

# E NEWSLETTER



## SOUTHAMPTON TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Jay Schneiderman, Supervisor  
John Bouvier, Councilman • Christine P. Scalera, Councilwoman  
Stan J. Glinka, Councilman • Julie Lofstad, Councilwoman



2017 • ISSUE 3

## SOUTHAMPTON TOWN SUPERVISOR SUBMITS 2018 BUDGET THAT REDUCES TAXES FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman continues to reduce taxes while making much needed improvements to facilities and infrastructure. The Supervisor delivered his 2018 tentative budget to the Town Clerk and Town Board on Thursday, September 28, 2017 two-days before the September 30th deadline.

The 2018 budget employs conservative management practices to protect taxpayer's dollars and to assure the Town maintains its strong financial position with credit rating agencies. The budget contains a tax rate reduction of approximately 1%, a reduction for the second straight year. The budget maintains a healthy fund balance which has grown by 40% in the past ten years. The tentative budget is also a reflection of the Town's aggressive approach to debt reduction, nearly \$5 million next year alone. Another very strong economic indicator, this year is for the first time in 15 years, the total property valuation has increased across all school districts within the Town.

"I'm proud to deliver a budget that continues to reduce taxes while maintaining and improving vital services to our residents," said Supervisor Jay Schneiderman.

Two public hearings will be held on the 2018 budget, Tuesday, October 24th at 6pm and Tuesday, November 14th at 1pm. The final adoption of the budget is scheduled for Monday, November 20th at 11am.



## KEEPING OUR BEACHES CLEAN

Little hands did a big job at the Fourth Annual Kids Beachcomber Clean-up Contest at Ponquogue Beach in Hampton Bays on Saturday, August 24th. Councilwoman Christine Scalera teamed up with Beach Magazine for the event. Prizes from Hampton Sun, Hampton Trading Company and Flying Point Surf Shop were awarded to the top beachcomber. "We're very fortunate to have so many families in our community who are not only willing, but enthusiastic about devoting their time to care for the health and beauty of our beaches" said Councilwoman Christine Scalera. "The annual clean-up raises awareness about our environment and shows our children how they can be good stewards of our beaches in the future."

## WATER QUALITY REBATE PROGRAM BEGINS

Property owners in the Town of Southampton are being encouraged to take advantage of a new rebate program for those who install environmentally friendly septic systems. These new alternative systems discharge significantly less nitrogen from sanitary waste into the groundwater and work towards achieving less nitrogen in our bays and waterways. The grant program was developed through 20% of the 2% CPF real estate transfer tax. The income guidelines for eligible property owners require applicants earn under \$300,000 a year to become eligible for the full \$15,000 grant. Applicants earning between \$300,000 and \$500,000 will be eligible for 50% of the grant. There is also a new Code requirement where Innovative and Alternative On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A OWTS) approved by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services are required for all new construction. The installation of these types of systems are also required at such time that the Suffolk County Health Department or Conservation Board requires a septic system upgrade, or for an increase of 25% more in the floor area of the building on properties near High Priority bodies of water. People who are mandated to install the new systems can also take part in the rebate program. "These are the first efforts to begin the long path to restoring our bays and waterways and protect our environment and our legacy for the future." said Councilman John Bouvier.





## TASTE + TOUR MAKES A SPLASH AT THE TIANA BAYSIDE FACILITY

On a beautiful August evening, about 100 people gathered to toast the success of the first summer season for the new Tiana Bayside Facility in Hampton Bays. The facility is a shellfish nursery and education center located in the old police substation on Dune Road. Those gathered included members of the community, Southampton Town Council, Board of Trustees, Parks and Recreation Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Program.

Southampton Town and Suffolk County provided the funds needed to make upgrades to the facility to allow for marine science based programming and for the installation of a shellfish nursery and coastal plant nursery to be established on the property. Great progress has been made, but more work needs to be done and additional funds are needed. The Taste + Tour fundraising event offered an opportunity to thank all those who have already contributed time and resources to this facility and requested continued support of the work of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Program. "The Tiana Marine Education Center is providing an opportunity to learn about our precious marine resources," said Councilman John Bouvier. "Those experiences will leave a lasting impression on generations to come."

Guests were treated to local oysters and wine pairings, sustainable seafood bites, and craft beer tasting at several stations situated throughout the property. Each station also featured information about the working and programming being delivered at Tiana Bayside Facility by CCE's educators and researchers. Topics included habitat restoration and our "Save our Seahorses" Initiative; fisheries science and our F.I.S.H. campaign to promote local seafood; aquaculture and our SPAT program; and youth education, including Art + Science and Bay Babies early education programming. The proceeds generated from this event will support expansion of CCE Marine Program's efforts at the Tiana Bayside facility in 2018 and beyond. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Kim Barbour: 631-461-5294 or [kp237@cornell.edu](mailto:kp237@cornell.edu) or visit <http://ccesuffolk.org/marine/fleet-and-facilities/tiana-bayside-facility>

## GOOD GROUND PARK LAUNCHES FIRST CONCERT SEASON TO COMMUNITY APPLAUSE

Good Ground Park opened to rave reviews in June and the Community was treated to ten free concerts this summer. It all began with opening day in June with a Children's musician and face painting in the morning and a concert by the "Darren Ottati Band" in the evening. The Summer Youth concert rocked the park on a hot summer night in July. There was "Disco under the Stars" with "France Joli" in August. The community was treated to "a little bit of country and a little bit of rock n' roll" one night in August when local favorite country musician "Molly Adele Brown" and 80's rocker "Randy Jackson", formerly of "Zebra", shared the billing for a concert. "Sundays in the Park" concerts attracted the after-beach crowd. Charles Certain and "Certain Moves" played their classic jazz as people soaked up the late afternoon sun in July. The "Nancy Atlas Project" rocked the park with some of her classic tunes on a Sunday afternoon in late July. And "Mambo Loco" got everyone on their feet on a Sunday afternoon in August. They were dancing in the aisles for a double billing of the "Stanton Anderson Band" and "Gene Casey and the Lone Sharks" for a show in August. And we ended the season with a bang, literally, with a concert of Taiko drums when the audience was invited to the stage to participate.



The concert series was supported by the Hampton Bays Beautification Association, the Hampton Bays Chamber of Commerce, the Southampton Senior Officers Association, the Hampton Bays Rotary and Bridgehampton National Bank. Nearly a dozen community members have placed dedication plaques on park benches, water fountains and trees. Stony Brook Southampton Hospital made a 10 year commitment to the park. "We are pleased to see the amphitheater being enjoyed by so many people in the community," said Supervisor Jay Schneiderman. "I can't wait to see who we have lined up to play next season!" Stay tuned!



## SMOOTH RIDE

The Southampton Highway Department under the direction of superintendent Alex Gregor recently finished the resurfacing of Dune Road from West of the Ponquogue Bridge from Road K to just East of the Quogue Village line. The \$1 million dollar project should help alleviate chronic flooding problems.

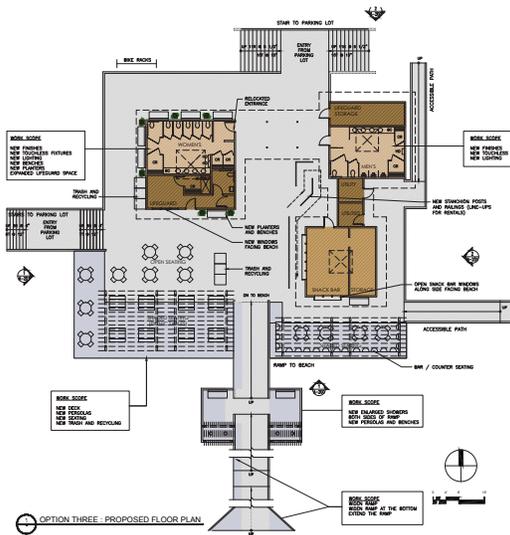
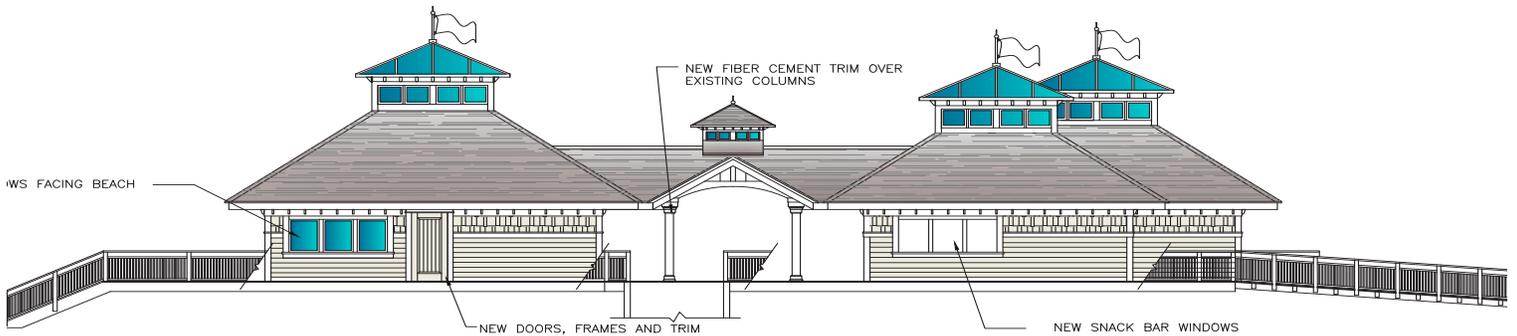
## FAREWELL TO SUMMER 2017!

Summer may be over but the memories remain. It was a busy and successful summer season for the Town's Parks and Recreation Department! There were over 60 camps and programs offered throughout the summer months, including swimming, surfing, sailing, dance, basketball, acting, tennis and much more. The Snapper Derby capped off the season in August with 9 year-old Lucas Gobler of East Quogue taking the prize for biggest fish. Congratulations Lucas!

Parks and Rec also partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's Marine Program this summer to develop an outreach and education center at the Tiana Bayside facility in Hampton Bays. Several programs were conducted including Bay Babies and Bay Buddies early education, and the Arts & Science and Oyster Gardening programs.

The Southampton Town lifeguards did an outstanding job protecting beachgoers all summer long, keeping both a vigilant watch on patrons and water conditions. There was a lot of active wildlife in the waters this summer and beachgoers from Sagaponack to Westhampton were treated with sightings of large schools of fish, and dolphins and whales among others. Beaches were also noticeably more maintained this summer thanks to the addition of a new beach cleaner that removes debris from the sand while raking it. Much to the delight of beachgoers, Sand Bar Beach and Hot Dog Beach were reopened this season after being closed for around 4 years and 15 years respectively.

Our attendance this year at the beaches was good. We sold \$1.6 million in permits. "Our maintenance division worked incredibly hard mowing and trimming our various parks, doing garbage collection at beaches and access roads seven days-a-week, grooming and lining ballfields, working special events and repairing and maintaining streetlights and facilities throughout the town as well as providing support for the summer concert series at Good Ground Park," said Parks Director Kristen Doulos. "A big thank you to all our full-time, seasonal, and part-time staff in the Parks and Recreation Department!"



## PONQUOGUE PAVILION RENOVATION

The Ponquogue Beach Pavilion will soon undergo renovation. After extensive community input, the Town Board agreed on a final design concept. The next phase in the renovation process has begun with the selection of D & B Engineers and Architects, P.C. to draft the final designs in preparation of the construction bid documents for the bathing facility. This phase of the project will include, site plan design, utility modification, structural deck expansion and rehabilitation, building renovation, furnishings, sustainable design, regulatory requirements and permitting, construction cost estimates, prepare construction bid specs and conduct bid analysis and provide construction administration and inspection services. The remodeled facility will include, improved bathrooms, wider deck area, improved walkway and additional outdoor showers. Construction is expected to begin following next year's summer season.



### **GIRL SCOUT TROOP HONORED BY THE TOWN BOARD FOR ITS LOVE OF READING**

Girl Scout Troop #175 was given a proclamation by the Town Board, September 26, 2017, for setting up a Little Free Library at the East Quogue Village Green. "Little Free Libraries" are small boxes distributed around communities that allow people to donate a book or take-a-book for free. Councilman Stan Glinka presented the project.



### **A GIRL'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM IS HONORED BY THE TOWN BOARD FOR ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE**

The founder of i-tri, Theresa Roden, was given a proclamation by the Southampton Town Board, September 26, 2017, for her continued leadership in encouraging young girls to become self-confident young women. The members of i-tri recently completed a triathlon and some of the young girls told the board it was quite an accomplishment.



### **ONE OF SOUTHAMPTON'S FINEST AWARDED FOR BEING A CHAMPION OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

The Southampton Town Board recently recognized Southampton Town Police Detective Kevin Gwinn on September 26, 2017 for helping protect people with special needs after he was given the "Champion Award" by the New York State Justice Center. He's the first law enforcement officer in the state to be presented that award. Detective Gwinn was also recognized by the Justice Center for supporting their mission.



### **NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 106TH RESCUE, WESTHAMPTON BEACH, SCORING HIGH MARKS FOR ITS HURRICANE RESCUE MISSIONS IN TEXAS AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Town Board bestowed a proclamation on the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing stationed at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base, Westhampton Beach, for helping rescue hurricane victims in Texas and the Caribbean. The unit deployed 126 members to West Houston and Beaumont Texas and made 546 saves. One week later, 120 members were deployed to Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and St. Maarten and made 1,585 rescues.