



E SOUTHAMPTON TOWN NEWSLETTER

JAY SCHNEIDERMAN, SUPERVISOR

JOHN BOUVIER, COUNCILMAN • CHRISTINE P SCALERA, COUNCILWOMAN
JULIE LOFSTAD, COUNCILWOMAN • TOMMY JOHN SCHIAVONI, COUNCILMAN

SWEARING-IN AT TOWN HALL

Bagpipers led the procession into the Town Board Room for swearing-in ceremonies on January 3, 2018. Jay Schneiderman took the oath of office for his second term as Southamptontownny.gov Supervisor, as did Councilwoman Julie Lofstad. The Town Board welcomed newcomer Tommy John Schiavoni. Councilman Schiavoni is a North Haven Village resident, a former member of the North Haven Village Board of Trustees, the Village Zoning Board, the Southamptontownny.gov Zoning Board of Appeals and former Vice President of the Sag Harbor School Board. Councilman Schiavoni has worked as a teacher for 32 years at Center Moriches High School. He and his wife Southamptontownny.gov Justice Andrea Schiavoni have two children, Anna Francesca and Thomas Jr.. Other local elected officials sworn into office included Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer, Highway Superintendent Alex Gregor, Town Justice Deborah Kooperstein, Town Justice Barbara Wilson, Town Trustees Edward J. Warner, Jr., Scott Horowitz, Bruce Stafford, William Pell IV and the first female Trustee, Ann Welker.



NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES COMING TO TUCKAHOE

Southamptontownny.gov is busy trying to build more workforce housing. Councilwoman Julie Lofstad, Councilman John Bouvier and Supervisor Jay Schneiderman picked up shovels and participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for two affordable homes in Tuckahoe, on land donated by the Town of Southamptontownny.gov. “We have to make it possible for our young people to live in the community they were raised in,” said Councilwoman Julie Lofstad. The homes are being built by the Southamptontownny.gov Business Alliance Housing Initiative Corporation and will be part of a lottery conducted by the Town’s Housing and Community Development Department in coordination with the Long Island Housing Partnership. Details on how to enter the lottery can be found on the Town’s website: www.southamptontownny.gov/Tuckahoe-Housing-Lottery.



BREAKING NEW GROUND IN SPEONK AND TUCKAHOE

After years of planning and community engagement, construction is now underway for “Speonk Commons.” Speonk will soon be home to 38 new affordable workforce housing rental units. The County Executive joined Town officials and community members for a groundbreaking ceremony for “Speonk Commons” located at 41 North Phillips Ave, just south of the railroad station. Expected to be completed this spring, the development will help attract young professionals who want to live within walking distance to retail shops and transportation. “This project is the result of working closely with the community to understand and to address the acute need for affordably priced housing for our workforce,” said Southamptontownny.gov Supervisor Jay Schneiderman. The developer, Georgica Green Ventures, is also building a 28 unit rental complex on Sandy Hollow Road in Tuckahoe, which will be ready for move-in by Fall 2019.



THE NEW PONQUOGUE PAVILION RENOVATION GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

The \$1.7 million dollar makeover of the Ponquogue Beach Pavilion is expected to begin after the 2018 Summer Season and could be ready by the Summer of 2019. The Town Board got a glimpse of the plans at a recent work session and helped select materials that will be used on the structure. D&B Engineers and Architects of Hauppauge will prepare design and bid documents for the spring. The renovation will include updated restrooms, more deck seating, an extended ramp to the beach, new showers, snack stand enlargement and parking lot entrance improvements. "We listened to what the community wanted in the public survey and I think they will be happy with the results," said Parks Director Kristen Doulos.



OPIOID ADDICTION TASK FORCE MOVES QUICKLY

The Task Force is working at a fevered pitch to come up with solutions to address the Opioid Crisis. More than three dozen people joined the Southampton Town Opioid Addiction Task Force to try to reverse the significant increase in overdoses and deaths caused by opioid drugs. The Task Force has already held one Public Forum where more than 250 people gathered at Hampton Bays High School to hear from experts in the medical field and people in recovery. The community event was followed by a Youth Forum at the Greek Orthodox Church at which students expressed concerns and offered ideas about how to address the crisis. "We want to make sure we hear from students about what we can do as local government to stop this epidemic," said Supervisor Jay Schneiderman. "If we can save just one life," he said, "it will be worth it."

A BRIDGE TO SAFE DIVING

The Old Ponquogue Bridge is getting a face-lift. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held to launch the reconstruction and safety improvements to the Old Ponquogue Bridge, which is considered to be one of the best scuba diving areas in the Northeast. The piers were badly damaged by Hurricane Sandy, but thanks to grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, several improvements will be made to the south side of the old bridge. The north side will be more limited, but will still provide safe public access. "Soon, people will be able to safely dive in Shinnecock Bay and see some of the best underwater array of fish and other sea life," said Councilman John Bouvier.



PUBLIC WILL BE ASKED TO WEIGH IN ON DESIGNS FOR MARITIME PARK



A survey will soon go out to Southampton Town residents to help design an area along the Shinnecock Canal known as "Maritime Park." It's an area adjacent to the Town's Parks Department and on the west side of the canal. Tim Rumph, a landscape architect with Araiys Designs, whose services were paid for by the CPI developer, recently made a presentation to the Town Board. Some of the concepts include using native trees and grasses, and building a small pavilion with picnic tables and a comfort station. Improved parking that could allow food trucks is also being planned for the property, which is both County and Town owned.

Once completed, "Maritime Park" could host a maritime festival, a farmers and seafood market, or a craft show. Funding for the park will come from PDD funds offered by the Rechlers in the redevelopment of the CPI property and CDBG grant money awarded to the Town.

NEW INDOOR POOL PROPOSAL RE-SURFACES BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD

The Southampton Town Aquatics and Recreation Inc. (STAR), a not-for-profit 501c3, first floated the idea of an aquatic center in the 1980's. Now this local group has moved one step closer to getting the green light for an indoor aquatic center at Red Creek Park. The proposed \$25 million dollar project would include three pools: a competition level pool and two smaller pools for children, exercise and therapy. The organization recently attended a Town Board Work Session to pitch the idea. Under the proposal, the group will seek private donations to fund and operate the pool, and would lease the land at Red Creek Park from the Town. The group says it has already received favorable support from several school districts and Southampton Hospital. Organizers will now fine-tune their design, fundraising goals and formally present the idea at a Town Board meeting to give Town residents a chance to provide input later this spring.

