

# Sands Point Report

JUNE 2020

## MAYOR ADLER'S REPORT

### Mayor

Edward A. K. Adler

### Trustees

Katharine Ullman  
Lynn R. Najman  
Peter A. Forman,  
*Deputy Mayor*  
Jeffrey Moslow

### Village Clerk

Liz Gaynor

### Treasurer

Kathleen Notaro

### Police Chief

Thomas Ruehle

### Village Justice

Alyson K. Adler

### Associate Village

#### Justice

Daniel Scheyer

### Advisor to

#### Board of Trustees

Daniel Scheyer

Few of us in our lifetimes have experienced anything as disruptive as the Covid-19 pandemic; family life, social life, work and play have all changed, temporarily or perhaps permanently. I am proud of how our residents have handled life here in Sands Point over these past three months. I've met more of my neighbors walking local streets than in a decade; some faces reflected sadness, stress or loss but the majority had smiles—making the best of it, staying healthy and sane thanks in part to the good fortune of living in our beautiful and safe community. For most of us it could have been far worse. No doubt continued challenges lie ahead, but I believe we are well prepared to deal with them.

There are many heroes in our midst, particularly those on the health care front lines. They have faced devastating trauma treating patients afflicted with “that diabolical virus,” to quote a physician resident. He like many feels fortunate that members of his family are fine after surviving the virus but mourns the loss of colleagues, just as many of us mourn the loss of our own fallen hero, SPPD Sgt. Joseph Spinosa.

The efforts and dedication of our Village staff, police officers, water department personnel and volunteer leadership have been exemplary. Our goal “to strive to maintain all Village services regardless of the challenges”, as I wrote in the March newsletter, has been met while maintaining the priorities of health and safety.

The Board of Trustees, Planning Board and Board of Zoning Appeals have been meeting and conducting public hearings via Zoom or telephone conference call. Village staff successfully worked remotely making visits to Village Hall as needed with appropriate safety measures in place. Safety protocols for on-site operations of the police and water departments were implemented even before such became mandatory. Thanks to the foresight of Dep. Mayor Peter Forman in his role of Emergency Manager, in the weeks immediately before the Governor's shutdown orders, the Village's IT vendor was authorized to provide senior staff with laptops installed with software to enable them to work remotely, and protocols were put in place for safe on-site essential services operations.

With Nassau County's move into “Phase 3” of the State's gradual re-opening process, many are feeling more relaxed about the future, but I cannot emphasize too strongly that it would be a mistake for any of us to let down our guard about the continuing danger presented by the virus. Seeing what's happening in other states is a grim reminder that we are months if not a year away from a time when we no

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longer need to wear facemasks, wash our hands thoroughly, disinfect surfaces touched by others, and maintain appropriate social distancing; only continued vigilance and adherence to these critical everyday norms will reduce the chance of recurrence and setback.

## **In Memory of Sgt. Joseph Spinosa**

The tragic passing of Sands Point Police Sgt. Joseph Spinosa on April 15<sup>th</sup> came as a shock. A victim of the Covid-19 virus, Sgt. Spinosa was a two-decade veteran of our force and was promoted to Sergeant in 2018. In 2008, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Nassau County Police Chiefs Association and the Life Saving Award from our department in 2015. He served our Village with great distinction throughout his entire career and was an excellent supervisor and mentor to our many younger officers. The moving outdoor tribute and vehicular procession for Sgt. Spinosa in Mineola on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> was arranged by Nassau County PD and involved over 100 police officers and emergency personnel from all over Long Island and New York City, including all of his fellow officers from Sands Point. On Memorial Day, the Port Washington Fire Department honored the memory of Sgt. Spinosa by adding his name to the prominent monument at the center of Nassau Knolls Cemetery in a beautiful wreath-laying ceremony with bagpipes playing and his family and our Board in attendance.

## **Milestones**

**Sgt. Daniel Zith** was sworn in on May 28, 2020 as Sgt. Spinosa's replacement. As a SPPD officer for the past decade, he received commendations in 2014 for Excellent Police Duty and the Nassau County Municipal Chiefs Distinguished Service Award.

Former Sands Point Mayor **Edward N. Madison** passed away in Colorado earlier this month. Mayor Madison joined the Board of Trustees in 1977 and served for twelve years, the last six as mayor. He was succeeded in 1989 by my predecessor, Mayor Leonard Wurzel.

## **The Village Club**

I am pleased to report that after a very challenging spring, given the uncertainty as to what Club facilities would be permitted to open and with what limitations, all Club activities are open and operating under carefully-prepared safety protocols. Golf, a low risk for virus transmission as long as necessary social-distancing protocols are observed, has seen record member participation, with rounds played in May up nearly 130% over two seasons. In the next newsletter, more detailed information will be provided about the final membership numbers and the overall financial impact of the pandemic for this year.

In other Club news, **Jeff Shepard** from Atlanta has been hired by Kemper Sports Management as the Club's new General Manager. He will report to regional manager **Jon Cheshire**, who has been serving as the Interim GM since January. They both bring a wealth of club management experience that will enable the Club to build on its successful growth in golf membership over the past two years.

**Have an enjoyable and safe Fourth of July holiday and summer.**

 , Mayor

edadler@sandspoint.org

For the Board of Trustees

# SANDS POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

We hope this message finds all of Sands Point's residents healthy and well with the onset of summer. The members of our Police Department wish to thank all of the residents of the Village for the overwhelming outpouring of support, comfort and love expressed to us after the passing of our Sgt. Joseph Spinosa from Covid-19. We are one community and one family; the appreciation and compassion you have displayed for our members mirrors what we feel for all of you. We are, and will continue to always be, there for you in your times of need.

## Burglaries and Car Thefts

Sands Point happens to be a very safe community with some of the lowest crime rates around. But there are two areas recently which need some attention--car thefts and, to a lesser extent, burglaries.

Firstly, the great news. We are a village of about 930 homes. Excluding 2019 the Village has had an average of ½ of one car per annum car thefts and 1 home per annum burglaries. Here are the stats:

Year	Auto Thefts	Burglaries
2020 YTD	1	2
2019	9	6
2018	1	0
2017	0	1
2016	0	1

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Average without 2019	0.5 cars/yr	1.0 home/yr
Average with 2019	2.2 homes/yr	2.0 homes/yr

Secondly, with respect to car thefts, there have been no (zero) car thefts in the past few years except when the keys have been left in the car. Zero. So while it might seem self-evident that keys should be removed, a tiny percentage of residents either forget or become complacent and think they can "beat the odds". Here's the problem, successful car thefts often create incentive for thieves to return. Therefore, like pandemics, we are all in this together!

So, to save money on insurance premiums, deductibles, contents of the car, hassles, and to benefit your neighbors, please take a moment to tell the other members of your household to "Take the keys, please"! (Please also note that many cars have a "tell" when the keys are inside--such as, the mirrors don't fold back.) On a related note, don't leave valuables in vehicles--they too just become a target.

Thirdly, on home burglaries, as many of you know a burglary ring, since captured, recently hit a few homes in our quaint and remote village. Nevertheless, there is always the risk of "lone wolves" or new teams arising. With respect to the few burglaries we have had in the Village over the last few years, not one home had an alarm set. Zero--not one.

**We urge you to set your alarm if you have one. Or consider installing one.**

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Lastly, the Sands Point Police is here to help us in these matters in many ways.

- If you go away on vacation, please notify the Police Department at 516-883-3100. We will physically check your home every few days. (Maybe just a coincidence, but not one of the homes on the “vacant home” list were burglarized.
- Criminals don’t like taking unnecessary chances--they look for unoccupied homes that have alarms off and lights off.
- Please note that the Village has sophisticated, cutting-edge license plate reader (LPR) technology (which was instrumental in catching the last burglary ring team which had attacked the whole metropolitan area).

## Important Safety Reminders

Please also remember that **walking, running and cycling** are great leisure activities that have helped many of us stay in shape through the pandemic. Remember that if you are walking or running, you must do so with the flow of traffic coming towards you so you can see oncoming vehicles. If you are bicycling, you must do so in same lane as the flow of traffic. **Regardless of the activity, you must try to maintain 6 feet of distance from anyone in your group and all should be wearing a mask or face covering.** We often see people trying to maintain this proper distance, but by walking next to each other extending well into the roadway. This is extremely dangerous. If cars are coming, create your distance with other people by getting a single file 6 feet apart. Do not veer into the lane of traffic.

As a final note, illegal parking on many Village roads increased significantly as a result of the pandemic requiring additional enforcement. At the Department’s request, the fine for illegal parking has been increased to \$65.

Stay safe, and please let us know if we can be of further guidance or assistance.

**Peter A. Forman, Deputy Mayor &  
Chief Police Commissioner**

**Thomas Ruehle, Police Chief**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE — WATER DEPARTMENT

Village water usage peaked far above normal during the continuing dry spell and has exceeded the level of safety for domestic use and in the event of a fire.

Irrigation is permitted for a **maximum of 3 hours** on the schedule provided by the Water Department for your street.

If you are unable to set your water controller to conform, you must immediately contact your service company to correct the settings. For questions contact the Water Department at 883-3491.

**Daniel Scheyer**  
Water Commissioner

**Brian Gunderson**  
Water Department Superintendent

## VILLAGE ELECTIONS

By Governor Cuomo’s emergency order, all New York State village elections normally held in March or June have been postponed until September 15, 2020.

# CALLING ALL SANDS POINT BEACH ASSOCIATIONS!

We are coordinating a meeting of all the beach associations in our village to create the “Sands Point Beach Association” that will be a resource for all the beach associations to discuss challenges, share information, and benefit from the economies of scale.

**If you are involved in a beach association in the village, please contact Louis Silfin ([louis.silfin@outlook.com](mailto:louis.silfin@outlook.com)), Mike Ertel ([mikerertel@gmail.com](mailto:mikerertel@gmail.com)), and Jennifer Drukier-Birnbaum ([jmd399@gmail.com](mailto:jmd399@gmail.com)) if you are interested in learning more.**

## A few notes:

- Participation is not mandatory, but we believe in the best interests of all.
- Sharing tips (and mistakes) will help you run your association better.
- Pooling resources may allow your group to benefit from the economies of scale.
- The association will only meet a few times a year—or as often as often as the group feels is necessary.
- The Village will offer itself as a resource if the group desires.

We are modeling this idea on the Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor Protection Committees that comprise municipalities bordering these bodies of water who meet several times a year to discuss our waterways and take action to keep them clean and safe. The Sands Point representatives to these committees (Mike, Louis, and Jennifer) have agreed to draw upon their experience to get the Sands Point Beach Association off the ground.

There is presently no accurate list of the beach associations in the Village, but here is a list we have been able to put together. Please (a) contact us if you are involved in any of these associations and would like to learn more and (b) let us know if we missed any beach associations in the Village.

- Backus Farms Homeowners Association
- Cornwell Beach/West Creek Farms
- Estates of Sands Point Beach Association
- Forest Drive/Old House
- Half Moon Beach & Wetlands Conservancy
- Half Moon West
- Harbor Acres
- Harriman Estates Association
- Hicks Lane
- Hoffstot Beach Association
- Plum Point Beach Association
- Sands Point Acres: Hilldale Lane/Glen Road
- Shorewood HOA
- Sousa Drive Beach Association



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## **SANDS POINT REPORT JUNE 2020**

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR:**

## **ROAD REPORT**

As Road Commissioner for our Village over a period of many years, I have always wanted to walk all the roads of our Village. Faced with the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting requirements to stay at or near home and to maintain social distancing, this seemed like the perfect time to embark on this venture. Fellow Sands Point resident and neighbor Judy Sloan agreed to join me in this effort while wearing our masks and maintaining distance. It actually took us nearly 2 months. We met at 3 pm almost every day, from early March, finishing nearly two months later, on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We usually walked 3 to 4 miles each day. In all we walked some 100 miles. Spring was a wonderful time to walk outside in our beautiful Sands Point. Nearly everything is green, fragrant, and bursting into bloom.

Our Village's 5 Year Road Improvement Plan appears very effective. We were pleased and comforted by the good condition of so many of our public roads – very few pot holes, intact pavement, proper drainage, sturdy stone block curbing fronting well-kept lawns, trimmed bushes and trees, and lovely homes including many new fine architectural wonders. We remain saddened and concerned by contrast of the poor condition of many private roads within our community, and hope that this may be addressed soon.

I now plan to consult my tax advisor as to whether a new pair of sneakers might be deductible.

A special bonus for all the effort: Judy and I both lost weight!

**Katharine M. Ullman, Trustee & Road Commissioner**