sunday, December 3rd, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Wassail Day is celebrating all things winter and holiday.

Walk through Sea Cliff Business District and enjoy Wassail, a hot spiced Cider Drink served at the holidays with friends and neighbors.

Festive garb and Caroling encouraged!

Local businesses will serve their own versions of Wassail. Start at SC Arts Council to purchase a ticket (\$10 for tasting or \$20 for tasting and mug), get a map, and a "Sips of Sea Cliff Wassail Card" and fill out your favorites from around town. Enjoy holiday shopping along the way!

Drop off Card at SCAC for your holiday mug, designed by Lorraine Baker.

Holiday Lighting at Clifton Park to follow at 3:45 p.m.

Hanukkah Happening

The Festival of Lights will be celebrated at the Sea Cliff Firehouse on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. All Sea Cliff kids are invited for the menorah lighting, crafts, latkes, and songs.

For more information, please contact Victoria Bader at Vflorsh@gmail.com or Marcie Denberg-Serra at marciedenberg@gmail.com.

2023 Scrooge Stroll



The 2023 Scrooge Stroll will take place on Sunday, December 3 at 2 p.m. The Stroll will begin at the Children's Library.

Photo by Ann DiPietro.



Enthusiastic wassailers Nina Livingston & Elizabeth Winchester enjoy a cup, or two, at the first annual Wassail Day last year.

Photo by Elizabeth Winchester.

The Sea Cliff Gardener

by Donna Kianka, "The Sea Cliff Gardener," Winter's Edge Micro Farm

Winter is a time of hibernation and reflection. While we are all home reflecting, there are two sources of worthwhile online gardening literature: the Farmer's Almanac, which offers a daily email chock full of garden and weather information, and rick@ourstonyacres.com. Most of Rick Stone's gardening advice is done through his YouTube channel, but he does also send out informational emails.

In thinking about the early horticulturists of Sea Cliff, there is a prominent florist, Ferdinand Denis Boulon, who, at the time of his death in 1906 from pneumonia, had 15 large greenhouses and owned

14 acres in Sea Cliff. He purchased the property in 1884 and built his house at the corner of Carpenter and Glen Avenue (128 Glen Avenue today). Long-time resident Henry Hollman once told me that, as a youth, he would play in the abandoned Victorian. The house was later razed and the current house was built in 1954. The Sanborn map of 1908 shows the large property contained a carriage house, two houses, and eight greenhouses, some as long as 150 feet. The houses today that occupy this area are 122, 116, and 128 Glen Avenue, 72 and 62 Dubois, and 227 Carpenter Avenue. The 50-foot entrance to the

nursery was off Sea Cliff Avenue, where 127 Sea Cliff Avenue now stands. There were long greenhouses that even filled this property, which terminated in numerous other greenhouses clustered together. The house lot at 62 Dubois had a greenhouse, but this area, along with 72 Dubois, was primarily open and probably had planted rose bushes and fruit trees.

Boulon was born in France and moved to New Jersey in 1881. He worked for Charles A. Dana of Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove, where his fruit trees were locally famous. In 1884, Boulon purchased the property from Henry Dubois so he could establish

his own nursery. During his lifetime, he exhibited in numerous contests, including the Long Island Fair in Mineola, and won many recognitions and prizes. He was held in very high regard as a horticulturist and a businessman. It was not uncommon for Ferdinand Boulon to advertise in the Sea Cliff News offerings of roses, cabbage, and tomato plants. The price for cabbages and tomatoes was 45 cents per 100 plants. He claimed to have had 20,000 plants in stock, including flowers for bedding and decoration.

In addition to the main nursery opposite Clifton Park, he had greenhouses on Franklin Avenue,

and owned the majority (except for the first two houses) of land between Dubois Avenue and Glen Cove Avenue on both sides of what would later be the street. His other parcel of land was opposite Boulon's main greenhouses across Glen Avenue. This property was bordered by Glen Avenue, Dubois Avenue, Franklin, and Carpenter, except for two houses. He was undoubtedly Sea Cliff's biggest horticulturist at the turn of the 20th century.

Enjoy winter's quiet and the moody skies. Bon Iver!

Sea Cliff Elementary School

by Megan McCormack, Principal, Sea Cliff School

We are thrilled to be back at Sea Cliff and have had a wonderful start to the school year!

Our students are happy and engaged everyday! We have seen students participating in a variety of authentic learning experiences including many field trips!

The North Shore Central School District celebrated Unity Day on Wednesday, October 18. Unity Day is an annual event that promotes joining together to

create healthier communities through kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. It is an ideal way for our students and staff to unite as a community. The North Shore Central School District recognized Red Ribbon Week, October 23 – October 27. It is an ideal way for communities to unite and live life well.

We have created a tremendous partnership with our PCA! We have had wonderful events thus far including a kindergarten

meet and greet, Adventureland night, and SCS spirit wear pop-up sales. We are looking forward to the 5th grade circus, Book Fair family night, and outdoor movie night! There are many events that are happening throughout the year and we are so grateful to the support we receive from our PCA!

We loved seeing you at NS Homecoming and our annual SCS Halloween parade!



Sea Cliff Beautification Committee's Annual Luncheon

by Debra Dumas

On October 19, the Sea Cliff Beautification Committee held its annual luncheon at the Sea Cliff Yacht Club. Seventy-three attendees enjoyed a luscious buffet to celebrate another year of helping keep Sea Cliff's parks beautiful. One of the major projects undertaken this year was the opening up of the view from Memorial Park, which had become overgrown over time. On

the way to admiring the view, take note also of the beautiful floral border along the fence.

This past spring featured the Arbor Day tree planting in Geohegan (Headless) Park, in collaboration with the Sea Cliff Elementary School's second grade; the Annual Plant Sale in May; and the Secret Garden Tour in June, a biennial event. Our volunteers also spent many hours weeding and

planting in our local parks. Did you know that SCBC also creates the beautiful holiday wreaths that you see along Sea Cliff Avenue?

As you pass through our lovely village, be sure to take a restorative moment at Centennial Garden in the heart of Sea Cliff, next to the library and museum. This is truly a Sea Cliff gem.



2023-24 North Shore Softball & Sea Cliff Baseball Update

by Jason Bader, Commissioner

As we prepare for the cold of winter, our volunteers are now starting to plan for the Spring 2024 season. We anticipate having registration commence in December 2023 through February

2024 and will be asking parents to register early so we can continue to offer late-winter/early-spring clinics for most levels of play. Children from any local communities are welcome

to play, so please share information about our league with friends and family.

Our league continues to grow and this growth is attributable to the philosophy of fun and

learning, combined with competitive play that our league promotes.

Parents interested in registering their children for the Spring 2024 season, or volunteering, can get information at our

website: www.scbaseballsoftball.com or send us an email at scbaseballsoftball@gmail.com.

Local Villages Should Have the Right to Control Their Own Speed Limits

by Daniel Flanzig, Esq., Chair, Traffic and Safety Commission

Last year, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation which authorizes cities, villages and towns to adopt area speed limits as low as 25 MPH. However, in order to do so, N.Y.S. Dept. of Transportation requires localities to complete burdensome and expensive engineering studies. This requirement prevents safer speed limits from being implemented.

NYS DOT needs to adopt a new policy that aligns with the intent of the law, and allow for the expedient adoption of safer speed limits.

Right now, the law requires that in order to reduce area speed limits the village must perform an "engineering study... made in accordance with established traffic engineering practices." This

vague and unnecessary requirement presents an enormous cost-barrier for municipalities to proceed in lowering their local area speed limits, and counteracts the intent of the new law.

Studies confirm that 25 MPH area limits are safer than 30 MPH area limits or "unless otherwise posted" speed limits, and provide a jurisdiction-wide speed

limit in effect at all times and on all streets, except where a different speed limit sign has been installed. Setting or lowering default village-wide speed limits is an inexpensive way to quickly improve safety. A small change in speed can have big consequences for safety – for example, a pedestrian struck at 25 miles per hour has a 25 percent chance of being seriously

injured, but that climbs to a 50 percent chance at 33 miles per hour.

The New York State Safe Streets Coalition, which is made up of 100 organizations, is currently working to have this important amendment made. NYS DOT should not have control over our village or limit our ability to control our own roads.

Going to Washington DC to Help Hempstead Harbor

by Eric Swenson, Executive Director, Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee

On October 25, I, on behalf of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, and Michelle Lapinel McAllister, Programs Director for the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, joined a group of 20 Long Island Sound advocates from New York and Connecticut to meet with Members of Congress and U.S. Senators to advocate for issues critical to the health of Long Island Sound and its embayments (including Hempstead Harbor) as well as the preservation of Plum Island.

The trip was organized by the Long Island Sound Study's Citizens Advisory Committee (of which the HHPC and CSHH are members). These annual trips have proven enormously successful as funding for Long Island Sound has increased from \$3 million to currently \$61 million for this fiscal year. Some of these funds support grants around the Sound, including the full

cost of conducting the year-round water-quality monitoring that takes place in Hempstead Harbor.

During the long day, our group met with Senator Schumer, Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy, Congressman LaLota, Congressman Courtney, Congressman Garbarino, Congresswoman DeLauro, and Congressman Hines. It was the same day that the House of Representatives elected a new Speaker and security was tighter than usual.

The primary funding mechanism for Long Island Sound is the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act (LISRSA), which is up for re-authorization as it expired at the end of September. That has provided \$40 million this year. We asked that this continue and that the \$25 million portion of the Act also be funded (it has never been to date). We also requested that Plum Island be declared as a Na-

tional Monument so that it can be forever preserved.

During the meetings, the participants provided the legislators and their staff with various examples of the successes that the federal funding has provided. For Hempstead Harbor, we pointed out the re-opening of 2,500 acres of the harbor to shellfishing and its annual benefit to the local economy of as much as \$1.37 million per year, as well as the return of wildlife as a result of water quality improvements, such as hundreds of dol-

phins visiting our harbor this year in two visits, the return of ospreys, and at least two nesting pairs of bald eagles in Hempstead Harbor. Representatives from the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District pointed out that federal funding has enabled Nassau County to provide homeowners with grants of up to \$20,000 to replace septic systems with state-of-the-art nitrogen-reducing systems. Sea Cliff has the second-most number of applicants for this program.

We also thanked Congress for providing \$300,000 for shellfish seeding in Hempstead Harbor, Manhasset Bay and Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor. We pointed out that the millions of shellfish that are to be placed in the harbor will further assist in improving water quality, as a single adult oyster can filter as much as 50 gallons a day.

These meetings help keep Long Island Sound on the minds and agendas of our federal officials.



The Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee met in Washington with Senator Blumenthal and others to discuss continuing funding for the Sound.

The Library in Winter

by Camille Purcell, Library Director

"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

~ Lady Bird Johnson

As 2023 draws to a close, we look back to reflect on our ongoing efforts to connect the library to community, and community to the library. The Children's Library is now open on Saturdays so that community members who are unable to come during the workweek are able to visit and take out materials. We are also pleased to offer special Saturday events at that location. The Main library hours have expanded and we are now open Monday – Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., receiving loan deliveries five days a week.

We offer varied programming both in-person and online for all ages. We have two in-house book groups and one online short story group. Our children's programming

remains strong, followed by events and outreach for Tweens and Teens. Our young adult patrons can write their book reviews utilizing our online book review form and we are seeking to strengthen our partnership with the Youth Activity Board to provide for our student population. We are partnering with the North Shore school district, offering community service opportunities and providing the life-skills students the opportunity to work at our facility. The library instituted automatic renewals for books and DVDs except if those items have prior holds. We are mostly fine free. Mu-



seum passes can now be reserved from the comfort of home, utilizing our new online reservation system. The Main library has been tastefully renovated with new comfortable furniture and our front doors have been refurbished to match the architecture of the building. Our reading and viewing materials have been carefully selected to provide thoughtful, engaging, fun and exciting selections.

While we will not rest on our accomplishments, we hope that these efforts demonstrate our ongoing mission to support our commitment to the Sea Cliff community.

Upcoming CSHH Events



KARAOKE FOR A CAUSE

New Year's Eve Event

Saturday, December 30, 8 p.m.

Still Partners
225 Sea Cliff Ave.



CSHH JUNIOR AMBASSADORS WINTER MEETING

"Living with Wildlife on Long Island"

featuring special guests from

Wildlife Center of Long Island

Tuesday, February 6, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Parish and Community Hall
253 Glen Ave. (Enter on Glenlawn Ave.)

For more information and to sign up, email
juniors@thecshh.org or call 516-801-6792

Village Taxes

by Judy Phelps, Collector of Taxes

Payments are due December 1, 2023. 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 2, 2024, no penalty or interest

will be charged. IF PAID AFTER JANUARY 2, 2024, a penalty of 5% will be added on January 3, 2024 and an additional 1% for each month or 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.

A Fisherman's Off-Season

by Andrew Roberts, fly fishing enthusiast

There's an old Gary Larson cartoon that features a horde of vikings storming a castle. They are carrying shields, swords, and torches, and arrows are flying in every direction. Yet, there's one viking in the fray, pointing at the moat as he's crossing the drawbridge exclaiming, "Ooh! Goldfish, everyone! Goldfish!" Years later this image still gives me a chuckle, because this is me. Since I was about ten, there's never been a body of water I've seen that didn't get my mind tingling with wonder about what kind of fish might be swimming underneath. I just know, if I had to cross a drawbridge while storming a castle, I'd have to peek into the moat!

There are many that experience this particular spark of joy in their soul when they see a fish in

the water. If you have it, I believe you have a seed in you that, if nurtured, can grow into a love of not only fish, but the act of fishing as well. For me, this seed has blossomed into a particular passion for fly fishing in the salty waters around Long Island.

Fly fishing is not the easiest way to catch a fish and even if the fish are eating, it doesn't always work. But when the tide is flowing just right and your casts are on target, your line may come tight in your hands, electric with life, and the fight is on! To me, the reward of catching the fish is not a meal. It's seeing the fish up close, feeling them breathe, seeing the colors of their skin, looking into their eyes and watching them swim off as you gently release them. It's magical, and some-

thing I am obsessed with experiencing.

One complication that has developed as a result of my obsession with fly fishing is a compulsion to engage in fishing related activities whenever not fishing. At the top of this list (other than talking to other fly fishers about fly fishing) is something we call "fly tying."

The creation of a "fly" involves tying materials onto a hook that mimic something a fish might eat. The early days of this type of fishing focused on catching trout; a trout's favorite food is insects, hence the term "fly." The word fly as it relates to fishing is now used to describe animals other than insects if that's what you are trying to imitate. In my quest to catch local striped bass or bluefish, I've learned to tie flies

that will mimic the baitfish they like to eat. To tie a fly, we place a hook in a specially made vise and wrap materials to it using thread and a bobbin. There are a wide variety of materials you can use to tie a fly. For saltwater flies, I find myself regularly using buck tail fur, hen feathers, foam, synthetic flashy fibers, hourglass shaped pieces of metal for eyes, and of course: hooks.

There is a meditative aspect to the wrapping of the thread which may be done a few hundred times to create just one small fly. Our eyes focus on the task while our hands wrap the thread, over and over the hook, like waves rolling over the coast. The action allows our minds to drift gently to a place with salt in the air and fish in the sea.

Once tied, the new creation represents our hope for what the spring may offer us if our cast is well presented, our fly is convincing enough, and the fish are hungry. The tightening of the line and the life attached to it will energize our spirit, allowing a few moments to forget the fray of the world around us and to exclaim in our hearts, "Ooh! Fish, everyone! There's a fish!"



Snapshots from Sea Cliff Children's Library

Photos courtesy of Ann DiPietro.



Friday Book Club members share snacks and a good story.



Good friends gather for StoryTime.



Pretzels and Paperbacks – every Wednesday in the Secret Garden!



StoryTime with Alice in Wonderland.

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.	Village Hall	no comment period
Board of Trustees Meeting	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m.	Village Hall	comment period
Architectural Review Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Village Hall	
Planning Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Village Hall	
Zoning Board	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Village Hall	
Environmental Conservation Commission	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Village Hall	
Landmarks Preservation Commission	4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Village Hall	
Tree Commission	2nd & 4th Wednesday	9:30 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

Pickup and Dropoff 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 dropoff quantities

Recycling, Garbage & Other Refuse Pick Up Schedule

Pickup Type	North of Glen Avenue	South of Glen Avenue
Single Stream Recycling	Wednesday	
Garbage	Monday Thursday	Tuesday 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 for pickup schedule (<i>fees may apply</i>)	

Recycling & Garbage Holiday Schedules 2023/2024

Holiday	Date Observed	Change in Schedule
Christmas Day	Monday 12/25/2023	No Garbage Pickup
New Year's Day 2024	Monday 1/1/2024	No Garbage Pickup

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

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

Dropoff 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

- 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

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING DATES 2023-2024

Days, times, and locations subject to change

Please confirm on the village website

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

Location: Sea Cliff Village Hall

Conference Meetings: 6 p.m.

Board Meetings: 7 p.m.

Monday	December	4	2023	Conference
Monday		11	2023	Board Meeting
Tuesday	January	2	2024	Conference
Monday		8	2024	Board Meeting
Monday	February	5	2024	Conference
Monday		12	2024	Board Meeting
Monday	March	4	2024	Conference
Monday		11	2024	Board Meeting
Monday	April	1	2024	Organizational Meeting

Village of Sea Cliff Justice Court

All Courts Dates are WEDNESDAYS

7:30 p.m. at Village Hall DOWNSTAIRS

	Arraignment	Conference
2023		
December	13th only	
2024		
January	10th	24th
February	7th	21st
March	6th	20th

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

Addiction Resources In Case Of Emergency Call 911

Long Island Crisis Center

Hotline: 516-679-1111

NY State HOPEline

1-877-846-7369 or Text: 467369

*Long Island Council on Alcoholism and
Drug Dependence (LICADD) licadd.org*

Hotline: 631-979-1700

*Nassau Alliance For Addiction Services
(NAFAS) nassaualliance.org*

516-481-4000

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

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

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



SEA CLIFF VILLAGE BULLETIN

Sea Cliff, NY 11579 Telephone 671-0080
www.seacliff-ny.gov

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Tannaz Nasirzadeh-Balooch, Mark Sobel,
James Versocki

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