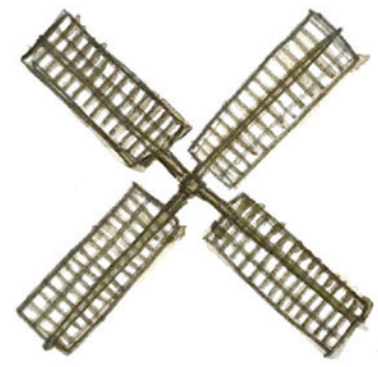


# THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

SPRING NEWSLETTER  
2024



VPSEH

Village Preservation Society  
of East Hampton

• The Board of Trustees of the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton •

**Invites you to a Welcome to Summer Cocktail Party!**

Saturday, June 1, 2023 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Get tickets from: [Kathy@VillagePreservationSociety.org](mailto:Kathy@VillagePreservationSociety.org)**

## VPSEH SUPPORTS EASTVILLE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*By Kathleen Cunningham*

The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton (VPSEH) is pleased to announce a recent grant to the Eastville Community Historical Society in the amount of \$10,000 toward the repair of the roof of the Heritage House located on Hampton Street in Sag Harbor. The Eastville Community Historical Society of Sag Harbor, chartered by New York State, works to preserve the history of the remarkable Eastville community, a working-class neighborhood maintaining this unique multi-cultural district in Sag Harbor Village, and the northern-western part of East Hampton Town. The organization also maintains and preserves the historic St. David AME. Zion Church, built in 1839 and thought to be part of the Underground Railroad, the original place of worship for African Americans and Native Americans living on Eastville Avenue. The neighboring cemetery is the resting place of descendants of African Americans and Native Americans of this community and is owned and maintained by the Eastville Community Historical Society as well. Heritage House, the Eastville Society's headquarters, shelters many of the organization's artifacts and historic objects. The roof has been in need of repair for some time and there is presently a blue tarpaulin on it.

VPSEH Grants Chairwoman, Mary Busch, remarked,

"The Heritage House is such an important part of our past. Acknowledging the contributions of African Americans and

*continued on p. 4*



*From left to right: VPSEH Board Chair, John McGuirk looks on while Eastville Community Historical Society Executive Director and Chief Curator, Dr. Georgette Grier-Keys accepts a \$10,000 grant to help to repair the organization's roof from VPSEH Grants Committee Chairwoman, Mary Busch.*

*Photo Credit: Gene E. Cross, Jr.*

# • HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD •

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

“How will we know it’s us without our past?” In a few words in *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck summed up the meaning of historic preservation. The Village Preservation Society has been presenting awards for historic preservation in both the public and private sector for more than five years. (For the first time this year, we will be adding an award for a landscaping project that sensitively utilizes native plantings and respects the ecology of the East End.)



Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

*The Deacon David Hunting House, c.1760 restored by owners Frank Morgan and Brent Feigenbaum, won the 2023 VPSEH Historic Preservation Award.*

Sites should exemplify or possess special character, or historic or aesthetic interest of value as part of the natural, man-made, economic, social and cultural environment of the Village and vicinity; embody the distinguishing characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or design style; or be a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship; or is representative of the work of a designer, architect or builder. Sites may also represent an established and familiar visual feature of the community by virtue of its location or singular characteristic; or presents an established and familiar visual feature of the community and should be in harmony with the scale and general character of the neighborhood and the Village.

The mission of these awards is to raise consciousness about our surroundings and to inspire continued stewardship of our historic area. You too can be a part of this initiative by nominating historic properties as possible awardees. Please send your suggestions to [kathy@villagepreservationsociety.org](mailto:kathy@villagepreservationsociety.org) by July 31. Careful consideration will be given to all nominations by the Historic Preservation Committee.

Winners of the awards will be recognized at the Village Preservation Society Annual Meeting in September. They will be presented with a bronze plaque at that time.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

*By Gene E. Cross, Jr.*

Simply put, a comprehensive plan is a long-range plan with goals and recommendations to guide the future development of a community. The State of New York grants municipalities the authority to adopt zoning laws and requires that those laws be in accordance with a community’s comprehensive plan. Zoning and the Comprehensive Plan, a technical document prepared by the State Departments Division of Local Government Services offers this description: “The comprehensive plan is the culmination of a planning process that establishes the official land use policy of a community and presents its goals and a vision for the future that guides official decision-making.”

Section 7-722 of New York State Village Law offers a framework to guide communities in the preparation and adoption of a Comprehensive Plan and offers this definition: “... the materials, written and/or graphic, including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports and other descriptive material that identify the goals, objectives principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the village.”

The preparation of a comprehensive plan is as much a

process as it is a product. The existing comprehensive plan was the culmination of a two-year effort by a citizens advisory committee led by a planning consultant. The first steps included a Traffic Impact Study prepared by Eschbacher Engineering, P.C. and The Village of East Hampton Commercial District Study prepared by the consulting firm of Wallace, Roberts & Todd, L.L.C. (August 2000). These documents contributed to an in-depth assessment of the character of the Village and its potential for change, which led to the formulation of a Vision Statement adopted by the committee. The Plan includes numerous recommendations with respect to: preserving the Village’s neighborhoods; supporting the Village’s commercial needs; protecting the Village’s natural resources; preserving the Village’s historic character; providing for the Village’s transportation needs; providing residents with facilities and services; working cooperatively with the Town of East Hampton; implementation of the Comprehensive Plan; and future revisions to the Plan.

The 2001 Village of East Hampton Comprehensive Plan included the recommendation that after 20 years, the Village should consider undertaking a completely new comprehensive plan.

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# THE EAST END AND THE CIVIL WAR, PART II

By the late, Averill D. Geus, Historian



Despite the small size of Long Island villages in the early 1860s, the East End sent over 435 men to serve in the war. According to the Town Clerk's list, 115 men from East Hampton were in the army. One man from Montauk who enlisted was a Native American named Stephen Pharaoh or Talkhouse. He served with the 29th U.S. Colored Troops. Enlistees were separated into white or black troops in the Civil War. There were no such divisions in the Navy.

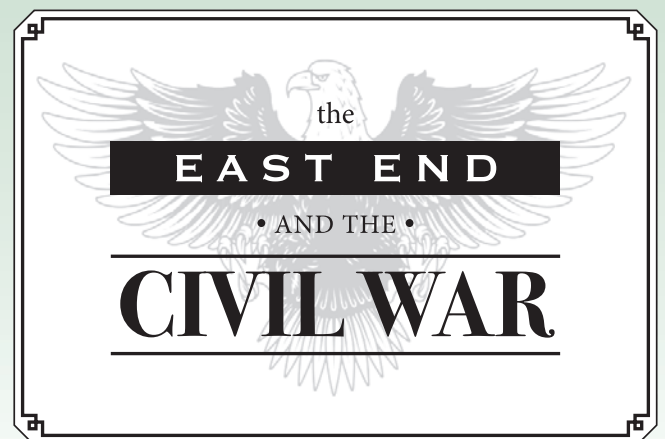
Early in the war, attempts were made to put together regional or fraternal units. A regiment of New York firemen was formed, for example. Methodist regiments were formed, with a clergyman for a Captain. Another group called the Garibaldi Guard was made up of men from different European countries, speaking sixteen different language within the outfit. Filling all these regiments became increasingly more difficult as the war progressed into its second year as the casualties mounted. Around this time, Sag Harbor had six or seven recruiters looking for men on Main Street. One popular recruiter was Colonel Perry, a Sag Harbor Methodist minister who tried to form a regiment exclusively for those "with good moral habits". This group became the 48th Volunteers.

A vivid description of recruitment methods was written for the Correcor. In August, 1862, a recruiting officer for the 127th NY Vols held a well-advertised meeting in Sag Harbor's elegant Presbyterian Church. Produced like a revival meeting, the church was draped and swathed in flags, with a huge American Shield in front of the pulpit. A large number of people attended the free show to hear the oratory and the patriotic songs played by the organ and a cornet band. Once again, the main speaker was Rev. Stephen Mershon, a dynamic orator. He was particularly effective on this particular evening. No sooner had he finished speaking when the recruiting officer took his place and in thundering tones urged all the young men to come forward to do their duty and as the choir rang

out with "The Old Flag", a great many young men did go to the altar and place their names on an enlistment roll. It was an emotional and intoxicating moment, with little time to think about the consequences. Before these young men had time to change their minds, a town wide farewell party was given, a few days later, to see them off to war. The volunteers rendezvoused at the recruiting office and were marched as a cadre, 63 strong, to the densely packed Whalers Church. As they entered, the organ swept into a rousing version of "America". The new recruits self-consciously sat in the front rows of the church and local clergy advised them: 1. Give your hearts to God; 2. Don't be profane; 3. Don't sleep on your post; 4. Don't drink rum; 5. Don't gamble; and 6. Don't turn your back on the enemy.

After the last hymn, the boys were marched away, followed closely by the crowds, to the pier where the steamer *Water Lily* awaited them. As the boat moved from its berth, the crowd let forth loud cheer upon cheer, and then a salute of thirteen guns was fired. The cornet band kept playing and off to war they went. It was all jolly and exciting and thrilling for these young men who so suddenly had become the darlings of the village. None of them could possibly have envisioned the future.

Three weeks later, Jonathan Bennett of Springs wrote to his mother from Virginia: *"Been digging rifle pits this week. We have very strict orders and hafter obey them too. If I was to home, I shold not like it I tell you but I hafter like it out here. I have just been to dinner and we didn't have anything extra nether, I tell you. A small piece of meat, a little beef soup and a very small piece of bare bread. Some of the fellers thought that was something extra but I didn't nor you wouldn't if you had to live as we have since we left home. If it would do any good, I would be homesick."* Poor Jonathan was homesick as later letters reveal but he never saw his home in Springs again. A few months later, he was dead of fever and dysentery at Folly Island, South Carolina. He was 17 years old.



## VPSEH SUPPORTS EASTVILLE HIST. SOC. *continued from p. 1*

Native Americans in the history of this place is an essential piece of education for all of us. Helping the Eastville Community Historical Society to reach its goals for the historic refurbishment of the Heritage House, once a Sears & Roebuck mail order building from 1925, is in keeping with VPSEH's commitment to preserving historic buildings,

neighborhood character and quality of life in East Hampton Village and its surrounds."

VPSEH, Chairman, John McGuirk, agreed, "We are delighted to sponsor a sister organization in their efforts to promote the Eastville community, which has made crucial contributions to the history of East Hampton."



## WATER QUALITY RESTORATION ACT

*By Suffolk County Legislator, Ann E. Welker*

There are two important initiatives that will be found on the back of our ballots this November, one having to do with water quality, the other with equal rights in NYS. The process of educating ourselves about both of these issues must begin now, so that we are informed when we go to the polls in the fall.

The first referendum will be for the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Fund. This initiative is presently in the State Senate Finance Committee and will be making its way through both houses of the State Legislature. It will then will be voted on by the Suffolk County Legislature, after which it will be placed on the ballot in November.

The Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act would allow voters the opportunity to approve or deny the consolidation of the county's sewer districts and create a fund to be specifically used for continued sewerage, where it makes sense, and provide assistance to homeowners required to use advanced "active treatment" wastewater systems, whose homes are located where sewerage is not an option, like much of the East End. The Referendum, if approved, will be to increase the Suffolk County Sales Tax by 1/8 of one percent, which equates to approximately 12 cents on every one hundred dollars. The generated monies will create a continuing revenue stream to fund upgrades to antiquated septic systems, as well as for sewage treatment

facilities where appropriate perhaps in downtown business districts. Suffolk County has over 350,000 antiquated septic systems that leach nitrogen into our surface waters, harbors, bays and ponds, where it creates or exponentially contributes to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS). This excess nitrogen also can leach in to our drinking water, which lies in underground aquifers. It is important to note that aquifers are our sole source of drinking water on Long Island.

The second proposition which will be found on the back of our ballots in November will be to ratify the New York State Equal Rights Amendment. Perhaps some of you were fortunate enough to attend the event hosted by The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, North Fork and Shelter Island in March at LTV, which served as a launch for this referendum. If not, it is available here: <https://youtu.be/CWUooN-o-24?si=BY3p%RnB23CiuQ4Y>. This topic is broad, many panelists shared their expertise as part of this event.

Recently, the NYS Legislature passed an updated version of the Water Quality Act expected to be signed by Governor Hochul. It will only become law, when Suffolk County holds the referendum this fall.

More information will be forthcoming on these important initiatives, as we transition from spring into summer and especially in to fall.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE *continued from p. 2*

Following this recommendation, the Village Board has recently issued a Request for Proposals from qualified planning consultants to undertake this process. Given the scope of this undertaking and its implications for the future, it is essential that residents take part in guiding the future of the Village.

For more information on documents referenced, please visit: <https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/zoning-and-the-comprehensive-plan.pdf>; or <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/VIL/7-722> To read the present Comprehensive Plan: <https://easthamptonvillage.org/documents/village-east-hampton-comprehensive-plan>

# WELCOME TREVOR DARRELL – OUR NEWEST TRUSTEE

By Missy Egbert Sheehan

Born and raised in East Hampton at Three Mile Harbor, Trevor Darrell is a local attorney. Mr. Darrell attended Muhlenberg College for his undergraduate work and obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Maine. He is married to Cynthia Carew Darrell, who grew up in Montauk, and is also an attorney. They have two sons. Mr. Darrell is a member of the East Hampton Fire Department, Company #6 and is involved with many other civic groups. He became partner in the late Bill Fleming's firm and succeeds him in their law practice, Fleming and Darrell, in the Village of East Hampton.

The VPSEH welcomes Mr. Darrell to our Board and looks forward to many productive years of partnership, protecting and preserving the historic and neighborhood character of the Village and its surrounds.



*Trevor Darrell pictured with his golden retriever outside his Gingerbread Lane office.*



**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](http://www.villagepreservationsociety.org)**

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton  
for the Membership Year from January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

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**

\$ 10,000.00 will be listed as **Visionary**

\$ 2,500.00 will be listed as **Advocate**

\$ 500.00 will be listed as **Patron**

\$ 100.00 will be listed as **Friend**

\$ 15,000.00 will be listed as **President's Circle**

\$ 5,000.00 will be listed as **Champion**

\$ 1,000.00 will be listed as **Benefactor**

\$ 250.00 will be listed as **Supporting Member**

Regular Membership (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.**

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## EAST HAMPTON AIRPORT UPDATE

*By Peter M. Wolf*

Two years ago, the Town of East Hampton coordinated with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), to temporarily close its publicly owned airport for two days while making the change from public utility airport to Private Use Airport. A last-minute temporary restraining order issued by the Court prohibited the Town from making that conversion. The FAA, however, had not only already adjusted its maps and other aviation administrative supports, but bequeathed a new name to HTO – now JPX. A Private Use airport only permits landings with Prior Permission Required (PPR), offering the Town the ability to determine what types of aircraft may land, when and how often in a given day, week or month they may land.

The restraining order was challenged by the Town and in recent weeks was upheld by the court. The Town has indicated it will continue its appeal, giving hope to the aircraft noise and health and safety affected that some kind of relief may at long last be available. Indeed, airport closure has risen as a possible solution, if no other meaningful compromise can be found. The Town Board should be congratulated for taking a firm stand to protect its citizens and the environment from both the noise disturbances to peaceful enjoyment of home and property, and in its effort to mitigate the environmental pollution and risks to public health that carbon emissions from aircraft and jet fuel present.

In related news, in response to another lawsuit in conjunction with the Town's attempts to control its own property, it has adopted a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, which was a document the court required of the Town when it initiated original plans to convert the airport. The study took almost two years to complete and

is now available for public comment until May 3, 2024. The document can be found at: <https://ehamptonny.gov/1913/Draft-Generic-Environmental-Impact-State>. Notable are the potential impacts to Montauk residents, because of its own local, privately owned airport located on East Lake Drive. They may experience an increase in traffic, should PJX finally become a PPR airport, or close altogether. And, Montauk residents around that facility, located in wetlands, are rightly concerned. However, the document suggests that impacts, while greater at Montauk, are not outside of acceptable levels, given the lessening of impacts on the greater population of the western end of Town, eastern and northern Southampton and areas of Shelter Island and Southold Townships as well. Comments on the DEIS can be sent to: [AirportDGEIS@ehamptonny.gov](mailto:AirportDGEIS@ehamptonny.gov). Montauk residents could, of course, petition the owners to close or otherwise govern their airport to mitigate potential increases in aircraft traffic there.

The Town recently indicated its plans to appeal the latest rulings from the Court requiring the Town to meet the standards of the Airport Noise and Capacity Act (ANCA), before enacting reasonable restrictions at a private-use airport. A March 28, 2024 press release stated, in part "...The Town of East Hampton is deeply disappointed in the outcome of the appeals. The Town proceeded in good faith to find a solution to address the long-standing noise and environmental impacts from the Airport on the town and its surrounding communities and remains committed to that goal, as the status quo is not acceptable."

Meantime, the summer season is upon us. Continue to log aircraft noise complaints at: <https://www.planenoise.com/khto> or <https://airnoisereport.com/complaints>. Or call: 1-800-376-4817.