



# The Village News

A Publication of the Village of Southampton, NY • Fall 2024

## FALL LEAF CLEAN UP

**Friday, Nov 1 – Friday, Dec 27**

As per Village Code,

**NO CONTRACTOR OR CONTRACTORS shall place any leaves on the Village right-of-way. Fall leaf pickups shall be for the abutting landowner or employee thereof.**

Leaves will be picked up in the following manner:

1. Leaves must be piled in long, neat piles along roadway edge - Not In Roadway!
2. Leaves must be placed in paper Biodegradable bags only (plastic bags are unacceptable).
3. No grass clippings.
4. Biodegradable Bags - Available for purchase at Village Hall & hardware stores.
5. No land clearing or tree and shrub pruning. All mixed piles will be passed by.

**The Highway Department does NOT pick up any of the following:**

**PLASTIC BAGS WILL NO LONGER BE PICKED UP**

1. Construction debris
2. Hedge clippings or hedge trimming brush of any kind
3. Grass clippings
4. Potted plants
5. Stumps of any kind
6. Iron fence posts or any type of stakes
7. Rocks or dirt
8. Bricks or blocks
9. No cans, bottles or garbage of any kind
10. No wood or brush of any kind

Disposal of these items is the responsibility of the individual property owner. In the past, many of these items have been mixed in with leaves or brush. This can cause serious injury to our workers and expensive damage to our machinery.

**Your cooperation will help us to provide better service to you. Thank you for your consideration and attention.**

**VILLAGE OF SOUTHAMPTON  
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
(631) 283-2025**

## Meet Trustee Edward Simioni

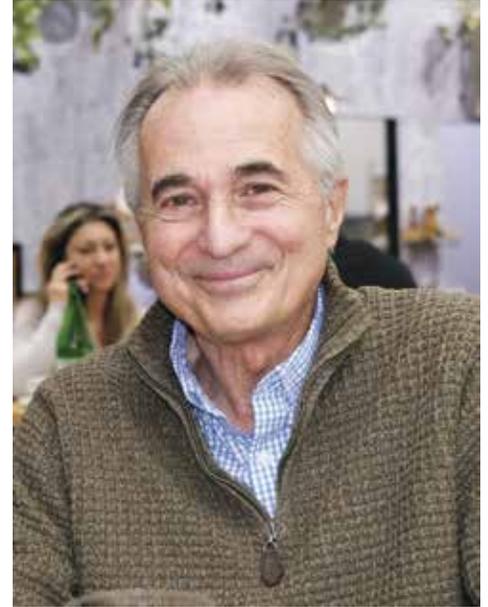
The newest addition to the Southampton Village Board is Trustee Edward Simioni. A seasoned veteran of public service, Ed served on the Southampton Village Planning Commission for 18 years, where he played a pivotal role in addressing key issues such as zoning, planning guidelines for the business district, and the development of a sewer district.

In addition to his public service, Ed is a business owner with expertise in logistics and supply chain management. His professional background, which requires organization and attention to detail, has equipped him with skills that he believes translate well to his role as a trustee.

Currently, Ed serves as the liaison with both the Southampton Cultural Center and the Southampton Village Justice Court. One of his first initiatives is to lead efforts in repairing potholes and repaving Pond Lane, which has grown into a state of disrepair. Additionally, Ed is focused on improving traffic management, with plans to utilize technology to find effective solutions. He also recognizes the importance of addressing the Village's sewage system and is committed to working towards housing solutions for local professionals.

Ed has been a full-time resident of the Village for decades. He has been married for 35 years to his wife, Alison, and they have three sons aged 30, 26, and 19, all of whom graduated with honors from Southampton High School.

In addition to his public service, Ed has a passion for classic cars, which he regularly features at local shows. Ed is also an amateur photographer who has contributed much of his work to The Rotary, where he has been a member for over 20 years. His strong sense of public service and volunteerism is further demonstrated by his decision to donate his salary to the newly created Simioni Community Benefit Fund, which supports various causes in the Village.



Looking to further connect with the community, Trustee Simioni has planned a monthly "open door" evening, where he will be available in a convenient office location to welcome residents who wish to share their questions, comments, and suggestions.

*"I believe that in order to better serve the community one should ensure an open dialogue with the residents we serve. Therefore, to maintain this commitment I will be available to meet on the second Monday of every month from 6 pm at the Masonic Lodge located at 40 Main Street."*

## ON ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 5, 2024 VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER

Please support a land swap in the Village that will authorize the Village to use Doscher Park for the installation of an algae harvester and permeable reactive barrier. This will help us continue to clean up Lake Agawam and with this swap, additional park land will be secured in perpetuity.

## Letter from Mayor William M. Manger Jr.

Fall is coming fast after the busiest summer ever in the Village of Southampton. I was honored to be asked to cut the ribbon at several new Village businesses: BuddaBerry, Blue Water Spa, Contessa Gallery, Windmill Lane Baking Company and one not-for-profit establishment, Heart of the Hamptons. I look forward to reopening the Movie Theater next year. Southampton will have the only IMAX theater on the East End. These additions to Southampton demonstrate the vibrancy and desirability of our community. I want to commend the men and women of the Department of Public Works and Coopers Beach for their hard work in making and keeping our Village looking better than ever. From our bustling Main Street to our busy beaches, they have done an amazing job in keeping up with the crowds. In fact, Coopers Beach was ranked Number 1 in the Continental United States by Dr. Stephen Leatherman, aka Dr. Beach!

I continue to work with Superintendent Steve Phillips to address the drainage issues in the Village. Much of our infrastructure has been neglected for a long time and the heavy rains we have experienced are clearly demonstrating the problem. We are cleaning out our sumps and, it is hoped, that the additional bioswales and rain gardens we've installed, and continue to install, will help alleviate the flooding. Your Village Board also enacted fill legislation to help prevent stormwater runoff from running on to neighboring properties. The new legislation provides, at a minimum, that no fill be placed within five feet of a property line.

Johnson Controls continues to install solar panels in the Village not only to reduce our electricity costs, but also to make the Village more sustainable. The solar infrastructure at the ambulance barn on Windmill Lane will enable that building and police headquarters to have a net-zero footprint. We are almost ready to go with the algae harvester and permeable reactive barrier to help clean up Lake Agawam. I am asking every voter in the Town of Southampton to vote Yes in November on the land swap that will allow for the placement of these devices in Doscher Park. Once we get voter approval, we will be able to begin filtering the lake water in 2025.

Speaking of parks, the New York Mets Baseball and Softball Camp offered a weeklong camp at the Village fields in Downs Family Park over the Fourth of July. This fall we will open a brand-new playground for younger children up there. I am pleased to report that the Village's Park Fund just received \$685,000 that will be used to make improvements to Moses Park. While we want to keep it a peaceful refuge with trails, we will be adding two bocce courts and another playground for children at that location in the western part of the Village.

The Village continues to apply for grants from various government entities to help with many projects from the sewer to stormwater mitigation to resiliency and the restoration of the World War I Memorial Monument in Agawam Park. In order to provide the strongest applications with the best possible chance for success, I appointed the following professional consultants to assist us after review and recommendation by a Village Committee: SWPP – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and MS4, Nelson Pope Voorhis; Building – Structural and Historic, Steward Preservation Services; Drainage Projects, L.K. McLean Associates, Engineers & Surveyors. Additionally, I appointed the following consultants to serve the Village in the following areas after review and recommendation: Planning and Zoning Boards, H2M Architects & Engineers; Traffic & Parking, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.; DEC Permitting, H2M Architects & Engineers; Planning for Village Board, Buckhurst, Fish & Jacquemart, Inc. It is a good government practice to have consultants submit proposals for review from time to time to ensure the Village is receiving the best work product at the most cost-efficient price. I am proud that I could introduce this practice.

In continuing to have meaningful relationships with other government officials, I hosted a roundtable with Governor Hochul in Southampton Village Hall with the other East End Mayors to discuss the lack of workforce housing. While this is not an easy problem to solve, I told her that the Village was looking into adding workforce housing in the Village Business and Office Districts. With this proposal, I would like to allow a preference for those who work in or volunteer



for the Village. Traffic would improve as well, if more employees, teachers and volunteers could reside within our Village.

This fall, we will continue with paving projects and initiatives to make the Village more green. The Town Trustees are going to add a rain garden median to the south side of their Lake Agawam parking lot similar to the ones in the West Main Street parking lot. We will also continue with our aggressive tree planting program to beautify and help the environment.

I would like to invite everybody to participate in Southamptonfest to be held this year over the first weekend in October from the 4th-6th. We will have many events in the heart of the Village that should have broad appeal. Everything from the chowder contest to pumpkin carving to cultural exhibits and participation by the fire department. Veterans Day in November is a great event when we honor all those who have served our country. Another event that cannot be missed is the Parade of Lights, Christmas tree lighting, and fireworks in Agawam Park held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This event has become as big as our Fourth of July Parade, and last year we had fire departments from Riverhead to Montauk participate. These events highlight the heart and soul of our community. Please join us.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you as Mayor. As always, please feel free to reach out to me at Village Hall through my assistant Karen Bontempo.

With all best wishes for a wonderful fall and holiday season,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William M. Manger Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Southamptonfest Is Back for Its 12th Year

**Southamptonfest** is back in its 12th year, the weekend of October 4th-6th, drawing attendees from the tri-state area for a weekend of arts & crafts, live entertainment, sidewalk sales, shopping, pumpkins, and the popular Chowder Contest — plus a whole lot more.

The weekend begins with a high-energy cocktail party at the **Southampton Cultural Center**, sponsored by the **Southampton Rotary Club** on Friday, October 4th. It's become a beloved Village tradition as old and new friends gather for music, dancing, libations and nibbles with complimentary beer and wine from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, followed by a cash bar until 9:30 pm. The evening carries on with the incredible work of the Rotary Club, whose dedicated members have been coming together to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build good will in the community — since 1946.

Saturday, the 5th, is an all-day event with happenings throughout the Village. Bands such as *Gene Casey and the Lone Sharks*, *Charles Certain* and *Next Level* will perform in Agawam Park, along with the popular Chowder Contest featuring entries from local restaurants, along with food trucks offering delightful dishes. The **Rogers Memorial Library** brings the library to the community with free books (for adults, teens and children), giveaways, outdoor games and examples of items printed by their 3D printer and more! **Heart of the Hamptons** will provide a children's scavenger hunt throughout the Village & Petting Zoo, **Southampton Animal Shelter** will bring their pet mobile to find your next furry companion and the **Presbyterian Church** will conduct tours of the historic house of worship. **Hampton Flea & Vintage** will curate one-of-a-kind treasures and will provide a market fair to shop and take-

home special finds, the **Southampton Village Volunteer Ambulance Association** will display their new ambulances with interactive opportunities for kids, and the **Southampton Village Fire Department** will provide their hook and ladder truck with sky high opportunities to go up in the ladder as well as giveaways for kids and information for all. The Smokehouse and antique fire trucks will be on display at the firehouse on Windmill Lane and across the street **Shippy's** will be celebrating the one year anniversary of their reopening. Enjoy their German-American cuisine in their biergarten where you can anticipate plenty of fun.

Learn about the **North Sea Maritime Center** through their interactive *Touch Tank* of live marine life provided by **East End Explorer** or stop and have *Coffee with A Cop* and ask your local officer any question you'd like. Peter Marino Foundation will host the *Art + Design Walk* which will take participants inside local galleries and design shops, where they get their cards marked at each stop and enter to win a grand prize package. The Southampton History Museum's **Pelletreau Silver Shop** (part of the Art + Design Walk) will also open its doors to guests for a jewelry making workshop and stories of silver smithing in old Southampton.

At Agawam Park, Mayor Bill Manger will give a brief talk on the importance of our World War I Memorial, a jewel of the Village. This historically significant monument was built in 1923 by Donnelly and Corrigan (the same builders as the original Village Hall) and designed by Architect William Edgar Moran. On the walls are carved the names of the Southampton men and boys who served their country. Through its open colonnade visitors can see Lake Agawam and, in the distance, the dunes and ocean. The Village is committed to providing a long-term solution to restoring

the monument to its original condition. Proceeds from Southamptonfest will go towards this restoration. The **Southampton History Museum** will hold very special exhibits highlighting Southampton's role in this war, with programming including historical reenactments, interactive activities and more.

The amazing institutions that make Southampton Village so special are participating with curated programming to be announced and include the **Southampton Cultural Center**, the **Rogers Memorial Library**, **Southampton Rotary Club**, **Southampton Arts Center**, **Southampton Chamber of Commerce**, the **Southampton African American Museum**, the **Shinnecock Indian Nation** and more. This year, Southampton African American Museum will offer self guided tours of their exhibit entitled *Pyrrhus Concer: An Adventure Life*. Pyrrhus Concer is one of the most important historical figures to Southampton. Through the study of his life and accomplishments, we can learn so much about many different parts of our past — from slavery to the history of the whaling industry to international diplomacy in the 19th century to just the story of one local man's life. Pyrrhus' life story teaches us so much, and now you can see just how close his life was to the Village of Southampton.

The **Southampton Artists Association**, a not-for-profit organization that gives both professional and amateur artists, who live throughout the East End, an opportunity to showcase their work which will be on display and for sale on Saturday and Sunday along with the Chamber of Commerce Farmers Market both days as well.

Stay tuned for more announcements. Follow us on Instagram @Southamptonfest.

*Please note this schedule is subject to change.*



# Climate Change and Southampton Village

by Deputy Mayor Len Zinnanti

## THE CHALLENGE

Communities across the country, especially in coastal areas like Southampton, are being challenged by the impacts of climate change on real estate and infrastructure. The results are contributing to the escalating cost of ownership and are further challenged by the limited access to affordable property, flood insurance and the devaluation of assets in high-risk areas. Of special note is the palpable effect of climate change in Nantucket, Massachusetts. In return, some municipalities are seeing loss of tax base and a very serious threat to the economic sustainability of categorically high-risk neighborhoods. While it is not the role of local leadership to ensure that commercial and residential property owners have access to property insurance, there are efforts that can be taken to lower

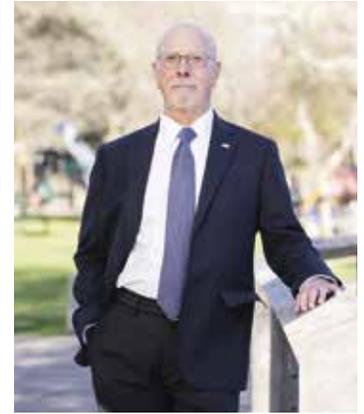
their risk and provide a plan for climate mitigation actions. This is important so that the housing (first) and commercial (second) finance industry does not crash because of a lack of security (must have insurance to have a mortgage). It's also crucial that folks already at risk (low income/seniors) are not left without homes/compensation for assets because they cannot be insured. Climate mitigation activities can include municipal infrastructure improvements to drainage systems and road design, individual property improvements such as home elevations, septic improvements, and other mitigating design elements.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

There are opportunities to access state and/or federally funded mitigation programs for at-risk markets that could create space for engineers, architects and

the construction industry to perform work to lower real risk ratings, reduce premiums and bring security to the insurance pool and mortgage market – but more importantly secure the tax base for municipalities. With this Village Board's leadership, I recommend that the Village Environmental and Sustainability Committee, (of which Robin Brown and I are the trustee co-chaairs,) study, recommend and advise on mitigation planning efforts for Village residents and business owners.

This Committee, then, would be responsible for curating creative solutions that include access to funding sources to create a long-term mitigation plan addressing a spectrum of local needs. The Committee would work with Town, County, State and Federal representatives to create and help implement community engagement plans



and informational forums about the need for mitigation actions and long-term sustainability planning. Creating a list of local priorities tied to potential funding opportunities would be a first step. The Committee would recommend to the Village Board and grant opportunities that will support the planning and execution of mitigation and restoration activities to address climate adaptation.



*Completed Bioswale Project at West Main Street Parking Lot. Other bioswales have been installed at Bowden Square, Old Town Pond and Nugent Street with more to come.*

## Clean Water Project

by Deputy Mayor Len Zinnanti

Several years ago, the Village of Southampton formed a Clean Water Task Force to investigate the viability of a sewer system to service the Village's business district. After issuing a Request For Proposal (RFP), and selecting the engineering firm D & B, the Task Force has worked with D & B to develop a map and plan, calculate the amount of sanitary flow, and find an appropriate site to process the flow, and discharge the treated effluent via leaching pools.

D & B is a Long Island based firm that has had extensive experience in developing clean water systems for localities. The benefits to the community

are overwhelmingly environmental as well as economical in nature. Finding an appropriate site has been challenging, in terms of partnering with the Town CPF for funding and because misconceptions about the effects of such clean water systems are prevalent. Besides negotiating with the Town and the owners of potential sites, the Village is going to undertake a public education initiative to educate its residents about the realities, and misconceptions of a sewer system in our business district. Please check the Village website for information on this! We welcome all participation.

## Around the Village

by Trustee Robin Brown

I wanted to share some collaborative efforts that have yielded great benefits for Southampton Village. These successful projects are making a real impact on our community.

**Calling All Restaurants:** Southampton Village is taking a proactive approach to fire prevention by looking to offer classes at local restaurants. SVFD Chief Manny Escobar's guidance has paved the way for this initiative, aiming to enhance fire safety awareness and potentially save lives. Interested restaurants can contact Chief Escobar at [EEscobar@southamptonfd.org](mailto:EEscobar@southamptonfd.org).

**Road Safety:** Southampton Village Police Officer Castell and Sergeant Dunkirk have received essential training from the DOT on commercial vehicle safety inspections and have motivated their fellow officers to join the effort. This has led to increased education and enforcement of commercial safety regulations, including monitoring tonnage overweight violations. This proactive approach aims to prevent incidents like the past overweight truck overturning on Somerset Avenue a few years ago. Through training and improved signage and the ability to educate and enforce the guidelines of commercial vehicle safety, the result is safer roads.

**Cybersecurity:** We aim to take the necessary steps to prevent cyber attacks like the ransomware event that hit Suffolk County in 2021. We have engaged our IT vendor, Fluid Imagery, to develop a comprehensive plan and provide strategic recommendations for enhancing our defenses against potential cyber-attacks. This proactive approach aims to bolster our security measures and safeguard our critical assets effectively. Thank you to Julie Krudop, our Village Treasurer, for her collaboration in identifying crucial elements that require protection.

**Sun-Powered Seating:** Our solar charging benches have been installed, thanks to Steve Phillips and Brian Doroska. It's heartwarming to witness our community recharge while enjoying an ice cream after exploring our Southampton Arts Center. We are delighted to share that each solar bench donation includes the planting of several trees, further enhancing our green efforts. The first tree planted through this initiative will be the flowering dogwood, which symbolizes the beauty of environmental consciousness. Prioritizing sustainability not only adds to our Village's beauty, but contributes to creating an eco-friendly and sustainable community.



Sponsor a solar charging bench with your family name by contacting [registrar@southamptonvillage.org](mailto:registrar@southamptonvillage.org).

**Future Sustainability:** The Environmental & Sustainability Committee's commitment to informing Village Hall about sustainability practices, has led to potential funding for climate-forward energy projects. We are making strides towards a greener future. Electric bikes provide a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative for transportation, contributing positively to the environment. Southampton Village Police Department has inspired the Southampton Village Ambulance to incorporate electric bikes into their fleet. This innovation not only improves response times and more efficient crowd control procedures, but it also enhances our ability to reach those in need swiftly and safely.

**Year-round Beach:** Finally, Coopers Beach — worth visiting in all seasons — got the Number 2 spot in Dr. Beach's List of Best Beaches. (We are actually Number 1 in the Continental United States!) Coopers Beach is safe, with the best-trained lifeguards and drone patrol monitoring our marine life, and also incredibly beautiful. Providing access for all, we offer sand wheelchairs and this year, we elevated the experience of sun and fun with new Coopers Cabanas at family-friendly prices. The *Walk the Sand-Way* Fashion Show took place in late summer 2024. It featured fashions from local businesses and took place at Coopers Beach, which was a perfect location to feature local shops and designers. We will continue to stimulate and build interest in our local businesses. Our local businesses are the vital lifeblood making our village vibrate.

Indeed it takes a Village to create positive change, and I thank all who joined with me to do just that. Let's stay safe, have fun, and continue to protect our environment for future generations.

October is  
**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

Join us for the  
**Pink Tree Lighting**



**Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30pm**  
at the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, Southampton



Mayor Manger welcomed many new businesses to the Village with creative takes on "ribbon cutting" — this one a "baguette breaking" at Windmill Baking & Co.



**WWI MEMORIAL**  
RESTORATION PROJECT AT AGAWAM PARK  
VILLAGE OF SOUTHAMPTON COMMISSION ON VETERANS PATRIOTIC EVENTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN REACHING OUR GOAL FOR THE WWI MEMORIAL RESTORATION PROJECT IN AGAWAM PARK. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DONATE VIA THE WWI QUICKLINK.

# A Word from The Southampton Village Volunteer Ambulance

by Kyle McGuinness, Chief

Over the last two years, I have had the honor of serving as the Chief of Southampton Village Volunteer Ambulance, and it's been a period filled with significant accomplishments. Last year, our 95-member department responded to approximately 760 calls, and we are on track to match or surpass that number this year. Several emergencies have highlighted why the SVVA is among the best agencies on Long Island.

At last year's Southampton Fire Department Chicken and Ribs Dinner, a guest suffered a serious medical emergency. The SVVA members present immediately stopped what they were doing and administered lifesaving CPR. Thanks to their prompt and expert care, the patient was successfully resuscitated and made a full recovery.

There was also the successful delivery of a healthy baby boy in the back of our ambulance following an urgent maternity

call. Such calls are rare and very stressful, requiring immediate, focused attention and extensive knowledge.

We've handled numerous emergencies, often working alongside the Southampton Village Police Department, Southampton Fire Department, and Southampton Volunteer Ambulance. A highlight of the year was receiving our new 2023 Ford F550 Type I ambulance, built by PL Custom Emergency Vehicles. After receiving approval from Southampton Village, a committee composed of department members designed and approved the build of this new ambulance, which will enhance our ability to provide even higher levels of patient care.

On the night of its delivery, we invited Mayor Manger to join us, and he participated in the traditional Push-In ceremony: the practice of pushing the new apparatus in to ambulance HQ, symbolizes good luck to the new rig and

community pride. With the support of our Village Board, we are excited to announce the approval of a second new ambulance. This is crucial as we continue to replace our aging 20-year-old fleet. The new ambulance will improve our reliability and allow us to further enhance the level of service we provide.

As 2024 draws to a close, so does my tenure as Chief of the Southampton Village Volunteer Ambulance. A principle I have adhered to during my six years in the chief's office is that a leader's success is directly tied to the success of their team. The dedication, determination, and hard work of the SVVA members have been the cornerstone of our outstanding achievements. Their commitment to providing the highest level of patient care and volunteering their time is truly commendable. It has been a privilege to lead such an exceptional team. The pride I feel for the department is entirely due to their exceptional efforts and dedication!

## Beautiful Downtown Southampton

by Trustee Roy Stevenson

The Southampton Village Master Plan appropriately states that one of the desired goals for our village is a thriving central business district that serves the Village residents, not just during the summer season, but year-round. Towards this end, the Village has created a Southampton Village Business District Revitalization Committee which aims to explore ideas and make suggestions to accomplish this vision. The committee members are: Eldon Scott, founder of urbanspace; Jeanne Sdroulas, Southampton Village Planning Commission member;

John Betts, Shippy's restaurant owner and Coopers Beach food concession operator; Geoff Hull, Corcoran Group realtor and village landlord; Dede Gotthelf, Southampton Inn owner; Besim Cukaj, Southampton Chamber of Commerce President and Besim's Fine Cigars Owner; Nancy Kane, Journalist & Publicist and me, Roy

Stevenson, Village Trustee and Stevenson's Toys & Games owner.

The group seeks input from all stakeholders in the Village Business District -- residents, tourists, business owners, building owners and cultural hubs such as the Southampton Arts Center, Southampton Playhouse, Southampton History Museum, Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton African-American Museum, Peter Marino Art Foundation and Southampton Cultural Center.

In finding common grounds among these groups, we seek to:

- 1) Develop and/or articulate a cohesive Southampton Village brand/identity/vibe;
- 2) Support more robust programs and events throughout the shoulder and winter seasons. Create a sustainable, year-round program for local businesses which includes impactful

messaging to attract people in the off season and 3) Establish leadership and consistency over the long term, to develop and implement a thoughtful, actionable and impactful strategy to support goals informed by data.

While February and March will never be as vibrant with activity as July and August, it is clear that if we can broaden the Fall and Spring 'shoulder' seasons by encouraging events which draw people to the village during the off-season months, it will improve the year-round retail and restaurant offerings for Village residents in a meaningful way.

Towards that end, the Village is highlighting a Southamptonfest fall celebration October 4th-6th and in December, we look forward to our wonderful Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting.

Of major note is the renovation of the Southampton movie



theater into the new Southampton Playhouse. The complex will feature an IMAX theater plus three additional movie/event spaces. The Playhouse promises to be a community-oriented cultural asset bringing films, talks, and other attractions to our village throughout the year. We cannot thank the Playhouse group (led by Aby Rosen and Alex Black) enough for both preserving and significantly enhancing this wonderful Village landmark.

# Southampton Village Christmas Memories

by Nancy Kane

When I was a little girl, growing up on Post Crossing, Christmas was pure magic – and the heart of that magic was Southampton Village. It's where Santa arrived at the Chamber of Commerce and where I did Christmas shopping (on a child's budget) at Gould's Variety Store, while my parents got toys delivered on Christmas Eve from Lillywhite's and my grandfather would pick up last minute presents from Ferrara's Pharmacy, bringing me, if I was lucky, for a peppermint ice cream cone at Sip n Soda.

This didn't happen by magic, though, but by residents giving of themselves in the true spirit of the holiday, to make the season bright. The Christmas Decorations Committee began in the mid-1950's by Jack and Nancy Rist, Artie Palma, Jack Lillywhite and Bob Keane. Each year, on the first Friday in December they held the official Village Christmas Tree Lighting at the Chamber of Commerce. In 1975, Jack and Nancy Rist passed the torch to Ann and Bill Yawney and a committee of business owners and residents was formed.

Money would be donated by community members to fund the sparkling trees and wreaths placed throughout the Village business district. The antique angels from Saks Fifth Avenue that adorn the fence along Jobs Lane were all refurbished as well as the iconic Santa Claus and his reindeer and the nostalgic bell that hang over Main Street. In 2020, a beautiful new spruce tree was purchased for Agawam Park. In 2021, after 46 years serving on The Christmas Decorations Committee, Ann & Bill Yawney retired and once again the torch has been passed to a new committee to keep Southampton Village merry and bright.

The current committee now consists of Andrew Pilaro, Mark Parash, Julie Fitzgerald and Grace Meaney and they do the most amazing job of keeping the magic of the season alive and well in the Village. "The Christmas Decorations Committee was created by local residents, and it signifies the start of the holiday season in Southampton," said current President Andrew Pilaro. "The celebrations are made possible every year by the community and their donations. The event and all the decorations are entirely funded by the generous support of our local businesses and residents."

25 years ago the Parade of Lights was created by Millie Fellingham and the Southampton Chamber of Commerce to highlight the Volunteer Fire and EMS Departments. Christmas in the Village of Southampton today is just as magical as it was in my childhood. There is Stevenson's Toy Shop now to make children's dreams come true, Topiaire Candy



Photo: Dean McNamara

Shoppe conjuring the sweet tastes of childhood, Corwin's Jeweler for a special someone (since 1879), Hildreth's for gifts for everyone on your list, Herrick Hardware for Christmas lights and holiday welcome mats—too many shops to mention! Where we used to get our Christmas trees from Frankenbach's and Lynch's, now we get them at the wonderful Fowler's complete with Santa every weekend in December. And Sip n Soda still makes peppermint ice cream.

Lizbeth Halsey White was the first woman historian of the Town and the meticulous recorder of our heritage who wrote the below when writing about the village of Southampton:

"We must not forget Mr. Biggs. It was indeed a tiny shop where you could buy almost anything from a marble to a house lot, even an ice cream cone. We cannot resist relating here the incident of the small boy—now one of Southampton's leading physicians—who went to the city with his mother to do Christmas shopping. She noticed that he looked around a good deal but evinced no desire to do his errands. When she inquired the reason, he said he had decided to wait until he returned home for he could "do better at Biggs."

A reminder to us all to shop local, for everything we need to make our holiday dreams come true is right in our own charming Village.

My childhood Christmas was magic because Southampton Village was Christmas. I'm so glad it still is.

## Christmas Calendar Saturday, November 30th

### 4:30PM at Dusk - Parade of Lights

Featuring decorated vehicles representing our volunteer Fire and EMS departments

### 5:30PM - Tree Lighting Ceremony

In Agawam Park with Holiday Songs by Southampton High School's Voices of Southampton (VOSH)

### Fireworks Display

with Exciting New Surprises

### Holiday Window Decorations Contest

Stroll through the Village and enjoy all the beautiful windows decorated for the Season

For more information and to donate, visit  
[www.Southamptonchristmas11968.org](http://www.Southamptonchristmas11968.org)  
or email: [southamptonchristmas11968@gmail.com](mailto:southamptonchristmas11968@gmail.com).



Photo: Brandon Remler



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Fax 631.283.4990  
southamptonvillage.org

**Mayor**

Willam M. Manger Jr.

**Trustees**

Robin Brown  
Edward Simioni  
Roy Stevenson  
Leonard F. Zinnanti

**Village Justice**

Hon. Linda Riley

**Village Administrator**

Anthony Carter

**Senior Building Inspector**

Christopher Talbot

**Village Clerk**

Cathy M. Sweeney

**Assistant to the Mayor**

Karen Bontempo

We welcome your comments or suggestions on The Village News.  
**631.283.0247 ext. 222**

**Editor**

Nancy Kane

**Village Police**

**631.283.0056**

For Police, Fire or Ambulance

**Emergency**

**Dial 911**



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**GO GREEN**

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## Discovering Southampton: A Hub of Culture and Community

Southampton Village is a vibrant enclave that captivates both residents and visitors alike with its rich tapestry of cultural events and community activities. Whether you're an art enthusiast, a theater lover, or simply looking for a fun day out, Southampton offers an array of experiences that ignite the spirit and imagination.

The **Southampton Cultural Center** is the heart of local arts, featuring a packed schedule that appeals to diverse interests. This fall, catch the **Liliane Questel Recital Series** on October 5 and November 23, both at 6 PM, showcasing talented musicians in an intimate setting. For theater enthusiasts, **Boots on the Ground Theater** presents Terence McNally's play, **"It's Only A Play,"** from October 18 to November 3. Performances are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays at 7 PM, with Sunday matinees at 2:30 PM. Later in the season, enjoy a festive rendition of **"A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play,"** adapted by Joe Landry, from December 6 to 15. Dance lovers can look forward to a **Holiday Dance Recital** by AG Dance on November 29 at 2:30 PM, while comedy fans can enjoy the **Sticks and Stones Comedy Club** every Friday in November. Art exhibitions are plentiful, with highlights including: **Rose Pelicano's "Glorious Flora"** from September 10 to 29, featuring a reception on September 14; **Dean McNamara & Friends Photography** from October 1 to 23; The **Southampton Artists Association's 50/50 Sale** to support the **Heart of the Hamptons** from October 24 to November 10, with receptions on October 26 and November 1 and The **Fall Show** from November 13 to 24, culminating with **Christina Stow's** exhibit, **"Alchemy: The Bridge Between Magic and Science,"** from November 26 to January 5.

At the **Southampton Arts Center**, don't miss the **Surf Night film screening** on September 13 and **Halloween Silent Disco** on October 26.

The **Rogers Memorial Library** is another gem in Southampton, offering engaging programs for all ages. On September 14, learn to make homemade tortillas in a hands-on cooking workshop with **Homemade Tortillas with Maria's Mexican Cooking**. Mystery enthusiasts can join the **Rogers Mystery Lovers Club** on September 21 to discuss thrilling tales every month. On September 28, gather for a picnic in the park, where attendees can decorate picnic baskets and enjoy a delightful outdoor dining experience. Mark your calendars for October 1, designated as **Shinnecock Heritage Day**, featuring a visit from **Shane Weeks of the Shinnecock Nation**, who will share insights into the history and traditions of this indigenous community. Halloween festivities include a special celebration on October 31 for little ones, complete with music and stories.

The **Southampton History Museum** is set to host its **Fall Fair** on September 21, a family-friendly event celebrating local heritage. Expect demonstrations from skilled tradespeople, live music, and interactive crafts, alongside explorations of the historic **Rogers Mansion Museum**. They are also holding an informative program from The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League on Technical Assistance Grants September 19 to find out how to apply for the 2024 Technical Assistance Grant cycle!

**Whether you're a local or just visiting, immerse yourself in the richness of Southampton's offerings this season!**