

# Sands Point Report

DECEMBER 2018

## MAYOR ADLER'S REPORT

### Mayor

Edward A.K. Adler

### Trustees

Katharine Ullman  
Marc Silbert  
Lynn R. Najman,  
*Deputy Mayor*  
Peter A. Forman

### Village Clerk

Liz Gaynor

### Treasurer

Kathleen Notaro

### Police Chief

Richard Lertora

### Village Justice

Alyson K. Adler

### Associate Village

#### Justice

Daniel Scheyer

### Advisor to Board of

#### Trustees

Daniel Scheyer

## Milestones

### SANDS POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Police Chief Richard Lertora** announced that he will retire next month (see his letter to residents on page 3). Chief Lertora has completed thirty-seven years of extraordinary service to our Village as an officer, sergeant, lieutenant and chief.

**Sgt. Christina Howes** retired this month from the Sands Point Police after thirty-one years of exceptional service, the last three as sergeant. She has served as president of the Sands Point PBA since 1997.

**Officer Joseph Spinoso** was promoted to Sergeant on December 4th. He is an 18-year veteran of our department and the recipient of the Nassau County Police Chiefs Distinguished Service award in 2008 and our department's life-saving award in 2015.

**Officer Christopher Aponte** is the newest member of our force. Currently residing with his wife in Kew Gardens and originally from Bethpage, he is a former member of the NYPD and most recently the Port Authority Police. He attends John Jay College where he is working on his master's degree.

### VILLAGE HALL

**Bonnie Davison** is retiring this month as Village Court Clerk and Accounts Receivables Clerk. She has served the Village for just over twenty years and looks forward to enjoying her retirement with her husband, former Building Inspector Dennis Davison, and her four grandchildren.

**Leah Leston Trapani** started work at Village Hall last month training as Bonnie's replacement. For the last four years she has worked for the Village of Old Westbury as Assistant Court Clerk and tax/water billing clerk. She has a BS in Health from SUNY Old Westbury.

### THE VILLAGE CLUB

**David Deutsch** is stepping down as Chair of the Operations Committee after seven years of distinguished service addressing many daunting challenges as the Club's volunteer leader. He was appointed to the original Residents Club Commission when the Club was purchased in 1994 and has served continuously in various capacities since then. When I asked him to take the leadership position of Chair in 2011 upon Sandy Cardiello's retirement, neither he nor I had any idea of the challenges the Club would soon face, as the need for capital and maintenance improvements inconveniently coincided with a significant decline in golf's popularity, locally and nationally. David led the Club through two major management reorganizations and several challenging years with high golf membership attrition rates. During his tenure the

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Club developed its very successful five-court paddle tennis program, improvements to the golf course including bunker replacement, the addition of the Mansion courtyard's permanent glass roof, and in this past year the reconstruction of the pool house facility.

**Matt Engel** will take over as chair of the Operations Committee in January. Matt has been a member of the Operations Committee and chair of the Club's Food & Beverage Committee for the past two years. Matt and his wife Ilana have two children, ages 10 and 8, and are active golf, tennis and paddle members who are also enthusiastic participants in the Club's many social activities.

## **NASSAU COUNTY**

Village resident **Anthony Dalessio** has been appointed Deputy Comptroller of Nassau County beginning in January 2019. Heading KPMG's Melville office since 2011, he reached mandatory retirement age for managing partners earlier this fall. The County is fortunate to have a highly-qualified CPA with extensive private sector experience taking on such an important government position as the County faces many fiscal challenges.

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**To all retirees, thank you for your outstanding dedication and service to the Village. You have all set wonderful examples for those who will follow in your footsteps.**

**To those promoted and newly hired or appointed, we wish you the best of success in your new capacities and responsibilities.**



edadler@sandspoint.org

### **County Assessment Update**

Courtesy of Village Attorney Michael Sahn and his colleagues at Sahn Ward Coschignano PLLC

- Nassau County has not reassessed properties since 2009. Since that time, many taxpayers have filed grievances to lower their property assessments, while others have not. This has created a system whereby those who did not grieve their taxes are paying a greater share of the overall tax burden and, in effect, are subsidizing those who did grieve their taxes.
- To address these issues, the County began the re-assessment process in 2015 when it hired two firms to conduct the reassessment. Using modeling software and utilizing real estate sales, the reassessment project was completed earlier this year.
- In March, the County Executive signed an Executive Order providing for new assessments to be implemented this year. Originally, the reassessment was authorized to follow the New York State Real Property Tax Law and increase the assessed values by 6% per year, or a maximum of 20% over five years. However, reports and projections indicated that using this formula would mean that it would take many years for some properties to reach the proper market value. Therefore, in September, the County Executive signed another Executive Order providing for the immediate reassessment of all properties with the values determined by the County's consultants. The September Order also changed the level of assessment from .25 to .10. The level of assessment is the percentage of the assessed value at which properties will be taxed. Changing the level of assessment eliminated the phase-in protection under existing law.
- On or about November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Nassau County Department of Assessment sent out notices indicating the new fair market value the County had set for properties, as well as the new assessed valuation. However, these

notices did not indicate the actual dollar impact on School and General tax bills.

- Starting around December 10<sup>th</sup>, the County began sending out “Tax Impact Notices,” which estimated how much an owner would pay in taxes under the new assessment. This notice also states how much the taxes would be under the County Executive’s “Taxpayer Protection Plan.” This Plan would phase in any increase or decrease over a five-year period. This Plan will need to be authorized by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The bill for the Plan has not yet been introduced in Albany. It is not known if or when it will be passed.
- If an owner believes that the County has reassessed property at too high of a market value, the owner still has the right to grieve the assessment between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.
- The Village is studying and analyzing the impact of the reassessment on Village residents. The Village may determine to utilize the last County assessment role instead of the new assessment role for the 2019/2020 Village tax year in order to minimize the impact of the County’s reassessment, and also due to the fact that the roll the County just produced may be affected by the possible state legislation or litigation.
- The Board will continue to advise all residents of new developments.

**A Message from Chief Richard Lertora—Sands Point Police Department**

*December 12, 2018*

*Dear Village Residents,*

*After 37 years of service to the Village of Sands Point, I’ve decided to retire effective Thursday, January 24, 2019. I have had an amazing career with what I consider the very best Police Department in the State.*

*My sincere thanks to Mayor Edward Adler, Police Commissioner Marc Silbert, Board Members Kay Ullman, Lynn Najman and Peter Forman. They have always been very supportive of the Sands Point Police Department.*

*Since the day I was hired in 1982 by Chief Eric Jude and Mayor Roy Olson, I have had the pleasure of working with many wonderful residents who have volunteered their time to keep this great village running. Although there have been enormous changes for our Police Department in the law, policies and personnel over the past 37 years, our main focus has always been constant – to serve and protect the residents of Sands Point.*

*It has been my great honor to serve you, the residents of the Village of Sands Point.*

*Sincerely,*



*Chief Richard Lertora  
Sands Point Police Department*



## DECEMBER 2018 REPORT

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**NorthShoreALERT.org**  
Stay Informed



**NorthShoreAlert.org is a mass notification system designed to keep residents and businesses of the Port Washington, NY peninsula, north of Northern Blvd, informed of emergencies and certain community events.**

By registering with NorthShoreAlert.org, time sensitive voice messages from the Village of Sands Point, Town of North Hempstead and the PW/Manhasset OEM may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, email accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices. Village Newsletters are also distributed by the NorthShoreAlert.org system before paper copies are printed and mailed.

The NorthShoreAlert service will be used to supplement current communication plans and augment public safety/first responder services. So if you haven't done so already -

**SIGN UP**—go to [NorthShoreAlert.org](http://NorthShoreAlert.org)