

Sands Point Report

The Village's 110th Year

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 0

Mayor

Edward A. K. Adler

Trustees

Katharine Ullman
Peter A. Forman,
Deputy Mayor
Jeffrey Moslow
Rita Sethi

Village Clerk

Liz Gaynor

Treasurer

Kathleen Notaro

Police Chief

Thomas Ruehle

Village Justice

Alyson K. Adler

Associate Village

Justice

Daniel Scheyer

Advisors to

Board of Trustees

Daniel Scheyer
Lynn R. Najman

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Milestones

There are many changes to report this year among the dozens of resident volunteers whose dedicated work on our Village boards, commissions and committees is essential to maintaining the Village's high standards of service and good governance for all of our residents. The effective and long-standing partnership between our excellent Village staff and the resident volunteers who work side by side with them continues to be the hallmark of our Village government.

Lynn Najman, Trustee and Building Commissioner since July, 2011, decided not to run for re-election this year; her Trustee term concluded on September 15th. It is our good fortune that she expressed an interest in serving on the Planning Board, and she has been appointed to a three-year term. Her long "career" as a Village volunteer started in the '90s as a member of the original Residents Club Commission. From 2003 to 2009, she served as Village Treasurer. As a Trustee, she twice served one-year terms as Deputy Mayor. She has been an outstanding member of the Board and has brought an impressive level of efficiency, responsiveness and professionalism to the Building Department. As an Advisor to the Board going forward, her wise counsel and guidance will continue to be available to us. She will remain as Building Commissioner through this fall until her successor takes over.

Rita Sethi succeeds Lynn as Trustee, following election to a two-year term last month. Rita served since 2018 as a member of the Planning Board. She is an employment law attorney, mediator, and professor of law at Hofstra Law School. A second-generation Village resident, Rita's mother, Amrit Sethi, is well known to decades of residents as a long-standing member of the Sands Point Civic Association board. Rita will take over from Lynn as Building Commissioner in the coming months.

Jeff Moslow, who was appointed to fill the late Marc Silbert's seat on the Board of Trustees last year, was elected to serve the second year of Marc's original term in accord with NY State law. He has been appointed to succeed Trustee **Peter Forman** as Finance Commissioner. Peter was re-elected to a two-year term as Trustee and continues for the second year as Deputy Mayor and Chief Police Commissioner.

Alyson K. Adler was re-elected to a four-year term as Village Justice; she has served on the Village Court bench for 16 years, first as Associate Justice and then as Justice since 2013.

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When resident volunteers move from the Village, we graciously accept the loss of their experience and dedication and wish them well. The loss is doubled when both spouses serve in important Village volunteer positions; such is the case of **Georgia and Ben DeYoung**, who recently moved from the Village but remain nearby in Port. Georgia served as Chair or Deputy Chair of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission since 2004. Under her strong leadership, the Commission has designated two additional Village homes as landmarks. Ben served on the Planning Board for 23 years, the last three as Chair, providing energetic and effective leadership.

Becky Schamis, a member of the Planning Board since 2018, has been appointed to replace Ben DeYoung as Chair. The vacancy on the Planning Board created by Rita's election as a trustee has been filled by **Jonathan Schiff**, who, like Rita, is a second-generation Sands Point resident. **Josh Kuriloff** has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals created when Jeff Moslow was appointed to the Board of Trustees last year.

There are two newly-appointed members of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission, **Lynn Sirow** and **Shaesta Humayun**. **Daniel Kohs** will take over from Georgia as Deputy Chair.

Many thanks to all present and past Village volunteers for your service and dedication, and a warm welcome to those appointed as Village volunteers for the first time. The complete list of all volunteer and staff positions is always available on the Village website, sandspoint.org.

The **Sands Point Police Department** welcomed a new officer, Steven Silveira, to the force in July. He is a nine-year veteran of the NYC Police Department and was promoted to sergeant last year. Officer Silveira lives with wife, a nurse at Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan, and two young children in Seaford.

Village Club Update

The newsletter usually publishes a summary of the Club's current year budget each spring, but the onset of lockdown from Covid-19 required a complete re-analysis of how the Club could best serve its membership this season while abiding by the stringent NYS emergency mandates to ensure the safety of the Club's staff and all members.

In the early weeks in April and May, the situation changed as often as daily, making operations and contingency planning challenging. The great effort was worthwhile, as a potential fiscal disaster was not only averted, but strong membership loyalty and interest, new membership initiatives, coupled with careful fiscal oversight not only saved the positions of most senior Club staff but also saw golf membership grow to levels not seen since the last recession accelerated the decline in golf's popularity that began country-wide in 2004. Under the strong leadership of Club Chair **Matt Engel** and new General Manager **Jeff Shepard**, golf membership is approaching 330 families, up from 300 a year ago and 225 four years ago. Jeff has been living full time at the Mansion since the early summer, alone and away from his family in Atlanta. Travel restrictions delayed a weekend family reunion until late September. Jeff's dedication and hard work this summer are among the reasons that the Club's season turned out to be very successful.

The Junior golf program has never been stronger, with 150 children enrolled in the program this past summer. Although some pool members elected to defer their 2020 membership until 2021, other new members joined when Nassau County permitted the pool to open for the season just a few weeks late. The tennis program was very active through the season, though different than in past years due to covid restrictions and the cancellation of normal inter-club team play.

Overall, Club operations were very successful and popular with members, and a modest operating surplus is anticipated for the 2020 season, the Club's 26th. Residents who have not availed themselves of the recreational and social benefits of Club of membership should consider joining in 2021; residents pay significantly lower dues than non-residents in all membership categories, and social/dining memberships are free to residents but not offered to non-residents.

Water Department Update

The anticipated imposition of new State regulations with respect to MCL (maximum contaminant level) standards for PFOS/PFAS contaminants occurred in late August. While none of our Village wells have exceeded the new MCL of 10 parts per trillion, the readings from two wells came very close to the MCL before reducing somewhat over the summer. The Village's water engineer is advising the department with respect to designing treatment systems that will be needed if the contaminant levels are exceeded. The Village plans to submit a deferral application this fall to enable continued well use if MCL levels go above 10 before treatment facilities are in place. The Village has joined a half-dozen other water districts on Long Island in a lawsuit against manufacturers of the products that are believed to cause the contaminants. If successful, the suit will defray the costs of the treatment facilities.

Village Office Operations Return to Near-Normal

Following all appropriate safety protocols, the Village office is fully-staffed and operating normally. Plexiglass partitions are in place and masks are required so that visitors to Village Hall and staff members are protected, but it is strongly recommended that communication by phone and email precede any needed visit. The Village Court began in-person sessions in September. Village board and commission meetings continue to be held remotely as permitted by the Governor's order. The Building Department is particularly busy as a result of the surge in home sales in recent months.

Building Department Permit Rules Effective in January

The Village Code has been amended effective this coming January to provide for permit fee increases and a limitation of three years for building permits, including as-of-right extensions. It is the responsibility of property owners to make sure projects are completed within the three-year time frame.

Road Work Planned

The Village is out to bid on planned road work to begin this fall and be completed shortly after winter ends. The work involves repairing and replacing stone block curbing, drainage systems improvements and repaving on Shorewood Drive and Hollow Court. Residents on those streets will be informed when work will begin.

Have an enjoyable and safe autumn!

 , Mayor

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For the Board of Trustees



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SANDS POINT REPORT OCTOBER 2020

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Sands Point Police Department Report

As noted in last June's Newsletter, we are fortunate to live in a very safe community with some of the lowest crime rates around. We pointed out two areas which need some attention--**car thefts** and, to a lesser extent, **burglaries**. Here are our key points worth repeating:

With respect to car thefts, there have been no (zero) car thefts in the past few years except when 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.

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, even if you are only going to be away from your home for a few hours.

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

Peter A. Forman
Chief Police Commissioner & Deputy Mayor

Thomas Ruehle
Chief of Police