

Sands Point Report

AUGUST 2016

MAYOR ADLER'S REPORT

Mayor

Edward A. K. Adler

Trustees

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

Village Clerk

Liz Gaynor

Treasurer

Kathleen Notaro

Police Chief

Richard Lertora

Village Justices

Alyson K. Adler
Daniel Scheyer

Advisor to Board of

Trustees

Daniel Scheyer

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Milestones	1
Water Emergency Update	1-2
Village Club Update	2
Mansion Centennial Celebration	3

Milestones

Dennis Davison, Village building inspector for more than two decades, retired in July. Dennis was appointed as the Village's first full-time building inspector after part-time service for a number of years. Following an era when many residents thought of the Building Department as confrontational rather than helpful, Dennis was instrumental in bringing a "user friendly" approach to the permit and construction process without diminishing careful oversight of critical health and safety, design and construction issues.

Dennis met his wife, Bonnie, as co-workers in Village Hall, and they were married in 2006. Bonnie will continue to serve the Village in her current positions as court clerk and accounts receivable clerk.

All residents are welcome to attend Dennis's retirement dinner party at the Mansion on Thursday, September 8th. Please contact Colleen at Village Hall for information about this event and to RSVP if you wish to attend.

Trustee and Building Commissioner Lynn Najman and Village Clerk Liz Gaynor led the search for Dennis's successor and interviewed a large field of well-qualified applicants to find the best fit for Sands Point. We look forward to welcoming **Stephen Rusnak** as our new building inspector in September. A resident of East Norwich, Stephen comes to us after extensive experience serving for 19 years as the building inspector for the Village of East Rockaway, where, in his words, he has "worked diligently to help create an efficient, streamlined building department that promotes code compliance in a courteous and friendly environment which taxpayers deserve."

Water Emergency - Late Summer Update

On August 9th, Well #8 received Nassau County Health Department approval to come on line just in time to help the Village get through the remaining weeks of summer and an extraordinary heat wave. While Well #8 went through a lengthy inspection process, the continuing Water Emergency required the Village to purchase nearly ten million gallons of water from the Port Washington Water District.

The Water Emergency is not just a Sands Point problem but a serious regional problem impacting a large portion of the tri-state area, including all of Long Island. For the first time in 14 years, the NYS DEC issued a state-wide "drought watch" last month. Sands Point is in the region designated as "moderate drought", and about half of Long Island just to our east has been designated as a "severe drought" area. The fact that last year was also a dry year contributes to the severity of the impact.

According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, the US Geological Survey has monitored the groundwater level at the Peconic River area in eastern Long Island for decades, and this year the level is the lowest since the early 1980s. It's clear now that the aquifer that is the

Continued on page 2

source of our Village water supply started the heavy pumpage season three months ago already depleted. There is no way to predict how long it will take for the aquifer levels to return to traditional levels, and it is not comforting to know that it might take years. The cloudy water experienced by some residents results from air being pumped up along with the water due to the lowered water level deep underground within the aquifer.

The efforts of many residents to conform irrigation controller time settings to the permitted schedule are appreciated, but far too many residents are still not in compliance. One resident called recently to complain about receiving a large water bill; it turns out that the resident's irrigation controller was set to water seven nights a week instead of the three permitted. It cannot be over-emphasized that one way or another the Village must make sure all residents with irrigation systems adhere to the usage regulations, which have not changed in many years and are difficult to enforce. That is why the cooperation of all residents is essential.

As to both potential **new well sites** tested earlier this year at the Village Club and the Sands Point Preserve, engineering and design work for the permanent well installations is now underway. The Village passed a bond resolution in June and anticipates a bond issue later this year to cover the costs of building the new wells and upgrading water meters to permit continuous usage monitoring of both by homeowners and the Water Department. It is important to note that adding new wells serve many important purposes but will not ameliorate the problems caused by drought conditions reducing the level of the aquifer.

Village Club Update

Pool Area Renovation

As David Deutsch, Operations Committee chair, noted in his recent letter to the Club membership, architect Jim Rogers expects to have plans ready to bid the renovation of the pool house building before the end of this month. The core project contemplates new changing areas, lockers, showers, and bathrooms, a new entrance and more attractive exterior for the 50+ year old building, as well as greatly improved kitchen and indoor/outdoor dining facilities with a view of the pool area and Hempstead Harbor beyond. Renderings should be ready shortly after the plans are produced.

In late September, the Board of Trustees will review the bids and additional information about other aspects of the project, such as landscaping, parking, pool equipment replacement, deck expansion, etc. The time critical element is the pool house renovation itself, since if a bid is not awarded by October it would be unlikely that the work could be completed in time for the 2017 season.

If the Board decides to move ahead with the project, it will be financed by bonds entirely funded from the Club's operating budget (just as last year's bonds for the bunker project, Mansion courtyard roof and other capital costs). In order to meet the time and publication requirements under NYS law, at its July meeting the Board passed a bond resolution providing for bond funding for the project should a bid be accepted by the Board for the long overdue pool house renovation.

Mansion and Health/Fitness Facility

Architect Jim Rogers has begun to turn his firm's attention from the pool area to the Mansion. With the courtyard skylight roof now almost complete, the process of reviewing all existing interior spaces including the courtyard, potential expansion and upgrading of dining/event and kitchen facilities and the design of a year-round fitness facility have begun. I hope to include a progress report in the next newsletter this fall.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and please continue to conserve water by reducing sprinkler system usage.



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Celebrating the Centennial of Villa Carola The Mansion at the Village Club of Sands Point

Irmgard Carras, PH.D., VSP Historian

One hundred years ago, on a bluff framed by giant prize elms and oaks, with Long Island Sound and Hempstead Harbor glimmering below, a magnificent mansion was taking shape. Isaac and Carrie Guggenheim had hired the renowned architect, Harold Van Buren Magonigle, to create their Italian Renaissance Revival residence, Villa Carola.

Villa Carola stimulates and delights the eye; from the exterior brickwork, accented with terra cotta and marble varied in tone from rich brownish purple to light yellow, to the formal landscaping and, originally, a private golf course. Fortunately, many of these elements are much as they were 100 years ago.

Unfortunately, Isaac Guggenheim did not have much time to enjoy his beloved home and golf course, having spent a major part of his fortune building it, over \$2,000,000 (1916 \$). He died during a visit to England in 1922. His brother, Solomon Guggenheim, creator of New York's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, purchased the estate at auction for \$610,000 and renamed it Trillora Court. Thomas Watson, the president of IBM discovered the property and bought it for his company in 1953. IBM sold the property to the Village of Sands Point in 1994.

**Please join us when we celebrate our Mansion's Centennial
with Tours, Lectures, Scavenger Hunts, Wine Dinner,
"Roaring Twenties" Evening Event & Sunday Brunch**

When: Weekend of November 11th to 13th 2016

The following activities are open to all Village of Sands Point Residents:

Friday, November 11th

The Guggenheim Wine Dinner - limited availability - preference to Club Members

Saturday, November 12th

**Mansion Tours (adults and children 12 & up) at 11:30 am & 1:00 pm
Architectural Scavenger Hunts (children over 10) at 11:30 am & 1:00 pm
"Roaring Twenties" Celebratory Evening - 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm**

Sunday, November 13th

**Brunch from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm
Mansion Lecture by Long Island Historian Paul Mateyunas (afternoon)**

Complete Schedule and RSVP form will be mailed to all Residents in September



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Please cut back on all sprinkler usage for the rest of the summer!

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



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**

If you need assistance please contact Colleen at Village Hall at 883-3044.