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IN THIS ISSUE

Casual or careless with it! Isn’t normal. But pens are still mightier than swords.”

Most danger we face are paper cuts, sharp reader evening: “Local journalists aren’t war correspondents. Perhaps said it best in a Twitter post he put out that...”

However let’s not forget that men and women have often...democratic society is all about ladies and gentlemen.

Having patience for our diligent community columnists, for their deadline was earlier in the week, so additional coverage will most certainly follow. Three cheers for some really clever graphics in this issue thanks to our designer Pamela Gurman – keep your eye out for them throughout this issue.

Beyond the pretty pictures, give a read to articles that resonate why Independence Day is so important. Lorna Luniewski writes an intriguing history article that brings to light that gays in the military are nothing new, and the American Revolution perhaps could not have been won without their valuable contributions. Anika Lanser interviewed an outgoing local elected official who reflects modestly on the contributions he made to the community. Also by Anika, read about one woman’s quest to make improved boater safety legislation a reality in the State of New York. There is even a story about men and women sitting in a room and pontificating for an hour and a half about whether they want concrete or wooden walkways in their village, as Emma Boskovski reports with stunning detail.
FIRE ISLAND PINES INVASION
By Johnny “Boardwalk” Burke – Photos by Robert Sherman

JULY 4, 2018: Well, folks, despite stifling heat, tropical humidity, and even a “rolling” black-out, Cherry Grove still rolled out its proverbial red carpet for the 43rd Annual Invasion of The Pines, a tradition started by drag-icon Panzi and a handful of her LGBTQ pals to thwart the homophobia that existed even among fellow-gays back in the 1970s here on Fire Island... Can you imagine? The invasion always takes place on the Fourth of July with the cooperation of the Sayville Ferry Service, which provides a super-sized boat for some super-sized gals to make the trip. The Fairy-Ferry takes off for a D-Day landing (“D” for Drag!) at the Pines pier right outside the Blue Whale, the famously infamous restaurant where male-model John Whyte (an old-school homosexual) first began his Fire Island real estate duchy, and where he first banished drag queen Terry Warren for appearing at cocktail-hour in drag back in 1975. Panzi and her posse, which included the drag-set as well as some real girls (yes, there were lesbian women who were outraged as well), plotted their revenge! Now here it is 43 years later, bigger and better, than ever! Make way, boys...oh, and you Pine-sies too! We give you Invasion 2018!

▲ The Sayville Ferry Service taking the Invasion "troops" to the Pines.

▲ Michael Moran struts his stuff as one of the escorts for the new Homecoming Queen Rose Levine.

▲ Over at the Ice Palace, the hunky mixologists mix it up with one of the minxes.

▲ Cherry Grove icon and founder of The Invasion, Panzi!

▲ Give a girl a pair of lace-up platforms, a bin-full of fabrics, and a bunch of bird-of-paradise blossoms, and she’ll come up with something!

▲ There’s nothing braver than a drag queen in a wig and tiara, a spandex cat-suit, and 6-inch spike heels...on the deck of a ship...in 100 degree heat.

▲ Monarchs and members of the royal family of the Imperial Court of New York.

▲ Every color of the rainbow, and a salute to all the LGBTQ folks who’ve fought the “good fight” over the years. Happy Warriors, all!!
Hey Centaur, Penny for your thoughts.

Totally “on trend”... the fit ‘n’ flair silhouette, a textured floral with matching accessories, and all in Anita Bryant Orange. VOILA!

FIN staff photographer Robert Sherman also got a respectable round of applause, as he got into the spirit of things for this assignment. (Photo by Alessia Iannuzzi-Sherman)

Ocean Beach Children’s Day Parade July 4, 2018
Photos by Lauren Chenault

Miss Pinto in Candy Land.

Harper as the Little Mermaid.

Blue Mules.

Vintage Red Fire Truck

Floyd Estate “A Celebration of 300 Years”
Photos by Sean Fitzthum

A FAMILY’S HISTORY is told through ancestral objects in this special exhibit at William Floyd Estate. Check out Thomas McGann’s History column on page 47 of this issue, and if you can’t make it out to the kickoff celebration in Mastic Beach on July 7, the exhibit will remain on display through Nov. 11, 2018. (See our Calendar on page 22 for more information.)
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Island Pantry. (Photo by Robert Sherman)

The Bike Shop. (Photo by Lauren Chenault)

Schooner Inn. (Photo by Robert Sherman)

Maguires Gets Festive

All decked out for the Fourth. (Photo by Shoshanna McCollum)

Summertime tunes with Rob and Rene. (Photo by Lauren Chenault)

The OB PO Ladies: Thanks Dale and Irene for all that you do. (Photo by Robert Sherman)

Summer Splash Across the Bay

Don’t forget to stop at Willy Nilly! (Photo by Shoshanna McCollum)

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR >> editor@fireisland-news.com

To the Editor:

Thank you for the fine coverage of the recent Ocean Beach municipal elections (“Hot Mess: Ocean Beach 2018 Examined”, June 8.) While not a resident of OB, I frequent many of the businesses in town and am friendly with many of the residents, so the results of this election certainly elicit interest. Unfortunately, my own ignorance on a number of fronts kept the article from being fully informative.

First, there was a reference to the seasonal workers being able to vote in the local election. This rankles my non-lawyer sensibilities, as it upends my understanding of our Founding Fathers’ intentions as essentially a form of representation without taxation. If indeed the Absentee Ballots were from the service workers (which I’m inferring from the apparent uniformity of the vote), there would seem to be a need to verify that they aren’t registered to vote in another jurisdiction and whether those votes should indeed be counted.

Second, the implication is that the election boiled down to two factions facing-off against each other: the Homeowners and the Businesses. Unfortunately, the article doesn’t identify the candidates’ platforms, so they’re not distinguishable to the uninitiated. A bit of elucidation would go a long way, particularly for those readers who are not intimately familiar with all of the details, yet rely on your publication to remain informed. Your independent and objective reporting is greatly appreciated – keep up the good work!

–Michael Lustig, Ocean Bay Park

Letters from our readers are always encouraged and welcome. Email your letter to the editor of 350 words or less to editor@fireisland-news.com. No hard copy paper letters please. Thank you!

CORRECTION: A letter to the editor in our June 22 edition authored by Sally Shapiro mistakenly referred to Ocean Beach Restaurant Association Scott Hirsch as “Steve” Hirsch. Ms. Shapiro tired to notify us about the error beforehand, but it was missed by us, so the mistake is ours. Ms. Shapiro further reports that Scott Hirsh is already testing paper straws in his restaurant establishment the Island Mermaid. May his search for suitable alternatives yield a positive outcome. – The FIN team

Fire Island News Readership Survey

Fill out the survey and send a picture of the completed survey to the Fire Island News via email for a chance to win!

Win a night at The Palms Hotel

The prize for the winner of the Survey Contest will be a one night stay for two at The Palms Hotel and a $50 gift card to CJ’s. The Palms Hotel stay will be valid September 3rd-9th. September 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd. The prize has no cash value and will be based on availability.

To be eligible to win the Fire Island News Readership Survey Contest, you must take a picture of the questionnaire, and email it to emma@fireisland-news.com. Hard copies will not be eligible for entry. The winner of the contest will be notified via email.

1. How old are you? a. Less than 18 b. 18-35 c. 36-55 d. Older than 55
2. Where do you reside? If Fire Island or Long Island, please specify the community in your response.
3. Which section of the Fire Island News do you enjoy the most?
4. How often do you pick up the paper?
5. If you could change anything about the paper, what would it be?
6. Have you looked at us online? If so, specify where (Our website, Facebook, or Instagram).
7. Agree or disagree...
   a. The Fire Island News is a newspaper that is a part of both Fire Island and the South Shore communities character. a. agree b. disagree
   b. I trust the Fire Island News to deliver news that is relative to me. a. agree b. disagree
8. On a scale of 1-10...
   a. What do you rate the quality of our writing? ______
   b. How important is the paper to you? ______
9. Additional comments ________________________________________________
Keep Families Together Protest in Fair Harbor

By Anika Lanser

As news of families being separated at the border and children being detained in the United States while their parents are deported shook the nation, groups began to organize for nationwide protests to be held on June 30. Joining the masses of over 600 marches throughout the country was a group of about 100 people protesting at the dock in Fair Harbor.

The protests come in response to President Trump’s zero-tolerance policy that requires the criminal prosecution of anyone who crosses the border illegally. Members of the administration like Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielson have defended the policy. In a statement to the New York Times she downplayed the systematic separation as an effect of prosecuting those who cross illegally. Meanwhile over 2,000 children have been separated from their families. Many have not spoken to their parents since being separated, and many parents do not know where their children are being held. In response to widespread outcry concerning family separation, President Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday, June 20, ending family separation at the border but there is still no clear system in place for reuniting the children with their families. According to NBC News, the executive order may result in families being detained together for indefinite amounts of time.

Protesters came from all over the island to participate in the event called Fire Island Communities Say Families Belong Together! The event was organized by Rebecca Vilkomerson, Danielle Asher, and Beth Minides. Keeping with the national protests organized by MoveOn and supported by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and The Leadership Conference protesters were encouraged to wear white, to symbolize the protest’s alignment with past actions for racial and social justice. In true Fire Island fashion, Fair Harbor protesters also were encouraged to bring their red wagons for the march around Fair Harbor.

The protest opened with words from its organizers who spoke about the policies of the Trump administration and zero-tolerance immigration policy. Then, led by a saxophone player carrying the tune “This Land is Our Land,” protesters marched with their signs and wagons through Fair Harbor and back to the dock. As the crowd marched, residents came out on their decks to spectate and cheer. Throughout the protest, money was raised for Long Island Jobs with Justice, an organization based in Hauppauge that is committed to protecting the rights of workers. The organization also is beginning to work in support of immigrant families, helping to resist deportations, and providing funds that will help support families with legal fees and economic hardship as a result of deportation. Fire Island resident Lily sold lemonade out of her red wagon at the protest and donated all the profits to the collection of funds for Long Island Jobs with Justice.

Photos contributed by Ernie Fritz and Donna Clock.
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Roundtable Discussion on FI Archive Collections

By Shoshanna McCollum

ON A GRAY SATURDAY afternoon on June 23, individuals from every corner of Fire Island quietly filed into the Ocean Beach Historical Society. The meeting was by invitation only, extended to the keepers of repositories on this island that are like beads on a string: Point O’ Woods Archives, Fire Island Pines Historical Society, Cherry Grove Archives Collection, Ocean Beach Historical Society, as well as representatives from Water Island, Ocean Bay Park, even folks wearing ranger hats from Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) itself.

“I speak to you today not as a leader, but a participant,” said Fire Island Association (FIA) President Suzanne Goldhirsh. “This is a challenge where all key participants are starting from zero.”

At that time Goldhirsh introduced Dr. Gregory Hunter of the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, at Long Island University (LIU) Post. (Formerly known as C.W. Post, in Brookville.) As Hunter explained, not long ago the Palmer School at LIU Post became a recipient of a $1.5 million grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to digitize materials in local historical societies across Long Island over a five-year period. In the first year of the project, 26 historical societies in Nassau and Suffolk counties were accepted into the program. They are looking to expand that number to 80 in total by 2022. This meeting was an exploratory one to see if the Fire Island historical societies, either collectively or as a whole, would be a good fit for the program.

It’s no secret that small historical societies across Long Island are often struggling organizations. They have the will and desire to collect but not necessarily preserve their history. Photographs, ledger books, and memorabilia are among the items that can tell the story of a given community. Storage conditions within said historical societies can leave much to be desired, and said items are vulnerable to the ravages of time. Add existence on a barrier island to that equation and those concerns are tenfold.

The LIU project has two modalities. Digitization can be performed on-site at the historical society, or materials can be brought to the campus. Master’s and Ph.D. students of library sciences perform the work as part of a credit internship, equipped with state-of-the-art scanning equipment – needless to say we are not talking about some home office printer/scanner that huffs, puffs, and runs out of ink all the time – all at no cost to these often cash-strapped modest organizations.

All of what Hunter described sounded like a pretty sweet deal, however there were questions that needed to be asked, which was what this gathering was all about. One of the larger questions was: Who in this room qualifies for the program?

This publication recently got its own archive back after many years. (See our June 8 article “FIN Archives Acquired.”) However FIN would not qualify for participation because the institution in question has to be an IRS recognized charity organization known as a 501 (c) 3. Fire Island News is a commercial business. Several organizations represented in the room have 501 (c) 3 status already, but not all of them. Some like Cherry Grove Arts Project, which had been functioning as a loose collective, had the foresight to partner with Cherry Grove Arts Project, which already had this tax-exempt status, so they might benefit under the same proverbial umbrella.

Beloved CJ’s bartender Jimmy Engle, who sat in on the meeting because he has built his own impressive Fire Island collection of postcard and memorabilia over the years, also would not qualify because he is a private collector. Engle would have to relinquish ownership of his collection to a 501 (c) 3 in order to participate in the project, something he did not seem terribly eager to do. Even if he did, there is no guarantee his vintage postcards would make it to that high-powered scanner. The LIU project is designed to sample highlights of a collection.

“Now no one is going to get everything on their Christmas list,” Hunter said.

Ocean Beach Association President Maria Silsdorf, the coordinator of this meeting, affirmed Hunter’s statement on the importance of “prioritizing.” Goldhirsh then added that even FIA would not qualify, because although they are tax exempt, they are what is known as a 501 (c) 4 organization, a subtle but important difference. As a federal agency, the park rangers in attendance knew their archival holdings may not qualify for this program.

However the updated FINS General Management Plan contains expanded language about reconciling the unique cultural aspects of the Fire Island communities. Their reasons and interest for being there were legitimate.

Questions then shifted to proprietary rights. Once they are digitized, collections would be uploaded to a cloud site known as Preservica. Once on that cloud site, would treasured images become public domain? Hunter assured the audience that need not be the case. Once uploaded, historical societies maintain control whether the images are public or open to a limited audience.

Then questions shifted to intellectual property. Just because a print of a photograph ends up in a collection it does not mean the institution has rights to the image. The iconic photograph of Dr. Martin Luther King riding a bicycle in Seaview is a classic local example. The image is now ubiquitous on social media, but Stan Wolfrom, a longtime staff photographer at Newsday, took the original photograph – together they jointly own the copyright.

While the meeting raised perhaps more questions than it could answer, this grant still presents a valuable opportunity to small historical societies – unlike libraries or local governments in New York that have robust funding venues at their disposal, small institutions like the ones represented that day often have few options beyond private donations.

What was apparent was that with only 80 slots to be filled by 2022 on Long Island, the seven or eight small groups in that room will have to work together if they are to earn this chance to save history on Fire Island.
EXIT INTERVIEW:
OB Trustee Bendicksen Reflects on Term
By Anika Lanser

AS I SAT DOWN WITH Jason Bendicksen to learn about his time as an Ocean Beach trustee, I quickly realized it might be difficult to hear about his accomplishments straight from the source. This is not because Trustee Bendicksen does not have a lot of stories to tell, or a compelling and productive term to reflect on, but rather because Trustee Bendicksen is exceptionally humble.

At the end of his first four-year term as a trustee and having been on the island since 2000, Bendicksen reflected on his path to the board. “I’m not very politically-minded or business-minded. But I saw a shift in the kind of people who were attracted here. I wasn’t a homeowner or a business owner, so I had no stake in the game except that I lived here. I thought I could help with quality of life issues.”

Bendicksen came to Fire Island first as someone working with the telephone company, bartending, and living the nightlife scene. Later, he found his way to the Ocean Beach Fire Department beginning in 2011 and the Woodhull School for the past five years. Bendicksen worked as the bus driver for the school, but also volunteered each week to read to students. He added, “You can’t recapture the essence of this school anywhere else.”

After Superstorm Sandy he ran for Ocean Beach village office, being elected to the position of trustee in 2014. He described his role on the board and his contribution to Ocean Beach as helping the board to listen. “Prior boards could be very isolated from the community. I think I’ve helped to give the community a stronger voice,” he said.

On the topic of the projects he accomplished with the board, Bendicksen commented, “It’s a full-time job keeping the Village running. The Village is never done. If it’s done that means it’s not growing.”

In terms of the most recent Ocean Beach election, Bendicksen thinks the board’s future will be just fine. He expressed regret that the election devolved into quite the dramatic event. “Tara [Schoen Fishman] could’ve added something nobody else had the skills to add, but the Village and the board will be just fine. There are more people involved in the process now than before. There are always better ideas if there are more voices,” he stated.

Bendicksen is leaving Ocean Beach and the board to move to Stewart, Florida, where his parents live. He commented, “I had offered a while ago to move to Florida to help my parents and my dad called me recently and asked me to come down … my goal is just to make their lives as comfortable as possible.”

He added, “I’m a little scared and apprehensive about moving. It’s a little like moving to a foreign country. I’m leaving behind phenomenal friendships.” Stewart is, however, still on the Atlantic coast. Bendicksen commented, “It’ll be the same ocean, the same sunset. I got really spoiled by the ocean here.”

When asked what he’ll miss most, he responded, “The sense of community I’ve found with the fire department, the school, and the board. It’s an interesting group of neighbors and an interesting group of friends. I’ll miss the beach and drinking my coffee while I watch the sun rise. And hearing the waves all the time.”

In Florida, Bendicksen will be working with a company that works to improve handicap accessibility. He also plans to volunteer at a soup kitchen a few days a week, but maintains that his priority is to support his parents. Although Bendicksen thinks he will eventually visit, he likely will not live north of Florida again. “I could never see snow again and be fine with that,” he said. He may end up eventually with his son in the Virgin Islands and will visit his daughter as well as he prepares to become a grandfather in October.

Despite Bendicksen’s best efforts to overlook his own accomplishments and his impact on the Ocean Beach community, the moving tributes to his work at his last Board of Trustees meeting suggest Ocean Beach is not as willing to do the same. He mused, “I think I’ve taken way more from this place than I’ve given.” However, it seems that the Village and the Board would disagree profoundly with that statement.
JUNE 16 WAS NOT ONLY ONE OF THE MOST beautiful spring days we’ve had in this season of rain – but it was a perfect day for an auction, or two, or three. The Kismet League for Animal Welfare (KLAW) opened the doors of the Fire House at 10 a.m. to a sweeping vista of tables piled with donated flea market items ranging from paint- ings, household items, puzzles, jewelry and even a fuzzy tusked elephant rocker. One long table was devoted to a Chinese Auction where hopeful visitors dropped tickets in bags associated with the desired items including assorted wines, tequila, scratch-off lottery wreaths, and gift certificates. Silent I won a Hammacher Schlemmer umbrella. A veritable library of books was displayed in wagons. Parked outside was a beautiful white bicycle (donated by Gene McGovern) that was being vigorously raffled off. The winning ticket for Patty Lyon was picked by Roxanne, Caroline’s white pet bird. It was quite a sight. Annie Paulson, a frequent visitor to Kismet, painted cat faces on children and some KLAW volunteers. Board members thanked the community and said it was a lot of fun even though the proceeds were a bit under some prior years.

The Kismet Auction dinner was a great success. Working from early morning, Amy Wood, aided by Judy Phelan, Joanne Padovano and Patty Lyon, arranged silent auction items. Joanne and Patty presided over the check-in podium as guests began arriving along the bay in the early evening. John Altieri shone as auctioneer par excellence. Over- heard afterward were many comments about how much fun it all was, though one auction veteran was heard to say “not like it used to be.” Ah, those were the days.

The much heralded Comedy Night on June 22 was indeed a lot laughs. Sam opened the show with gags on a guitar he’d found: His dry sense of humor was no surprise to those who saw him on last year’s “Kismet: 15 minutes of Fame.” Both lead-in comic Dennis Rooney and “star” Joey Kola riffed on Sam, the contractor and the uniqueness of performing in a Fire House. Joey’s imitations of his wife and kids voices were “spot on.” He had the crowd roaring, some more than others. The comedians posed with the event’s organizers. “Lazy Bones” Drs. Linda and Janet won the raffle for a super-sized board of scratch-off tickets.

Amy was glowing after finally moving into their newly raised and renovated home. She posted pictures of their ecstatic dogs on Facebook, so happy with their old/new home. The cat, not so much...”too many dogs...can I have my own room now?!” The Lambes were all smiles as Brooke graduated from eighth-grade, headed for Bay Shore High School.

Thanks to Jack Baker for letting me know of the passing of three military veterans who were long-time residents of Kismet. Des McCarthy, a WWII veteran, spent 10 years in residence at “Ten Fathom Yacht Club” off Seabay Walk. Walter Ulma, also a veteran of WWII, owned the house known as “Basin Street” (now “La Famiglia”). He and his wife Peggy were regulars when the Stompers played the Inn. John Woods, a Korean War veteran, was a renter here for 50 years at “Camelot,” “Bulkhead” and with his friend Arrie Schiller.

Upcoming Events:
July 7: Sandcastle/Sand Sculpture Fun event. Start after 10:30 a.m., finish by 3 p.m.
July 21: Kismet Day!
SALTAIRE

SALTAIRE SUMMERY by Hugh O'Brien | saltaire@fireisland-news.com

I CAN’T BEAT MARIO’S heartfelt greeting in last weekend’s email from the Village, the one about those “hordes of people arriving on the shores of Saltaire driving us crazy…oh wait, that’s you guys…um I mean, we’re so happy you’re finally here to get the summer rolling,” so we’ll simply say, “Hmm,” and move on. Camp’s opened under the stellar auspices of our own Keith Miller, an experienced hand at such things. Keith, the office staff and Recreation Trustee Hillary Richard have been earning their pay preparing a varied and terrific program. (Well, all save the unpaid Trustee Richard, who in lieu of cash gets a blue ribbon as consolation since these days, by generational edict, everybody’s a winner!) There’s still time to enroll your children so they don’t miss out. Meantime those looking for s’more fun ventured up to Saturday night’s ocean bonfire, celebrating the forthcoming Fourth with, of course, s’mores, the selfsame foodstuff that kept the Continental Army from starvation at Valley Forge and won the Revolution. This party’s become a hallowed community tradition, like paying taxes, wherein you might just get a glimpse of our new pumper and our new ambulance, provided that one’s back from the shop. (To complete its outfitting – it hasn’t broken down. Yet.) Things step off smartly, or at any rate off, at noon precisely, and after winding its way through the formerly quiet streets of the village, the procession returns to home base, where hot dogs, cold drinks and warm music will prevail. Early this year, I know, but that’s the day the band could make it, and we’re slaves to their art. (Remember Art Gum and his Rubber Band?)

The SCA held its annual meeting on June 23, and received a number of worthwhile suggestions to take up and work on. The group’s next event is the House & Garden Tour, Saturday, July 21, starting at 10 a.m. Visit the association’s website for full details and ticket information; hopefully signs advertising this always-jam-packed shindig also will go up shortly around town. By the by, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the former SCAA’s founding; some sort of honorific seems in order, no? Maybe have August’s fireworks explode the sky-borne salutation, “Happy Half-Century, SCA!”

The Post Office opening on June 21 was accompanied by a literal avalanche of packages inundating the place. (And you ask why the Amazon boxes were smiling.) Postmistress Liv Hempel found herself so blockaded that there were momentary fears we’d have to thread a feeding tube through the mail slot, but thanks to some judicious muscle and back-breaking phone calls the office was eventually rendered accessible and the cartons began emptying out. Of course, there’s no way this system could possibly be improved, so welcome to the 21st-century version of going postal.

Meanwhile, to ignite the holiday spirit we kicked off with the organizational meeting of the Board of Trustees, an annual event that drew more than its usual share of enthusiasts. The big deal was the climactic vote on rebuilding Lighthouse Prom in wood or concrete, the former prevailing by a 3-2 vote. At least and at last the issue’s been put to bed, if not to sleep, and one suspects wood’s opponents and proponents will find it neither the Calvary feared by the first nor the Nirvana anticipated by the second.

1. The first of the Fourth gather for Saturday’s beach party. (Photo by Bob Rittenhouse.)
2. Three silhouettes in the shade observing the festival below. (Photo by Catherine O’Brien.)
3. James Veronese up close and personal with the bonfire. (Photo by Catherine O’Brien.)
Saltaire Board Meeting:
6/30/18 – Wood or Concrete/Concrete or Wood?

By Emma Boskovski

THE SALTAIRE MEETING began and seemed to never end with the first section of old business, Lighthouse Promenade Improvement.

After an hour and a half, there was still no decision made about picking a material for the walk of Lighthouse Promenade, but the community did reach a general consensus – wood is the safest material, aesthetically pleasing, and easiest to maintain.

Expressed by the board, the downside of wood is that once it starts to crack, water easily gets in and creates an unsafe situation for those who walk on it. The downside of concrete is there is no flexibility once the concrete begins to crack.

In the event that wood is chosen as the material of choice, an engineering design has been planned to assure load support.

While a design for concrete has not been created, it was discussed that it will have to include slabs on the sides to structurally prevent cracking. A concrete design will also enable trucks to drive faster, a major concern among community members that is fueling the push for wood. The board reassured the community that a concrete design would require accounting measures for safety, such as stop signs and speed bumps. These measures are estimated to cost an additional $60,000.

“I had an accident with my 10-year-old daughter on the concrete walks for two summers in a row,” said Trustee Hillary Richard. “The cracks in the concrete create an unsafe environment for everybody. We, as a community, have made no attempt to correct the issues that the concrete has created. I feel that the staff of Saltaire is better equipped to repair a wood walk.”

Major Zaccaro explained to the public that the bids for a contractor have come back with two bids for concrete at $3.5 million, and three for wood at $5.4 million.

“The last decision that we made as a board is that we would like to use wood,” said Zaccaro. “We have submitted it to FEMA, along with hard numbers for the project like they asked.”

After every concern about Lighthouse Promenade from the community was addressed by the board, the discussion ended in a 3-2 vote to commence the rebuilding process using wood. However, no bid has been accepted. They are pending final review and will be discussed at the next meeting scheduled for Aug. 5.

With a fraction of the crowd remaining once the discussion of Lighthouse Promenade finished, the next topic of old business began with Zaccaro reviewing the reconstruction status of Village Hall and 14 Bay Promenade, which currently houses the Public Safety Office and the village doctor. The village is still waiting for certain design proposals and other information that will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The village is also considering adopting a local law, boundary line changes. Currently, community members can go directly to Suffolk County with plans to reconfigure lot line boundaries between adjoining parcels without informing the village. This is a problem affecting many villages within the county.

With the adoption of this local law, community members would be required to seek village approval prior to submitting an application to Suffolk County. After questions and proposals to modify the language, the board voted to table discussion until the next meeting.

The first organizational meeting of the new board is normally held in late June or early July, following the elections of late May. Although the board members did not change, there were routine matters that needed to be voted on regarding operations for the following year. The board approved appointments to the open terms on the Village Board and commissions and resolutions outlining village operations.

In past years, the number of trustees required to call a special meeting of the board had been set at four – meaning all trustees. Trustee Hugh O’Brien proposed that this number be reduced to three. Joseph Prokop, village attorney, remarked that most villages require only three or even two trustees, so this portion of the resolution was tabled for a vote at the next meeting.

The final item on the schedule voted on by the board was to authorize payment of the final costs of the Fire Company ambulance, an anticipated expense to be paid out of existing funds previously dedicated to that purpose. The money comes from the village’s 2017 contract for ambulance services to Kismet, therefore no expense to Saltaire taxpayers.
NOTHING BETTER THAN WALKING DOWN the dock on a hot day to find an adorable group of children selling some cold lemonade. As you pull out a dollar and sip that delicious lemonade, you can’t help but appreciate the things that make Fire Island unique, and these children setting up shop on the side of the dock is one of them.

If you know Atlantique, you know what I’m talking about. If you grew up here, like I did, I am sure at one point you had a shop of your own. I myself kept a jewelry shop as a little girl that I would set up right near the public bathrooms. My sister and my two best friends would start planning way before summer. Throughout the winter, even on snow days, we would start making our jewelry. We sold bracelets, necklaces, anklets, sunglasses chains, and many unique beaded creations. We had a picnic basket for our supplies, and an anchor-shaped table where we would set up shop.

It was one of the first pop-up shops, long before the term was coined, because it would be set up wherever we went as we traveled on our two-week boat vacation. You could find our creations out in Montauk, Block Island and even Rhode Island. At the end of every season we would use the money we made on food. It was totally worth all the work to get some yummy ice cream, and even more rewarding because we made the money ourselves. This was the stuff that created many fond memories for me and my friends.

Now as an adult, I wanted to learn about someone else’s dock shop story. What are kids selling on the Atlantique docks today? I met Angelina, Ava, and Molly—the three adorable girls selling a variety of homemade products. These young entrepreneurs set up their business plan well before summer got started. They were Facetiming trying to come up with good products to sell that would catch the beach goer’s attention.

“At first we were going to sell lemonade, but after we discussed it and realized that we could be competing with the Shack’s business, we changed our plans,” said Ava.

After ruling out lemonade they went in a different direction. Molly came up with the idea to make homemade soups to sell. Never have I seen homemade soups being sold on the dock before. Not only was this an original idea but they really did smell awesome. After picking the product they named their business The Beach Bananas.

These girls did not stop at soup. In their stand I also found handcrafted bracelets, necklaces, and painted signs. Their talents went way beyond painted shells! Their products were appealing because you could tell they were made with care.

Beach Bananas is one of the many shops you will see set up on the docks this summer. The tradition of little kids trying to make ice cream money lives on.
Ocean Bay Park

by Barbara Gaby Placilla | oceanbaypark@fireisland-news.com

THERE IS ALWAYS one issue that I call my “potpourri” column because it’s basically a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Usually it occurs in mid-summer, during the dog days when I’ve run out of news or have just been too busy or lazy to hunt it down. You know the feeling; we’ve all been there! Maybe it’s because summer just couldn’t make up its mind as to exactly when it was going to arrive.

Then, after an unusually quiet and cool June, on the last weekend of the month, it was like summer on steroids. Just in time for Independence Day, suddenly we had no excuse NOT to be on the beach. It was hot and muggy and the old adage “be careful what you wish for” took on a whole new meaning as the temperature soared.

The start of summer 2018 brought the much anticipated and dreaded FIMI project to OBP. I think we all got so used to seeing the sad, unoccupied and boarded up houses that we convinced ourselves that this was the new normal and they really were not being taken down. For those who are not aware, Ocean Bay Park is the last phase of the beach replenishment project being undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That all changed on Wednesday, June 27, with the arrival of the two construction trailers that somehow made it down Champlain to where they are now parked on the dune side of Traffic and Ocean Bay Boulevard. The demolition of the houses will most likely commence after the July 4 holiday and with them will go so much history. It will change the look of Ocean Bay Park as the first line of houses north of Traffic Avenue will now be oceanfront. If those houses could talk, what would they say? It makes you stop and think, do you know the history of your house? Do you know who lived there before you? If you are a relative newcomer, ask a neighbor who has been here for a long time, there are still some of them around. My experience is that the old timers love to pass on OBP history and we all need to record it while we can. I still regret not sitting down with the late Bertha Lindsey to get an oral history of OBP when she was alive and I had the opportunity. So ask and you may be surprised at what you learn.

We have new neighbors on Ontario Street. Carol Donohue’s daughter and Tom Byrnes’ niece, Deirdre Yevoli and her husband, Rich, just bought 18 Ontario. People know this house as the one that Craig and Ann Johnson lived in. Craig inherited it from Harris, for whom he was a caregiver in his later years. I wonder if the Yevolis know that at one time their new house belonged to Harris Jackson and his partner Earl Murphy. Harris and Earl had two residences, one was the “summer house” at 14 Ontario, now owned by the Cataneses, and the other was the “winter house” at 18. Harris and Earl split the year between the two houses. This was almost 50 years ago when Ontario was nicknamed “La Di Da Lane” a reference to the significant number of gay couples who happily coexisted in OBP.

Fifty is a milestone number, especially when it comes to friendship. The other day I was on my bike riding east to join my husband for Happy Hour. While parking my bike, I saw a group of men of a certain age come through the marina gate. I struck up a conversation with one of them, Danny Costello, who told me that 10 of them have been getting together for a “boy’s weekend” on Fire Island for the past 20 years. They have been friends for more than 50 years, since some of them were 8 years old. They use the weekend getaway as a chance to relax, recharge and keep the friendship going. I dubbed them the “Golden Guys.”

If you saw two women painting over the telephone number at Neptune’s Nursery on the corner of Bayview and Ocean Bay Boulevard, they were not graffiti artists, rather they are Ocean Bay Park’s own “artists-in-residence,” Lisa Jaffe and Rachelle King, who were making changes to the telephone number for the nursery owner, Vinnie Fazio. By the time this goes to print, Rachelle will be on a Baltics cruise with her Dad to celebrate his birthday. Last I saw Lisa, she was paddleboarding in the ocean. I wonder if she was trying to catch that cruise ship!

Congratulations to Alicia and Justin “J Haus” on the birth of their son, Jude Dylan, who was born on Flag Day, June 14. With a name that combines both the Beatles and Bob Dylan, I bet he will be rocking that family music vibe along with his big sister, 2-year-old Violet, even before he can walk.

The swimming area at the bay beach has been roped off thanks to Lynn Van de Water and Tiger Barton. They took the time, on the hottest day thus far of the summer, to set up the floats. This is not as easy a task as you might think, so thank you both for making it safer for all those who bring their children (and dogs, too) to swim in the bay.

When you read this issue, we will have already celebrated 242 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed. I hope you all had a great holiday. Happy Birthday, America!

1. FIMI trailers on the beach.
What’s Old is New Again

EMBEDDED IN THE Lore of our village is a woman by the name of Margaretta Irwin, daughter of the founder of the Protestant church. Called Birdie by all who knew her, she committed herself wholeheartedly to the community, serving on the church board from the 1920s through the 1980s. She was known to greet visiting ministers on the dock each Sunday and escort them to the church.

“You must be the reverend,” she said one such morning as she approached an inconspicuously dressed gentleman on the dock.

“How did you know?” asked the surprised minister.

“You’re the only one wearing shoes,” replied Birdie with a smile.

Knowing this story told by Miss Irwin’s friend Ted Caccia, I felt some form as déjà vu as I met a visiting minister at the dock before church last Sunday, and was asked if I was the greeting party. He, too, was wearing shoes.

Patty and Chris Brahe, who are among the parents that make up the board of the Ocean Beach Youth Group (OBYG), also have observed continuity between the old and the new.

“It’s so typically Fire Island when one of my sons’ counselors is the child of one of my husband’s counselors,” said Patty. Chris was a camper in the OBYG as a child, while Patty spent her childhood summers on the beach in New Jersey.

“I really wish there had been an OBYG where my parents had a beach house,” added Patty. “I’m truly jealous of the lifelong friendships Chris has out here from camp.”

A ceremony was held by the Ocean Beach Community Fund (OBCF) on the morning of July 1, to mark the official return of the camp to its bayside home at Windswept. The OBCF was instrumental in raising funds to rehabilitate the structure after Hurricane Sandy.

“We are beyond excited to be back in Windswept,” said Patty. Magic classes were offered by magician and mentalist Mike Patrick at the OBYG for the first time this year, culminating in a show planned for this Friday, July 6. Camp counselors will be participating in the first-ever all-staff square dance at the Community House this season, and the tradition of playing sports against other towns is returning with competitions with Saltaire on July 9 and Aug. 9. Registration continues throughout the season at www.oceanbay.org.

The Ocean Beach Association (OBA) hosted its summer meeting in the Community House on Saturday, June 23. OBA members were given copies of this year’s directory, a new rules and regulations poster, and a refrigerator magnet, which will indicate their home address, provided by the fire department.

The meeting was attended by about 100 members and moderated by OBA President Maria Silsdorf. A moment of remembrance was held for longtime residents Jerry Heilweil and Mary Jane Lardner. Silsdorf welcomed new Village Trustee-Elect Dawn Hargraves, and thanked Tim Mooney and Luke Kaufman of Fire Island Ferries for answering residents’ questions.

Holly Etlin spoke on behalf of the Ocean Beach Community Fund and reviewed the organization’s calendar of events for the season, which is available in the village office. The Ocean Beach Quality of Life Committee was represented by Sally Shapiro, who noted that the Committee would be submitting a letter to the village requesting a smoking ban on village beaches.

David Lieber of the Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Commission announced two new members: Judy Steinman and Greg Pace. The Commission will be sponsoring two key initiatives this summer: International Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 9 and Environmental Awareness Day on Sept. 15. Patty Brahe spoke on behalf of the OBYG, and Village Trustees Chris Norris and Brian Power reviewed the objectives of the village’s new Downtown Revitalization Committee. Chiefs Nick Stertz of the Ocean Beach lifeguards, George Hesse of the police department, and Ian Levine of the fire department all spoke on the preparations of their departments for the season. Levine welcomed new members Max Sherman and Jimmy Sozameno to the firehouse, and Hesse discussed his department’s efforts to curb rental violations. Mayor James Mallott closed the meeting. Many thanks to Maria Silsdorf for her assistance in compiling this information.

As previously noted, the Ocean Beach Community Fund will be presenting the film “Chef” on the ball field this Friday, July 6, at 8:30 p.m. The photography work of Joel Silverberg, Jack Stertz, and Jo Ann Wanamaker will be featured. Also being held on July 14 is the Free Union Church’s annual book sale, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the corner of Ocean Breeze and Midway.

CORRECTION: I misspoke a few weeks ago about the newly revamped Big Al’s Sip ‘n Surf. Owner Jamie Ragusa tells us they certainly do still serve pizza! In the spot formerly operated as Michael’s Ristorante, Ragusa and partners J. J. Grossman and Jay Barje now offer patrons “something different, a cross-section of ethnic foods,” with pizza available to go. Ragusa and Barje previously bartended at the Island Mermaid for 27 and 14 years, respectively, with the restaurant (Big Al’s Sip ‘n Surf) renamed after Ragusa’s father.

I experienced déjà vu once again a couple of weeks ago when my ferry pulled away from the south side of the ferry basin and docked briefly at the new ferry terminal so staff could size up the new mooring location. A wayward traveler approached the captain with a ticket and asked if he could board. As per Tim Mooney, I witnessed the first paying customer to board through the new ferry terminal, which is on the site of the one we lost six years ago.

What’s old is new again — in a new kind of way.

1. The staff of the Landing pause on their front steps.
2. Fire Island News salesperson Beth Errico and new friend Crystal enjoying a beach day.
3. The sign is up at the police department.
Taking a Stand at the OBA
By Danielle Lipiec

ON THE CLOUDY MORNING OF SATURDAY, June 23, members of the Ocean Beach Association convened at Ocean Beach Community House for the association’s summer meeting. Led by Ocean Beach Association President Maria Silsdorf, a number of representatives and local officials from different organizations and causes around the Ocean Beach community spoke about what to expect this summer season.

Holly Etlin headlined the presenters in speaking on behalf of the Ocean Beach Community Fund (OBCF). As co-president of the organization, Etlin detailed the OBCF’s packed agenda for the summer, listing a number of events for Ocean Beach residents to attend and enjoy. She announced that the OBCF’s annual fundraiser, which takes place in the first week of August, would be held at the brand new Windswept building. She thanked members for their continued support and generous donations towards the restoration of Windswept, which allowed the Community Fund to make a $150,000 donation to the cause.

Following Etlin was Sally Shapiro, who spoke for the Ocean Beach Quality of Life Committee. Shapiro detailed the committee’s ongoing efforts to control matters like smoking regulations. After citizens expressed a substantial interest in the matter, the committee has begun putting forward a motion to ban smoking in the Ocean Beach children’s playground. She also touched on the committee’s continued efforts to regulate noise in the village.

David Lieber led the next presentation as he represented the Village of Ocean Beach Environmental Commission, which ensures protection and preservation of the natural aspect of the Ocean Beach community. Lieber began on a happy note, informing attendees that the village’s annual beach cleanup is set to take place on Sept. 15, and will be expanded to the surrounding communities of Robbins Rest, Corneille Estates, Seaview, Ocean Bay Park, and Point O’ Woods.

On a more somber note, Lieber made attendees aware of the Trump administration’s movement toward lifting the ban on offshore oil drilling, which he compared to “shooting dynamite into the seabed.” A newsletter will also be going out in response to this potential threat.

Patty Brahe of the Ocean Beach Youth Group stood at the podium briefly after Lieber to express her joy and excitement for the camp’s first year at Windswept. Brahe reminded attendees of the camp’s rolling admission, and urged parents to sign their kids up at their earliest convenience if they hadn’t already.

Trustees Chris Norris and Brian Powers of the Downtown Rehabilitation Committee spoke next. “This committee is here to voice your desires and wants. It is meant to be a conduit between all of you, who care so much about our community, and the board of trustees,” Norris said. “We’re very excited for the future of the Village of Ocean Beach. We have a great opportunity to provide to our grandchil-

Chief Lifeguard Nick Stertz took the stand next, and addressed Ocean Beach Association members with gratitude for their continued warmth and appreciation for the village’s lifeguards. Following with remarks on the noticeable size-up of the beach, Stertz emphasized why it is more important now than ever before to reduce littering. Stertz remarked that he noticed the absence of debris left on the beach.

Ocean Beach Fire Department’s Chief Ian Levine spoke to attendees acknowledging the 80th anniversary of OBFD. Levine listed upcoming events like the annual Labor Day pancake breakfast, Fourth of July Parade, and Fourth of July Picnic on the ball field. To close, Levine urged residents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors, and personally recommended replacing them if they had surpassed five years of age. “Even though the life expectancy is 10 years, the salt out here destroys them and we tend to see a lot of false alarms after five years.”

Ocean Beach Police Department Chief George Hesse followed Levine, and began his address in acknowledging the issue of illegal rentals. “When I do catch somebody, I review all of the applications that are handed in for that individual house, and then I send every permit the individual had for the house,” Hesse said. He credited the ease of regulating rentals to a new program OBPD has enlisted, stating, “We’re now able to, with our smart phones, actually look at the permit right on the spot, so that’s really been a great enforcement tool.”

The final scheduled speaker, Mayor James Mallott, took the podium. He proudly noted the progress being made on the Ocean Beach ferry terminal, and spoke on the urgency of putting a roof over the insulation currently covering the building. In closing, Mallott reminded the community of the start of a new board at the village’s next meeting, and the swearing in of new board of trustees members, to happen on July 4.

As the meeting drew to a close, an unexpected speaker approached the stand with a personal ambition for the Ocean Beach community. “I think there should be a preservation committee formed,” she said. “When I came back here in the spring, I could not believe what I saw. The whole uniqueness and charm of this place is being ruined.” Much of the crowd nodded in agreement with the words being shared as the resident continued. “Many people knock down houses; I’m not talking about houses that can’t be salvaged, I’m talking about houses that are perfectly good. They’re ruining the aspect of this place. I think the homeowners need to stop being passive, it has been going on for too long.” The statement was followed by strong applause, as many appeared to share the opinion with the woman who took the stand, to make a stand.
The Cherry Grove Fire Department had a major issue of Fire Island News.

The Arts Project is celebrating its 70th year. To open the theatrical season at the Community House, Thom Hansen directed “70 Girls, 70 Years.” This gives them the opportunity to watch the parade go by in leisure and comfort. Gay Nathan and Julie Paradise have organized a group of friends including Frank and Gary, their guests from Santa Fe; Mel and Don (returning to the Grove); Al Wolfe; and Ken Lewis to join them at a ringside table. Additional coverage of this event will be featured in the next issue of Fire Island News.

The Cherry Grove Fire Department had a major event, sponsored by the Concerned Women of the Grove, an organization that raises money for breast cancer, kicked-off July 18: the sixth annual Opera Discussion Group, hosted by Jim Crapotta, will be held at 8:30 p.m. Brian Taylor will accompany. See flyers around town. July 14: “La Vie en Rose” starring Rose Levine will be held at the Community House on Bastille Day, at 8:30 p.m. Brian Taylor will accompany. Stop by the Community House box office either Saturday or Sunday, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., or visit online at www.artsprojectcg.org.

Upcoming Events:

July 6-12: Daniel Nardicio and The Arts Project present “Club Cumming” a week-long festival of concerts, burlesque, parties, knitting, tea dance, show tunes and art classes. See flyers around town.

July 14: “La Vie en Rose” starring Rose Levine will be held at the Community House on Bastille Day, at 8:30 p.m. Brian Taylor will accompany. Stop by the Community House box office either Saturday or Sunday, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., or visit online at www.artsprojectcg.org.

July 18: The sixth annual Opera Discussion Group, hosted by Jim Crapotta, will be held from 11 a.m. to noon, beginning today and every Wednesday, at The Community House. All are welcome.

1. Boys of the CGFD.
2. Cast of “70 Girls, 70 Years.”
4. Tim Tareco and Family.
I'M SURE YOU AND your friends had a great time at the 43rd Annual Invasion on Fourth of July! Getting to see the hundreds of those glamazons arriving from Cherry Grove to invade the Pines in high drag is a sight like none other. They keep the tradition going strong. I had some official duties of my own to attend to for this important day, I ask you to patiently await the following issue for more detailed coverage of this event.

Many of our Pines regulars took the prior weekend off to attend Pride March in Manhattan, on June 23. It was important to have ourselves represented at this key march where it really all began. Loved the NYPD Pride truck!

Gil Neary and Scott Reidel are the royal party makers of the Pines. They recently hosted a VIP party for Bear Weekend, produced by Shane Tate. Dino and Richard of Bay Walk are constantly on the party circuit in the neighborhood; and thank you Randy Wilson, who is always here as well, organizing many charitable events. Recently Randy organized a tag sale that was very successful for the three religious organizations in the Pines/Grove area: Congregation B’Nai Olam, St. Ann’s Episcopal, and Roman Catholic Association of Fire Island. Peter Kiernan and Roy Vickery were the official cashiers, and all were very happy with the results. Peter and Roy just returned from a 10-day vacation in Paris and Antibes. Thanks to Mark Berman, president of Congregation B’Nai Olam, who rounded up all the volunteers.

Congratulations to Teresa and Chris Lovito who are celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary. They met at the U.S. Open in Queens. Chris worked in the Pines as a young man with John Whyte at the Blue Whale; he has been here for 40 years. He brought Teresa out here and she never left. They bought a house and have two lovely girls, Carley and Christie. Carley has appeared in many of the FIPAP shows in the Pines and will soon appear in “Mary Poppins” at the local Gateway Theatre, and hopefully will have a roll in “The Rocky Horror Show” in the Pines later this summer.

Jeffrey McLean who works at Whyte Hall for FIPPOA, has been chosen by United Way of Long Island to be their poster boy with his service dog Romeo. The ad runs periodically in Newsday.

Dominique Alfondre Palmer, daughter of the late Bob and Priscilla Alfondre (Priscilla passed away in January), and her husband Thomas arrived in the Pines with their daughter Rosamund from Newport, Rhode Island, to attend the wedding of second daughter Luned to Alan Smith. It was a small intimate family party. I have known the Alfondre’s since 1957, and have attended many wonderful happy occasions at their homes in Washington D.C., Key West, and the Pines.

FIPAP will present the annual Labor Day weekend show on Aug. 31, and Sept. 1 and 2, at Whyte Hall. Joe Barros will be the director. An open audition for singers will be held on July 17 at the Ripley-Greer Studios, 520 8th Ave., 16th Floor, New York City, on Tuesday, July 17, from 6-9 p.m. Singers are requested to sing their favorite rock song.

In Memoriam: Jack Lichtenstein recently died at the age of 95, and was a legend in the Pines. He arrived here in 1964, with his late wife Rita, and their two children. Soon after they opened the Pines Liquor Shop. Jack and Rita were a team who worked on all the organizations. They were board members of FIPPOA, FIPAP and The Pines Conservation Society. They both loved performing in shows. In 1981 they were cast in “Pines Needles” and they got the show biz bug, performing in every show in the Pines until 2016. Through the years we performed in many of the Grove the Pines shows together. Jack was instrumental in building relationships with LBGT organizations and the Pines. Lambda, SAGE, God’s Love We Deliver and Miracle House were just a few. In addition to his life in the Pines, he was a board member at the Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City, the building in which they lived, and also a few LBGT organizations in the city as well. He and Rita were friends and supporters of people in need of health care, housing, food, and clothing. They were generous contributors to many charitable organizations that helped people in need. Jack loved the Pines, and we loved him back.

FIRE ISLAND PINES
ROSE’S VIEW by Robert Levine

1. Peter Kiernan and Roy Vickery.
2. The Palmer Family.
3. A rare Byrd in the Pines – with OmOm!
4. Mark Berman.
CALENDAR >> by Lorna Luniewski

SATURDAY, JULY 7
300th Anniversary Celebration
The National Park Service will host a special celebration to honor the 300th anniversary of the purchase of the William Floyd Estate, Mastic Beach, with music, light refreshments and tours of the historic Old Mastic House. The celebration kicks off at 11 a.m. with the unveiling of a new historic marker procured by the Narrow Bay Historical Society. Music by Sampawans Creek and cake and refreshments on the front porch will follow at noon. For details, visit sagtikosmanor.org or call 631-854-0939.

MONDAY, JULY 9
Food, Film and Fun
Town of Islip hosts a night of food trucks, crafts, games, a film and family fun. Tonight, at 5 p.m., at Holbrook Country Club, view “Star Wars Empire Strikes Back,” with Jedi training games and crafts. On July 16, “Free Willy” is shown at Bay Shore Marina, with under the sea games and crafts. No food trucks tonight, concession stand only. Movies begin at dark. For details, call 631-224-5430.

TUESDAY, JULY 10
Summertime in the Park
This popular Brown Bag Lunchtime Concert Series kicks off at Dr. Kings Park Gazebo, Main Street, Bay Shore, at 12:30 p.m., presented by Islip Arts Council with support from Bay Shore Chamber of Commerce and BID. Today Jacks Waterfall performs; on July 17, Stephen Salerno takes the stage. For information, call 631-224-5420; or visit www.artsprojectcg.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 14
Jazz Piano Concert
Seaview Community Fund presents Bill Mays, at 8 p.m., at the home of Diane Charlap, 33 Homestead, Seaview. Seating is limited; no children under 12. Tickets: $35 (available weekend mornings in front of Seaview Market); $45 at the door.

FRIDAY, JULY 13
The Maggie Fischer Memorial Great South Bay Cross Bay Swim
Swimmers begin their journey off shore from Fire Island Lighthouse and travel over five miles across the Great South Bay, ending at Gilbert Park in Brightwaters, in memory of Maggie Fischer. Proceeds benefit Hospice Care Network Children’s and Family Bereavement Program and a scholarship at St. Anthony’s High School in Maggie’s name. Visit www.greatsouthbayswim.com to learn more.

SATURDAY, JULY 14
Film Festival
Cherry Grove Archives Collection presents 20 feature films and documentaries that celebrate LGBTQ families in Cherry Grove and around the world, with special guests Alan Cumming, Tom Bianchi, Brooke Guinan, Parker Sargent, Daniel Nardicio and others. For a complete list of films and ticket information, visit www.cgacff.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 8
Sagtikos Manor Events
Sagtikos Manor, Montauk Highway, Bay Shore, holds an Antiques and Classic Car Show, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. View over 100 cars and help vote for the People’s Choice Award. Entrance fee: $5. For car show participants registration fee is $10. For more information, call 631-957-1133, email sagtikoscarshow@gmail.com or visit sagtikosmanor.org. On July 15, from 1-3 p.m., decoy appraisals are offered. Appraisal fee: $10 for three decoys and $5 for each decoy. Meet at 1902 dining room front porch. For details, visit sagtikosmanor.org or call 631-854-0939.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11
Family Seaside Adventures
From 10 a.m. to noon, children ages 7-12 can meet at Fire Island Lighthouse for a family tower tour to explore the history of the lighthouse as they climb the 182 steps. Once on the top, step outside and experience the sights of Fire Island and the Atlantic Ocean 168 feet up. When they return to ground level, families will proceed to the Art Studio and creatively paint a wooden 3D sea creature. Cost: $5; children must be accompanied by an adult. To register, call 631-661-4876.

FRIDAY, JULY 13
The Maggie Fischer Memorial Great South Bay Cross Bay Swim
Swimmers begin their journey off shore from Fire Island Lighthouse and travel over five miles across the Great South Bay, ending at Gilbert Park in Brightwaters, in memory of Maggie Fischer. Proceeds benefit Hospice Care Network Children’s and Family Bereavement Program and a scholarship at St. Anthony’s High School in Maggie’s name. Visit www.greatsouthbayswim.com to learn more.

SATURDAY, JULY 21
Kismet Fire Department Auxiliary presents Kismet Community Day, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Kismet Marina, featuring games and prizes, raffles, vendors, dunk booth and food and drinks for purchase. Kids can learn to build their own light house and learn knot tying from the U.S. Coast Guard. Live music by the Dirty Vice Band. Proceeds go to the Kismet Fire Department for new safety equipment. Rain date July 22.

There is no fee to post your public event in the Fire Island News community calendar. Email us at info@fireisland-news.com with listing date, time, contact information and optional graphic for your Fire Island or South Shore event. Due to limited space, all event listings are subject to modification at the sole discretion of Fire Island News.
Marina Bar & Grill at the Blue Whale

HAVING DINNER AT the Marina Bar & Grill at the Blue Whale Restaurant in Fire Island Pines is a wonderful experience. The space has a comfortable, old-world vintage look, which has been updated this season with French café chairs, and elegant table settings of white tablecloths accessorized with black napkins. The soft lighting is perfect for an evening of dining at a local harbor side beach resort restaurant, with a view of the yachts.

The original tile floor, which was installed in the 1960s, remains intact, giving the space a special look that no other place on Fire Island has. This is the same room where the first historical Tea Dance began under the direction of John Whyte. This is also the same room where the first benefit for GMHC was held in 1986, and the first benefit for God’s Love We Deliver, held in 1987. This is the place where so many legendary events began.

Jay, our waiter, has been with the Blue Whale for the past three years and gave us his full attention throughout the evening. The entire wait staff is elegantly dressed, and they serve their guests with ease.

The menu is diverse. We began with seasonal oysters and crispy calamari with jalepeno remoulade sweet chili sauce. Then we enjoyed the Grilled Hanger Steak Bites with crispy Parmesan potatoes, and Crab & Shrimp Cakes with grilled corn and red pepper remoulade. Dessert was a delicious rich Chocolate Mousse.

Other items on the menu include Truffled Mac & Cheese, Tuna Tartare, Steak au poivre Sliders, Chicken Piccata, Southern Fried Chicken Sliders, Lobster Sliders, Shrimp Tostadas, Fish & Chips, Crispy Lobster Wontons, Pan Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Shrimp Cocktail, Truffle Fries, Steamed Mussels, Miso-Glazed Cod, Kale Salad and Caesar Salad. All the entrees listed on the menu could make a fine dinner, or nice snack after Tea Dance. The extensive wine list will complement your meal. The bar is strictly top shelf and its Pines visitors and residents alike love interacting with it.

If you are in the mood for pizza at any time of the day, Pines Pizza has a variety of pizza toppings to accommodate your taste buds. It has other easy take-outs as well, or you can have coffee and dessert while looking out and watching all the boys go by on Fire Island Boulevard.

In the same building upstairs is the Bistro, a fine dining experience with a menu to suit everyone’s taste, and a place to enjoy a quiet evening with a friend, partner or to have a special occasion dinner. On the same upper deck, the celebrated Sip-n-Twirl is open for drinks, dancing, and celebrating good times with friends. On Monday nights they offer Lip Sync for a Drink, followed by a movie. (Movie titles each week are on to be announced terms.)

Then there is the Aqua Pool Series on weekends, from noon to 5 p.m., with a DJ and dancing around the pool. Fun Tea around the pool is another happy event on Friday and Saturday, from 7-10 p.m. Stay fit at the gym with seasonal membership, day passes or a 20-ticket entry pack.

In Fire Island Pines there is something for everyone – 24 hours a day. For more information, visit pinesfi.com or call 631-597-6500.
ON SUNDAY, JULY 1, a documentary entitled “Cat Man of Ocean Beach” debuted at the Free Union Church in Ocean Beach. The film chronicles the experiences and work done by the Fire Island Animal Welfare Society, following the organization’s Founder and President John McCollum. Created by recent University of Tampa graduate Evan Lauri and Pam Valdez, and directed by Lauri, the film follows McCollum on his daily journeys to feed, neuter and spay, and care for the wildlife of Ocean Beach.

The idea for the film came from Valdez, as she had noticed McCollum riding his bike up and down the block and had often wondered what he was doing. She encouraged her nephew Lauri to talk to McCollum and see “if maybe there’s a story there,” thinking it might be good inspiration for the young filmmaker.

McCollum came to Fire Island in 1975, when there were only a few cats running around Ocean Beach. Later, he founded Fire Island Animal Welfare Society, an organization that cares for all free-roaming wildlife in the larger Ocean Beach area. Over the course of his work on Fire Island, the Animal Welfare Society has spayed and neutered around 400 cats. McCollum’s wife, Shoshanna, spoke in the documentary about the tough decisions they make in terms of the finances of the organization, acknowledging how hard they work to ensure that the Animal Welfare Society is able to keep serving the wildlife of the island.

The film opens with an explanation of where Fire Island is and what sorts of communities the island is home to. The film then cuts to a shot of McCollum riding his bike towards the camera as the cats of Ocean Beach emerge from the greenery on either side of the path to greet him. Other times, the viewer watches as McCollum ducks his head into bushes, dives under porches, and breezes past no trespassing signs, with the permission of the owners of course, to refill the cat food at his feeding stations around the Village. The film is full of shots like these. They are heartwarming to watch as McCollum interacts with a number of cats, explaining their personalities and calling them by their names.

However these moments serve a larger purpose in the film’s arc as the viewer begins to understand the breadth of the work McCollum has done across Fire Island to care for not just the wild cats, but the wildlife of Fire Island in general. McCollum speaks passionately about protecting Fire Island’s ecological future and limiting the environmental destruction caused by human influences.

The film makes clear that McCollum’s 42 years on Fire Island and passion for the environment and animals have given him a unique and close-up perspective on the ways of the island’s wildlife. In the film McCollum talks about watching generations of cats go by. “I’ve been doing this for 30 years and there are no 30-year-old cats so there’s obviously turnover,” he remarked. Not only is McCollum caring for the island’s wildlife, he is attuned to the ecological shifts of the island and the changes in the ways that animals are existing in Fire Island’s particular environment. His work goes beyond simply feeding the cats, it extends into a sort of biological observation that allows him and the Fire Island Animal Welfare Society to better protect the island’s wildlife.

The respect filmmakers Lauri and Valdez have for McCollum came across not only over the course of the documentary, but also in their moving remarks at the film’s conclusion. Lauri thanked McCollum for his willingness to share his story and spoke about the friendship that blossomed between the two over the course of creating the documentary. At the screening’s end McCollum gave a brief address to the crowd about the importance of living with the wildlife of the island. He concluded, “Respect our Fire Island and if you don’t want deer in your yard, move to Brooklyn.”

John McCollum is the husband of Shoshanna McCollum, the editor of this publication. To learn more about Fire Island Animal Welfare Society, visit www.fireislandanimalwelfaresociety.org.
The Perfection of Phragmites

By R.W. Fischer

ANDREW HOFFMAN WAS running his hands through a stand of phragmites growing in the soft mud by the side of a Saltaire walk several years ago. He grasped one stalk in the palm of his hand to break it off, which it did, but not before slicing a clean, painless and very deep incision across his hand, unleashing a gusher of blood. How such a simple plant could do this is a hidden inside a deceptively simple design.

Phragmites is the ubiquitous marsh reed of Fire Island and beyond. It grows in marshy puddles of the Adirondacks as easily as it grows along the Nile River. It explodes from the ground in the springtime, growing well over 10 feet tall in a matter of weeks, untouched by the deer who find it a source of privacy in its thick stands. In August, it forms seed plumes, then dies back to a woody stalk that stands for years to come. The sound of wind blowing through phragmites is that of white noise, masking other sounds and lulling us to sleep. Howling gales are no match for these benign plants that bend and twist but cannot be overcome.

The plant has been around forever. Ancient Egyptians used phragmites in reed instruments and as a source of paper. The Greeks use it for fencing. The soft inner portions can be made into a flour for bread. On Fire Island it is a source of privacy. A few feet of phragmites is enough to hide a deer or a person or a house. Phragmites is not a native plant. Fifty years ago is was not very widespread: but once established it expanded quickly into our marshy, brackish meadows. At one time the DEC actually encouraged its growth, praising the web-like network of roots for their ability to stabilize the soil and control erosion. When mosquito control canals fell out of favor, the flow of salt water diminished in our wetlands fueling the phragmites free-for-all. And coincidentally, mosquitoes.

Phragmites is not universally desired. Connecticut recently launched several phragmites eradication programs, with the goal to reintroduce native species. It is a slow process. Phragmites grows from a root system built like a thick jute rug lying one or two feet below ground, tightly interconnected. A fragment of that root can regenerate a new colony. The roots are thick and durable, funneling huge amounts of nutrients from where they are abundant (like cesspools) to where it is needed (like a sandy area). Connecticut’s eradication method involves cutting the plants to the ground in the winter and applying light amounts of herbicide at critical times to weaken the plants. These programs have been running for several years with limited success.

The structure of phragmites is a marvel of design: light, flexible, and very strong. Pull the top stem on a growing phragmites: it comes up cleanly and easily, a foot or two of soft green growth. Astonishingly, the bottom will be so flat you will think it was cut with a knife. Leaves grow from the sides of the stalk, each connected to a thin outer growth ring. Unfurl the outer ring to reveal the secret to the flexibility of this plant: a series of overlapping rings of soft growth. Each layer wraps the center. Each lap alternates between clockwise and counterclockwise. If the top layer wraps the plant in a clockwise direction, the layer underneath will wrap the plant in the opposite direction. Try as I might to find the engine behind this symmetry, I found nothing. Many layers wrap a central core.

At the core of the section there is a thin, flexible straw: the fluid engine for this growing machine. Sap flows up this straw, pushing the innermost part upwards, forcing the layers to unwrap as they thicken and mature. When done, there is a hollow tube of extraordinary suppleness and strength. Fixed in the walls of this tube are the capillaries, the straws, the fluid supply chain for what lies above, running vertically along the stem the way high quality packing tape contains string to reinforce its strength.

Each joint in the bamboo-like inner portion is covered by an outer layer. Since each layer alternates its direction of growth, there is no weakness when the plant rotates in the wind. Forces are distributed evenly throughout the plant. Try to cut the lower sections with a knife and it will resist, just like cutting across reinforced shipping tape. This plant needs no reinforcement, it could be the model by which these things were designed.

When Andrew grasped that stalk he stressed every inch of the structure almost equally, forcing it to break at a bend in a hollow section, its only weakness. The core split before breaking, stressing the straw capillaries and forcing them to separate into thin sections of relatively dry material, each section strong along its long axis. How strong? Stronger than he anticipated. Strong enough to reveal a remarkably well designed plant. Strong enough to be a model of how strength can be deceptively hidden behind a flexible facade. Strong enough to be a life lesson to us all.
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REAL ESTATE & HOME
Avoid the Summer Burn
By Victoria Sharon, MD

NOW THAT SUMMER is in full effect, it’s tempting to soak in the sun. Whether lounging on your deck or staking a spot at the beach, the search for the perfect tan can easily lead to the dreaded summer sunburn.

It’s a fine line between brown and burn. Sunburns are common but avoidable, and the long-term consequences of skin cancer and skin aging can be extreme. In the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), skin cancers (melanoma in particular) are rated as the sixth most common form of cancers. You can avoid a diagnosis from your doctor by taking into account sun exposure while you’re planning your summer outdoor activities.

To protect your skin, apply sunscreen early and often.

Any time spent in the sun should begin with a strong defense. That means sunscreen and sun protective clothing. You should apply sunscreen to the areas of your body exposed to the sun every day. Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30, when applied appropriately, is the minimum recommended level, according to the American Academy of Dermatology. Apply sunscreen at least 15 minutes prior to going outside. As sunscreen wears off about every two hours, don’t forget to bring some with you to reapply at regular intervals. If you are going into the pool or the ocean, be sure to reapply once you finish your swim.

Sunscreen is not the only answer to protecting your body from the sun. Wearing ultraviolet ray protective clothing is a great way to protect your skin. Make sure to wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect the scalp, face, neck, eyes, and ears as well as clothes over a swimsuit or as a swimsuit. Another good way to protect your eyes from the sun is to wear UV-blocking sunglasses with UVA and UVB protection. Sun damage to the eyes occurs more often than you may think.

Many people fool themselves into thinking if it’s cloudy or cool outside, they can’t be burned. However, ultraviolet light penetrates the atmosphere even in the absence of sun. A simple solution to avoid a burn on a cloudy or cool day is to purchase an everyday moisturizer that has an SPF of at least 30 in it. While you are moisturizing your skin, you are protecting it from the sun as well.

It’s natural to enjoy the sun. Just keep in mind that one bad burn can have lasting effects. Be safe and protect your skin from the sun so you can enjoy your summer to the fullest extent.

Dr. Victoria Sharon is a dermatologist at Northwell Health.
Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell: Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben and the American Revolution

By Lorna Luniewski

THIS IS A NAME THAT many may not be familiar with, myself included, but Baron von Steuben is credited with being one of the fathers of the Continental Army, teaching military drills, tactics and disciplines. He is still considered one of the most important German Americans, as his training of the young American troops helped the United States gain independence from Britain during the American Revolution. He was rumored to be homosexual, although records of his relationships are only referenced in correspondences since homosexuality was illegal at the time.

Von Steuben (1730-1794), was born in Magdeburg, Germany. At the age of 17, he joined the Prussian Army and served as a second lieutenant during the Seven Years’ War in 1756, was wounded in 1757, was promoted to first lieutenant in 1759, and was taken prisoner by the Russians in 1961. His rise in the military continued and he achieved the rank of captain and served as aide-de-camp to Frederick the Great. At the end of the war in 1763, he, like many officers, found himself unemployed.

Steuben was formally introduced to the future French Minister of War, Claude Louis, Comte de Saint-Germain, in Hamburg, in 1763. They met again in Paris in 1777, and the count, knowing the potential of an officer with Prussian general staff training, introduced him to Benjamin Franklin. It turned out Franklin could not offer Steuben a rank or pay in the American army however. The Continental Congress was weary of foreign mercenaries coming to America and demanding a high rank and promotion of these men over qualified American officers caused dissension. Steuben would have to go to America strictly as a volunteer, and present himself to Congress.

He left these first meetings disheartened and went back to Prussia. When he returned home, Steuben faced allegations that he engaged in homosexual relationships with young men while in the service of Prince Josef Friedrich Wilhelm of Hohenzollern-Hechingen. Although never proven, Steuben knew the allegations would thwart his chances at an officer’s position in Europe, and with prosecution for his alleged homosexuality a possibility, Steuben returned to Paris. With the count’s recommendation, Steuben was introduced to George Washington by means of a letter from Franklin as a Lieutenant General in the King of Prussia’s service, an exaggeration of his actual credentials, which may have been mistranslated from his service pay, and promotion of these men over qualified American officers caused dissension. Steuben would have to go to America strictly as a volunteer, and present himself to Congress.

He left these first meetings disheartened and went back to Prussia.

Continued on page 48
Lighthouse Art Show Opens with Verve
By Laura Schmidt

THE OPENING RECEPTION for the 17th Annual Benefit Art Show at the Fire Island Lighthouse amazed visitors with nautical-inspired artwork from watercolors and oil paintings to photography.

The Keepers Quarters welcomed guests of all ages to view and purchase two floors’ worth of artwork. Hosted by the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society, the exhibit is open and free to the public until July 16, and a portion of the proceeds will go toward revitalizing the lighthouse.

Wine and other drinks were served by First Glass Wine Cellars, and a live band comprising a bass, piano and drums played smooth jazz and classical music on the first floor for guests to enjoy.

Artist, author and retired English and creative writing teacher Joseph Scalia has two watercolor paintings displayed on the first floor, “Open Boat” and “Dry Dock.” He is a self-taught artist who first tried his hand at watercolors about 20 years ago when he was playing around with his young children.

Scalia has experimented with painting many different subjects from strangers in a park to winter scenes to portraits of people and animals, which he said can be quite difficult. While he changes his subjects rapidly, Scalia likes to stick with watercolor because of the unique flow and layering it allows artists to play around with.

“I always told my students that a writer writes because she or he has to,” Scalia said. “It’s what makes them who they are. The same is true of painters and any other artists.”

Along with a large collection of watercolors, Scalia has published several books including “FREAKs” and his most recent “UFSD 71,” which are both set in Long Island high schools. All of Scalia’s work can be viewed on his website josephescalia.com.

“Doing a book signing or hanging my watercolors for others to see is fun,” he said. “But I like talking to people. And I like it when someone is excited about writing or art and we share stories about our experiences.”

The art show has something for all ages to enjoy from abstract oil paintings of shells and crustaceans to fine photography of elephants and familiar lighthouses.

Patchogue resident Stacy Linden was most intrigued by paintings of unique Fire Island sunsets consisting of breathtaking strokes of orange, pink, red and sometimes purple.

“I just love coming here because I get to look at all this beautiful art I would have to pay some fee to see somewhere else,” Linden said. “And it’s so nice to see paintings and pictures of places I actually recognize and can say, ‘Oh, I’ve been there before!’”

Many paintings had a similar focus of life on Fire Island after Hurricane Sandy. Artists seem to be inspired by the speed at which the community worked together to recover.

Visitors can either enjoy walking the wooden path to the lighthouse or take a convenient shuttle from Field 5. Take the opportunity this month to check out, and maybe even purchase, stunning pieces of art from artists local and abroad.

“Of course it’s great when someone buys my books or paintings, but that’s not why I do what I do,” Scalia said. “I write and paint because it makes me happy.”

www.fireisland-news.com
Greetings From Fire Island  By Lauren Stevens
THE LONG-AWAITED INSPECTION of the wreckage of a World War II tanker off the coast of Long Island has been set to take place in upcoming weeks this summer. Although inspection of the “Coimbra SS” was originally anticipated to occur between June 19 and 27, the U.S. Coast Guard announced it would be pushed back to mid-July. Still, fishermen, environmentalists, and Long Island residents alike remain eager to learn more of the vessel’s environmental impact since its sinking in January of 1942.

A frigid early-morning voyage in the “Coimbra” from New Jersey to Nova Scotia would end abruptly with fatalities and substantial wreckage for Captain J.P. Bernard and his crew. After being torpedoed twice by German WWII submarine U-123, the British tanker burst into flames, splitting into three at the points of impact. The flames of the sinking vessel were visible across Long Island, as far as 27 miles from the site southeast of Shinnecock Bay. Of the 46 occupants of the tanker, 34 perished.

The “Coimbra” carried not only crew members, but also about 2.7 million gallons of lubricating oil. Now lying under approximately 180 feet of water and still in three pieces, many have concerns pertaining to the vessel’s heavy oil supply and the impact of its 75 years under water.

At both torpedo impact points, it has been assessed that oil tanks are open and empty. The vessel has been identified by the thin stream of oil continuously trickling from its wreckage site. With a minuscule amount of investigation done on the “Coimbra” since its sinking, little is known of how much oil it still holds, or how long the craft itself will withstand the conditions of the ocean.

Aside from what can be seen with the naked eye, there is an apparent lack of clarity pertaining to the tanker’s current state. The Resolve Marine company, which specializes in the removal of sunken tankers, has been hired to assist in the detailed evaluation of the “Coimbra.” The Florida-based company does its work in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and other organizations similarly specializing in the matter of sunken vessels.

The 2013 study deduced that there were multiple directions the environmental effects of the wreckage could go. Conclusions can only be made, however, based off of data to be collected by the U.S. Coast Guard in its July investigation.

NOAA was able to approximate much through their experimentation and research, including the potential for the tanker’s spillage to affect shorelines “from as far north as Cape Cod, to as far south as Cape Lookout, North Carolina.” In addition, NOAA touched on the ecological risks of the “Coimbra’s” oil release. Threatened parties include “numerous guilds of birds, particularly those sensitive to surface oiling while rafting or plunge diving, and are present in nearshore and offshore waters.” The study did emphasize that without data collection, potential outcomes could only be guessed.

Precise dates for the investigation of the “Coimbra” are pending the finalization of contracts. In the event that lubricating oil is found around the site by Resolve Marine and its partners, the U.S. Coast Guard will begin evaluating whether or not a safe removal of the vessel is possible.

However, citizens are left to consider what damage may have already been done in the 75 years the sunken vessel has been ignored, and if the time, effort and money involved in extracting it will be worthwhile.
Ready for the Future: Woodhull Graduation 2018

By Anika Lanser

The Woodhull School Graduation on June 20 began with a concert featuring the students performing in a number of configurations including the concert band, ukulele ensemble and choir. The concert began with a few moving words from music teacher Philip Tamberino, who congratulated his students on their musical and academic achievements. Through a giant grin Tamberino said, “I’m so proud of everybody. The students have done so much this year and in music as well.”

Accompanied and conducted by Tamberino, students performed several pieces with some stand-out soloists. Among them ukulele soloists Kingston Johnson and Jaxson Adams, who both improvised their solo pieces; a duet performed by Kingston Johnson and Ariel Vizcarrondo; a duet by Giovanni Giua on trumpet and Patryk Warzecha on alto saxophone; and Ariel Vizcarrondo performing on the piano. Tamberino, bursting with pride as Vizcarrondo left the stage, reminded the audience she only had so much this year and in music as well.

Superintendent Loretta Ferraro opened the graduation and vocals, and the Pre-K to second-grade choir.

The award went to Joshua Perez in fourth-grade, Lucas Bejarano, Edoardo Giua, Giovanni Giua, and Daniel Vega. The sixth-grade graduates, Lucas Bejarano, Edoardo Giua, Giovanni Giua, and Patryk Warzecha, crossed the stage next to receive their diplomas.

Ferraro then congratulated high school seniors Liam Bainbridge and Tyler Crawson on their accomplishments. Bainbridge heads next to Suffolk County Community College while Crawson will attend SUNY Maritime College.

Following the diplomas was the announcement of award-winners, which began with the Conrad & Muriel Wirostek Memorial Award. The award recognizes students who demonstrate a strong work ethic and above average effort in all parts of education. The award went to Joshua Perez in fourth-grade, Jerzi Swason in fifth-grade, Giovanni Giua in sixth-grade, and Tyler Crawson in 12th-grade.

The Barbara DeWolf Achievement Award was given to Lucas Bejarano. The Woodhull Scholarship, an award of $1,000, is named in honor of late principal Richard Woodhull and his mother Mina Woodhull who founded the school district. This year the award was given to Tyler Crawson.

The Fire Island Association Tuition Scholarship is awarded in recognition of community service and achievements throughout the year. All of the graduating sixth-graders were recognized for this accomplishment and all received Kenny Goodman necklaces. (Kenny Goodman necklaces that is!)

The Fire Island Association Tuition Scholarship is a full-tuition scholarship for non-residents. With this year being the scholarship’s first, after being created in the middle of the school year, two scholarships were awarded instead of one to compensate. These scholarships went to Catherine Philippe and Anna Zuleta.

Lastly there was special recognition of Debbie Gerken for her work on the Student Elder Project and the Centennial Exhibit, on display throughout the year.

The evening concluded with a farewell speech given by the sixth-grade class and a slideshow of the graduating students. The young men looked back on all that Woodhull School has given them and thanked the teachers who helped them along the way. “We are ready for middle school and excited for our future,” they remarked.
Dear Camirose,

I work at one of the shops on Fire Island during the summer and have been for the past several years. One of the other workers is really nice but when she starts talking I actually want to run and hide. The problem is that she is a real low talker. She speaks so low I can never even hear what she is saying, and on top of that she never stops talking! It is so awkward to be around her. I find myself continually making gestures as though I know what she’s saying but really I am clueless. If she giggles, I smile. If she looks angry, I get nervous because I don’t know how to respond. I am at the point where I try to keep my back to her as much as possible and pretend I am busy so that she doesn’t speak to me. I don’t think I have a hearing problem and pretend I am busy so that she doesn’t speak to me.

I don’t think I have a hearing problem because the only person this happens with is her. It just seems she is constantly mumbling. Maybe she’s talking to herself. I don’t know.

The worst of it is her sour breath. She drinks coffee all day: hot coffee, iced coffee, cappuccino, espresso—it’s gross! She’s a young person and is always talking about meeting someone. But all of her dates never seem to go past the first date. Could her mumbling and coffee breath have something to do with this? Should I try to keep my back to her as much as possible? Do you have any advice for me about this?

— Speechless

Dear Camirose,

My home has been designed to serve as a high-end rental for corporate and/or wealthy individuals who want to spend time on Fire Island in luxury. The home has been professionally renovated and decorated and is in pristine condition. I spared no expense. I have a custom designed hot tub, a glass wall looking out towards the ocean and high end finishes in every room. I take great pride in all of this.

On one of the weekends I wasn’t renting it out, I invited my very close friend to my home for the weekend. She brought the man she has been dating for the past 15 years. He is a lovely man who is a bit hard of hearing and very absentminded. When he used the bathroom on the second level, he left the bathroom sink running causing it to flood, damaging the ceiling and walls in the room below. Clearly, I was not happy. The cost for repairs to my standard far exceeds his ability to reimburse. We are in different financial situations but as a beach rental that may have been a bit much. If you start eliminating everyone that causes problems in your house, you may run out of friends to invite over.

Names and locations have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals. Questions for Camirose? Write to her at advice@firesiland-news.com.

— Camirose

What really irks me is that I don’t even think he is aware or concerned about the disruption this has caused. In fact I have heard that he accidentally did the same thing while visiting someone else. It seems to be a reflection of his age and level of his awareness rather than being inconsiderate. He should still realize the chaos he caused and try to be more aware of his actions.

— Flooded

Dear Flooded,

I can see why you are upset. I understand it cost you a lot of money. You have every right to invite only the people you choose. But you say you are very close to this friend and it seems you really like the boyfriend also. I’m surprised that she is comfortable with your decision. Maybe she is saying he understands because she is embarrassed for what he caused as well as the fact that they are unable to fully compensate you for the repairs. Fact is beach homes often take a lot of wear and tear. People are vacationing. They are back and forth to the beach traipsing sand and water inside. They spill food on furniture and don’t worry about electric bills, etc.

Yet you built a high-end expensive home that you rent out. I’m surprised it hasn’t been trashed before. Just because people have money doesn’t mean they are any more careful than those with less. In fact, sometimes people with more worry less about things. It’s nice to have a beautiful home but as a beach rental that may have been a bit much. If you start eliminating everyone that causes problems in your house, you may run out of friends to invite over.

— Camirose

Names and locations have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals. Questions for Camirose? Write to her at advice@firesiland-news.com.
BOOK REVIEW >> by Rita Plush

“Chance” by Thomas McGann
Adult Fiction
Agapi tis Glossas Publishers $19.95

HE CRANKS THE throttle. His bike jumps “with the slight chirp of rubber,” and off goes Chance Raddock, tall, handsome, Moto-cross Hall of Famer, poster boy for motorcycling— he models for riding duds and bike accessories on the side. From the San Berdoo Raceway in Southern California to an Indian sweat lodge in Wyoming, back around to a courtroom in Rancho Mirage, California, author Thomas McGann takes us on a gritty ride, showing us biker gang life with Chance as the good guy, a loner who wants the “freedom to ride when, where, and how [he likes] without being hassled.”

A columnist with this publication, McGann’s first book, “Riddle of Riddles,” a young adult fantasy novel (reviewed in this column in 2015) also involves a journey, but we know we’re in adult-only country when a few pages in, a buxom blond in cutoffs and black leather bikini top asks Chance for his autograph, offering “her ample breasts barely containing her cleavage” as the site of his endorsement.

Aycling up the action, two people are killed early on in the book, and when Chance disses the 13th Legion motorcycle gang by riding past them on the highway, McGann sets up a deadly feud that starts on the road and ends with Chance grappling with his values and conscience in a surprising courtroom scene.

A gruesome piece of work is Biggie, the sadistic Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legionnaires. “Pockmarked above his splotchy rubber banded beard,” he faces down Chance in a local eatery. When Chance disguards him in front of his men, Biggie becomes big trouble, later on doing terrible harm to Chance’s waitress friend, Victoria, and Demetri, the eatery’s owner. But Biggie gets his in a showdown with Chance, the details of which leave nothing to the imagination and everything to this reviewer’s wish that McGann had used a little restraint describing Chance’s splintered finger bone gauging out Biggie’s eye, “driving deeper and deeper…probing for entry into the brain.” But hey! That’s me, and this is a book on biker gangs.

A drinking man who enjoys “two quick beers after his morning coffee” and likes to wind down with “some fresh Nepalese black hash,” Chance has a romantic side and falls for Katherine, English teacher/summer waitress. When they meet again after having been apart for months, the reader gets to know how Katherine feels about Chance: “You haunt me, haunt me like a face in the mirror peering out of the steam, a face trying to find me through that fog.”

The dialogue between the gang members and among the pole dancers and bar girls is believable, raunchy and obscene. Since this is a family newspaper, no quotes will be offered.

A motorcycle hobbyist, McGann knows his way around a sissy bar [a passenger backrest] and will tell you how to load a motorcycle onto a van and “ratchet it in place with tie downs.” He does a fine job when talking bike talk: “I had her up to one forty and change and she still had lungs left,” or describing the open road: “…the telephone poles flashing by like mute sentinels bored with his passing.” When it comes to building a handgun with a CAD program and a 3-D printer that could pass through a metal detector—he had me convinced—his descriptions are taut and to the point. In other instances, a bit of judicious editing could pare down some chapters to a few paragraphs without the reader wanting more.

The same thoughtful pruning could be used to good effect on Victoria’s impassioned forgiveness speech in the closing chapter’s courtroom scene. To say who she forgives and why would be giving away too much, but she takes too long to say it, and the wordiness of it dilutes its power and the emotional impact her feelings deserve.

That said, there’s plenty to keep your adrenalin pumping in this book, and if you ever wondered what it might be like to hit the open road and have a run-in with a biker gang, bug the gang’s compound with a wad of Black Jack chewing gum and frame a lowlife, belly up to the bar my free-spirited friends, order a “Red Bull and vodka…” and crack open the biker-black cover of “Chance.”
Sybil’s Hysterical Histories!
Fair Harbor – 1910

BACK IN THE SUMMER of 1910, something very strange happened on Fire Island. Whether it was the reappearance of Halley’s Comet on its 75th return, or some strange magnetic disturbance in the Earth’s core, beachgoers at Fair Harbor noticed that they were somehow “squishing” as their frantic calls into police stations and doctors’ offices reported. Folks of all ages and walks of life stated that their clothes were growing tighter by the day, that it was harder to walk in and out of the waves on the seashore, that their very footprints in the sand seemed deeper and more pronounced. Children found that they were out of breath just throwing beach balls to each other or playing fetch with their dogs, which were thickening and slowing down as well. Physicists, geologists, oceanologists, magneto-filiacs, and astronomers were called in from around the world to study and somehow make sense of the phenomenon, and themselves began within a week or so to suffer the same symptoms. A sort of gravitational “crushing” with a parallel lethargy, a need for naps, and an unshakable desire to lie down on the sand even in fine dinner clothes consumed everyone. It was only because of the glorious summer weather that July, and the tremendous expense of summer homes either rented or purchased that kept throngs of people from fleeing in abject terror from the area, even as newspapers reported increasing signs and cases.

It was a Mrs. Sandra-Anne Crumly of 1213 Gawking Booby Walk in Fair Harbor who ventured a theory that stunned and infuriated everyone… at first! She had opened her Crumly’s Crumbly Cakes & Cookies Confection-Perfection Café in February in time for the Valentine’s Day crush of sweet-heart gift-giving. Even in the winter, it had been a great success and a great comfort to the newly widowed Sandra-Anne whose husband Abner had died that December in a bizarre Christmas tree accident involving tinsel and a frayed electrical cord… in the bathtub. Mrs. Crumly’s treats were so enticing that nobody could resist them. Many of the most junkies today, they were in thrall to their “deal-er.” General obesity in this region of the country sky-rocketed and is traced by nutritionists and food anthropologists back to Mrs. Crumly and her unregulated spread of sugar-based concoctions…literally a “dessert disaster” of the worst kind.

The Ronkonkoma Republican Ladies Luncheon Club.

The Gravitational Crushing Incident of 1910.
FIRE ISLAND HAS LONG been a paradise south of Long Island and thanks to the Fire Island National Seashore it will remain that way, paradise preserved. But on the mainland of Long Island, an intense push led by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and development interests is underway for new massive development.

Just across Great South Bay from Fire Island in the community of Sayville there is a plan to convert Island Hills Golf Club into a 1,365-unit apartment complex that’s been given the name Greybarn Sayville. It is meeting strong citizen resistance.

For a decade my family lived in Sayville adjacent to the Island Hills Golf Club. In the winter we kept our boat in our backyard, ready to be moved to a slip on the bay for the other two-thirds of the year, to enjoy the bay and Fire Island. It’s a pretty community now facing transformation into high-density development.

An even a bigger development project is slated for just north of Sayville in Ronkonkoma. Here Bellone is promoting what, in a recent essay, he spoke of as “the $650 million Ronkonkoma Hub mixed-use project.” In his essay, published in Long Island Business News and entitled “A New Suburbia is Coming to Long Island,” Bellone wrote: “Long Island is in the midst of historic change. Today, a new suburbia is on the horizon, and Suffolk County is leading the way.”

He advanced a vision for Suffolk that is not welcomed by one planning expert, and met with outrage by a good number of readers in the article’s online comments.

Newsday described a presentation to the Long Island Regional Planning Council in November, in which Robert Lozcalzo, CEO of Tritec, an East Setauket real estate firm developing the Ronkonkoma Hub project for Suffolk County, was quoted as stating, “When completed, the hub is expected to encompass about 50 acres, with 1,450 apartments and 545,000 square feet of retail and office space.”

There’s no question that Ronkonkoma, north of Long Island MacArthur Airport and where the terminus of the electrified central branch of the Long Island Rail Road is located, is appropriate as a commuter hub. But to create a new small city on top of that is something else.

Subsequently, the county executive’s office announced it has accepted a proposal to build on 40 acres of county land, just south of the core of the Ronkonkoma Hub, a complex involving a 17,500 seat sports and entertainment arena, a 500 room hotel, two ice rinks, 160,000 square feet of medical research space, and 90,000 square feet of retail stores and restaurants. This is to be a $1 billion project.

Even Newsday, which through the decades has sounded a clarion call for Long Island development, can’t stomach the Ronkonkoma stadium plan. “A Big Arena in Suffolk County Makes No Sense for Long Island,” was the headline of a recent editorial in that publication.

Suffolk’s first County Executive H. Lee Denison, five years after he left office after 12 years, called for steps to “strongly limit” Suffolk’s population to 1.5 million. This was in 1978 when there were 1.28 million people here. Now we are at 1.5 million. More than that, he said, would be “too many people for the resources we have…fresh water, air and space.”

As Bellone “touts his record of suburban transformation,” wrote Richard Murdocco on his The Foggiest Idea blog, “Long Island continues to slowly suffocate under its own weight. It’s not surprising that the county’s chief policymaker who has prioritized economic development over sound community-driven and environmental planning efforts might be a bit too quick to take a victory lap.

Bellone’s “new suburbia…may not be the panacea so often touted when it actually arrives. Our groundwaters are increasingly being tainted by new pollutants, and the Sound and the sea are increasingly at risk. Real estate development, when allowed recklessly, can amplify these impacts even further. In recent years, the traditional model of suburban sprawl is being replaced with merely a new variant: just higher densities and rentals shoehorned in between the existing poorly planned subdivisions and worn-out shopping centers.”

A push in recent years by Suffolk County executives for development is not new. Bellone’s predecessor, Steve Levy, a decade ago promoted a $400 million project in which an arena, hotel, restaurants, retail stores and 1,215 housing units would be built on 225 acres of county land in rural Yaphank. The scheme—dubbed “Levyland”—went nowhere.

Perhaps the Ronkonkoma Hub and the adjoining major development might be dubbed “Belloneyland.”

The development push has caused civic groups to unite – Suffolk’s East End isn’t immune to this new development drive. Having paved over Nassau County and a lot of western and central Suffolk, the bulldozer boys are seeking to finish up their activities “up the Island” building bigger and with greater density than ever before.

Commenting in the stadium-plus scheme — in a column headlined “Suffolk’s Grand Plan for a Sports Arena” — Joe Werkmeister, editor of the Riverhead News-Review and The Suffolk Times, wrote: “As the details trickled out, this arena proposal became more and more absurd.”

Murdocco also criticized the process through which the builders of the stadium-plus project were selected – top-down by a handful of Suffolk County officials. He asked, “Why did Suffolk County seemingly shy away from the public eye? … Like most other things on Long Island, what’s old is new again,” he wrote. Indeed, the push to pave over Long Island has always been an inside job.
“Home of the ROCKET FUEL”
CJ’s – 47 Years Strong

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day
“Desperate Measures” ★★★★★

“DESPERATE MEASURES” began at the York Theatre Company last season, where its sold out run was extended several times. It has now moved to New World Stages.

“Desperate Measures” is very loosely based on William Shakespeare’s “Measure for Measure.” It is set in the ‘wild west’ where Johnny Blood is sentenced to hang for shooting a man in self-defense. His sister Susanna, who is about to take her vows to become a nun (Sister Mary Jo), tries to plead his case to Governor von Richterhenkenpfichtgetru-ber. The governor becomes smitten with her and says he’ll agree to pardon Johnny Blood if she surrenders her virginity to him. The Sheriff, Martin Green, has an idea: Susanna should agree and then in the dark of his bedroom the town’s bar hostess, Bella Rose (who is in love with Johnny), will switch places with her.

“Desperate Measures” is just a whole lot of good fun. It has a bouncy score by David Friedman and a very clever book and lyrics by Peter Kellogg. The cast (in alphabetic order), Gary Marachek, Lauren Molina, Sarah Parnicky, Conor Ryan, Peter Saide and Nick Wyman, all are excellent. It is directed and choreographed with great flair by Bill Castellino, who keeps the action moving and the laughs coming. “Desperate Measures” very deservedly won the Outer Critics Circle Award Best Off Broadway Musical, the Off Broadway Alliance Award for Best New Musical and the Drama Desk Award for Best Score and Best Lyrics.

New World Stages
340 West 50 St.
New York, NY 10019
www.desperatemeasuresmusical.com

“Teenage Dick” ★★★★★

“TEENAGE DICK” is a modern adaptation of William Shakespeare’s “Richard III” set in a high school.

Richard, who has cerebral palsy, is class secretary but craves power and wants to be class president. He sets out to manipulate his friends, defeat his rival, then charm his rival’s ex-girlfriend into going out with him.

The performances are all uniformly excellent. Shannon DeVido plays Buck, Richard’s confidant and best friend who spits out her sarcastic lines with caustic wit. Alex Breaux is Eddie, the dimwitted football star quarterback, and current class president; he is to the manor born. Tiffany Villarin is Anne Margaret, a conglomeration of the women in the life of “Richard III,” the girl Richard sets out to charm. She gives a very touching performance.

The standout performance comes from Gregg Mozgala as Richard. In real life, like his character, Mozgala has cerebral palsy, yet onstage he is fearless. He is in constant movement, bounding across the stage, doing pratfalls. His Richard is charming and confident. Is Richard a victim of the years of endless taunting by his classmates or is he just vengeful and craves power – or both?

Mike Lew’s play closely follows Shakespeare’s plot and characters, but it is the performances, especially Mozgala’s, that make this play shine.

“Teenage Dick” runs at the Public/Shiva Theater through July 29.

Public Theater
425 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10003
www.publictheater.com

New York Music Festival

Now in its 15th year, the 2018 New York Musical Festival (NYMF) will take place from July 19-Aug. 15. It is the largest musical festival in America. This year the festival will present 12 new musicals at the Acorn Theatre at Theatre Row, 10 musical readings at the Studio Theatre at Theatre Row, and eight musical concerts at The Green Room 42.

For tickets and more information, visit www.nymf.org.
HEALTH & WELLNESS >> by Donnie DeSanti

Breakfast of Champions

AS A KID, CEREAL WAS MY JAM. I could crush a couple of bowls no problem. My mom, however, restricted me to one, maybe two bowls, often worried about the sugar. Captain Crunch was an all-time favorite, along with Golden Grahams. Oh, I can still taste the sugary milk at the bottom! That was always the best part! But one cereal that always caught my attention, but I just couldn’t get into, was Wheaties. As a sports fanatic, I was always drawn to the top athletes that graced the cover of the boxes. If you were lucky, you’d even get posters of your favorite athlete inside. But Wheaties, your cereal was always a let down! It was too bland and never made for that delicious sugary milk.

Wheaties catch phrase claimed it was the “Breakfast of Champions.” As a gullible child, I was actually convinced that Michael Jordan was shoveling a bowl of these cardboard flakes down before each game. And so, I did too. All I wanted was more Honey Combs, but MJ was not eating Honey Combs…

For decades, the Wheaties marketing team (and nutrition experts) has promoted that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. But what if it’s not all that important, and well, just another meal?

A new hot topic in the “health world” is the idea of intermittent fasting. This theory is based on a routine in which you are feasting for certain hours and then fasting (consuming only liquids) for the remainder of the day. During the extended fasting period, you are giving your body a break from digestion and letting it concentrate on healing other areas of the body, i.e. excess fat, repairing cells and muscles, inflammation. The idea of fasting has been considered a method of healing for centuries. In fact, animals naturally fast when they are sick or distressed. When following an intermittent fasting diet, you are suggested to eat for 8 hours and then fast for the next 16. For example, you will eat from noon until 8 p.m. and then fast for the next 16 hours.

At this point, you probably have a ton of questions and concerns, like “Oh my God, I’d be starving during the day!” Actually not really. Before writing this, I had decided to try intermittent fasting myself for the past month. Here’s what I experienced. (Disclosure: I took the weekends off.)

After my alarm went off at 6 a.m., the first thing I did was drink plenty of water. Thanks to the night’s sleep, I already had eight hours in a fasted state under my belt. Only eight more hours to go… My first meal would start around 11 a.m. or noon. (My schedule often dictated the time.) During the next eight hours, I feasted. I mean I really ate! Because it is such a short window, you will want to make sure you pack in the calories. My final meal each night would end by 8 p.m.

Although this was the time period that worked for me, you are welcome to change the schedule to fit your lifestyle.

Here’s what I liked:
- Real simple to follow.
- One less meal to have to worry about during the day.
- Freed up more time to be more productive (you’d be surprised how much time eating takes up).
- Digestion felt great, especially at the end of the day. I was never bloated before bed.
- Loved the feasting part of it. You can eat as much as you want!
- Can help with weight loss.
- Fewer heavy meals to weigh me down so mental focus and energy improved.

Here’s what I didn’t like:
- I love breakfast and eating it at noon is not the same.
- If you are not trying to lose weight, you really need to make sure you are eating enough calories during each fasting period.
- Sometimes when food wasn’t accessible during my feasting hours, I ended up fasting for a longer period of time.
- Working out in the morning was a little more difficult in a fasted state.

All in all, I believe intermittent fasting could be a valuable tool, and have since recommended it to many clients who are too busy or simply don’t know what to eat for breakfast. Try it for yourself by starting with one day or alternating days. You may find it fits perfectly into your schedule and leaves you feeling amazing.
Margalit Like: 1925-2018

Margalit Like, one of Dunewood’s longtime founding residents, passed away at the age of 92, on May 24, 2018. Margalit (“Marge”) was the beloved wife of Irving Like, Esq. for 69 years, and mother of their three children.

She was born in the Bronx, New York, on Sept. 5, 1925, the daughter of Benzion and Ethel Delman, immigrants from Israel and Russia respectively. Her parents would divorce during the Great Depression, and contact between Margalit and her father had been consequently severed. She went on to attend the City College of New York earning her bachelor’s degree in education, and subsequently received a master’s of library science degree from C.W. Post. As a wife and mother, Margalit would reunite with her father 30 years later.

In her career, Margalit served as a teacher in New York City’s public school system, where she found fulfillment in her work with children of Hispanic and immigrant populations. She believed in the power of books and learning to assist in her student’s personal development, and further instilled these values in her children, as well as her grandchildren.

Alongside her husband, she ardently supported and worked for other Long Island professional and consumer groups in their successful efforts to create the Fire Island National Seashore, decommision the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, block offshore oil drilling, and in numerous other important environmental protection initiatives.

“She was a great listener, served as a sounding board for ideas, and offered practical advice that truly made a positive difference,” wrote her husband Irving. “She did not hold back on saying critical things about politicians who did not ‘walk the talk’ or were duplicious, no matter what their political affiliation.”

Margalit was buried in a private family gravesite funeral at Beth Moses Cemetery on May 25, 2018. She is survived by her husband, Irving Like, her three children, Robert Like, MD, MS; Sharon Like, Esq.; and Steven Like; her two grandchildren, David Like and Daniel Like; and her daughter-in-law, Maria Like. The family is longtime residents of Babylon and Bay Shore, as well as Dunewood during the summer months.

Memorial donations in her honor may be made to:
- The Center for Environmental Research and
  Coastal Oceans Monitoring (CERCOM) of Molloy College
- The American Macular Degeneration Foundation
- The American Diabetes Foundation

Brianna’s Law Pushes for Increased Boater Safety

By Anika Lancer

IN JANUARY OF 2018, Gina Lieneck proposed Brianna’s Law to the New York State Legislature. The law, which pushes for increased regulation of boater safety, is named in honor of Gina’s daughter, Brianna Lieneck, who tragically passed away in a boating accident in the Great South Bay on Aug. 17, 2005. Brianna’s parents were also critically wounded in the accident.

Now, the law has been sponsored by New York Senator Phil Boyle and New York State Assemlbywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre, in their respective houses. The legislation stands on the brink of improving boater safety in the state. Senator Boyle remarked, “I was very moved by Gina’s story and touched by her advocacy. And I agreed with her that it’s quite unrealistic, and I’ve felt this for a very long time, that somebody could go and purchase a large boat and not require any training on operating it. I think we need to change that and this is a great piece of legislation that’s going to do just that.”

The law pushes for a number of improvements to the current navigation law to strengthen the education needed to operate boats. The law outlines a number of significant requirements for education and protocol in the event of an incident. Senator Boyle summarized, “Right now, you’re required only if you’re 23 years or younger to take a boating class and you can do that online. [The law] would require that everyone boating on the water has had proper safety courses, just like they would to drive a car.”

For instance, the legislation would require that children between the ages of 10 and 14 only operate a power vessel under 10 horsepower, and under the supervision of an adult (defined as above the age of 18) who has completed an in-person boating safety course.

The proposed legislation includes a provision that requires all power-driven vessels used in teaching on-water training be equipped with a propeller guard. The law also adds a mandate for a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) test within two hours of an incident when a fatality or serious injury has occurred. It also increases the fines and possibility of imprisonment for operating a boat while intoxicated, and puts the operator at risk of seizure of the boat. These provisions have the potential to help families like the Lienecks, whose boat was purportedly struck by an intoxicated boater, but the delay in BAC testing made these allegations difficult to prove. This left the Lienecks with little recourse in the aftermath of their tragic crash.

The legislation works to address the legacy of lax boating laws in New York, and to limit the use of drugs and alcohol while operating a motor vessel by increasing the consequences for operating a boat while intoxicated. A 2016 report by the U.S. Coast Guard indicated that boating deaths in the state of New York had increased by approximately 47 percent since 2015. According to Newsday, five boaters in Suffolk County and two boaters in Nassau County died in 2016.

In a letter published via the New York Safe Boaters Alliance website Lieneck argues, “We need to make our waterways safer. We need to do whatever it takes to make sure the inadequate laws adopted by New York State be strengthened so that all boaters take a mandatory in-classroom boating safety class, not just those born after 1996. I will not rest until we prevent tragedies on our waterways and save lives.” Lieneck’s petition on change.org to call on New York State Legislators to pass Brianna’s Law currently has almost 4,500 supporters.

On June 19, Brianna’s Law passed in the New York State Assembly. The New York State Legislature session ended before the law could be voted on by the State Senate.

“I’m amazed by Gina and the passion she has brought to this. She’s up in Albany every week advocating to all the senators and assembly people to support this legislation in memory of her daughter. Senator Boyle said. “We’re going to keep fighting, whether it’s this year, next year, and the year after to make it happen.”
The William Floyd Estate – Gunpowder and Gumption

THIS YEAR CELEBRATES the 300th anniversary of the William Floyd Estate, one of the gems of the Fire Island National Seashore. The estate is the ancestral home of William Floyd (1634–1821), one of only 56 original signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The estate is not contiguous with the rest of the FI National Seashore. It sits on 613 acres of forest, fields and marsh land approximately two miles south of Sunrise Highway in Mastic Beach, fronting both Narrow and Moriches bays. It contains the Old Mastic House, and 12 out buildings reflecting three centuries of American life.

The estate has an interesting, if somewhat convoluted, history.

The English born William “Tangier” Smith (1655–1705) who had been mayor of Tangier, Morocco (hence his nickname), was granted patents (land grants) in America in recognition of his service to the Crown. He added extensive purchases of various Indian lands until by 1697, he had accumulated more than 81,000 acres, stretching from the Southampton Town line to Shirley, from Route 25 in the north to the Atlantic Ocean in the south, including 24 miles of Great South Barrier Beach now known as Fire Island.

In 1718, Richard Floyd, William Floyd’s great-grandfather, emigrated from Wales to America where he purchased 4,400 acres from the Tangier Smith family. That acreage included all the “beach, meadow, and bay” stretching six miles north from Moriches Bay to one mile west of the Forge River. He also acquired the Fire Island tract.

Both families built homes – a mere three miles apart. With the death of William Tangier Smith his property was divided between his sons. His Setauket estate, being considered the more valuable, was inherited by his oldest son, while the Mastic property was left to the second oldest. The Manor of St. George was completed on the Mastic property about 1709.

Meanwhile, in 1724 Nicoll Floyd inherited property from his father Richard and proceeded to build the first portion of the Old Mastic House, a six-room, two-story, wood frame home. Nicoll Floyd established a successful plantation, expanding the home as his wealth and family grew. Upon his death in 1755, he left the property to his oldest son, William Floyd, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Floyd married twice. He had three children with his first wife Hannah Jones, who died in 1781, and two children with his second wife, Joanna Strong. Mary Floyd, William Floyd’s eldest daughter, married Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge in the Old Mastic House. Tallmadge would later play a major role in the fate of the Manor of St. George.

William Floyd became active in politics, becoming a delegate in both the First and Second Continental Congresses. In the Old Mastic House he hosted the likes of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and the Marquis de Lafayette.

But Americans were chaffing under the yoke of British policies – particularly taxation without representation. Sparked by the Stamp Act in 1765, followed by the Boston Massacre, and the battle of Lexington and Concord, the Founding Fathers first drafted and then signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

However New York members of the Continental Congress were in a predicament when it came to signing this historic document. Floyd and his fellow delegates could not vote on the matter of independence until they received formal authorization from New York’s home assembly to do so. Without it, all they could do was standby and wait. Said authorization arrived later that summer, and Floyd was the first of the New York delegates to place his signature upon being given the green light to act.

These days we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence by going to the beach, and ballgames, and backyard barbecues with scarcely a thought of how momentous that act really was. Only 56 men signed the document, and by doing so they were guilty of treason, putting their lives on the line. That’s a lot of gumption, guts and grit.

Later, Benjamin Franklin is quoted as having said, “We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly we shall all hang separately.” But the last sentence of the Declaration of Independence says it best. “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

Let that sink in for a moment – or two.

During the Revolutionary War both the Old Mastic House and the Manor of St. George were occupied by British military forces. William Floyd’s estate was occupied by a company of horsemen for the remainder of the war, and he and his family were forced to flee to Connecticut. Judge William Smith III took his family to Kingston, New York, after the British garrisoned the Manor of St. George.

The manor was also the site of a glorious American victory. Recognizing its strategic location, a few hundred yards from ocean access at Smith Inlet, a deep-water channel nearly a half-mile wide at the time, the British built a triangular fort surrounding the manor using stockade fencing 12 feet high.

Tallmadge was one of the leaders of George Washington’s Culper spy ring (as recently reported here in the Fire Island News – you dare not miss an issue!). He raised a force of 80 unhorsed dragoons who rowed whaleboats for five hours, 15 miles across the Long Island Sound. They then marched 20 miles across greater Long Island in a drenching rainstorm that forced them to delay their attack until their gunpowder dried. At first light they hacked their way through the stockade fence shouting “Washington and glory!” and, after a brief firefight, captured the fort.

Using British cannons and gunpowder, Tallmadge turned the guns on a British warship lying at

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anchor in the bay and sank it. He then chose a party of 12, commandeered British horses, and rode to Coram where they set fire to a strategic store of hay the British had provisioned there. The next morning they rowed home without the loss of a single American life, and with ample stolen supplies and several prisoners.

After peace was restored by the 1873 Treaty of Paris, William Floyd returned to Mastic to find his plantation nearly destroyed, stripped of all its crops, livestock, timber and household goods. He restored the plantation while at the same time the Smiths rebuilt the Manor of St. George.

William Floyd was involved in politics for much of his life. He often served as presidential elector, was a member of the New York State Senate, and was elected to Congress in the first election under our new Constitution. Upon retirement he held the rank of Major General in the New York State Military. Toward the end of his life he devoted his time to his new farm along the Mohawk River in upstate New York. He passed away in 1821 at the age of 86 and is buried there – although his original headstone remains in Mastic.

The Old Mastic House was passed down through nine generations. William Floyd’s great-grand-daughter, Cornelia Floyd, donated it to the National Park Service in 1976, and it has been meticulously maintained ever since with few changes.

The new exhibit in the Old Mastic House this year celebrates its 300th anniversary. The exhibit showcases the building’s unique combination of Colonial, Victorian and Greek Revival architectural styles. Walk through its 25 rooms and celebrate 300 years of American history from its original post and beam construction, to its 18th century doors, and its 12 over 12 windows. The exhibit features beautiful ceramics, glassware, textiles, documents, etc.

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**THE WILLIAM FLOYD ESTATE – GUNPOWDER AND GUMPTION**

that span the centuries. The original deed for the property is on display – without the purchase price – which remains unknown to this day. There is much to see and learn by taking the hour-long tour, which includes the Vista View, still providing its spectacular panorama of the Great South Bay and Fire Island.

The house is open every Friday-Sunday, and federal holidays, from Memorial Day weekend through Veterans Day. Tours start at 10 a.m. and run to 4 p.m. every half-hour. The tours are free.

On July 7, 2018, starting at 11 a.m., there will be an unveiling of the first-ever historic marker dedicated to the Old Mastic House. The marker is a gift from the Narrow Bay Historical Society. Musicians will be strolling about the grounds playing a variety of colonial and/or civil war songs.

There will be an anniversary cake-cutting at noon accompanied by light refreshments. Tours will be conducted as normal.

Memorial history was made in the Old Mastic House on the William Floyd Estate. Celebrate the festivities! Remember, it’s free. For information, call 631-399-2030.

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**DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL:**

**FRIEDRICH WILHELM VON STEUBEN AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

record. He was given travel money and left Europe in 1777, arriving in the United States with his Italian Greyhound Azor (which he took with him everywhere); his young aide-de-camp Louis de Pontiè; his military secretary, 17-year-old Peter Stephen Du Ponteau (rumored to have been his lover); and two other companions.

He arrived at Valley Forge on Feb. 23, 1778, and reported for duty as a volunteer. Washington appointed Steuben as temporary inspector general. He talked with the officers and men, inspected their huts, and examined their equipment. Steuben established standards of sanitation and camp layouts that were still customary more than a century later. He created a plan to have rows for command, officers, and enlisted men. Kitchens and latrines were on opposite sides of the camp, with latrines on the downhill side. The internal administration had been neglected and no books had been kept on supplies, clothing or men. Steuben enforced the keeping of exact records and strict inspections.

He could only speak and write a small amount of English, so Steuben wrote the drills in German, his secretary then translated the drills into French, and a secretary for Washington translated them into English. Colonel Alexander Hamilton and General Nathanael Greene were instrumental in assisting Steuben in implementing a new training program for the Army.

Steuben introduced a system of progressive training, starting with the schooling of the soldier, with and without arms, and going through the schooling of the regiment. This changed the previous policy of just assigning personnel to regiments. Each company commander was responsible for the training of new men, but actual instruction was done by sergeants specifically chosen for being the best. On May 5, 1778, on General Washington’s recommendation, Congress appointed Steuben inspector general of the army, with the rank and pay of major general.

During the winter of 1778-1779, Steuben prepared “Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States,” commonly known as the “Blue Book.” Based on the training plan he had devised at Valley Forge, it was used by the United States Army until 1814, and affected U.S. drills and tactics until the Mexican-American War of 1846.

Steuben helped Washington demobilize the army in 1783, and aided in the defense plan of the new nation. He was discharged from the military with honor on March 24, 1784. He became a U.S. citizen by act of the Pennsylvania legislature in March 1784. The war over, Steuben resigned from service and first settled with his lifelong companion, William North, at his retreat on Manhattan Island, where he became a prominent figure and elder in the German Reformed Church. From 1785 until his death in 1794, he served as president of the German Society of the City of New York, a charitable organization founded in 1784 to assist German immigrants.

In 1783, New Jersey gave him the use of an estate in Bergen County now known as Steuben House, which had been confiscated from Loyalist Jan Zabriskie in 1781, and he received full title to the estate in 1788. In debt, Steuben sold the property to a son of the previous owner, and it remained in the Zabriskie family until 1909. Von Steuben moved upstate New York, and settled in Oneida County on a small estate in the vicinity of Rome, on land granted to him for his military service. He was later appointed a regent for what evolved into the University of the State of New York.

Von Steuben did not marry and had no children. At Valley Forge he began close relationships with Benjamin Walker and William North, both military officers in their 20s, which are considered to have been romantic. Steuben formally adopted Walker and North and made them his heirs. A third young man, John W. Mulligan Jr., also thought of himself as one of Steuben’s “sons” and inherited Steuben’s extensive library, collection of maps and $2,500 in cash.

Steuben died on Nov. 28, 1794, at his estate in Oneida County, and was buried in a grove at what became the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site. The estate became part of the town of Steuben, New York, which was named for him.

Von Steuben Day is celebrated across the country in mid-September, with parades, dance, music and traditional German food and beer. The first Von Steuben Parade was held in New York City in 1957. The annual parade on Fifth Avenue takes place on the third Saturday of September, and is followed by an Oktoberfest-style celebration in Central Park.
NPS/Fire Island National Seashore – Dead Whale and Horseshoe Crab Patrol

JUNE 15-24
› National Park Rangers continue to make contacts for undercover drinking, possession of controlled substances, operating personal watercrafts in park waters, and violations of the New York State nudity law.

JUNE 23 AND 24
› National Park Rangers conducted two searches for missing children at Lighthouse Beach. Both children were located and reunited with their parents.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24
› Rangers observed a pilot whale in the surf west of Davis Park. It was alive when it came ashore, but died during the night. The next morning, rangers assisted the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) in moving the whale above the mean high water mark and securing the area for a necropsy. The deceased whale was buried on site. AMCS reported that at this time the cause of death is unknown but the whale most likely died of an illness. AMCS sent tissue samples to a lab with necropsy of pilot whale in Davis Park.

Ocean Beach Police Department – Elderly Man Struck by Nighttime Bike Rider

MONDAY, JUNE 18
› Two summonses issued for individuals driving a cart without a summer permit.
› Noise complaint called in at 666 Ocean Breeze Walk.
› A call-in complainant stated a man entered his hotel room while he was sleeping at the Palms Bay Hotel.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19
› Two summonses issued for individuals driving a cart without a summer permit.
› OBPD assisted federal and state agents in the interview of a person connected to a fraud case. Police later discovered the individual was a French national who was wanted for theft in both East Hampton and Jamaica. The case in Jamaica included a theft of $175,000 from the individual’s former employers.
› Noise complaint made at Windswept.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21
› Summons issued to a woman for an open container. Said woman had an active warrant from Arlington, Virginia.
› Officer came across a Coach bag which held U.S. currency.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22
› Two noise complaints were made: one at 207 Wilmot and the other at 193 Surf.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23
› A man was released by OBPD due to cancellation of his ICE detention.
› Officers responded to a report of property damage at 153 Bay Walk.
› A call-in report of a drone hovering over the complainant’s property was made at 174 Cottage Walk.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24
› A complainant called reporting a female screaming in the vicinity of Midway and Denvhoff Walk.
› Five summonses issued for open container violations.

MONDAY, JUNE 25
› Officers responded to a call from Mermaid restaurant of an intoxicated male in front of the location.
› Summons issued to a male for unlawful possession of marijuana. The man was released on a desk appearance ticket.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26
› Report made of a boat left running at Windswept.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27
› A boat disturbance was reported in the bay north of Windswept.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28
› Officers responded to a complaint of garbage on the street at 454 Denvhoff.
› Three female minors were caught shoplifting at Hanalei and Kula’s. The individuals were brought in to OBPD for questioning the next day.
› Summons issued to a man for a state fire code violation.
› OBPD was called to CJ’s Restaurant & Bar in regard to a false ID and underage drinkers.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29
› Officers responded to a false fire alarm at the Ocean Beach Community House.
› Officer responded to a call-in property check at 583 Bayberry Walk.
› Noise complaint made at 597 Bayberry.
› Call-in report of wake damage to one boat from another passing boat was made at the Matthew’s dock.
› Six summonses were issued for open container violations.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30
› Summons issued to a man for public urination.

A fire alarm falsely set off at the Palms Bay Hotel.
› Disturbance of children playing on the beach with frisbees and balls reported to OBPD.
› Noise complaint was made at 597 Bayberry.
› An elderly man was struck by a person riding a bike at night.
› Two noise complaints called in: 657 Ocean Breeze Walk and corner house of Bayberry and Midway.
› Two summonses issued to man at Housers Bar: the first for attempting to purchase alcohol with a fake ID and the second for disorderly conduct.
› Six summonses were issued for open container violations.

SUNDAY, JULY 1
› An aggravated man that was under arrest was brought to Southside Hospital for evaluation on account of heavy breathing. The man was later issued two summonses: one for riding a bike on the weekend, the other for disorderly conduct.
› Noise complaint made at 620 Bayberry.
› A man was apprehended at Albatross by OBPD after ordering five beers and refusing to pay. His debit card declined three times, and he was visibly intoxicated. A summons was issued for disorderly conduct.
› Noise complaint made at 329 Baywalk.
› Missing golf cart was reported at Garden Center. The vehicle was soon after recovered by its owner.

SUFFOLK COUNTY: Two Found Dead on Boat in Cherry Grove

By Shashanna McCollum

Two individuals were pronounced dead by Suffolk County Medical Examiner’s Office at 2:25 p.m., on Sunday, July 1, 2018. Peter D’Ancona, 54, and Tina Sambati, 51, both residents of Moriches, were discovered unresponsive aboard a 35-foot Mainship vessel moored behind Cherry’s on the Bay Restaurant and Bar, in Cherry Grove. Suffolk County Marine Bureau responded. Carbon monoxide poisoning appears to have been the cause of the deaths, however the matter is presently under investigation by SCPD Homicide Squad. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call detectives at 631-852-6392, or anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS. All calls will remain confidential.

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POLICE BLOTTER >> by Timothy Bolger and Danielle Lipiec
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Heartworm Disease on the Rise

IT’S TIME FOR A heart to heart about heartworm. Did you know that heartworm cases have been reported in all 50 states? The disease has become even more prevalent in our area for a variety of reasons. Warmer winters have enabled mosquitoes to survive for longer periods throughout the year, and families in our area travel with their pets to warmer climates during the winter months as well. Also, financial limitations precipitated by difficult economic times have led pet owners to discontinue regular heartworm screenings and preventative therapy.

Heartworm, also known as Dirofilaria immitis, is a parasite that infects dogs and less commonly cats. These parasites are actually found just outside the heart in the pulmonary arteries, which carry blood to the lungs to get oxygen and deliver it to the rest of the body.

The heartworms are transmitted to our beloved pets by mosquitoes, which are required to complete the life cycle of the parasite. The process from the initial mosquito bite and injection of immature worms into the blood to the development of adult worms can take as long as six to seven months. If your pet is bitten and infected in the summertime, a heartworm test may not become positive until the winter or even later. In cats, the test may be negative despite an active infection.

Symptoms of heartworm infections in dogs and cats are very different. In dogs, the symptoms are caused by the adult worms and vary depending on the amount of worms present. Signs can vary from none at all to coughing, exercise intolerance, difficulty breathing, and even death. Cats on the other hand have a different response usually associated with a reaction to the presence of immature worms and/or the death of an adult worm. Signs of an infection in your cat can vary from chronic vomiting, to asthma-like symptoms, difficulty breathing, and even sudden death.

What if your pet tests positive for heartworm? Your veterinarian may recommend further testing and consultation with a veterinary cardiologist, with additional tests being necessary.

Heartworm infection in dogs is treatable, and usually successful, but requires careful monitoring. Once they return home, they need to be strictly cage rested for at least a month or two to avoid potential life-threatening complications. Currently, there is no licensed treatment for heartworm in cats. Cats without symptoms are usually given time for the infections to resolve as their immune systems are usually able to rid them of the parasite spontaneously. If they have symptoms, the cats may be given antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medications, or if your cat’s signs are more severe, he or she may require hospitalization for oxygen and supportive care.

Prevention is by far the safest and most economical way to protect your pet from this infection. There are a variety of effective and inexpensive preventatives for both dogs and cats, only available by prescription from your veterinarian, including: tablets (daily or monthly), injections given every six months, and even topical medications. It is important to have your pet examined and heartworm tested by your veterinarian prior to starting heartworm preventatives and annually thereafter at your pets’ regular veterinary visits.

Finally, talk to your veterinarian about mosquito repellent for your pets. Human insect repellents are not recommended for pets because of the likelihood of ingestion of the insecticide when the pet grooms its hair coat, so make certain you choose an animal friendly insecticide to prevent harmful side effects for your pets.

For more information about any of our services at the Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island, please visit us on the web at www.VMCLI.com or call 631-587-0800 and speak to any of our helpful client care coordinators.
A Day in the Life of Fire Island

Reader Contributed Photographs

Send your photos to editor@fireisland-news.com so they may be considered for publication in an upcoming issue of Fire Island News. Please limit submission to six images per news cycle, in jpeg format please.

Summer Solstice in Kismet by Trevor Butterworth.

“Fire Island Sunny Day” by Margaret Shaw is presently on exhibit at FI Lighthouse.

“Rowsbud” in the Great South Bay by Jamie LaBelle.

The strange object near Talisman is still making people wonder. Photographer only identified himself as Marcus.

Bullwinkle in Seaview by Danielle Lipiec.

Another strange object that washed up this spring in FI Pines is still there. Photo by Jeffrey Sharlach.

Screen Porch, Fair Harbor by Barbara Barton Sloane.
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