



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Mayor's Desk

Hot Topics

Meet Police Chief Mike Tracey

How to Build & Renovate in the Village

Get Involved!

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

mayor@easthamptonvillage.org
631-324-4150 Ext. 180



Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to welcome you to the inaugural issue of Village Hall News. My administration strongly believes that a thriving municipality is responsive to, and respectful of, its citizens' desires, ideas, and opinions — and being responsive requires an open line of communication between an administration and its constituents.

People want, deserve, and need to understand — straight from the source — the nuance of issues affecting our Village, and the reasons WHY policy decisions are made or are being considered. We also want residents to know about Village happenings. And so, we are on a mission to increase community participation while enhancing our relationship with you and the Town at large.

Shortly after being elected to office, I began communicating directly with Village residents by mailing out a *State of the Village* every four months. Now, we are broadening our outreach in additional ways — this quarterly newsletter being one of them. How else can we stay in touch? See below:

Launch of the Village's New Website

Our new website, easthamptonvillage.org, is more intuitive, informative, and easily navigable, whether you're on a desktop, cellphone, or iPad. We are actively building out our content with easily-accessed forms, applications, maps, meeting agendas, minutes, and videos. You can pay property taxes online, peruse a community calendar, read staff bios, see job openings, get updates on Village projects, learn more about our beaches, and inquire about joining a committee or board.

The new site also makes the Village's Annual Budgets, Auditor Report, and Bond Schedule available online for everyone to view. Plus, you can browse materials the Boards will have in front of them at upcoming meetings.

LTV Show: "Ask The Mayor"

Our local television show, *Ask The Mayor*, which returned in May, features my unscripted answers to questions asked by community

members (like YOU!) and LTV's Interviewer, who cuts right to the chase on behalf of the public. View the show on the "Mayor Jerry Larsen" page at easthamptonvillage.org.

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook (search "Village of East Hampton") and on Instagram (@easthamptonvillage) for information, event photos, and beautiful snapshots of our picturesque Village.

Proper governance requires teamwork, and teamwork requires transparency and opportunities for citizen participation. It is our hope that these channels will help us reach every resident who seeks to further embrace the offerings of this community and better understand the inner workings of our Village government.

Best,

Mayor Jerry Larsen



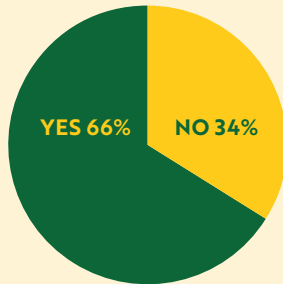
Celebrating the completion of Phase 1A of the Herrick Park Renovation. (L to R: Village Administrator Marcos Baladrón, Trustee Chris Minardi, Trustee Sarah Amaden, Mayor Jerry Larsen, Trustee Sandra Melendez, Public Works Superintendent Dave Collins, East Hampton Village Foundation Executive Director Brad Billet.)

Cover photo credit: Lee Bertrand

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

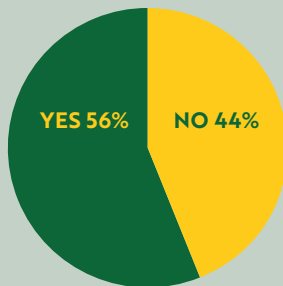
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Village Hall mailed out a survey to every Village resident. Here are the results we received:

Are you in favor of installing pickleball courts in Herrick park?

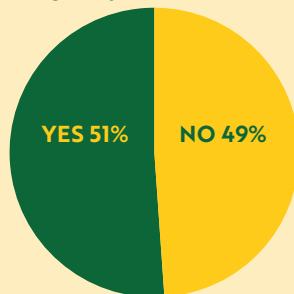


Are you in favor of Wiborg Beach being protected by lifeguards?

(Note this would require by law the installation of bathrooms.)



Are you in favor of having a dog park in Herrick Park?



Please note the Board of Trustees will not be taking any action on these items this year. They are in "listening" mode at this time. Please participate in these discussions by attending our public meetings every third Friday of the month at 11am, temporarily being held at LTV Studios in Wainscott. Or, view our meetings at lveh.org and make your viewpoints heard by contacting Village Hall.

MAJOR WIN FOR SAFETY AND SCENERY

By making Mill Road into a one-way street, EHV took action in response to numerous rear-end accidents caused by cars making left hand turns off of Rte. 27. This is the latest move in a Village strategy that managed to forestall a New York State DOT proposal that would have completely transformed the entrance to the village, decimating the green space near Town Pond.



WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Main Village phone number: (631) 324-4150

To report a pothole or unlit street light:

Call the Department of Public Works, Ext. 116

If you're hosting a party with more than 50 people or a catered party of any size at the beach:

Contact Sue Dayton for a permit, Village Hall, Ext. 100

If you have a concern about your neighbor's property: (physical appearance; safety; questionable structures)

Call the Building Department, Ext. 3

If you have a noise complaint:

Call the Police non-emergency number, (631) 324-0777

If you have a question about beach or long-term parking:

Call Village Hall, Ext. 2

To see if Tuesdays at Main will happen, in case of rain:

Visit ehvf.org (the East Hampton Village Foundation website) on the afternoon of the event

INTERVIEW WITH POLICE CHIEF MIKE TRACEY

Chief Michael Tracey, who plans to retire next February after seven years as Chief, oversees a department of 49 full-time personnel: 26 officers, four civilians, seventeen dispatchers and three full-time paramedics – plus around eighteen seasonal Traffic Control Officers.

The Department has four divisions: the Patrol Division, Detective Division, School Resource Officer Division, and the Emergency Communications (911) Division, the latter of which services the entire South Fork, Sag Harbor to Montauk.

Here, Village Hall's Marissa Cangioli sits down for an interview with the Chief, who tells stories from his career and teaches us about the teams and departments he has helped create, in service of our community.

MARISSA: WHY ARE YOU A POLICE OFFICER?

CHIEF TRACEY: A boss of mine used to tell a story, where you're in a crowd of 50 people and a disaster happens. 49 of those people would probably run away from the disaster. But one person would run towards it. Well, that's me – it's most people in emergency services. And I like to problem-solve; to help spot gaps and fill them. That's how entities like Ocean Rescue and the Village's Emergency Operations Team got started.

TELL READERS ABOUT THOSE PROGRAMS.

Ocean Rescue is an all-volunteer lifesaving service. When the paid lifeguard staff goes home at 5 or 6pm, Ocean Rescue is there. The seed was planted around 1998, when some people got stuck in a strong current, late in the day, on an unguarded beach. Luckily, an off-duty local Lifeguard – Jimmy Minardi -- was able to make the save. Jimmy pointed out that the situation, as it stood, was ripe for tragedy, and suggested a system to put some lifeguards on call overnight... but the idea faded.

Then, there came a high-profile rescue situation at Main Beach where young kids got in trouble in a strong rip current, and no lifeguards were on duty. Neither the Fire Department nor the police could make the



save. Then, out of the blue, the Town's Head Lifeguard, John Ryan Jr., pulled up to the beach. He swam out and made the rescue easily -- because he had the training to do so. After that, Jerry Larsen [who was Police Chief then], gave us the go-ahead to make the program happen.

So Kevin Sarlo and I went to an FBI school where we learned how to create multi-agency task forces. With Ed Michels, our partners at EH Town Police, and Town Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Bruce Bates, we formed Ocean Rescue -- the first all-volunteer ocean rescue team in the Northeastern United States. You reach them by calling 911.

AMAZING! WHAT AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY ASSET. NOW HOW ABOUT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS?

I have a passion for emergency planning. It began after 9/11, when East Hampton officers went to the city to assist with rescue efforts. The precision of the coordination efforts blew me away. I realized East Hampton needed to have specialized teams and advance plans in place.

One aspect of preparedness is the Emergency Plan, which asks: What if something happens which overwhelms what you have? Think about TWA Flight 800; it crashed over East Moriches. Had it flown just a few more minutes, it might've crashed here.

If there is a public safety crisis in the Village, then I'm expected, as Emergency Coordinator, to bring together emergency response leaders to meet with elected officials to discuss our strategy for handling the crisis. We imagine the worst and then plan for what would need to be done. We've tied our emergency plans to Southampton's and Suffolk's, so the reach of our units is broadened, but we are remotely located; we need to be self-sufficient also.

We first meet in the EOC – the Emergency Operations Center. Picture an FBI conference room, where everyone is gathered around a big table with access to monitoring equipment. I went to a FEMA school to learn how to run a successful EOC.

Another aspect of emergency planning is our Emergency Services Team: a group of officers who can act as a SWAT team, with specialized training and equipment. There was some apprehension about creating the team, because none of us wanted to think about needing it, and we didn't want to scare anyone who feared what has been called "militarization." But safety is our mandate.

The Suffolk County team was a long distance away, and we needed to be better prepared. Captain Sarlo, Harbormaster Michels, Sergeant David Griffiths and I began by getting appropriate heavy-duty gear, like ballistic shields. Next, we trained.

It took years to build out the team to what it is now -- a highly functional reality. I hope people can take safety in the fact that the municipalities of EH Town, EH Village and Sag Harbor had the foresight to support our vision.

OKAY, SO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IS A GIANT TOPIC.

The emergency preparedness dimension of public safety, in my mind, consists of communications, equipment, peoplepower, preparation, anticipating events, and mitigation.

For example, as part of pre-planning, the Department puts a full-time officer in each of the schools within Village jurisdiction: John

Marshall Elementary and East Hampton Middle School. For an agency our size to have an officer in both schools is a tremendous asset. And it ties the police together with the community.

Cybersecurity falls under “Emergency Preparedness” too, and we’ve brought it up to par, with 24/7 protection in place. Emergency communications – Dispatch – is huge part of emergency preparedness as well.

THE DISPATCH ROOM IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE ROOMS IN EAST HAMPTON – AND THAT’S SAYING SOMETHING.

Yes, and our Dispatch department, otherwise known as Emergency Communications, is spectacular. J.P. Foster is the Head Dispatcher; the crew is one-of-a-kind. We’re answering calls from all over the surrounding hamlets. Our Dispatchers use state-of-the-art technology to route Emergency Responders of all types to all areas of East Hampton and parts of Sag Harbor. Plus – and here we go above and beyond – our Dispatchers are certified to talk a caller through lifesaving medical procedures that they will have to perform themselves. Dispatch is a crucial part of Emergency Operations. It’s been rewarding to have contributed to its rules and procedures.

BURNING QUESTION: HOW DID A FRITO LAY TRUCK BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE POLICE FLEET?

Our former Police Sergeant and Fire Chief, David Griffiths, came to us with an idea for a “Command Van”: a mobile dispatch center on wheels -- like what you might see on TV. The idea is to set it up at large events, or in situations where you need to move communications and leadership into the “field.”

It was twenty years ago. Funding at the time was limited. But Dave and I went car shopping, and came across this Frito Lay truck in a parking lot in Westhampton. I paid for it with \$1500 of my own money and brought it home. Dave and Ron Labrozzi (our senior Dispatcher) got together and turned that truck into the tremendous asset it is today.

The command van has proved critical during system failures and hurricanes, including several times when Montauk was cut off from the rest of the island by storm floods. No one else in Suffolk County had that

Mobile Dispatch Capability at the time. Few do, still. It’s old, still in use, and yes, I got my money back.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH AS CHIEF?

I’m polishing off our Emergency Plan. I want to figure out the best ways to rapidly contact specific groups of people, should the need arise – like in an evacuation. The County helps us with this now, but we would like to refine the methods.

I’d also like to continue building our partnership with the Family Service League, who managed to connect all the East End police departments with telehealth counselors who can speak directly via phone or iPad with people in emotional distress right then and there, during a non-violent disturbance. The eventual goal is to have Suffolk County mobile psychiatric crisis teams available as a further supplement.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, POST-RETIREMENT?

My wife and I are leasing farmland locally. She grows flowers; I grow habaneros. I sell my own hot sauce; the recipe was certified by the Food Kitchen at Southampton College. Our Daughter has experience farming, so she is guiding us. I’ll also be advising the Village as their Liaison to Ocean Rescue, and I wouldn’t mind lobbying for a change to Suffolk County’s hiring mandates, which make it hard to hire local officers. Also, I’ll remain a member of East Hampton’s Anti-Bias Task Force, which promotes unity and diversity education.

YOU REALLY VALUE EDUCATION.

Yes, and this municipality has sent me to every school I requested, over the years, which has been crucial to implementing programs locally. But what stuck with me as being the most important information is what I learned in the Academy in 1984: “Try to treat everyone like you would want your family to be treated, were they in the same situation.” You don’t always succeed, but it’s a good plan to follow, and makes all the difference to the public.

PARTING WORDS?

I am biased, but this is the best job in the world.

WHAT HAPPENED

Missing Person Search at Georgica Beach

As told by Beach Manager/Chief Lifeguard Drew Smith



We were notified by an extremely concerned person that a family member had gone missing at Georgica; he was last seen in the ocean. Within a minute, we had the drone in the air, notified the police, and began establishing a command post at the swimmer’s last known location. We shut down Georgica and Main Beach for swimming in order to use all of our personnel and equipment resources for the search. I requested jet ski response from Main Beach; within three minutes they had the ski in the water. I had a vehicle going in both directions on land — east and west. Our guards searched the parking lot and — with on- and off-duty lifeguards — we commenced an underwater search. The drone scanned overhead; its heat- and infrared-sensors let us search for people who are submerged. The main information we had to go on was, “He’s in a black bathing suit.” A lot of people wear black bathing suits.

While the search was in progress, a man flagged down a lifeguard on an ATV. He was a friend of the subject, he said, and knew where the missing person was: Down the beach, past the first jetty, talking to friends. Once we confirmed it was him, I transported the individual to speak with Police.

What had happened was, the subject had jumped in the water, spotted people he knew, and walked down to them – but his family hadn’t seen him leave the ocean. It was a solid test of our emergency protocol, and a good reminder: if you’re going to leave your group, let them know.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BUILDING IN THE VILLAGE

BUILDING DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Tom Preiato. As Principal Building Inspector, Tom supervises a team whose mission is, in his words, “to ensure people’s health and safety while keeping situations as pleasant as possible, as far as property use goes.”

In brief, the Building Department’s mandate is to confirm that village buildings, including residences, are structurally safe and that property owners adhere to zoning rules and regulations meant to prevent intrusions upon the neighborhood. Tom’s team conducts site visits and examines plans, blueprints (technical drawings of plans), and specifications (written descriptions of plans) to decide whether a building permit or Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. This requires staying up to date with new building materials, codes and ordinances.

The department works with engineers, contractors, builders, and property owners to modify and correct plans when needed. Inspectors also investigate complaints of building and/or zoning violations.

In addition, the department issues yard sale permits,

temporary sign permits, and demolition permits, and arranges for “wetland flagging” when a waterfront property owner needs to determine proper setbacks for construction.

What is Tom’s favorite part of the job? “Serving the people.”

To that end, Tom – who has 23 years of Building Department experience – provides this helpful advice: “Contact us to schedule a conversation prior to building or renovating, so you are aware of exactly what you can and cannot do, per Village Code. We’d rather see you spend time designing a project that suits your needs and is realistic at the same time. Let us point you in the right direction.”

You can set up an appointment to speak with Tom and his team by emailing tpreiato@easthamptonvillage.org or by calling (631) 324-4150 ext. 3.



Photo credit: Lee Bertrand

When Tom does need to point someone in a different direction, it might be to one of the Boards below:

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)

Zoning laws ensure property owners get to experience peace and quiet enjoyment of their homes. When a property owner seeks an exception (a “variance”) to these rules, they appear before the ZBA, which determines if variance requests can be granted in a way that respects the neighborhood, the property owner, and the comprehensive plan of the Village, alike.

PLANNING BOARD

Since the Village’s inception in 1920, the fair division of land has been of primary importance to property owners. The Planning Board approves subdivisions of property and other development requests to ensure the protection of natural features and building density rules, as prescribed by Village code. This board is also responsible for preparing (or altering) a “Comprehensive Plan” for the Village – essentially, a future goal for Village development.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

East Hampton has been described as one of the most beautiful villages in America, and the DRB is one reason why. This board is tasked with preserving the character and quality of the Village’s historic and aesthetic heritage. The DRB helps property owners within the Village’s historic, commercial, and manufacturing districts make design choices that satisfy their tastes while honoring the Village’s distinctive style.

AESTHETICS COMMITTEE VS. DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Aesthetics Committee was formed in 2022 to advise the Village on their design decisions. It has a similar mission to that of the DRB -- with one very simple distinction: it focuses on coordinating the overall ambiance and beauty of VILLAGE property, rather than property that’s privately owned. The Committee is a non-voting entity composed primarily of individuals with backgrounds in architecture, landscape design, interior design, real estate, and building.

Get involved! Please consider joining one of our boards or committees to help ensure our village is beautiful, functional and honorable. Email lmckay@easthamptonvillage.org.

We're Looking For A Few Good Neighbors!

Drivers - EMTs - AEMTs

BENEFITS + REWARDS:


- Serve Your Community
- Free Equipment + Uniforms
- Free Medical Training
- CPR + First Aid Certification
- Ambulance Driving Courses
- Volunteer Pension Program
- Property Tax Reductions
- Free Annual Health Exams
- Free Gym Membership
- Free EH Village Beach Pass

• Save A Life - Be A Local Hero!

JOIN OUR TEAM



Contact EMS Office:

 (631) 324-4150 Ext. 253

 ems@easthamptonvillageny.gov

 Emergency Services Building
1 Cedar Street
East Hampton, N.Y. 11937

**Dept. of Emergency
Medical Service**