



THE MASTIC BEACH

February 2016

VILLAGER

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THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Maura P. Sperry

As we approach my first anniversary as Mayor, I look back and I am so proud of the work my team has accomplished in these ten months. With the help of the Village Board and staff, "Operation Take Back" has shut down dozens and dozens of squatter homes. We hired new staff including a new Public-Safety Supervisor, Mike Maffei (formerly a New York City Police Detective).

Recently, Public-Safety Supervisor Maffei, Deputy Mayor Bruce Summa and I met with acting Suffolk County Police Commissioner Tim Sini (above) to discuss ridding our community of its dangerous criminal element. The Suffolk County Police Department has been doing a great job eliminating the violent criminals, drug addicts, and prostitutes in our Village. Recently, they shut down a marijuana grow-house on Commack Road and captured a murder suspect who was on the run from North Carolina and living on Cranberry Drive. Read more on the next page.

The Building Department has a new part-time building inspector, Mr. Bill Bahnsen. Mr. Bahnsen comes from the Town of Brookhaven where he specializes in elevations and FEMA and NY Rising-compliant building codes. Read more on page 7.

In January, I went to the State of the State as a guest of Senator Tom Croci. While in Albany, I met up with Trustee Elizabeth "Betty" Manzella who was there on other business and we attended several events. Betty and I made the most of our days making the necessary connections at the State and County levels to nurture existing relationships and to lobby for Mastic Beach Village, especially for sewers. See more on page 4.

Also in January, I went to Washington D.C. to meet with our United States Senators to lobby for our community's sewer needs and zombie-home issues. My administration understands that we need to stay relevant by keeping Mastic Beach in the minds of those who represent us and those who can award us federal and state funding. You can read all about it on page 6.

The Comprehensive Action Plan has begun. The Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from local groups and agencies, will meet on February 10th. The committee will create an outline for the plan and help Wendel Associates and Vision Long Island organize the Public Meetings which will begin on March 5, 2016.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has been working extremely hard this winter. The first snowstorm of the season was a testament to the leadership of Deputy Mayor Summa. He and his team tackled Winter Storm Jonas in a systematic and orderly fashion. Kudos to the team at DPW and all our snowplow drivers; your efforts are greatly appreciated. Read more on page 7.

The results of the Forensic Investigation have been compiled and can be found on www.masticbeachvillageny.gov/audits. While there were some troubling results stemming from a lack of oversight from the inception of the Village through April 2015, my administration continues to improve on our Village's systems, policies and procedures. The Information-Technology Audit is still underway, and we expect a report in the next few months. You can read more on the next page.

I hope your winter is as warm as the Village's future is bright.



COMMISSIONER TIMOTHY SINI

Suffolk County Police Commissioner met with Village Officials.

In January, Village Officials met with acting Suffolk County Police Commissioner Timothy D. Sini at Suffolk County Police Headquarters in Yaphank. They discussed ways to continue their joint operations, "Operation Clean Sweep" and "Operation Take Back," which have significantly made Mastic Beach Village safer by reducing drug crime and addressing other quality-of-life issues in the Village of Mastic Beach.

A great many of our crimes in the Village stem from a transient population that took advantage of the empty homes from Sandy and foreclosed homes resulting from predatory-lending practices. The Commissioner expressed his enthusiasm to take back our Village from the unsavory element. Together with

the Suffolk County Police Department, Seventh Precinct and Sheriff's Department, the Village will continue to crackdown on illegal housing, blighted homes and aggressively end quality-of-life crimes.

We have three new law-enforcement officials, Commissioner Sini, Inspector Gerard McCarthy of the 7th Precinct and Public-Safety Supervisor (and former New York City Detective) Mike Maffei, who are working to make Mastic Beach safer. They are dedicated to improving the quality-of-life for the residents of Mastic Beach, and we are excited to see them clean up the mess.

VILLAGE AUDIT REPORTS

The Forensic Audit helps to straighten out the Village finances.

In December 2015, the Village of Mastic Beach released the first part of a two-part forensic-investigation report compiled by Cramer C.P.A., P.C. Robin A. Cramer, President of Cramer C.P.A., P.C., has more than 25 years of industry experience and holds the following accreditations—Certified Public Accountants (C.P.A.), Certified Financial Forensics (C.F.F.) and Certified Fraud Examiner (C.F.E.).

The first forensic investigation uncovered grave concerns in the financial practices of the Village from inception through April 2015 including: altered and missing payroll records, manipulated overtime expenditures, undocumented cash handling and missing cash-receipt records, inadequate cash depositing by unknown individuals, missing financial records, and sporadic record keeping of building-permit payments.

Under Mayor Spery's leadership, the Village has tackled these problems head on by creating multi-faceted reconciliation processes and have put in place new protocols including: a cash-audit trail, segregation of duties for enhanced internal control and formalized payroll and depositing procedures. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer also have put into place procedures that now require Department Heads to sign off on any financial documentation from their department, including expenditures, payroll, and overtime and are now held accountable to operate within their budgetary allocations. Board Liaisons have full access to the payment vouchers and are encouraged to sign off on all expenditures for their department.

The second investigation uncovered mismanagement by the Village of donated funds to Sandy Victims given to the Village by the Robin Hood Foundation in 2013. At the heart of this investigation report are the grave concerns which can be found on our website www.masticbeachvillageny.gov/audits.

The greatest concerns were that 58% of the applications filed with the Village were improperly handled and only 42% of the total applications were duly awarded. More people received money improperly than properly and ten (10) applications were erroneously denied. The Village did not consistently follow the guidelines laid out by the Robin Hood Foundation, especially when applying the income-eligibility criteria. This led to some of the people most qualified for the awards not receiving the funding needed. Also, disbursements did not agree with the awards.

This report is validation that our Village leaders are on the right path to fix the challenges that face Mastic Beach Village. The forensic investigation exposed that under past administrations, mismanagement of cash, manipulation of time sheets, and improper protocols were commonplace. While critics dismissed the investigation as a witch-hunt, it is clear that the funds were well spent to identify and correct financial procedures, and that our administration has done a tremendous job of putting our financial house in order.

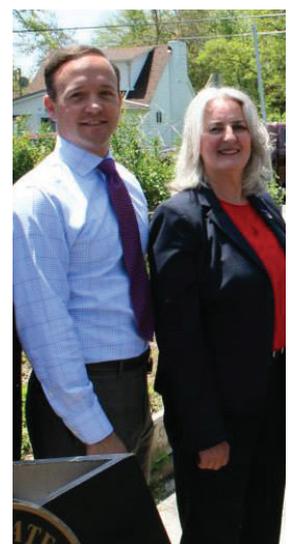
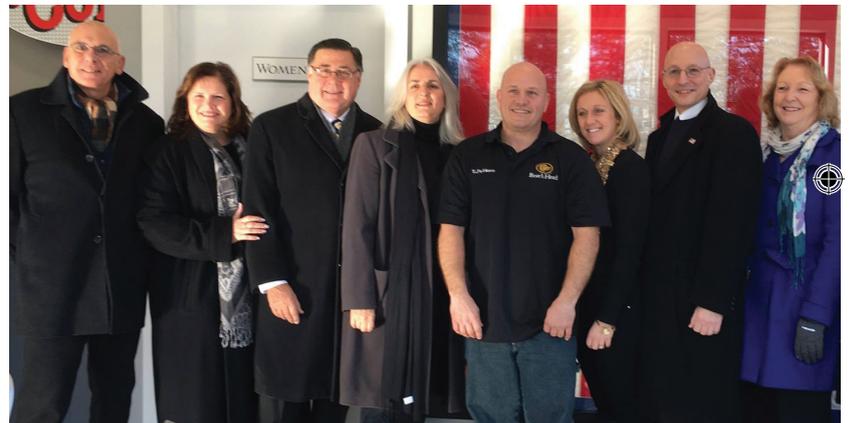
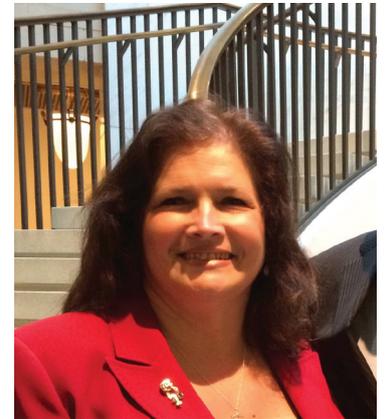
This report is not about pointing fingers or throwing stones but administered to provide solutions and keep moving our Village forward with fiscal prudence.



WORKING TOGETHER, MOVING FORWARD

All your elected officials are working hard to make the Village of Mastic a better place to live.

Working together with the other layers of government is vitally important to the success of this Village. Regardless of political party or personal beliefs, each elected representative has a duty to do what is right for the people they represent. As a small local government, our requests can get lost in the shuffle and in the din of all the other local municipalities vying for precious funding for our communities. That is why it is so important to nurture these relationships and why Mayor Spery, Deputy Mayor Bruce Summa,



Left to Right: Trustee Betty Manzella with Presidential Candidate Ted Cruz and Town of Brookhaven Republican Chairman Jesse Garcia at a fund-raiser; Mayor Maura Spery with Se Inauguration; Mayor Maura Spery with Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mastic Beach Property Owners Vice President Mike Kobasiuk at NY Rising; Mayor Maura Spery and Trustee Betty of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine, Mayor Maura Spery, Business owners Michael and Kelly Moore, NYS Assemblyman Dean Murray, Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, Trustee U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, Town of Brookhaven Councilman Dan Panico, and Mayor Maura Spery discussing sewage treatment at Calabr Bellone, Mayor Maura Spery and Trustee Manzella in Albany; NYS Senator Tom Croci, Mayor Maura Spery, Trustee Anne Snyder, NYS Assemblyman Dean Murray, and Trustee Chris Ar Sini at the Suffolk County Police Headquarters.



FORWARD

Mastic Beach a little better each day.

Trustee Elizabeth "Betty" Manzella, Trustee Anne Snyder and Trustee Chris Anderson work so hard setting up meetings and fostering friendships with the decision makers who ultimately decide where funding and resources are allocated. When it is budget time, we want your elected officials to remember the Village of Mastic Beach.



ery with Senator Charles Schumer in Washington D.C.; Trustee Betty Manzella with Congressman Lee Zeldin at his Congressional opening; Trustee Betty Manzella with NYS Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan; Deputy Mayor Bruce Summa, Trustee Betty Manzella, Trustee Anne Snyder, and Trustee Chris Anderson at TJ's Hero's Grand Opening; Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine, Trustee Chris Anderson at Calabro Airport; Deputy Mayor Bruce Summa and NYS Senator Tom Croci at the Senator's Town Hall; County Executive Steve Bellone at a press conference; and Deputy Mayor Bruce Summa with acting Suffolk County Police Commissioner Timothy...



THE VILLAGE OF MASTIC BEACH IS A
CLIMATE-SMART
{community}

CLEAN AIR IN 10 EASY STEPS

1. Walk or ride a bike.
2. Share a ride or use public transportation.
3. Combine errands for fewer trips
4. Keep your car well maintained, with tires properly inflated.
5. Avoid idling.
6. Turn off lights, computers and televisions when not in use.
7. Use energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances.
8. Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full and at night.
9. Choose environmentally-friendly consumer products.
10. Reduce, reuse, recycle.



MAYOR GOES TO WASHINGTON

Mayor Spery visited with our U.S. Senators on the Village's behalf.

On January 27th Mayor Spery went to Washington D.C. with Grant Writer Victor Cornelius and met with Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Kristin Gillibrand's staff to lobby for federal funding for sewers, infrastructure improvements and zombie-home initiatives for Mastic Beach.

Senator Schumer along with his Economic Development Director Nicholas Dhimitri and Legislative Aide Lane Bodian met with the Mayor to specifically speak about zombie homes. They let the Mayor know there is federal funding available to help municipalities to combat the devastation that these homes are creating in our community. They are on board to help us wade through the process to receive this funding.

The Senator is actively working to get the Forge River Sewer Project up and running and fully understands the desperate need our Village has for sewers.

Senator Gillibrand's Economic Development Director Jon Cardinal and Legislative Assistant Jordan Baugh were very receptive to working with the Village to help develop plans for sewers not only for our downtown but to deal with the antiquated single and separate septic systems that are polluting our water ways and aquifers.

From her experience as a community activist, Mayor Spery understands that Mastic Beach needs to constantly stay relevant and at the forefront in the minds of those who represent us.

Through these types of intergovernmental relationships, we continue to lobby for the resources that will be the key to our Village's success. It is extremely important for our Village to maintain these relationships and also create new ones with those who make the decisions about our Village's future funding.

COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN

Wendel and Vision Long Island work to revitalize our Village.

The Comprehensive Plan is a form of long-range planning for our local municipality. This endeavor will encourage the residents to think about how our community will change in the short- and long-term. Our planning firms, Wendel and Associates and Vision Long Island, working with the Steering Committee, have begun to organize and schedule public meetings so we can begin to shape our Village's future.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee is made up of residents who live in Mastic Beach Village and represent various Mastic Beach civics and institutions including: The Village of Mastic Beach, Mastic Beach Property Owners Association, Osprey Point

Civic Association, Pattersquash Creek Civic Association, Mastic Beach Chamber of Commerce, Mastic Beach Fire Department, Mastic Beach Ambulance Company, William Floyd School Board, William Floyd Community Summit, American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Narrow Bay Historical Society, Mastic Beach Hebrew Center, St. Jude Shrine Church, St. Andrew Church, Grace Lutheran Church, St. Jude Shrine Knights of Columbus, and the William Floyd Estate. Appointed non-voting representatives from the Village will be on hand to help in an informational capacity.

PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Saturday, March 5th - William Paca Junior High at 1:00 p.m.





PUBLIC-SAFETY REPORT

Keeping up the momentum of “Operation Take Back”

To date, the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD), with assistance from the Village’s Public-Safety Department, has shut down dozens and dozens of illegally-occupied homes in our Village. In doing so, the police have removed violent criminals, drug-addicts, gang members, prostitutes, a marijuana grow house and apprehended an escaped murder suspect.

“Operation Take Back” was designed to help remove the criminal element from the Village to improve the quality of life for all residents. To continue coordinating this daunting task,

upon Mayor Spery’s recommendation, the Village Board hired Mike Maffei as the new Public-Safety/Code Supervisor. Mr. Maffei is a retired New York City Police Homicide Detective, who is highly qualified to head the Public-Safety Department and work with the Suffolk County Police Department.

Also, kudos to Public-Safety Officer Kevin Ford, who has passed his New York State building code certification courses. Officer Ford will continue to work with SCPD, Mr. Maffei and the building department to enforce the codes in our Village.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

New facilities and a dedicated staff cleaned up after Jonas.

If you have driven down Mastic Road, you may have noticed the Department of Public Works (DPW) team has been hard at work preparing for winter. The DPW crew has built new salt and sand storage facilities. In accordance with state regulations, the sheds have a cement floor, walls and ceiling that protect the environmentally damaging materials (for example: oil, salt, sand) from leeching into our groundwater and surrounding soil. These improvements bring our DPW Yard in line with State Environmental regulations set forth by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

With the yard cleaned and the sheds built, the DPW team was well prepared for Winter Storm Jonas, the first accumulated snowfall of the season. Deputy Mayor Summa and DPW Superintendent Peter Costelloe prepared and coordinated

seventeen (17) plows with nine (9) sanders.

Snow removal began with the main roads. The crew then moved on to plow the North/South streets that connect to those main roads and finished with the East/West streets starting with the largest and ending with smallest. This allowed for the most homes to be accessible to emergency vehicles. If an emergency is called to a street that is not plowed, the plows are in constant communication with our Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the DPW. Plows will clear the way for the emergency vehicle to get to a main road as quickly as possible.

The Village staff did a great job answering telephones at the EOC and keeping the team informed of any problems that could help residents. The EOC was open for 29 hours straight.

BUILDING AND HOUSING

New staff to help with New York Rising and elevations.

With a NY Rising grant given to our Village, the Building Department has hired a new part-time Building Inspector, Mr. Bill Bahnsen. Mr. Bahnsen currently works for the Town of Brookhaven as the Building Inspector who handles Fire Island home elevations, as they relate to Sandy reconstruction, specifically applying New York Rising and FEMA standards.

Mr. Bahnsen is a tremendous asset to our Building Department, as he will be helping to expedite building permits for our

residents who are still dealing with the devastating effects of Super-Storm Sandy.

If you are having trouble with your New York Rising payments, paperwork or inspections, please contact Trustee Elizabeth “Betty” Manzella at e.manzella@masticbeachvillageny.gov, or contact the Mayor’s office at 281-2326 or email to geninfo@masticbeachvillageny.gov.





CITIZENS'-ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Beautification Committee: Chairperson Debbie Rowehl

Mayor Maura Spery recently asked me to head the Village of Mastic Beach's Beautification Committee and I accepted the challenge of this new adventure.

The Beautification Committee will be focusing our attention toward the spring. The committee will be cleaning up and planting flowers in the triangles around the Village. I urge anyone with a green thumb and a little extra time to sign up to come and help.

The design will be a beach theme; we are, after all, a beach community! Taking our design inspiration from the Smith Point TWA Memorial, we would like to create a butterfly garden

at the triangle at Commack Road and Neighborhood Road. I think by involving the seniors and children of this community to help in this project, our children will have a sense of pride in our Village as well as receive a fun and valuable learning experience. Please feel free to contact me if you and/or your child(ren) would be interested in participating in this project.

As well as planting flowers, we will be scheduling cleanups when the weather gets warmer. Because this Village is so large, this needs to be a community-wide effort. We are looking for volunteers from each section of the Village to help streamline this process.

Please contact me if you are interested in captaining a section.

Last but not least, I would like to have everyone come together and help make the Village of Mastic Beach a place we are proud to call home! Everyone can make a difference, big or small!!

I am currently looking for committee members. If you are interested, please contact me at d.rowehl@masticbeachvillageny.gov or via facebook at facebook.com/debbie.rowehl. Looking forward to the Spring and working with you!!

—Committee Chairperson,
Debbie Rowehl

COMMITTEE SCHEDULES CAN BE FOUND ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE Committees meet regularly and are open to the public. Meeting dates/times are included in the Village's website calendar of events (www.masticbeachvillageny.gov/calendar).



369 NEIGHBORHOOD ROAD
MASTIC BEACH, NEW YORK 11951

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- 1-631-281-2326

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BRUCE M. SUMMA, *Deputy Mayor*
CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON, *Trustee*
ELIZABETH "BETTY" MANZELLA, *Trustee*
ANNE L. SNYDER, *Trustee*



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