

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

the Village
Preservation
Society of East Hampton

SPRING NEW LETTER
2021

VPS MAKES GRANT TO THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF EAST HAMPTON

By Mary E. Busch, Grants Committee Chair

The Village Preservation Society presented a grant of \$3,000 to the Community Council of East Hampton. Through donations from individuals, businesses and civic groups, The Council partners with other support groups in the community to provide assistance to any resident, individuals and families alike, within the Town of East Hampton in need of emergency or temporary assistance. Their help takes many forms such as rent or utility payments as well as gift cards to local grocery stores and complete Thanksgiving meals. In some unique cases they provide funds for childcare or car repairs so that people can go to work or to medical appointments. Many of their clients are elderly or seasonal workers. The only limitation to the work of these volunteers is availability of resources. The Council expects to serve approximately 115 families in 2021.

The Community Council of the Town of East Hampton was founded in 1943 by Mrs. Clifford (Betty) Edwards, Mrs. Daniel (Rosalie) Tucker, and Reverend Sam Davis. At the end of World War II, the council assisted returning veterans, helping to match them with compatible jobs. Many families were still challenged by the necessary sacrifices made on the home front to support the war effort and the Community Council helped them get back on their feet. Along with members of the clergy, the group worked with the Welfare Officer, School and Town Nurses and representatives from each organization within the Village and the Town. The organization is still helping families in need and is run by volunteers with donations and gifts in kind.

For more information, please call: 631-329-2051.



VPS Board Chair, John L. McGuirk III, Community Council Vice-President, Linda Blowe and Grants Committee Chairwoman, Mary E. Busch meet to present the Society's Grant at the Gardiner Mill in March.

Photo by Kathleen Cunningham

HIS ORIC PRESERVA ION AWARD

By Georgia deHavenon

The world-renowned architect Frank Gehry once mused that “in the end, the character of a civilization is encased in its structures”. This statement certainly applies to our own village of East Hampton. Because the “character” of East Hampton is so fragile, the Village Preservation Society has made it their mission to work to protect this all-important aspect of our environment. With this in mind, the Historic Preservation Committee was formed in 2018 to raise public awareness regarding preservation through both local government advocacy and presenting annual awards for outstanding public and private historic architectural projects. Due to the pandemic, the Historic Preservation Committee did not make any awards in 2020, but in 2021 we plan to again recognize one private and one public structure that has been successfully preserved.

We invite you to participate in this process by sending us recommendations of possible candidates for the awards. Normally presented at the VPS Annual Meeting in September, the awards and commemorative plaques will either be issued then or remotely, depending on the status of pandemic restrictions.* As we have in the past, we would hope to have a distinguished speaker at the award ceremony, as well as an inspiring presentation. Please stay tuned for information about the event.

**Recommendations can be emailed to the VPS Executive Director, Kathy Cunningham, at kathy@villagepreservationsociety.org. Be sure to include the address of the property.*

NEW VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION HI S THE GROUND RUNNING

By Joan D. Osborne

The Reutershan parking lot, once home to time stamped parking ticket machines, has a new look as Mayor Larsen and the Village Board are planning a new parking formula. A public hearing on a proposal for paid parking will be held on April 16, 2021. The proposed legislation requires a cell phone to log the license plate of the car, in which space and lot the car is parked. All users have a 3-hour maximum per space. After 3 hours, the car must be moved 20 feet to a different space and re-registered for another 3-hour stint, similar to leaving the lot and getting a new ticket from the machine to re-start the time. Village residents park free for the first three-hours. Provisions are also being made to allow Town residents with a beach sticker the same privilege. After 3-hours, an as yet to be determined fee, will be charged. Parking regulations will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run to 6 p.m., a diminishment from the current law. Spaces along Park Pl are increased from 15 minutes to 30 minutes. The proposal also provides for unlimited daily fees for the long-term lot on Lumber Lane. A fee structure will be proposed by separate resolution. Also, heard on April 16th, is a proposal to make available 3 monthly, non-resident beach passes for \$300 each. Proposed dates for these passes are May 15th – June 30th, July only, and August 1 – September 15th.

There has been discussion that a Village sewage treatment plant, a project in discussion for several years now, might be

funded from the paid parking initiative. However, to date, we have seen no proposed plans or related expenses. VPS supports a water treatment facility as the responsible thing for establishments in the commercial core and is essential for the health of our drinking water and surface water bodies. However, the Society believes that rather than enlivening the downtown by permitting more wet uses, enabling more restaurants may, indeed, have the opposite effect hoped for by making real estate even more valuable downtown. The real problem with a diminished nightlife and activity in the Village lies more with inflated real estate prices than with over-regulation of business. A recent proposal by Hunting Hospitality to enlarge outdoor facilities in direct conflict with the Village Zoning Code, was a shot across the bow for residents concerned with the expansion of preexisting nonconforming uses in residential districts, particularly the Main Street Historic District. All Village residents who care about the historic, neighborhood qualities that have characterized this Village for centuries, should carefully follow all applications before the Design Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The agenda for these agencies can be found at: <http://easthamptonvillage.org/agendacenter>.

AIRCRAF NOISE UPDA E

By Peter M. Wolf

This past January, the VPS Board of Trustees was fortunate to have as a guest speaker, Councilman Jeffrey Bragman, Airport Liaison for the Town Board. He kindly reviewed the Town’s plans for assessing the value of the airport to the community as a municipally owned facility, once the Town is free of obligations to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Town Board will likely conduct an economic study, an assessment of zoning on airport land, as well as the annual aircraft traffic and complaint review by the Town’s aviation engineering firm, Harris, Miller, Miller and Hansen (HMMH). Consideration will also be given to the carbon emissions associated with the aircraft that frequent the airport.

The Town’s obligation to the FAA from grant assurances it signed 20 years ago, expire in September of this year. While aircraft noise abatement advocates, and those supporting airport closure, have long awaited this date, it will not be determinative with respect to the studies the Town will conduct to assess the airport. Elimination of these regulations presents an important opportunity for the Town to determine the best use of the 628 acres of airport land, located directly over the area’s sole source aquifer.

As always, noise complaint data is important. While the pandemic has diminished air traffic in general, improved vaccine access and second home-owners relocating to their vacation homes full time, will likely increase operations along with the expected seasonal uptick. Reporting disturbing noise events remains an important data point in the Town’s assessments of people’s feelings toward the future of the airport in the community, so please continue to file complaints as they occur. Complaints can be made online at: www.airportnoisereport.com, <https://www.planenoise.com/khto/>, or by phone at: 1-800-376-4817.

WORLD WAR II IN EAST HAMP TON, 1941 – 1945 (Part One)

By Averill D. Geus, Historian

I was seven years old when I returned to school after Christmas vacation in January 1942. The holidays had come and gone, Santa Claus was a memory, and life was normal with visits to my grandmother, and playing outdoors with my brother. As I walked into my second grade classroom, Bobby Card ran up to me, brimming with excitement. “We’re in a war,” he announced - “a war”. What’s a war, I asked? Pearl Harbor, bombing, Nazis, were words I’d never heard before. But, they formed the backdrop of the next five years of my childhood. And, life as I knew it slowly changed.

The general sequence of events is hazy now, but it seems first came a day when the family car was put out of service. It was driven to the barn, the tires removed and the car put up on blocks. Only my father’s pickup was available for transportation and then only in an emergency. Next, my father seemed to disappear. He left the train station on Sunday night and was gone through the week, coming home on Friday night. Only years later did I learn that he went to Bayonne, NJ to work as a draftsman in a government office he couldn’t talk about, designing buildings which seemed to be storage facilities. He later learned they were used to house the lend lease materials before being shipped to Britain. He stuck it out for about a year but then returned home to work on the construction of the big gun emplacements at Montauk, designed to protect eastern Long Island from invasion. Again, he was rarely at home, leaving for Montauk at 4 and 5 a.m. before I was awake and returning home after I had gone to bed. There was talk every night at the dinner table about the local men who were enlisting and going to war. Rationing was on everyone’s mind, sugar, for example. To get stamps for sugar, meat, gas, shoes, tires and other things, an application had to be made to the Board run by Chester Cloud with the names, ages and descriptions of all members of the household. Also, families had to report how much sugar was in the house, a hardship for my mother, who loved to bake.

We were lucky because my Dad liked having animals around. We had the family cow, and delight of delights, he ordered in baby chicks for the hen yard. There was once a sheep to keep the grass down in the summer, but after it butted my mother to the ground, it ended up in a stew pot at the home of Mr. George Stravopoulos who ran the Candy Kitchen. “Kind of tough,” he told my father. There was a succession of pigs, one a razor back from Montauk with legs like a dog, could run and jump and get out of its pen. Even old Charlie Gould came over one day to see the leaping pig. Dad, who loved to tinker, built a dovecote at the top of the barn and announced he would try raising pigeons. This was not a success, but the dove house became our special clubhouse at the top of the barn. The family cow, a sweet tempered animal, we called Georgica, furnished enough milk for the family and my mother made all the butter we could use and then some and cottage cheese. After an experiment

with the first margarine available, my father announced he would rather use lard. The stuff was white and came with a package of coloring to mix and turn the spread yellowish red. So, Mom found a churn in the attic and all was well until the cow got into some wild onions, making the butter absolutely rank. One Saturday, my mother left my father in charge of turning the crank of the churn, which I admit, was tedious. Dad, tiring of cranking, decided to mechanize the hand labor. He had a contraption, which he used for sawing wood, that he brought to the back door and attached to the churn. It worked for about two minutes and then sent everything flying, butter particles all over the back yard. My mother was not pleased, nor was she happy to see a Village cop who appeared one day to tell her our cow was on the Village Green.

Bargaining was a necessity. We had eggs, but little meat and so we all became great fish eaters. Everyone, it seemed, had a victory garden and ours grew in size every year. Dad even tried peanuts experimentally. My mother took vegetables to the local cannery on North Main run by the Maranville family for winter fare.

By 1943, living in the midst of a war began to seem normal. A huge board sign with the names of all the East Hampton service men and women, was placed at the head of Newtown Lane where Mustard Alley is today, over 1000 enlisted. All the boy scouts and girl scouts were enlisted in helping with scrap metal drives and paper drives. The pile of scrap metal grew and grew as patriotic people divested themselves of cast iron furniture, barnyard metal, and probably things that should never have been discarded in this way. The beautiful white iron deer on the Wiborg estate ended up in the pile. Anyone who took scrap to the pile was given a free pass to the movies, and bad boys often helped themselves to a piece of scrap for a seat to see the latest Tarzan flick on Saturday afternoon.

Was there deprivation? Probably, but life went on without penny candy and store bought toys and new cars. My Dad made me a beautiful doll house one Christmas and furniture for it and my Aunt came up with a General McArthur doll for my brother, which I appropriated for doll weddings. We had great summer picnics when my parents would load the pickup with beach stuff and food and off we would go to Barnes Landing, or Settler’s Landing or Elly Brook. LVIS and church fairs were summer events. Jack Chrysler donated a brand new car one year, which was a source of wonder. Dan Miller of Springs bought \$2,000 worth of chances on it and fortunately won.

Dad signed up to be an airplane spotter, as did most Dads, a chance to hang out on the roof of the school in town. A fellow based at Montauk’s Camp Hero told of standing on the cliffs at Montauk and seeing Uboats in the water below, clear as day.

We did hear about the saboteurs who landed one foggy night in June, 1942, on the beach in Amagansett. I hardly need to mention them, except to say that we, as children, kept our eyes peeled for spies and saboteurs for a long while afterward. The coda to this story has never been printed and is personal. When my husband, Edwin, and I first came back to East Hampton in the early 1970s, he worked with my Uncle Louis Edwards. They were at work in the kitchen area of a summer home. To drag a cable into this area, Edwin

crawled into the darkness. With a droplight he saw a piece of machinery that should not have been there. They dragged it out and the object was a large short wave radio made in Germany. Neither made any connection with the landing of the Germans in Amagansett and the German radio ended up at the dump. The mystery of it is still perplexing and inconclusive, but why was it there, hidden behind a wall and did it guide the saboteurs to the beach one night? And, yes, a German chauffeur was working there at the time.

DREDGING OWN POND

By Sara Davison, Executive Director, Friends of Georgica Pond

Winter is the time to dredge and there are a number of dredging projects happening around town. Residents may have noticed dredging has begun at Town Pond in the heart of the Village. High praise is due the Village of East Hampton for forging on with this challenging project. The recommendation to dredge Town Pond was made in a study by Lombardo Associates in April 2015. Successful dredging of Town Pond will accomplish a number of objectives.

Although, Town Pond is manmade, the natural function it performs as a major tributary to Hook Pond is vital. Town Pond serves as a large detention basin and receives run off from the surrounding land and roads. Over the years it has filled up with sediment. This sediment – a dark, rich-looking soil – is filled with phosphorous. The excess phosphorous along with the shallow warm water are contributing factors to the algal blooms we have seen at the pond for many years.

We hear a lot about nitrogen as a problem nutrient when overabundant in water bodies, but phosphorous can be equally problematic, especially in fresh water bodies. Phosphorous is known to bond to organic matter and that is why it is found in pond-bottom sediment. The organic Georgica Pond sediment is also rich in phosphorous. The excess phosphorous along with the shallow warm water are contributing factors to the algal blooms we have seen at the pond for many years. According to Billy Hajek, the Environmental Planner for the Village of East Hampton, high levels of phosphorous were detected in Town Pond sediments.

Back in 2016, sediment cores were taken from Town Pond to be analyzed. The good news is that the sediment was determined by the NYSDEC to be non-toxic and can be re-used as a soil sediment.

But dredging isn't the only management tool that can be used to improve water quality at Town Pond, Hook Pond and

Georgica Pond. The number one thing homeowners can do is upgrade their septic system to IA (Innovative/Alternative) systems. The permitting for these systems has been streamlined, the incentive money from New York State, Suffolk County and the Town of East Hampton is flowing and there is no reason to wait. A home within the 'water protection district', not just waterfront homes, would be eligible for \$40,000 in public fund incentives! IA systems remove approximately 70% of the nitrogen from wastewater compared with antiquated conventional systems, which were never designed to remove nitrogen.

Another source of nitrogen entering Town Pond is surface water runoff. The bioswales installed several years ago are helping to intercept surface water runoff and filter contaminants before they reach Town Pond and eventually Hook Pond. The bioswales are not only beautiful but they perform an important function. Applause is due the Surfrider Foundation, Piazza Horticulture, the Garden Club, and the Village for supporting this project.

The experience of dredging Town Pond will be very instructive for future dredging projects at Georgica, Wainscott

and Hook Ponds. The take-home message about dredging fine pond sediment is that it: 1) is a long process, 2) requires extensive study, 3) is very costly, and 4) creates significant disturbance during the process which requires restoration.

Once the dredging is completed and the shoreline restored, Town Pond, one of our most beloved landmarks, will be back in business with improved stormwater retention abilities, better filtration and fewer algal blooms. In turn, Hook Pond will be better off, too.

Special thanks to Dell Cullum and volunteers from Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons for relocating several Red-Eared Slider Turtles during the project.



Dredging continues and should wrap up by late spring.

MEE OUR NEW RUS EES

By Melissa Egbert Sheehan

We are thrilled to welcome two new trustees, Barbara Borsack and David H. Brown, to the Board of the Village Preservation Society.

Barbara Borsack originally joined the Village Preservation Society over 20 years ago, before she ran for the East Hampton Village Board, which she served on for 20 years. Before Barbara



Photo by Barbara Borsack

served on the Village Board, she did two terms on the East Hampton Village Zoning Board of Appeals and chaired the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Barbara has been an ambulance volunteer for over 30 years in East Hampton and sits on the boards of the Southampton Hospital and the East Hampton Healthcare

Foundation. She has also been involved with the East Hampton Historical Society for many years.

Barbara has lived in the Village of East Hampton her whole life and raised her family in the village. She lives on ancestral property that has been in her family since 1920. She also grew up in the house next door, which was built in the late 1800s.

Barbara said, "I have a long history in the village and feel very protective of the village."

David H. Brown was also born and raised in East Hampton Village. He has lived in the village his whole life and raised his children here, too. His family roots date back to 1656 in East Hampton.



Photo courtesy of East Hampton Patch

Dave's life has been defined by service. He did two tours of duty during the Vietnam War. He served on the East Hampton Town Police force for 4 1/2 years and moved on from there to serve the Village and Town in a variety of capacities. He was Town Deputy Highway Superintendent for 16 years and later became the Clerk of Works in charge of all major town construction projects. Dave served on the Village Design Review Board for 14 years before his 16-year tenure on the Village Board. He also has served as a volunteer fireman for 54 years and is a Vice President of America's Fireboat Museum.

We look forward to working with Barbara and David on the VPS.



**Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, NY 11937 • 631-324-3524 • www.villagepreservationsociety.org**

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton for the Membership Year from January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Number of Members in this Membership _____

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Contributors of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| \$ 25,000.00 will be listed as Chairman's Circle | \$ 15,000.00 will be listed as President's Circle |
| \$ 10,000.00 will be listed as Visionary | \$ 5,000.00 will be listed as Champion |
| \$ 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, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

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 \$ _____

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

www.villagepreservationsociety.org

IN MEMORIAM



Andrée M. Dean

By Kathleen Cunningham

The Society marks the passing of a true original and remarkable person with the death of former VPS Board Vice-President and Grants Committee Chair, Andrée M. Dean, who died peacefully in her sleep on March 15th at her home at Peconic Landing in Greenport. She was 92 years old. Andrée's life and accomplishments were storied and full of adventure and fun. She was an extraordinary force with which to be reckoned and was singularly responsible for the creation of the Ocean Avenue Historic District in the Village, knocking on every door and helping each resident agree to the concept and design standards in order to achieve this important goal. Andrée was Vice-Chair of the Board of the Village Preservation Society for 10 years and the Grants Committee Chair for 7 years. She was active even as her illness constrained her to some degree, ever ready with a creative suggestion to a difficult problem, or to fund or support an important initiative in which the Society was engaged. Her 'can-do' spirit and willingness to tackle any issue, despite genuine hurdles to success, made her an invaluable member of the VPS Board and the East Hampton community. Her energy and dedication generally guaranteed the success of any initiative she championed. Irreplaceable and irreplaceable, she will be sorely missed.



Betty Ann Loughead

By Kathleen Cunningham

The Society notes the passing of long-time member and active committeewoman, Betty Loughead, the wife of Robert B. Loughead, VPS Trustee and former Board Chair. Mrs. Loughead had been in good

health until she suffered a stroke late in February and sadly passed from complications on March 5th. Betty served on many committees in support of the Society's various initiatives and was admired for her impeccable manner of dress and social custom. She embodied the qualities of graciousness and care that made her the consummate hostess, leaving her unique and gentle touch on any event in which she participated. Her ability to make anyone feel at home and the center of attention was a true gift of intuition and made anyone in her presence feel very special, indeed. Her dedication to her family and this community were signature qualities and she will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Wilson Stone

By Kathleen Cunningham

The VPS also lost long-time member, and famed lyricist, composer, conductor and piano accompanist, Wilson Stone last November. He had been ill with lung cancer and died at the home of his daughter Susanna Stone at the age of 93. Wilson was an active member of the Society, chairing its Membership Committee, helping to craft a policy that expanded membership, and also served for 7 years as Board Treasurer. His commitment to East Hampton included service on the local School Board in the late 1970s; as vestry member and choir director at St. Luke's Episcopal Church; and as Trustee for Guild Hall where he also served as artistic director. Wilson is best remembered for his musical accomplishments, which include award-winning Broadway shows and a long career with some of the more famous stage actors of our time. He was a kind-hearted, sensitive and helpful person who was devoted to the East Hampton community. We miss him.



Photo by Susanna Stone