



The Village News

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Our Vibrant Village

by Trustee Roy Stevenson

As a new year begins, we look back at the Village's holiday celebration, which got off to a fantastic start with the Parade of Lights. Fire and emergency vehicles from all around our area gathered in our village to dazzle the record crowds with light and sound. It's wonderful to celebrate our incredible volunteer fire, ambulance and ocean rescue personnel on joyous occasions because, by the very nature of their jobs, they are usually only visible when people are in need and lives are at stake.

In our Village, the men and women who protect us in these services are predominantly volunteers – at any moment leaving their jobs or homes to rush towards situations where people are in need of their help. Most often, those emergencies are local, but recently, our Fire Department chief Manny Escobar was contacted by Suffolk County officials requesting the Village to send firefighters and equipment to Orange County New York to help fight the fires that were devastating that area. Chief Escobar and SVFD members Pat Collins, Jason Poremba, Cheyne Finocchiaro, Dean McNamara, John Reister, James Moore and Ever Urizar assembled at 3 in the morning, and made the four-hour drive there, and spent the day fighting the fires, before returning to Southampton at midnight that night. Thanks to all for enabling our Village to lend a hand when others were in need. One day we shall be grateful for another village's assistance.

Our Village's first responders do such an amazing job. For them to function effectively, communication is vital. There is currently a significant problem with our first responders' ability to receive emergency calls and communicate with each other. Because our cellular service coverage is minimal at best in the southwestern areas of the village (and even fails village-wide during the summer when cell usage is at a maximum,) our emergency services frequently are either unable to make a connection or their calls drop. Solving this problem is, of course, a priority and the situation has been studied in detail by the Village Planning Commission. The Commission worked with a task force including first responders, with significant input from SVFD Asst. Chief Rick Fowler. The task force exhaustively studied possible solutions and ultimately an RFP (Request For Proposal)

Committee selected Diamond Communications to erect a cell tower in the Village that would not only solve the first responder communication issues, but also greatly improve our citizens' cell phone reception and data transmission throughout the Village environs.

Diamond Communications has determined that the best site for this tower is behind the Windmill Lane Fire Department. Criteria in making this determination included maximizing Motorola coverage for first responders, and cell coverage, while at the same time selecting a site where the tower's visual impact on the Village would be minimized. This will ensure that our first responders can communicate and our citizens can experience significantly upgraded cellular performance. All three major carriers will have the opportunity to mount their equipment on the tower, ensuring service for all – regardless of carrier. A further benefit is that Diamond Communication's lease of the property where the tower will be located, will result in significant revenue for our Village.

One concern that has been intensely addressed during the consideration of this project, is the safety of cell towers, due to the radio frequency (RF) radiation they produce. The American Cancer Society states, "At this time, there's no strong evidence that exposure to RF waves from cell phone towers causes any noticeable health effects." The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has said this about cell phone towers near homes or schools: "[R]adio frequency emissions from antennas used for cellular and PCS [personal communications service] transmissions result in exposure levels on the ground that are typically thousands of times below safety limits. These safety limits were adopted by the FCC based on the recommendations of expert organizations and endorsed by agencies of the Federal Government responsible for health and safety. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that such towers could constitute a potential health hazard to nearby residents or students."

Given the preponderance of evidence that cell towers do not pose a health risk, and given the immediate need to improve our cellular network village-wide, we have determined that these



overriding considerations call for the immediate construction of the cell tower. The current timeline suggests that if approvals are granted, the Village could be a much safer place as soon as the end of next year.

In other news, I'm fortunate to be working with Jeanne Sdroulas from the Village's Planning Commission on the Village's Business Development Council which includes a strong team of advisors including Eldon Scott, Dede Gotthelf, Geoff Hull, Besim Cukaj and John Betts. Our goal is to set up an entity focused specifically on the Village's business district to coordinate and market all of the happenings and events that take place in the Village throughout the year. We seek to add to major Village events like the Fourth of July Parade, Southamptonfest, and the December Parade of Lights and Tree Lighting with additional happenings at our soon to be re-opened Southampton Playhouse as well as the Southampton Arts Center, Southampton History Museum, Southampton Cultural Center, Southampton African American Museum and the Peter Marino Art Foundation along with all the events initiated by our village's stores and shops. Plans include a website, additional business informational directories, and greater outreach through regional marketing. Any and all interested in joining with us in this effort are encouraged to contact Village Hall.

A happy and healthy new year to all.

Letter from Mayor William M. Manger Jr.

Happy New Year! I hope everybody enjoyed the Holidays with friends and family. The Village has certainly been busy. The Village Board continues to adopt aspects of the Comprehensive Plan update from 2022 to "Preserve and enhance quality of life elements: open space, the natural environment, historic character, and village-scaled buildings." The Parks Department is on its way to planting 200 trees this year - which is more than last year and more than double the previous year. For those interested, the Village will celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a tree near Our Lady of the Hamptons School on Friday, April 25th. A new playground at Downs Family Park was opened and enhancements at Moses Park are planned for this year. The Village continues to utilize our excellent grant writer Jennifer Messiano to successfully apply for grants. We received half a million dollars for the restoration of the Rogers Mansion of the History Museum on Meeting House Lane. We applied for another grant for the restoration of the World War I Memorial in Agawam Park. Along with stepped up fundraising, we believe that we will soon begin to repair that historic structure. The Board has retained an architect to create plans for a renovated third floor in Village Hall which has been left in a gutted state ever since the police department moved to their headquarters on Windmill Lane twenty-five years ago.

I want to thank everybody who voted for Proposition 3 on Election Day as it is allowing us to go ahead with the installation of algae harvesters near Lake Agawam that will filter three million gallons of water per day. The other important component of the proposition was the Community Preservation Fund purchase of several acres of open space above Pond Lane to the west. Later this year, the Town Trustees will expend money to install bioswales in the parking lot at the south end of Lake Agawam that will help prevent road runoff from entering the lake. This will also add more green space to enhance that large parking lot without reducing the number of spaces. Additionally, for combating road runoff, bioswales will be added along Wickapogue Road and the ones that were created along Coopers Farm Road, North Sea Road and Bowden Square will be

planted in the spring.

The Village has recognized the essential need for better cellular service, especially for our emergency services. Not only do our first responders need to communicate, but also there have been occasions when a life or death situation requires an immediate 911 call by a resident or visitor. The Village Board posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to construct a cellular tower on Village property. After receiving proposals from various companies, the RFP Committee made up of Village employees, Planning Commission members and first responders evaluated the submissions. Diamond Communications was selected for their experience and favorable financial terms. The Village will receive just over half a million dollars initially and then will receive annual rent from the various carriers that utilize the monopole. After sophisticated coverage analysis, it was determined that the best location for the tower is directly behind the Windmill Lane firehouse in the business district. This location will be best for the Motorola system that our first responders use and will provide the best coverage for cellular carriers in a location that is not near residences. The proposed monopole will go through the various land use boards for approval. Construction could begin later this year. Once completed, emergency services, residents and visitors will have excellent reception – which could be lifesaving when the need for reception is critical.

Under my initiative with the help of the Village attorney, Southampton will, after more than forty years, finally recodify and update its codebook. Amendments to the code were necessarily made in a piecemeal fashion while additions to the code have resulted in a lack of space for new provisions and a less than user-friendly book. The Village has contracted with General Code, a nationally recognized expert in municipal codes, to perform the recodification and review of all legislation to ensure consistency.

Now that Johnson Controls has completed the installation of solar panels behind the ambulance barn next to the dog park, residents will see the final solar panels going up in a portion of the Jobs Lane parking behind the businesses on the south



side. Once operational, these panels will reduce the amount the Village spends on electricity while also helping the environment.

Another exciting thing that residents can look forward to is the reopening of the historic Southampton Movie Theatre which will now be the Southampton Playhouse. Our Village will boast the only IMAX theatre on the East End while accommodating three other venues for movies and entertainment. One space will have the ability to host private screenings while another space will have retractable seats so that other arts programming can be provided. Look for a "soft opening" later this winter and a grand opening later in the spring.

I am pleased to report that the Village has a very healthy balance sheet due to additional revenues that have come in. I pledge to work diligently with our Treasurer and department heads to keep next year's budget as lean as possible in order to keep taxes low.

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

With all best wishes for the winter and spring,

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

Around the Village

Winter in Southampton Village is a charming blend of history, culture, and seasonal beauty. Southampton offers enriching experiences during the colder months — from exploring local art exhibits to uncovering centuries of history and celebrating diverse cultural narratives. Beat the winter doldrums with a stimulating event!

Don't miss **The Southampton African American Museum's** Annual Black History Program, in collaboration with the Southampton School District, happening in January. The theme is "Black Women in American History—Bring U.S. Together" and will include an exhibition with input from students and an educational component. Stay tuned at saamuseum.org

At the **Southampton Cultural Center**, exhibitions include: Carl Broady: Life Reflected, January 6th-31st and the Southampton Artists Association presents

Love Letters, February 1st-16th and their Winter Show of Long Island Photography, March 8th-29th. On Saturdays, January 11th and 18th, catch the Off Hampton Film Festival, and the Sticks and Stones' Hamptons Comedy Film Festival, February 7th-9th. In time for Valentine's Day, Boots on the Ground Theater presents A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters" February 14th – 16th and Nesbit's "The Railway Children" March 14th-23rd. For more info, go to scc-arts.org

Get outdoors with a brisk and history-filled walk with the **Southampton History Museum's** Winter Watershed Walk at Conscience Point on February 14th at 10am. Join Peconic Baykeeper and Peconic Estuary Partnership for and hit the trails to explore some of the beautiful locations around the Peconic Estuary. This is a great chance to learn more about the coastal habitats in the watershed. Visit peconicbaykeeper.org/event/winter-watershed-walk-series/ to reserve your spot.

At the **Southampton Arts Center**, take a Paint + Sip art class with Deborah Acquino on January 16th. Beginners and experienced artists love the supportive and inspiring environment to nurture your creativity and unleash your full potential. East End Collected returns on February 1st, co-curated with Paton Miller and Christina Mossaides Strassfield. The exhibition, which runs to May, reflects the artist's and director's vision of the East End as an ideal environment to create work highlighting artists who are full-time residents of Suffolk County.

The **Rogers Memorial Library** is undergoing an interior upgrade this winter/spring! Programs and services will be different during the renovations, but visit their website or scan the QR code for information on what's happening — www.myrml.org



SAVE THE WORLD WAR I MONUMENT

Southampton Village is committed to a long-term solution to restore the monument, which has severe structural damage, to its original grandeur. In order to restore this historic landmark and preserve the legacy of those who served, the Village needs to raise \$500,000.

These crucial funds will be dedicated to the physical restoration of Memorial as well as to establish a Foundation for its ongoing maintenance.

Please consider making a donation today.



visit : savetheshwwimemorial.com

At Long Last: Movies Again (and More!)

by Trustee Robin Brown

We welcome a remarkable addition to our community in early 2025, one that has had a long, if interrupted, history with Southampton Village. "Agawam Hall" opened in the 1890s and was located on Jobs Lane. Folks came to see a "projectoscope" hand-crank primitive early-movie images.

In 1928, Michael Glynne bought the Garden Theatre, on Hill Street, just west of Windmill Lane, made improvements and renamed it Glynne's Garden Theatre. In 1932, he opened Glynne's Southampton Theatre. This new, Colonial-style theater opened with great fanfare and attracted local movie aficionados and New York City swells. Glynne installed the marquee that is a historical landmark and a beloved icon for residents and visitors and the theater could host over a thousand guests.

The Southampton Playhouse, a nonprofit, newly renovated movie theater, will hold four separate theaters able to seat nearly 500 people and host the only IMAX screen on the East End, 35MM projection capability and host a mix of first run and classic films. Maria A. Ruiz Botsacos will come on board as the inaugural Executive Director and Eric Kohn as the newly appointed Artistic Director.

"We have immense respect for the number of cultural centers in the area, in fact, we

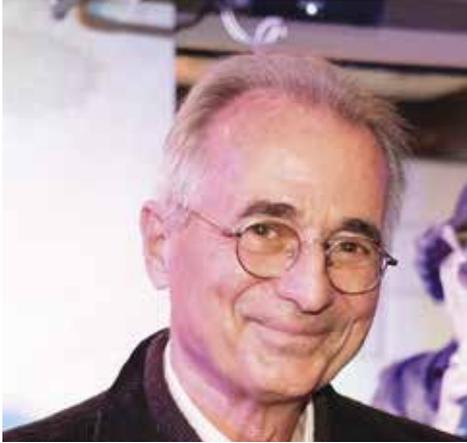


would love to collaborate in any way with each of them. The true impetus of our project and mission was to really narrow in on what this establishment provided to the community over the last near-century, and how we could improve exactly what that was," said Charlie Rosen, co-owner. "In that, we took the approach of a local theater providing the very best in first-run commercial films, while adding in components of live performance, community initiatives, food and beverage, and a myriad of other offerings that will reintroduce this establishment as a community pillar."

It promises to be more than just a movie theater; it's a cultural hub that aims to enrich the Southampton experience. The Southampton Playhouse is committed to becoming a cornerstone of our cinema landscape, and we are fortunate to have such a visionary establishment in our village.

Bus Stops and More

by Trustee Edward Simioni



As your newly elected Village Trustee this past June, I want to extend warm wishes to all Southampton Village residents, businesses, and employees for a happy and healthy New Year. I've been able to get to work immediately, making meaningful progress on issues that matter to our community.

One of my first priorities has been improving public access to board agendas and ensuring better notice of upcoming discussions. I worked with my colleagues to implement a policy requiring agendas to be published with sufficient lead time, promoting greater transparency and public participation. Additionally, I support leveraging technology to streamline the processing of Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests to make it easier for residents to obtain the information they need.

This winter, to address the challenges faced by residents using public transportation during harsh weather conditions, I worked with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to secure the installation of new bus shelters. I'm pleased to announce that shelters have been installed at key locations on Nugent Street, North Sea Road

and in front of the hospital. Importantly, these improvements are being made at no cost to the Village.

Another important topic under consideration is the possible expansion of the Southampton Village Historic District. This initiative could extend the district to include additional areas, such as Henry Street, Moses Lane, Cooper Street, Herrick Road, Little Plains, Lewis Street, and other nearby streets. I have encouraged the Board to provide clear, timely information on this proposal and seek feedback from all residents to ensure a transparent process. Some information can be found on this at: <https://southamptonvillage.org/DocumentCenter/View/2010/Community-Preservation-11192024>.

To further engage with the community, I hold open office hours on the second Monday of each month at the Masonic Lodge, 40 Main Street, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This is an opportunity for residents to share their questions, concerns and suggestions.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Trustee. My commitment is to represent your interests with integrity and dedication. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.



Left to right: Trustee Stevenson, Sgt Dorchak, Mayor Manger, Steve Phillips, Jr., Chief Hurteau, Trustee Brown, Deputy Mayor Zinnanti, Trustee Simioni. Not pictured: Bernard Bobinski, Brian LaMonica and Maryann Wright.

New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Recognition – Longevity Service Award

30 Years

Bernard Bobinski - Detective, SVPD

25 Years

David Dorchak - Sergeant, SVPD

Brian LaMonica
Public Safety Dispatcher, SVPD

Steve Phillips, Jr. - Superintendent of
Department of Public Works.

Maryann Wright
Building Maintenance

Employee Recognition Awards

February

Josh Bard – Parks Department

April

Shawn Hodgins- Highway Department

May

William Banks – Parks Department

August

Charles Pelaez- Code Enforcement

September

James Moore - K9 Police Officer
and Topper Canine Officer

October

Wayne Moore
Building Maintenance

Winter Safety Tips

from Steve Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Department of Public Works.

Winter brings unexpected weather to the East End, and sometimes motorists find themselves sharing the road with snowplows. In order to best prepare our residents for road safety, we have put together the following tips:

- Motorists need to give snowplow trucks a wide berth on the road.
- When driving behind a snowplow spreading salt, please keep back at least 200 feet and BE PATIENT!
- Even better, during heavy snow, try to stay off the roads.
- Do not park your vehicle in a Village right-of-way. (Your vehicle could sustain damage if parked too close to the road.)
- When shoveling snow, always place the snow with the flow of traffic, so it can be removed by the plows. Otherwise, when the plow comes by again, it will push the snow back into the area you just shoveled out.

Keep these emergency numbers nearby:

- PSEG 1-800-490-0075
- Police Department 631-283-0056 (Emergencies, dial 911)
- National Grid 1-800-490-0045
- Utilize the See-Click-Fix APP

Have a happy, healthy and safe new year!

Traffic Solutions

by Deputy Mayor Len Zinnanti



Over the course of the last several months, Village Hall has hosted several meetings with residents both north and south of Hill Street, to discuss the issue of traffic on Village residential streets and propose viable solution options to recommend to the County and the Town. The issue is traffic volume, and the Village is primarily the victim of this volume—especially during the warmer seasons when landscapers and other home maintenance businesses as well as visitors travel east in the mornings and

west in the afternoon/evenings. According to County engineers, more than 50% of the traffic traveling east on County Route 39 is destined for points east of Southampton Village.

At the residents' suggestions, a Southampton Village Traffic Committee was formed and included residents affected by heavy traffic patterns, along with Village officials. Eight residents, as well as the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Village Administrator, Police Chief, Department of Public Works Superintendent and a member of the Planning Commission, make up the committee. On November 1st, we met and accomplished 3 objectives:

1) We reviewed the long-term County Route 39 mitigation solutions presented by the Suffolk County engineers which included new alternative routes connecting Southampton with points east. One of these alternatives was to create a new road using the LIPA right-of-way under the high tension wires.

2) We reviewed a proposal by the Town Superintendent of Highways, created to ease traffic on residential streets by trying to move traffic more effectively on Route 39 – a situation similar to when traffic cones were set up during the US Open.

3) We reviewed a draft, and are in the process of having the residents sign a letter to the County regarding implementing dedicated left-turn signals on Route 39 to ease the afternoon commute.

These efforts are intended to move traffic more effectively on County Route 39, so that cars and trucks will find it more desirable to use that road and not use our residential streets. The long-term solutions proposed by the County are just that – long-term. Finding smaller, workable, mitigating solutions is crucial for the near term. It is our goal that any solutions we come up with will be forwarded to the Town and County for consideration. We encourage and discuss all ideas.

Welcome Scott Russell

Southampton Village welcomes Village Administrator Scott Russell to Village Hall. Scott is a great addition to the team!

A lifelong Mattituck resident and the father of 2 grown children, Scott graduated from Mattituck High School and attended the George Washington University on a scholarship where he received a BA in American Civilization/ Political Science in 1987.

Scott served as a legislative aide for Representative William Carney (1st District NY) from 1985-1986 and as a legal assistant for a midtown Manhattan law firm from 1989-1990. That year, Scott was elected to the position of Assessor for the Town of Southold. He was elected four times, serving until 2005; he was Chairman of the Board of Assessors from 1991-2005, and President of the Suffolk County Assessors Association from 1995-1997.

In 2005, Scott was elected Supervisor of the Town of Southold. He was elected to four additional terms, retiring from office in 2023, making him the longest-running supervisor in Southold's history, managing a budget of nearly 50 million dollars. During his tenure, he served as Commissioner of Southold Town Police Department, Emergency Management Coordinator, the town's Chief Fiscal Officer, managing a



budget exceeding forty million dollars and the town's Chief Executive Officer, overseeing a workforce of 261 full-time, 50 part-time and 50 seasonal employees.

Scott has been involved in community-based organizations throughout the years, including former President of the Southold Kiwanis Club and Board President of the Cutchogue-New Suffolk Library, among others.

"When I retired in 2023 after 33 years of elective office, I was ready for new challenges," said Scott. "I could never have imagined I would have the opportunity to work for Southampton Village. It's a real honor and I enjoy the position more each day. The hard work and dedication of the Mayor, the Trustees and all the employees of the Village set very high standard. It's a standard I can only hope to achieve."

New Playground at Downs Family Recreational Park

Mayor William Manger, Jr and members of the Southampton Village Parks Department hosted a ribbon cutting for the new playground at Downs Family Recreational Park on 12/17. The Village has installed new turf and playground equipment. "I wanted to get this done before the holidays as the families of the village deserve great spaces to play!" said Mayor Manger.



Left to right: John Flick, Village Administrator Scott Russell, Deputy Mayor Len Zinnanti, Steve Moran, Mayor Bill Manger, Vinny Brumsey, Eddy West, Tom Rewinski, Josh Bard, Nick Johnson, Bill Banks, Steve Elliston.



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Willam M. Manger Jr.

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Ed Simioni
Roy Stevenson
Leonard F. Zinnanti

Village Justice

Hon. Linda Riley

Village Administrator

Scott A. Russell

Senior Building Inspector

Christopher Talbot

Village Clerk

Cathy M. Sweeny

Assistant to the Mayor

Karen Bontempo

We welcome your comments or suggestions on The Village News.
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Emergency Dial 911



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GO GREEN

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A Word from The Chief

by Chief of Police Suzanne Hurteau

As 2024 comes to an end, I would like to inform our community of a few updates to the Southampton Village Police Department. First, our body-worn camera program was implemented. The transition went smoothly, and each officer was equipped with their own camera.

The police department submitted a grant application to the New York State Law Enforcement Technology Program and was awarded \$355,620.00. These funds were used to purchase additional surveillance cameras to be placed at the exit and entry points of the Village, including the business district. Additional License Plates Readers, thermal drone, In-Car Camera Systems, computers for patrol vehicles and new technology equipment for police motorcycles were also acquired through grant funding.

We launched a new and improved website, making it more user-friendly and transparent for the public. We will continue to make updates as needed. The

big undertaking was a complete revamp of the Department's rules and procedures, which had not been done since 2012, and was very much needed.

We promoted two of our dispatchers, Brian LaMonica and Kristen Springsteen, to supervisory roles to enhance supervision in our Center. We also hired our first bilingual public safety dispatcher, Tracy Aguirre-Polanco, who has been a much needed asset to our community.

As we move forward into 2025, we will continue to address the needs of the department to provide the highest level of professional service to our wonderful village. Happy and Healthy New Year.



**INVITING ALL SENIORS!!!
CHECK OUT THE VILLAGE LINK FOR ALL
UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**



<https://www.southamptonvillage.org/279/Senior-Resources-Task-Force>