



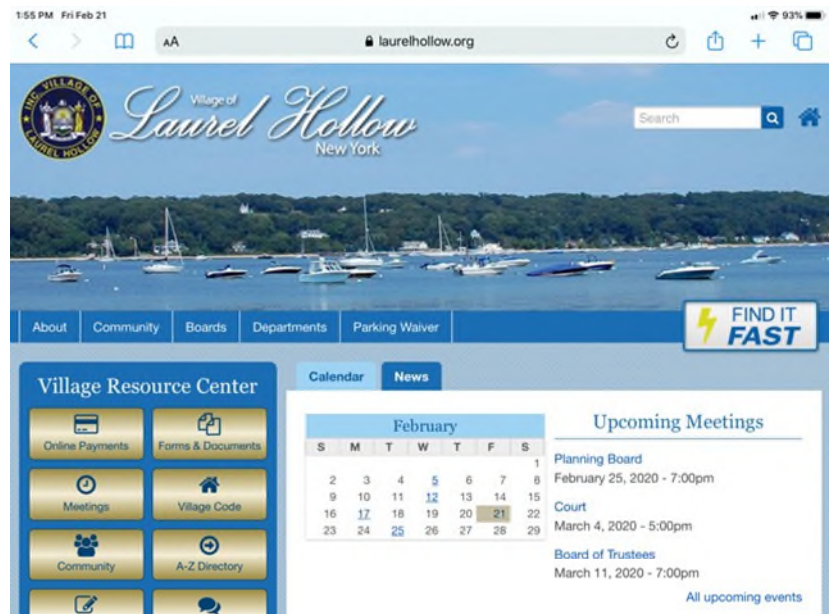
The Laurel Hollow Lantern



WINTER 2020

NEW WEBSITE

After 15 years, we finally retired our old website, which served us well. Please go to laurelhollow.org and peruse our new, user friendly website, which we have just launched. Its use is self-explanatory, making it simpler to navigate to forms, information, and personnel. Excuse us if there are still a few bugs to work out. Also, at the bottom of the homepage is a carousel for pictures. We welcome your submissions (appropriate pictures of nature, family, friends, etc.) to take part in the website on a rotating basis.



CHANGES IN SATURDAY CONSTRUCTION AND COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPER HOURS

Please advise your contractors and commercial landscapers that work conducted on Saturdays has now been limited to the time period 9:00am to 4:00pm. This change was made after several Board meetings with considerable community input. Weekday working hours remain the same: Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. No work is permitted on Sundays or holidays.



NEW PARK LIGHTS

We recently added two more park lights at the Village Hall. These LED lights have permitted us to eliminate the rental of two street lights owned by PSEG, for which we were paying rent for many years. The cost to operate the new lights will be virtually nothing since we have more than enough electric capacity from our solar panels on the Village Hall roof.



UPDATES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Mayor DeVita recently was elected Chair of the Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee. The Committee will continue to pursue ways to improve Long Island Sound water quality with programs such as Get Pumped! (educational program on the benefits of regular septic system maintenance and replacement), Scoop the Poop (cleaning up after our beloved pets), and, of course, the Shellfish Community Gardening program, which is now entering its fourth year. The Committee presently is funding a study to discover the source of bacteria that has been infiltrating our Harbor from the Cold Spring Harbor commercial district.

SHELLFISH GARDENING KICKOFF MEETING

There will be a 2020 Shellfish Community Gardening kickoff meeting on April 9th at 7:00 pm at the Hawkins Conference Room located on the Cold Spring Harbor Lab campus. Details to follow. We look forward to another successful year for this ever-expanding program.

KELP FARMING

One of the scientists consulting on our Shellfish program, Dr. Aaron Freeman from Adelphi University, recently received a grant to study the removal of nitrogen from our waters through kelp farming. One of the 6 areas chosen by Dr. Freeman for this experiment is the area off the Laurel Hollow Beach. The floats now in the water are supporting kelp, which grows in the winter waters. The experiment will end just in time for the return of our oyster cages this summer.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS FROM ROAD WORK

During the recent road construction work, we took steps to help prevent unnecessary contamination of water flowing into the Long Island Sound. The Village installed more new catch basins and dry wells and replaced more old ones than at any time since the roads were originally constructed. The ability to capture storm water run-off and direct it into our leaching pool drywells instead of the Sound is an obvious benefit since many toxins such as oil and fertilizer are typically contained in water run-off. In addition, the “river rocks” that were placed on the shoulders of many roads prevent washouts regularly occurring now in our summer storms. These washouts typically bring from the road shoulders rocks, sand, and dirt which over time not only damage the roads but carry the same water-bearing toxic materials on our streets, which previously our catch basin system could not always handle. The combination of the additional catch basins, river rocks, and the excellent catch-basin cleaning program conducted by our Highway staff, should help further in our continuing efforts to improve water quality in the Sound.



TREES

Trees are an important part of the aesthetic beauty and environmental health of our community. The Laurel Hollow tree law represents a balance between property owners' desire to utilize their property in a personally desirable manner and the recognition, as stated in our law, that “trees, laurel, shrubs and associated vegetation are related to the natural, scenic, and aesthetic values and the physical and visual qualities of the environment which the Village is obligated to protect.” The law goes on to explain how trees preserve air quality, stabilize the soil and hence control water pollution, as well as provide a natural habitat for wildlife. When considering removing one or more trees, in addition to consulting the Village law, it is advisable to contact our staff for guidance. In nearly every situation, at the very least a permit is required. In the event you believe that either a dead or healthy tree must be removed immediately, then in such an emergency situation photographic evidence must be submitted to the Village. The failure to comply with the Village law may result in severe monetary penalties.



SHELLFISH COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM SIGNAGE

We finally received the sign explaining the Shellfish Community Gardening program and its benefits to our waters and our community. It will be permanently installed at the beach when the ground thaws.



ROAD WORK UPDATES

The Village has sued the paving contractor responsible for the subpar work in 2018 on Cherry Lane, The Hollows, and a portion of Moore's Hill Road. Notwithstanding the litigation, we intend on proceeding with the repaving of those roads this Spring.

NEW STOOP

Our Highway Department crew built the new, beautiful stairway and landing that grants access to our public bathrooms at the side of our Village Hall. Bravo to our great workers for a fantastic job!



LIFEGUARDS WANTED

We continue our search for Nassau County Grade 2 Certified lifeguards for our beach this summer. Please contact the Village Hall if you know anyone who may be interested. We continue to use traditional and social media to fill the positions. The pay and the job are great. Spread the word.



REMINDERS

POLICE CALLS

Finally, please remember to call 911 immediately in the event of any emergency. Whenever you see a suspicious car or need to report suspicious events, call 911. Do not call the Village Hall or the Oyster Bay Cove police booth for an event because the police booths, both in Laurel Hollow and in Oyster Bay Cove, are not staffed 24/7 and it will only delay a response. However, if you want to alert the police, for example, that you will be away for the holidays or vacation, then call the police booth at (516) 922-6363.



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