

Town News – Winter 2017-18

Changes galore at Town Hall! With the election results tallied, Gary Gerth will be starting as Supervisor as of January 1, 2018. Supervisor Jim Dougherty and Councilmember Chris Lewis will be retiring, as will Town Attorney Laury Dowd. Committee clerk Jeanette Flynn has left and the town is working on filling her position. Officer Tom Cronin is retiring, as is Highway Foreman Barry Ryder. So look for some new faces at Town Hall.

The Town has started a new program to incentivize people to replace their conventional septic systems with innovative/alternative nitrogen-reducing septic systems (sometimes referred to as I/A OWTS). The town will provide a rebate of up to \$15,000 to cover approved costs of such replacement. The process includes hiring an engineer to figure out the best system for your property, getting conditional approval of the rebate, getting approval from the Suffolk County Health Department, having the system installed, and filing for your rebate payment. The nitrogen-reducing technology is new to Long Island, though it has been used extensively in other areas of the country. By reducing nitrogen inputs, your drinking water will be of better quality and the health of the bays will improve. You can find a Power Point presentation on the process on the Town's website under Committees/Water Quality Improvement Advisory Board.

The town has a new Recreation Director. This summer, Bethany Ortman replaced retiring Garth Griffin. Bethany has started a newsletter listing all the town recreation programs, and organized the many exercise opportunities, increased the youth programs to include after school and toddler programs, and breathed new life into recreation on Shelter Island.

PSEG's project to replace the failed underwater power line from Greenport to Shelter Island is underway. It is planned to be finished before next summer and will improve the reliability of power for all residents of Shelter Island.

The Deer and Tick reduction program is still actively underway under the auspices of the Police Department and the Deer and Tick Committee. Deer nuisance hunter can get incentives to cull the deer overpopulation, which can reduce car accidents and landscape damage. The 4 Poster program applies tickicide to deer and other animals to prevent ticks from using them as hosts to proliferate. The Deer and Tick Committee recently sent out a survey to collect views on these programs. Results from the survey can be found on the town's website.

Keep an eye on the newspaper for weekly reports on Town news and on this webpage for quarterly updates.