

# The Quogue Village Voice

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As we arrive at mid-Fall, the following items may be of interest to Quogue residents:

## Fall Leaf Pick-up Program

The Village Highway Department will pick up leaves beginning on November 1st. Leaves must be on the shoulder of the street by Saturday, December 15th 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. No brush, such as twigs, branches and 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 Town of Southampton recycling facility at 66 Old Country Road in Westhampton starting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information go to

<https://www.southamptontownny.gov/334/Residential-Yard-Waste-Disposal-Policy>.

## Possible Erosion Control District in Quogue

There has been a lot of misinformation promulgated by others concerning a proposal advanced by a group of homeowners living on the eastern end of Dune Road to have the Town of Southampton form an erosion control district running on the ocean side from 140 Dune Road to the eastern boundary of the Village, a distance of about 1.2 miles. In this area there are 46 private properties and the Quogue Village Beach. The proponents wish to have a beach nourishment project within this area that would piggyback on yet-unspecified nourishment work that the Army Corps of Engineers is expected to do elsewhere in the region when the FIMP moves to the action phase. The cost, estimated to be more than \$9,000,000, would be financed by a bond issue of the Town of Southampton that would be repaid solely from additional property taxes assessed on properties within the erosion control district. Although the erosion control district would be formed by the Town of Southampton, under the applicable New York State authorizing law, the consent of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Quogue would be required.

In August, we held a work session on a Saturday afternoon to hear from people for and against this project. Quite a few residents within the proposed district did appear at this session. Subsequently, we have been seeking views from other residents in the district. Of those who have expressed views, approximately two-thirds are in favor of establishing the district and having a beach nourishment project. Nevertheless, we are mindful of the significant financial impact on owners who are opposed to it.

We do not intend to take any action on this matter before giving the proponents and opponents a further opportunity to present their respective cases at a time after the holidays that will be publicized. In the meantime, people are, of course, welcome to express their views by writing or attending a Board of Trustees meeting and commenting.

### **Stakes in the Right of Way**

Residents or their landscapers often place objects along the road designed to prevent cars and trucks from driving or parking on the grass shoulder in front of a home. Orange or yellow stakes are the most prevalent, but rocks and other objects are not uncommon. Although you may not know it, the grassy road shoulder is part of the right of way for the road and is Village property generally to behind the utility poles or fire hydrant. With a couple of exceptions, the Village does not permit the placement of these objects in the right of way because they are unsightly, tend to proliferate and can be dangerous. We do allow stakes for a short time to allow newly seeded areas to get a hold, and in snow season we allow two stakes at the end of a driveway to help guide snowplows away from Belgian block borders.

If you have sprinklers in the right of way in front of your house, consider removing them or at least minimizing the water flow. Firm ground is less susceptible to damage than a lawn that is heavily irrigated.

### **Plane Crash off of the Quogue Beach**

We in the Village of Quogue are very sorry for the loss of life during October as a result of the plane crash that occurred just off our ocean beach in Quogue. We can be very proud the professionalism exhibited by the Village's police officers involved, particularly Chief Chris Isola as overall commander at the scene, and also grateful for the skill and considerable time committed by the volunteer members of the Quogue Fire Department, under the leadership of Chief Chris Osborne, to secure and control access to the site. Obviously, the resources that were required to locate the downed plane and search for the victims and then recover their bodies went far beyond the Village of Quogue's capabilities, and personnel from many federal, state, county and local agencies were involved. The Surf Club of Quogue, which was adjacent to the central command post, could not have been more gracious in lending its assistance and facilities to aid in the response effort and deserves our thanks.

### **Fire and other Safety Measures**

We experienced two house fires in Quogue during October within just a few days of each other. The reaction to these "structure fire" alarms by our firefighters was truly impressive, both in terms of the numbers responding and their professionalism. Though there was considerable damage to the houses involved, very serious losses were averted.

There are a few reminders from these fires that are worth stating. One is that regular cleaning and servicing of heating equipment is essential. Another is that modern metal doors to basements or other areas where utilities are located are designed to contain fires. In order to work properly, however, these doors must be shut tight and their integrity must not be compromised by adding openings in them. Lastly, make sure that your house number is visibly displayed by the street so that first responders can quickly find the correct house.

Aside from fires, we get many alarms during the winter stemming from burst water pipes. Eventually, flooding water will often trigger an alarm but too late to avoid significant damage. If you will be away from your residence for a time during the winter and do not drain the pipes, we suggest that you take steps to have it monitored.

In order to facilitate quick, unforced entry into your home, consider buying and installing a Knox Box. Mounted on your outside wall, it holds a key to your residence that only the fire

department can access. See [www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com) where you can order one that will already be pre-set to match the entry key of the Quogue Fire Department.

### Alarm Registrations

Alarm registration renewal forms were sent in October by email. If you have a house alarm and did not receive one, you can download the form from the a Village website. If there is an alarm at your home when no one is there, up to date contact information for use by the fire and police departments is essential.

### Proposed Discovery Land Company project in East Quogue

The status of the planned residential development (PRD) in East Quogue proposed by Discovery Land Company could become somewhat more clear by mid-November. Most of you are probably aware that this alternate proposal was advanced by Discovery after two of the five members of the Town of Southampton Council voted against Discovery's earlier proposed planned development district (PDD), which therefore failed to achieve the requisite supermajority under the applicable local law. The principal difference between the PDD and the PRD is that in the case of the PRD the golf course would be available only to the residents of the development and their guests. In November, the Southampton Town Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled to rule on a question referred to it by the Planning Board, essentially whether the golf course should be considered a use accessory to the residential housing development (permitted) or a second principal use (not permitted). Then it's back to the Planning Board where this lengthy saga will continue. Meanwhile, some residents of East Quogue are continuing to press forward toward the formation of a new village in order to have more control of local matters such as land development, water quality and community improvements.

### Address Changes

Make sure you notify the Village Office if the mailing address for your property tax bills changes. Every year, some residents move and the forwarding directive to the post office expires before tax bills are mailed. Before the Village is notified that the bill was not delivered, the time for payment without penalty has expired. The resident is annoyed by having to pay a penalty, but unfortunately New York State law provides that the failure to receive a bill does not relieve a property owner of the obligation of timely payment.

As a reminder, Village property tax bills are generally due on July 1. Town of Southampton tax bills are generally payable in January and May.

### Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

Put on your calendar a stop at the Quogue Fire Department Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 25th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. It is a great way to wrap up your Thanksgiving weekend with your family and also show your appreciation for the hard work of the men and women of the Fire Department.