

The Quogue Village Voice

Published by the Village Trustees

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This Quogue Village Voice is the first one that is being distributed by email. For this edition, copies also will be available at the Village Office, the Quogue Library and other locations in the Village. The purpose is to be more green and save a few dollars, but the risk is that some people who would like to receive it may not. We have many email addresses but surely not those of everyone who would like to receive this newsletter in the future. Anyone who has not already done so is invited to send his or her name, Quogue street address and email address to the Village Office at either address set forth above. We will share your information with the Quogue Association unless you ask us not to do so. By joining the Quogue Association, you will receive its announcements of many community events. If you wish to be removed from our email distribution list, on the other hand, just send us an email saying so.

Leaf Pick-up in April

The Village Highway Department began picking up leaves during the week of April 4th. Leaves must be on the shoulder of the street by April 30 in order to be picked up. Do not pile leaves around fire hydrants or utility equipment. DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS. They will not be picked up, and you will have to remove them.

No brush, such as twigs and branches, or lawn cuttings will be taken away, and mixing this debris with leaves will result in the leaves not being removed. Brush with branches up to 3" in diameter may be taken to the Westhampton recycling facility in April. For more information, go to www.southamptontownny.gov.

Changes to Rental Laws

In March, after a couple of months of consideration and public input, the Board of Trustees modified our Village rental laws. The minimum period for which a single-family dwelling may now be rented is 14 consecutive days. As previously, if a single-family dwelling is rented, the entire dwelling must be rented (i.e. no renting of rooms). There is a provision allowing application to the Board of Trustees for exceptions in the case of local events given by a resident (such as a child's wedding) or a not-for-profit organization operating in the Village. Remember that all seasonal rentals (those that cover any period from May 15 to September 15) require a seasonal rental license. The application form can be found on the Village website.

Southern Pine Beetle Infestation

As you may have read, Long Island, including particularly our area, is experiencing a massive infestation of the Southern Pine Beetle, which attacks pitch pines and other varieties of pine trees. We have recently had to remove many dead trees from Village property. The beetle attacks a tree and lays eggs under the bark. The tree then oozes resin to "pitch out" attacking beetles. The resin will dry into white or reddish popcorn-sized globs visible on the tree's trunk. They are a good indicator of infestation, although by that time it is probably too late to save the tree. When the tree is dead, the beetles are no longer present—they have likely moved on to another tree. The DEC is employing measures in public parks and forests to try to stem the tide, but it sounds like a very difficult job. There is a lot of literature on the subject. Here is a good place to start: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99331.html>.

Beach Nourishment

The New York DEC still has under review the Village's application for a permit to allow a beach nourishment project on the Quogue beach. You will recall that a public hearing on the topic was held last August 10th. As stated in the past, if and when the permit is issued, we will move forward with next steps to determine whether the Village should

proceed with a project. Meanwhile, the Beach Advisory Committee that the Board of Trustees appointed last summer has met with various experts and representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers and is continuing its work .

Those of you who have been to the beach over the winter or read the Southampton Press know that the Quogue beach did experience significant erosion this off-season. Scarping of the dune is most noticeable in the western parts of the Village, which is not the area that has suffered the most erosion in the recent past. In its recent "Updates" the organization known as the "Concerned Citizens of Quogue" has suggested that Army Corps of Engineers dredging offshore of the Quogue beach in the past two years to support a beach nourishment project at Smith Point County Park on Fire Island has caused the increased beach erosion in Quogue. Our own inquiries of experts do not reveal any basis for this conclusion because the dredging is at depths where wave action and the ocean bottom do not interact.

Litigation

In March, the Village settled the lawsuits brought against it in 2011 by the East End Eruv Association, Verizon, LIPA, and certain individuals relating to the proposed establishment of an eruv that would cover most of Westhampton Beach, part of Southampton Town (mainly Quogue) and part of Quogue. The Village agreed not to object to the installation of lechis on utility poles of LIPA and Verizon within the Village, and the plaintiffs agreed not to seek to recover damages, attorneys' fees, expenses or costs against the Village. (The civil rights statute involved allows a prevailing party to recover attorneys' fees.) The Quogue settlement agreement is very similar to the agreement entered into last year by the plaintiffs and the Town of Southampton. The principal factor that led to the Village's determination to settle the cases was the recent related court decisions involving the group known as the Jewish People Opposed to the Eruv, the Village of Westhampton Beach and the Town of Southampton, all of which were decided in favor of the plaintiffs.

In January, the New York Court of Appeals denied an application by the Southampton Town Trustees to file an appeal of the decision of the Intermediate appellate court sitting in Brooklyn that severely curtailed the jurisdiction of the Trustees on the ocean beach in incorporated villages. This ruling ends this litigation, which was originally brought by the Trustees against the Village in 2010. As a result of this case, Village residents will not have to seek permits from the Trustees for actions that may affect the beach or the dunes. Depending on the activity, permits from the Village and the DEC may be required.

Downtown Quogue

The owners of the Quogue Market building have contracted with an experienced operator and have filed plans for renovation of the space. We know that all Quogue residents wish the very best for them in their endeavors on this project. Meanwhile, Beth's Café has been renovated by the new owners of the building, and on Jessup Avenue or around the corner the Quogue Gallery, Q44, Mr. Q, Homespun , Double Rainbow, the Lily Pad, the Quogue Liquor Store and Rori's Flowers are poised to serve you.

Village Beach

The Village Office is now accepting applications for beach stickers and lockers at the Village Beach. Application forms and instructions are available on the Village website. Please follow the instructions closely. JRWaterCorp will again be operating the food concession, and Beach Manager Ryan Fay and the rest of the veteran lifeguard crew will be back as well to assure your enjoyment and safety.