

PSEG UTILITY POLES STILL POSE PROBLEMS

By John McGuirk

The utility company, Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG-LI), a New Jersey based firm imposed upon Long Island ratepayers by Governor Cuomo through the reorganization of the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) in 2013, continues to erect large, pentachlorophenol infused poles Island-wide. Pentachlorophenol or penta is a known carcinogen, posing significant health threats to humans and animals whose daily routines expose them to these poles often placed in close proximity to homes, sidewalks, lawns and driveways.

By raising awareness of the dangers posed to the health and welfare of the community, groups including VPS, Long Island Businesses for Responsible Energy (LIBFRE) and Save East Hampton, are working to halt the use of this toxin by petitioning our state and federal representatives to push the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to comprehensively ban its use once and for all. Penta is considered a hazardous waste, further complicating the removal and disposal of treated poles. The EPA reports that this chemical is responsible for negative health impacts on the neurological system, blood, kidneys, immune system, eyes, nose and skin. These are just some of the known health impacts of penta on humans and animals.

New York State Assemblyman, Fred Thiele, Jr., has proposed legislation prohibiting the future use of utility poles treated with penta and calls for warning signs to be posted upon existing poles treated with the chemical in communities where drinking water is supplied by a sole source aquifer.

Fortunately, further ‘tree trimming’ on Village streets was prevented due to intervention by the Village Board, which was alerted to the issue by Village residents. Becky Molinaro, Village Administrator reported that Village officials from the highway and public works department met with representatives from PSEG and Asplundh insisting that the scope of work, including which trees and what level of pruning is anticipated must be submitted to the Village before any further work can be attempted.

Unfortunately, the stop work order filed by Supervisor Cantwell to halt work performed by PSEG-LI on the Amagansett substation, has been overruled by the court. The court upheld the utility’s position that it need not follow local zoning with respect to work on their equipment. Mr. Thiele continues to pursue funding to bury the lines, readily identified as not only the most reliable way to deliver uninterrupted power to our community, but overall, the most economical way to do so. The Assemblyman is also advocating for more transparent financial policies at PSEG-LI, which is in process of requesting a rate hike to fulfill the company’s 12-year contract with LIPA, set to increase from \$45 million to \$73 million.

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

SPRING NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015

the Village
Preservation
Society of East Hampton

Mark Your Calendars!
**“Welcome to Summer”
Party**
For Members on Saturday, June 13, 2015
from 6-8:30 pm at the
Maidstone Tennis House on Maidstone Lane.
Reserve Your Tickets Now!

VILLAGE INAUGURAL DEER POPULATION CONTROL A SUCCESS!

The Village Preservation Society, Incorporated Village of East Hampton, and Wildlife Rescue, Inc. of Maryland joined together in praise of the Village of East Hampton’s inaugural deer sterilization program, which began in January 2015. “In spite of record breaking cold and unusual snowfall,” reported Village Administrator, Becky Molinaro, “Tony DeNicola and the White Buffalo team were able to spay 114 does during the first portion of the Village deer spaying program.”

“This first phase was cut short due to the extreme weather,” Dr. DeNicola explained, “Like humans, deer seek shelter during extreme cold and snow conditions, making it nearly impossible to find them. Our plan is to come back later in the year to complete the program,” he concluded.

The Village’s inaugural deer spaying program benefited from a \$100,000 fundraising campaign conceived and conducted by the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton (VPS), a non-profit organization the mission of which is to preserve historic structures, neighborhood character and quality of life in the Village. “Our Spay-A-Doe Campaign reached its goal in record time thanks to the hard work of our co-chairs, Polly Bruckmann,

Andrée Dean, John McGuirk and VPS Executive Director, Kathleen Cunningham,” explained VPS Board Chair, Joan Osborne. “We were heartened by the widespread range of donations and viewed that as a referendum, of sorts, on deer management practices in the Village,” offered John McGuirk, VPS President and Spay-A-Doe Campaign Co-Chair.

Studies have demonstrated that to maintain current herd populations, hunters must reduce the number of deer by 50% annually, a near impossibility in the Village of East Hampton. Most Village residential lots do not meet even the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (NYSDEC) newly reduced minimum distance requirements for bow hunting, making hunting available, but impractical. “Our dense residential population, coupled with limited hunting opportunity undermines this population control method,” said Andrée Dean, VPS Co-Vice President and Spay-A-Doe Campaign Co-Chair. “We felt that spaying the animals was the most humane approach and actually held the most promise for deer management over time,” agreed



The Village Board accepts \$100,000 raised by the VPS for its inaugural deer spaying program. The fundraising efforts of VPS Spay-A-Doe Campaign Chairs Polly Bruckmann, Andrée Dean and John McGuirk, supported by Executive Director Kathleen Cunningham’s expertise, made the program a success.

Photo by Kathleen Cunningham

Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to **THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, New York 11937

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton for the Membership Year from January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Visit our website at: www.villagepreservationsociety.org

Number of Members in this Membership (please circle one) 1 2 3 Other

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Contributors of	\$5,000.00 will be listed as Visionary	\$2,500.00 will be listed as Advocate
	\$1,000.00 will be listed as Benefactor	\$ 500.00 will be listed as Patron
	\$ 250.00 will be listed as Supporting Member	\$ 100.00 will be listed as Friend
	Regular Membership (\$50)	

The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

I would like to be active. My special interests are _____

I (We) support VPS principles but do not wish to be listed as a member.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

AIRCRAFT NOISE, *continued from page 3*

In response to concerns from Southampton officials and representatives from the Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) about the possibility of diverted flights increasing aircraft noise at airports in those communities, resolution (3), the ban on helicopter, traffic from noon on Thursdays to noon on Mondays between May 1 and September 30, including holidays will not be moved at this time. Town consultants Harris, Miller, Miller & Hanson claim these three rules will address 75% of helicopter operations and 73% of associated complaints, even without the helicopter ban. Disappointed Village residents will have to wait and see if this works and are encouraged to continue to log aircraft noise complaints at: 1-800-376-4817 or log on to: <http://www.planenoise.com/khto/>. A vote on the proposals is expected on April 16, 2015.

Polly Bruckmann, VPS Co-Vice President and Spay-A-Doe Campaign Co-Chair.

“We are deeply grateful to our Spay-A-Doe Campaign donors,” remarked Kathleen Cunningham VPS Executive Director. “Without their commitment to reducing deer numbers in the Village and their willingness to donate generously, this first effort would not have been so successful” she continued. “We also thank and applaud the Village Board for embracing this approach, the first municipality on Long Island to do so.”

Other experimental sterilization methods, such as administering PZP (Porcine Zona Pellucida) or GonaCon by injection to chemically sterilize does, requires repeated capture for tagging and revaccination. This may need to occur as many three times before the doe is considered chemically sterile with drug efficacy rates not high enough to earn the endorsement of the DEC at this stage of development. Economic viability of this immunocontraception method is less than it appears because of the long-range need to monitor and administer annual booster shots to the animals. While deer spaying is still considered an experimental deer management protocol by the NYSDEC, it is gaining formal support in other areas of the country, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“After looking at all options, particularly non-lethal methods, the NIH identified the most effective approach that will manage, stabilize and potentially reduce the population in a long-term, safe, humane and socially and biologically acceptable manner,” commented Dr. Alfred Johnson, Director of Office of Research Services, of the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, MD, when that agency adopted the same deer spaying program last December of 2014.

Enid Feinberg, President of Wildlife Rescue, Inc., an organization founded in 1994 to provide humane solutions for co-existing with wildlife and to assist Maryland residents with wildlife emergencies, offered perspective on deer spaying as a population control technique. “When we implemented our non-lethal deer spay project in 2011, the first in the history of Maryland, we did not know what to expect. Our very successful program results exceeded all our expectations from both humane and deer population control aspects. Now deer spaying is no longer considered research in Maryland, but has been approved by the state as a deer management tool, used at both NIH in December, 2014 and our Wildlife Rescue, Inc. project in February of 2015.

The residents of the Village of East Hampton are incredibly fortunate that your Village Board and the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton had the foresight and courage to not follow the failures of other communities who made the mistake of just killing deer. It has been an honor to collaborate with the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton on the “Spay-A Doe Campaign”.



Bob DeLuca explains how human activity affects the condition of our drinking water and surface water bodies at the Tennis House on September 20, 2014.

VPS ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS - OUR WATER QUALITY IN PERIL

By Kathleen Cunningham

At the VPS Annual Meeting of Members last fall, Group for the East End President, Robert DeLuca, made a presentation to the membership detailing the perilous state of our drinking water, the causes for it and potential mitigations to repair that damage. Also present was Town of East Hampton Environmental Protection Director, Kim Shaw, who discussed the Town’s Wastewater Management Plan, one important initiative to address how to mitigate pollution of our sole source aquifer.

Most East End residents get water from wells, which draw directly from the aquifer, the only water source on Long Island. Almost 90% of these residents discard wastewater through septic systems and cesspools designed to remove pathogens, not nitrogen. This water eventually percolates into our aquifer, which is then cycled back into our drinking water and surface water bodies. Even those that get water from the Suffolk County Water Authority, are subject to the same diminished water quality, unless it is chemically treated before it reaches the tap. All water comes from the aquifer, which lies beneath the terrain at different depths to groundwater in different areas. In East Hampton, most of it is fairly close to the surface, making it vulnerable to a variety of pollutants. It is important to recognize the primary role of human beings in manufacturing pollutants.

Nitrogen, a naturally occurring waste by-product of many life forms, is found in our septic wastewater, and is the primary source of nitrogen contamination of our water. Increasing nitrogen levels from fertilizers along with pesticides used in agriculture and volatile organic compounds (VOC) are delivered directly into the aquifer and surface water bodies as stormwater runoff.

As part of the Long Island Clean Water Partnership

(LICWP), the VPS has been participating in efforts to encourage the creation of local clean water action plans to identify water quality challenges and offer mitigations to protect and ultimately restore precious groundwater and surface water resources. As a direct result of our Water Quality forum last fall and the formation of the Village Hook Pond Restoration Committee, the Village Board created the Hook Pond Water Quality Improvement Project, a first step in addressing critical water pollution issues in East Hampton.



Diagram by Dr. Christopher Gobler, Stony Brook University School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences. Used with permission.

VILLAGE WATER QUALITY RESTORATION PROJECT WILL SUPPORT HOOK POND WATERSHED

By Kathleen Cunningham

East Hampton Village has begun an initiative to address groundwater and surface water pollution by installing bioswales and stormwater filtration devices on Village lands. The Village has engaged Pio Lombardo Associates to conduct the East Hampton Village Hook Pond Water Quality Improvement Project, conceived in part, by the work of the Hook Pond Water Quality Committee. The Village qualified, with a letter of support from VPS, for a Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program grant to help to fund this program. The Hook Pond Watershed comprises a very large area of Village and Town lands, including the Core Commercial and North Main Street Commercial Districts encompassing about 2,360 acres in the Village. The project will provide for design and installation of bioswales and other stormwater infrastructure improvements on the North Hook Mill Green and Village Green at Town Pond.

A bioswale is a landscaped plot of land containing organic plant material and in some instances filtering

components to create a small pool or shallow wetland to screen pollutants and silt during stormwater runoff events. Planted on a broad pitched slope, the design of the bioswales will encourage water drainage through these landscape features, cleansing the water of pathogens and other pollutants. Bioswales are often planted around paved surfaces where automotive discharge gathered on pavement is suddenly released by rain events.

The North Hook Mill Green and the Village Green at Town Pond will be the sites of the Village’s inaugural water quality improvement projects. This will provide excellent visibility for the public as they learn about the need for water quality mitigation tools like these. Reductions of 40-60% nitrogen and phosphorous are expected from these installations. Stormwater filters planned for 11 existing storm basins will also contribute to filtering storm water runoff of volatile organic compounds and bacteria.

MEANINGFUL RELIEF FROM AIRCRAFT NOISE ON THE HORIZON

By Joan Osborne

On Thursday, March 12, 2015, over 200 people, including supportive chief elected officials from all over the East End, crowded the meeting space at LTV Studios in Wainscott to voice their opinions about proposed access limits at East Hampton airport to protect the public from



Congressman Lee Zeldin makes helicopter noise his first order of business at his Southold Town Hall press conference on Sunday, March 8, 2015.

noise. VPS Chair Joan Osborne and Membership Co-Chair, Mary Busch along with VPS Aircraft Noise Committee Chair, Peter Wolf, attended on behalf of the Society. Peter Wolf offered VPS support of the proposed restrictions while urging the Board to be even more stringent, in keeping with the original VPS position on access limits to reduce aircraft noise.

Newly elected Congressman Lee Zeldin made support for East Hampton’s proposed access limits to protect the public from noise his top priority at the start of his term by conducting a press conference on the topic at Southold Town Hall on March 9, 2015. At the conference, Mr. Zeldin publicized his recent letter to FAA Administrator, Michael Huerta, calling upon the FAA to stand by assurances made to his predecessor, Congressman Tim Bishop, allowing the Town of East Hampton to, “...adopt restrictions on the use of their airport without FAA approval...”. Grant assurances inhibiting that right expired on December 31, 2014, restoring the Town Board’s rights as airport proprietor to set access limits to protect the public from noise. The newly appointed Vice-Chair of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation, Mr. Zeldin stated, “Long Island’s East End is one of the nations’ most scenic destinations, and as we rapidly approach another high season for the tourism economy, the people of these communities urgently need a set of effective solutions that will mitigate excessive noise from helicopters approaching the region. My constituents cannot afford to have another season ruined by disruptive noise.”

Like all other municipalities negatively affected by aircraft noise, particularly that of helicopters, the Village Board articulated support of the Town’s proposed access restrictions through a letter to the Town Board. Of concern to Village residents is a revision to the initial proposal, which could produce an uptick in seaplane activity over Village neighborhoods. The Town will assess this potential increase in seaplane operations at summer’s end and, if necessary, amend the restrictions to address this.

Supervisor Cantwell summed up the Board’s feelings on the issue with this comment, “The Town of East Hampton’s natural beauty, open space, and rural character are its greatest assets, the reason so many choose to live, work or vacation there or to retire or enjoy a second home. These assets are the very basis of our strong economy. The degradation of people’s peaceful enjoyment of their homes – on the scale occurring now – threatens this quality of life and the core of the economy.”

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, the East Hampton Town Board chose to move only three of the four proposals forward: (1) a mandatory nighttime curfew on all aircraft from 11 p.m. – 7 a.m.; (2) an extended curfew of 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily for aircraft categorized as noisy; and (4) limits on aircraft categorized as ‘noisy’ to one takeoff and one landing per week during the defined summer season.

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STORIES IN STONE

by Averill Geus



Photo by Peter B. Robinson

Among the several memorials to Revolutionary soldiers found in the old North End Cemetery are two stones marking the graves of Captain David Fithian and that of his son, Aaron. Captain David’s great grandfather was a Welshman who spelled his name Ffithian and was reputed to have served in Oliver Cromwell’s army during the English Civil War. Reports that he was also a regicide and present at the beheading of Charles I seem to be misleading, but William was discreet and his history is obscure today. Cromwell’s men were harshly treated in England after Charles II regained the throne in 1660 and William was fortunate to have fled to America, going first to Boston, then to Lynn, MA, then to New Haven, CT. He undoubtedly knew several of the East Hampton settlers. He came to Long Island’s East End and was granted land in July of 1653 and again in May of 1655. He was assigned to a home lot on Main Street and built a house on the property now occupied by the 1770 House. Several of his descendants followed military careers and occupied prominent places in the Town. William’s son, Enoch, was a lieutenant in the local militia and owned the property through which Fithian Lane was cut. He left this property to his son, Aaron.

Capt. David Fithian, Aaron’s son, had a house and farmed the property on which the East Hampton Middle School is located today. He served as Captain of the Fourth Company of the Suffolk County Militia’s Second Regiment. Born in 1728, he died in 1803, aged 75 years. In 1747, he married Esther, daughter of Elisha Conkling of Wainscott. Their son Aaron, born in 1752, also served in the militia. He and his wife, Esther, daughter of Abraham Hedges, were married in 1771. Aaron died in 1779, when only 27 years old, possibly of smallpox which was prevalent in East Hampton at the time. His two children were raised by his father, Capt. David.

Captain Jonathan Fithian, born in 1768, was a son of Capt. David. His wife, Jerusha, was the daughter of Captain John Dayton, who tricked the British at Montauk and held marauding soldiers off from stealing cattle with a pitchfork.