

Sands Point Report

DECEMBER 2016

MAYOR ADLER'S REPORT

Water Department Conservation Planning

Much as we would like to assume that recent heavy precipitation marks the end of Long Island's two-year drought, the reality is that we are many months away from knowing the true precipitation trend and the extent of aquifer re-charge. Regardless of whether relief will come in 2017, this past year served as an unwelcome but needed wake-up call. Our Water Department, under the leadership of Commissioner Dan Scheyer and Superintendent Brian Gunderson, is undertaking multiple conservation initiatives with the tentative goal of reducing water usage by 15% in the coming year. These initiatives include:

- An incentive program to encourage residents to upgrade the clock/controllers of their irrigation systems to state-of-the-art, internet-connected systems capable of being controlled remotely by cell phone app or PC. Such systems rely on actual, localized meteorological data to determine whether irrigation is needed and for how long and to adjust individual home systems accordingly. Several manufacturers offer reasonably-priced controllers with these features as direct replacements for older systems that cannot be controlled remotely and rely only on problematic rain sensors to discontinue watering during wet weather.
- Improved communication and cooperation with the companies that maintain irrigation systems for many of our residents through a licensing and registration program that will keep these companies fully informed about our Water Department's regulations and emergency restrictions as well as their responsibility to check systems carefully for leaks that can result in high bills and wasted water and correct clock/controller settings on older systems. Many residents rely solely on these companies to properly set up their systems each spring to conform to Department regulations.
- Replacing all Village water meters, which are nearing the end of their useful life, with state-of-the-art meters that allow the Village and each homeowner to check actual water consumption as frequently as daily through the internet. Since readings are transmitted daily by each meter to a central database, the Water Department will benefit from eliminating the laborious process of reading water meters throughout the Village at each billing period.
- Professional review and analysis of the Village's current regulations as to watering times and days, last reviewed more than a decade ago.

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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 Justice
Alyson K. Adler

Associate Village Justice
Daniel Scheyer

Advisor to Board of Trustees
Daniel Scheyer

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- Allowing by permit application a limited number of residents with large properties to build private wells for irrigation purposes under the oversight of the Village’s hydrological consultant to ensure that such irrigation-only wells (similar to the wells that provide irrigation for the two golf courses in the Village) do not impact the aquifer that provides Village water.
- Formation of a Water Volunteer Corps of residents available to assist other residents less technologically-savvy to check and adjust proper clock/controller settings and review upgrade options under the incentive program.
- Concluding a three-way inter-municipal agreement to permit the Village Water Department to purchase water when needed from the Manhasset-Lakeville Water District in addition to the Port Washington Water District through existing interconnect valves.
- Continued engineering analysis of our present water department infrastructure, including the design and permit application process for two new wells that would backup or replace two of our existing wells.
- The study of emerging technologies and approaches to irrigation that do not rely on using potable water provided by the Water Department. One study currently underway would involve a test program to pipe some of the purified effluent from the Port Washington Sewer District, currently released into Manhasset Bay, to the Village Club’s irrigation pond. Currently the pond is refilled from the Club’s irrigation-only well system.
- A program coordinated with the Board of Zoning Appeals to encourage the submission of landscaping plans for new or rebuilt residences with plantings that are selected to require lower levels of irrigation in very warm weather.

More details of these water conservation initiatives will be available in the coming months.

The Mansion’s Centennial

Over the November 11th weekend, the Village celebrated the centennial of the Village Club Mansion, constructed beginning in 1916 by Isaac Guggenheim and named Villa Carola in honor of his wife, Caroline. Three days of successful events required many months of planning under the leadership of **Irmgard Carras**, our Village Historian, and ably assisted by **Georgia DeYoung**, chair of the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission, along with five other committee members, **Jean-Marie Posner, Linda Ruvio, JoAnn Sica, Betsy Silverstein and Janet Wolf**. The Village Club staff, led by GM Frank Benzakour, provided great food and drink throughout the weekend.

Paul Mateyunas, who has advised the Village on the restoration of the Mansion since its acquisition in 1994, provided tours, a lecture, and many interesting historical photographs and plans for display. Included was the recently-discovered proposed street plan of the Club acreage had the original developer succeeded in subdividing the property for homes in the early ‘50s. The subdivision failed and IBM Corporation purchased the property intact except for three “model” homes carved out from the south side of the property along Astor Lane. IBM’s purchase ended the subdivision plan and preserved the rest of the property and many of its historical structures.

Mark your calendars for the committee’s next planned celebratory party scheduled for **Saturday, April 29, 2017**, with the theme of “Rhapsody in Blue”.

Pool House Renovation and Waterfront Project

The bid process for renovation of the Club's pool house was not successful, and the sole bid submitted in October was rejected by the Board of Trustees. As a result, it will not be possible to begin renovation work until after the 2017 summer season. The Club's Facilities Committee, under the leadership of Bill Schmergel, is working with architect Jim Rogers and a few of the five contractors who expressed an interest in bidding the project to better understand why only one submitted a bid and where value engineering might identify cost savings. Some of the requirements of municipal bidding under NYS law are very discouraging for contractors not accustomed to working under such constraints. One contractor who has completed smaller projects for the Club told Bill recently that the NYS municipal requirements added such significant labor costs that he would have been "embarrassed" to submit a bid.

Jim Rogers' renovation plans (as bid) for the original locker room structure built by IBM more than 50 years ago would leave intact the two-wing design with open courtyard. All new bathrooms, changing and locker areas for men and women would take up considerably less space than presently and would be located in the north wing. The south wing would incorporate an interior dining area and full kitchen, enabling a higher level of food service than the current snack bar and adding potential flexibility to the Club's overall dining and event offerings.

While the review process continues in preparation for re-bidding in 2017, engineering and design work continues at the pool site and surrounding area to determine the feasibility and cost of extending the pool deck on the water view side, improving road accessibility and parking, and adding basic waterfront facilities to accommodate and encourage members' use of kayaks, canoes, and other small recreational watercraft increasingly popular for pleasure and fitness. More detailed information about the pool and waterfront project should be available within several months.

Police Department Personnel Changes

Sgt. James Polla, a twenty-seven-year veteran of our force, will retire in January. Chief Richard Lertora has announced the hiring of two new recruits, James Nolan of West Babylon, who served in the US Army and as a volunteer firefighter and EMS in West Babylon, and Timothy Keinath of Wantagh, who is currently a Nassau County police officer and was previously employed by US Immigration/Customs. Chief Lertora also reported that Sands Point was ranked 20th of the thirty safest places to live in NY State in a listing published recently by Alarm System Reviews. This organization prepares similar reports for many states based on FBI crime statistics and other available data.

**May your holidays be enjoyable and relaxing (and/or exciting),
and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2017!**



edadler@sandspoint.org



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26 Tibbits Lane
P.O. Box 188
Port Washington, NY 11050
Phone: 516-883-3044
Fax: 516-767-3691
www.sandspoint.org

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Happy Holidays
and a Happy New Year*

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