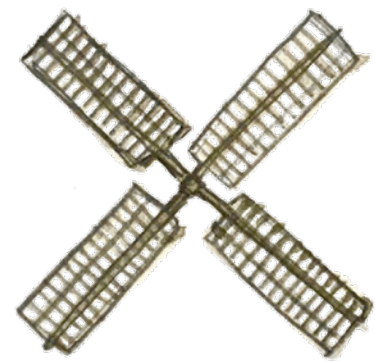


THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

FALL NEWSLETTER
2025



VPSEH

Village Preservation Society
of East Hampton

• 2025 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD • *Recap*

By Georgia de Havenon, Historic Preservation Committee Chair

Each year we present awards that the Historic Preservation Committee of the VPSEH determine. You may wonder about this committee. It is made up of a group of very dedicated preservationists, who specialize in many areas from land use expertise to modernism in architecture to architectural criticism, and landscape issues, it also includes a practicing architect. The awards we present are most importantly, recognition, and along with that a bronze plaque suitable for mounting on the exterior of the awarded buildings.

At a recent committee meeting Paul Goldberger suggested we add a Commercial Award to our existing Public and Private Awards. There was, as always, thoughtful discussion as to the pros and cons of adding this additional award. One of the salient issues centered around the fact that almost all commercial properties have changed interiors. It was eventually agreed that with respect to this genre, we will review the exterior aspect of the properties to be considered and unless the interior spaces affect the exterior of the possible awardee, we will not consider it. With that in mind, we voted to give the initial commercial award to the Odd Fellows Hall, 1897, a very visible property with a long history on Newtown Lane.

Candy and Mark Udell, who also own London Jewelers, carefully supervised the exterior renovation of Odd Fellows.

Built as the Hampton Lodge of the ancient charitable fraternity of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, the Hall was originally designed by Joseph Greenleaf Thorp (1864-1934), whose pioneering use of steel trusses to support the open-space second floor was revolutionary. For many years this room was the largest meeting hall in East Hampton serving as a polling

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Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

Guests await the start of the award ceremony.

WATCH THE FULL AWARDS CEREMONY and TONY WOODS Q&A: drive.google.com/file/d/1ChAhN53c1StLla1i_klcklUe5p9ISKrt/view

• VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE •

Consultants from BFJ Planning have been working with the Village to compile all the information received from the two public workshops and several organizational workshops to prepare the final draft of the Comp Plan update. VPSEH has been deeply involved in this effort. As of press time, no date for the public hearing for the final draft has been set. To read the documents prepared to date, please see this link: plan.wixsite.com/home/documents. And, stay tuned.

2025 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD RECAP *continued from p. 1*



Odd Fellows Hall

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

On behalf of Cindy & Mark Udell, Olivier Nourani, London Jewelers COO accepts the VPSEH Inaugural Historic Preservation Award in the Commercial Category for the Udell's thoughtful restoration of Odd Fellows Hall, 1897, now Rolex, on Newtown Lane



Photo Credit: Richard Lewin

place, town forum, and primary school. It is truly a Village landmark. The Udells have also created a lovely garden in the rear, a place to sit and enjoy East Hampton's balmy sea breezes.

Another of East Hampton's signature architects, John Custis Lawrence (1867-1944), who contributed to over 60 buildings in East Hampton, including many of the summer colony estates, designed the Dr. Frederic K. Hollister Cottage on Lily Pond Lane in 1913. Dr. Hollister was both a professor and doctor at New York Medical College. A striking home, the most prominent feature is its full width at 110 feet. It was conceived as a simple flat farmhouse façade bookended with a saltbox house on the left and a colonial house on the right. Patricia Duff and Richard Cohen have tastefully restored the cottage to its full impressiveness with the help of architect Teddy McCarthy and John Hummel and Associates builders. Notable too, is the low carbon footprint of the house which included geothermal heating and cooling.

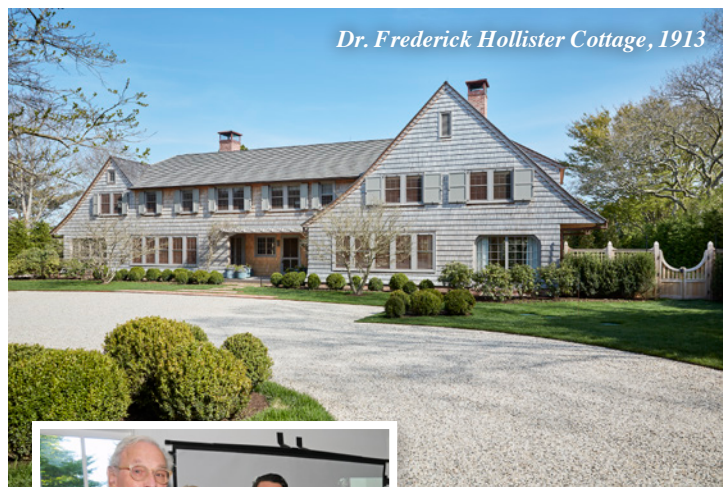
Two recent renovations on East Hampton's Main Street illustrate the ongoing care and careful preservation initiatives that are taking place along its most important thoroughfare, ensuring that the historic nature of our Village is maintained.

At 134 Main Street you will find the Captain Thomas Wickham House of 1775. Originally likely a lean-to structure, the house still faces south. Captain Thomas Wickham (1730-1790) was a member of the Continental Congress. In 1776 he left East Hampton and the house was bought by Dr. Abel Huntington, who was a doctor in East Hampton for over 60 years and served as East Hampton Town Supervisor. His son, Dr. George L. Huntington, also was a doctor for 46 years and served as Town Supervisor and his grandson Dr. George E. Huntington's research led to the discovery of Huntington's Disease in 1872. Abel Huntington's daughter, Cornelia (1803-1890), lived in the house until 1865.

Cornelia Huntington was East Hampton's first published woman author with her book "Sea Spray" in 1858. Amy Sherman-Palladino and Daniel Palladino have carefully restored the home with the guidance of Christina Tonkin and Tessa Crespo of CT Interiors and the expertise of John Hummel and Associates.

146 Main Street, East Hampton—known on preservation rolls as the Samuel Green Mulford (1808-1890) House, c. 1795, is a shingled two-story structure, noted for its compact entrance hall, large interior chimney core, and narrow multi-light windows, all of which are details that reflect East Hampton's early building vernacular. It has been referred to as a "Single House", because it is only one room wide. The Mulford Family were some of the oldest residents of East Hampton and while the original house dates from around 1795, the one room structure on the front of the property (possibly a smokehouse) is traditionally referred to as one of the oldest structures in East Hampton, dating to around 1720.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Parker owned the property for most of the 20th Century. Helen Parker, the proprietor of the Old Barn Book Shop on Main Street, and a well-loved member of the East Hampton community, left the house to Ethel M. Rose, who spent every summer with her friends, the Parkers. The house has subsequently passed down through three more generations of Rose family members. Louisa Rose (who lives in the house with her parents, Ann and Andrew Rose) is the representative of the current generation of the family and has continued to steward



Dr. Frederick Hollister Cottage, 1913

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham



Photo Credit: Richard Lewin

Patricia Duff, Richard Cohen with Teddy McCarthy, Architect, & Georgia de Havenon, accept their award for the restoration of the Dr. Frederick Hollister Cottage, 1913.

the house through a renovation, the goal of which was to find the balance between day-to-day livability and the property's historic character. This was achieved through the talents of architect Pam Pospisil, of Pospisil and Brown, and Delamere Construction. Their impressive artisanal workmanship brought the designs to fruition, breathing new life into the wonderful old house, for generations to come.

In the public sector, we are pleased to honor the Eastville Community Historical Society Headquarters, 1925, located at 139 Hampton Street, Sag Harbor.

The Eastville Community Historical Society of Sag Harbor was founded in 1981 and chartered by New York State in 1986 to preserve the history of the working-class community of Eastville and to tell the story of St. David AME Zion Church. The church remains in its original location, built in 1839 by African Americans and Native Americans on Eastville Avenue. It is widely believed to have been a stop along the Underground Railroad. Its founding Pastor, Rev. P. Thompson, was a noted Abolitionist and friend of Frederick Douglass. The Society also owns, upkeeps, preserves and protects the adjacent century-old cemetery in which African and Native Americans of the earlier St. David's church membership are buried, many of whom were Sag Harbor Whalers. The Society continues to raise funds for the maintenance of the church, cemetery, and exhibitions.

The Eastville Community Historical Society began with concern for preservation of the St. David A.M.E. Zion Church as an historical site in Sag Harbor and was instrumental in its restoration. In 1996, the society moved its headquarters to 139 Hampton Street, originally a 1925 Sears & Roebuck catalog house, now known as the Heritage House.

From the early 1800's until the mid 1900's, the section of historic Sag Harbor known as Eastville was home to a multi-ethnic population of free Blacks, European immigrants and Native Americans. The area evolved through many economic changes, including two devastating village fires, the rise and fall of the whaling industry, the development and decline of factories, and a boom in the tourist and resort business. Today Eastville retains its ethnic mix, while preserving its modest character amidst the more glamorous Hamptons.¹

The Society headquarters have been on the radar of the Village Preservation Society for some time, and we have previously awarded a grant to repair the roof of the structure that so nobly represents the history of this area of Sag Harbor.



The Samuel Green Mulford House, c. 1795

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham



Photo Credit: Richard Lewin

Awardees, Ann & Andrew Rose, with Architect Pam Pospisil, celebrate their award for renovation of the Samuel Green Mulford Family House c. 1795.



The Captain Thomas Wickham House

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

Georgia de Havenon, VPSEH Historic Preservation Committee Chair (left) with Tessa Crespo, Architect, (center) and Christina Tonkin Noble of CT Design Interiors accepting the award for the Captain Thomas Wickham House, 1795 on behalf of the owners, Amy Sherman-Palladino and Dan Palladino.



Photo Credit: Richard Lewin

Dr. Georgette Grier-Key, Executive Director and Chief Curator, accepted the award.

It is our hope that these awards will increase the public's consciousness of the extraordinary historic quality of the Village and induce them to further maintain its heritage and refrain from destroying the special character of East Hampton. We invite you to take part in our preservation efforts and recommend your choices for future awardees. A nomination form can be found on the VPS website.



Eastville Community Historical Society Headquarters

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

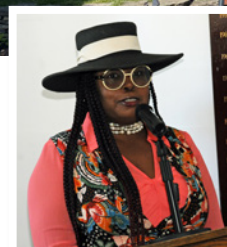


Photo Credit: Richard Lewin

Dr. Georgette Grier-Key, Executive Director and Chief Curator of Eastville Community Historical Society

¹ <https://www.eastvillehistorical.org>

CONSERVING WORKING WATERFRONTS

By Ann Welker, Suffolk County Legislator

On September 3rd, the Suffolk County Legislature unanimously passed landmark legislation at the September 3rd General Meeting. IR 1520, a local law creating Chapter 26 of the Suffolk County Code: Conservation of Working Waterfronts, is a bipartisan, collaborative effort initiated by County Executive Ed Romaine.

Welker. “LD-2 has the largest number of commercial waterfront properties in the County. Preserving these sites protects not only our maritime economy and heritage but the very way of life in our coastal communities.”

Suffolk County’s maritime economy is substantial providing nearly 3,000 maritime-related businesses employ over 38,000 workers, accounting for more than 6% of the County’s total economy (NOAA, ENOW Explorer, 2021). Commercial fishing landings in New York State exceeded 17 million pounds in 2023, valued at more than \$28 million. With an economic multiplier of 4.5, this translates to \$126 million in shoreside revenue, most of which remains on Long Island (NOAA, 2023). The County has 2,404.65 acres of commercial waterfront property across 964 parcels. By legislative district, LD-2, Welker’s district, holds 508 acres, the largest share in Suffolk County (NOAA, 2016 Land Use).

The legislation establishes a 17-member Working Waterfront Committee to review conservation easement applications and provide ongoing oversight. It ensures that Suffolk County’s maritime heritage, fisheries, aquaculture, and recreational boating industries remain strong despite development pressures.

“By protecting our working waterfronts, we are protecting our economy, our food supply, and the character of Suffolk County’s coastal communities,” Welker said. “This is about ensuring that future generations can continue



Photo Credit: Bonnie Brady

Montauk Docks with cormorants waiting for a treat!

The legislation was guided by Commissioner of Economic Development Sarah Lansdale and her team, working alongside a Working Waterfront Group that included East End Legislators Ann Welker and Catherine Stark, as well as commercial fishermen, baymen, and oyster farmers who met regularly throughout the process.

Modeled after Maine’s 2008 legislation, which has preserved 25 miles of its 5,000 miles of coastline as working waterfront, the Suffolk County program is also based on the County’s highly successful Farmland Preservation program, which has preserved over 10,000 acres of farmland. The working waterfront program will be voluntary and allows property owners to sell future development rights to the County through a conservation easement. The land remains privately owned but cannot be developed beyond its current use. This ensures waterfront access for commercial fishing fleets, oyster farmers, baymen, and others who rely on the water for their livelihood. It is the first program of its kind in New York State.

“This is an enormous win, not only for the North and South Fork, but for all of Suffolk County,” said Legislator



Fishing Boat Returning to the Montauk Dock

Photo Credit: Bonnie Brady

the proud traditions of fishing, boating, and maritime commerce that have defined our region for centuries.”

ANTHONY C. WOOD BOOK TALK

By Kathleen Cunningham

The audience in attendance at the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton's 2025 Historic Preservation Award Ceremony were in for a real treat on Saturday, September 20, 2025. Our guest speaker, Mr. Anthony C. Wood, a nationally recognized preservationist who began his career as a preservation advocate in New York City participated in a Q&A with his colleague and VPSEH Trustee, Joseph B. Rose about his new book, Servant of Beauty: Landmarks, Secret Love, and the Unimagined Life of an Unsung New York Hero. Mr. Wood has played leadership roles in many historic preservation organizations including the Historic Districts Council, the Preservation League of New York State, Partners for Sacred Places, and the Drayton Hall Preservation Trust, earning awards such as the 2020 New York Landmarks Conservancy Lucy G. Moses Award for Preservation Leadership. He has served on the adjunct faculty at Columbia University and is the founder of the nonprofit New York Preservation Archive Project, whose mission is to document, preserve and celebrate the history of preservation in New York. Wood is also the award-winning author of *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City's Landmark* (2008) and has been featured in several documentaries about the history of preservation. Our moderator, and VPSEH Trustee, Joseph B. Rose, is a private sector real estate developer, who devotes significant time to not-for-profit endeavors and is the founding chairman of the Advisory Board of the Rose Center for Public Leadership, a joint program of the Urban Land Institute and

the National League of Cities that works with mayors and city governments nationwide to support excellence in public land use decision making. Mr. Rose was Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and a Visiting Scholar at NYU's Robert Wagner Graduate School for Public Service. He has lectured at The Harvard School of Design, The Yale School of Architecture, Princeton University, NY Law School, and The Urban Land Institute.

Mr. Rose queried Mr. Wood about the subject of Mr. Wood's new book, Servant of Beauty: Landmarks, Secret Love, and the Unimagined Life of an Unsung New York Hero, an attorney and architect named Albert Bard. The book was published to coincide with the 60th anniversary of New York City's landmarks law (the Bard Act), the first of its kind in the nation, providing local municipalities the authority to protect landmarks. Mr. Bard's tenacity and perseverance established this legislation which created the venue through which local preservation laws could legally be adopted by individual municipalities. Mr. Wood also took time to sign his new book, which

was for sale courtesy of BookHampton, East Hampton's local bookstore. Mr. Rose had high praise for the book and called it 'a great read' and summed up the discussion with a call for participation, entreating the audience to be involved with the preservation process. Without civic action, historic preservation falls by the wayside.



Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham

VPSEH Trustee, Joe Rose (right) conducts an inspiring Q&A with author & friend, Tony Wood (left).



VPSEH Town Board Candidates Debate will be aired on LTV during the month of October. Please check LTV's website for air times.

This link will take you directly to the debate:
youtu.be/7Q67YUrSmb4

A conversation with Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez will be aired on LTV during the month of October. Please check LTV's website for air times.

This link will take you directly to the conversation:
youtu.be/ZLz3A4qDIwM



FRIENDS OF GEORGICA POND FOUNDATION

10th Anniversary Update

By Kim Quarty, Executive Director, Friends of Georgica Pond

2025 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation (FOGP). At their Annual Meeting on July 13th, Dr. Christopher Gobler—Director of the New York Center for Clean Water Technology, Endowed Chair at Stony Brook University's School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences, and Science Advisor to FOGP—presented the annual State of the Pond.

Dr. Gobler reported encouraging progress in restoring Georgica Pond's water quality, including: a significant reduction in toxic blue-green algae blooms; successful introduction of oysters to improve water filtration; and expanded monitoring of PFOS ("forever chemicals") and nitrogen in groundwater.

At the same time, he stressed that the work is far from finished. Excess nitrogen remains the pond's greatest challenge, and the single most impactful step homeowners can take is upgrading to an innovative/alternative (I/A) low-nitrogen septic system.

Other practices that make a difference include: replacing antiquated septic tanks, maintaining vegetated buffers along the pond's edge and reducing fertilizer use and limiting irrigation.

Beyond these homeowner actions, FOGP continues to advance restoration through aquatic vegetation harvesting, land conservation, dredging, phragmites management, and stormwater runoff mitigation.

FOGP is collaborating with local residents in the newly formed Coalition to Stop the Wainscott Commercial Center. The Coalition opposes the proposed 50-lot commercial subdivision at the pond's headwaters which poses a serious threat to water quality and traffic. The application has been deemed incomplete,

requiring the submission of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Once it is filed, there will be another public review period—and we will call on you to make your voices heard.

In addition, FOGP has been working closely with the Peconic Land Trust, the Town of East Hampton, and the Village of East Hampton to protect 5.5 acres on Georgica Cove. This important preservation effort is anticipated to close this fall and will further safeguard the pond's fragile ecosystem.

This past year brought significant changes to FOGP. They mourn the loss of their founding board member and president, Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright, whose vision and leadership were instrumental in shaping FOGP. He is deeply missed.

They are grateful to welcome Larry Cantwell, former East Hampton Town Supervisor and East Hampton Village Administrator, as their new board president. In addition, Susannah Smetana Kagan, the Science to Policy Director for the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) who previously practiced environmental law, has joined their board.

Finally, after years of dedicated leadership, Sara Davison has retired, and FOGP is pleased to announce Kimberly Quarty as their new Executive Director. Kimberly brings more than 17 years of conservation experience, most recently with the Peconic Land Trust.

As FOGP celebrates their 10th anniversary, they look back with gratitude for the progress made and forward with renewed determination to protect and restore Georgica Pond for generations to come.

PAT MERCER RETIRES

By Kathleen Cunningham

Long-time Trustee, environmental advocate and community supporter, Patricia Mayer-Mercer has retired her position as VPSEH Trustee after several decades of service to our Board. Pat and her late husband, Doug Mercer, were positive forces in creating important opportunities for environmental conservation, education and health. For many years, she and Doug lived on Dunemere Lane overlooking Hook Pond, the site of many water adventures with their large family, before downsizing to a lovely home on Three Mile Harbor. Pat was a generous, thoughtful and active member of the Nominating, Governmental Relations and Event committees for the VPSEH contributing time, resources and some of the most delicious crab hors d'oeuvres you'll ever eat! A congenial hostess, the events she held for us were elevated lovely occasions, with delectable food and very enjoyable. Pictured here (center) with her fellow Trustees, Beverly Kazickas (left), and Mary Busch (right), at our 2025 Historic Preservation Award Ceremony (crab dip in tow), Pat has now retired to Peconic Landing. We wish her well, and look forward to her continued, long-distance participation in our organization.



Beverly Kazickas, Pat Mercer and Mary Busch

Photo Credit: Richard Lewin

VPS ENROLLMENT FORM – JOIN US!

Please fill out, 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, 2026 - December 31, 2026.

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 _____

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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, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

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
OF EAST HAMPTON

THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

www.villagepreservationsociety.org

IN MEMORIAM

Henry L. Murray

By Kathleen Cunningham

In late May of this year, the Society mourned the passing of one of its great leaders, Henry L. Murray, who died peacefully at home at the age of 94. I took this photo of Henry with our present Board Chair, Dave Brown, on April 5th for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the East Hampton Satellite Emergency Department, an offshoot of one of the first projects on which I was to work with him as Executive Director of the Village Preservation Society. It was a shock to learn we'd lost him so soon after celebrating the launch of that terrific asset for our community. Among his other community service roles, Henry was a Trustee and Chairman and President of the Village Preservation Society of East Hampton. Through a survey of the VPSEH membership in 1997, inspired by the late Lawrence S. Munson, one of Henry's VPSEH colleagues, we learned the greatest concern for our members was the lack of available, quality healthcare in the Town of East Hampton. The late Dr. Jerome DeCosse another VPSEH Trustee supported this effort and joined

Henry, Larry and another powerhouse, VPSEH Trustee the late Jack Kennedy to initiate the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation in 1998. These four men were the nucleus of the EHHF effort with its mission of "improving the quality and availability of healthcare for all citizens of the Town of East

Hampton, including the uninsured and underinsured, with one standard of care for all." Henry served as the Foundation's Chairman from 2002 to 2023 and was instrumental in the establishment of the East Hampton Healthcare Center, the Urgent Care Center and the East Hampton Satellite Emergency Department and his particular leadership was instrumental to its success. He was intelligent, hardworking, clear-eyed, patriotic and had a strong moral compass. Though he brooked no

foolishness, he had a good sense of humor, and a warm heart. Clearly a loss to his family, his passing leaves a hole in the community as well. Our condolences to his wife Martha and children and grandchildren.



Henry with our present Board Chair, Dave Brown

Photo Credit: Kathy Cunningham