

The Laurel Hollow Lantern



WINTER 2022

Note from Mayor DeVita

Maybe this should be called the "Late Winter" edition of our newsletter. It's been a very busy winter for our community. The Omicron variant pulled us back from being able to enjoy our freedoms, our office staff is underway with digitizing our documents, the Cold Spring Harbor Lab's building application produced widespread interest, and we discovered that continued work is needed to improve water quality. There is much good news, however, as our first female Village Justice was appointed, our Village Hall will again be open to the public as of March 1st and, of course, Spring is around the corner.

With warmest regards,

Mayor Dan DeVita

OUR NEW VILLAGE JUSTICE



From Left to Right: Justice McCrorie,
Justice D'Elia, Justice Ligas-Hadjandreas

Congratulations to Katerina Ligas-Hadjandreas for her appointment as Laurel Hollow Village Justice. Justice Ligas-Hadjandreas comes to us with many years of experience both in the private sector and as an Administrative Hearing Officer. We also want to thank retiring Village Justice Joseph D'Elia for his 26 years of dedicated service to our Village. Justice D'Elia set very high standards of high-quality jurisprudence, common sense, and respect for all those appearing before him. We wish him well. We also thank Associate Justice James McCrorie for his continued service to our Village. These Justices, along with the members of the various Village Boards, give willingly of their valuable time to the Village serving without any compensation.

ON OUR WAY TO PAPERLESS

This past year, Laurel Hollow was one of only a handful of municipalities located throughout New York State that was awarded a grant from the State Education Department to convert property records and building files into electronic format. By converting these records, the Village will promote their safe preservation, facilitate access, and solve the problem of insufficient storage space. However, during this conversion process, which will last for months, records may be temporarily unavailable both to the public and the staff while they are being scanned and converted to a laser fiche system by an outside vendor. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.



SOURCES OF BACTERIA IN OUR WATERS

The Oyster Bay Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee, of which Laurel Hollow is a member and for which Mayor DeVita serves as Chair, along with the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District, sponsored a study by Cornell Cooperative Extension with the purpose of identifying and reducing the sources of bacterial contamination that are causing closure of shellfish farming areas in southern Cold Spring Harbor. Using microbial source tracking of water samples taken from throughout the watershed, some interesting but unfortunate conclusions were drawn. Nearly all of the samples indicated the presence of canine feces. Some areas sampled showed the presence of human feces, probably the result of failing septic systems, with the most prominent of these, and the one with the longest history of pollution disbursement into the Harbor, located at the hamlet of Cold Spring Harbor. The Committee has requested a meeting with the new Huntington Supervisor to address this problem as the previous administration was unwilling to do so. The highest presence of canine bacteria was located at the northern catch basin on Laurel Hollow Road near the beach. The readings were "off the chart." What this means is that a number of people are walking their dogs and not picking up after them. This must end. Virtually every *Lantern* has had a reminder about picking up after your dog. We have repeatedly said that dog



feces contain coliform bacteria—a danger to our ecological system. While it is a safe bet that most in fact do pick up after their pet, many do not, and it may have caused severe environmental consequences. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently extended the seasonal shellfish closure line further north now to include our beach area. (see p. 6 of the report at the link below) We have requested a meeting with the DEC to explain this action and the basis for it, and we hope they comply with our request.

Our community has worked so hard for years to improve water quality in our Harbor. We cannot let those efforts suffer at the hands of a selfish few. We have laws requiring the picking up of pet feces and they will be enforced. Moreover, if you believe your septic system needs to be replaced, Nassau County is offering up to \$20,000 to homeowners if they choose to switch to one of five approved nitrogen-reducing septic systems. There is a limit of 200 of these grants and there still are a number remaining. For more information, visit the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District website at www.nassaucountyny.gov/septicreplace.

The full report entitled: *Cold Spring Harbor Watershed: Initial Characterization and Management of Pathogens Affecting Sanitary Condition of Shellfish Lands (Spring Street, Laurel Hollow, and Cold Spring Brook Subwatersheds)* is available online at:

https://www.laurelhollow.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3321/f/news/microbial_source_tracking_report.pdf

DECISION ON THE COLD SPRING HARBOR LAB APPLICATION

On February 9th, the Board of Trustees approved the Cold Spring Harbor Lab's building application with numerous conditions. The public hearing on January 31st garnered widespread public interest with about 120 participants on the zoom meeting. The 63-page transcript of the Board's decision is available on the Village website at the following link: [22-020922_lab_decision_transcript_0.pdf \(laurelhollow.org\)](#)

2022 PARKING AND RACK PERMITS NOW AVAILABLE

To purchase parking permits, send a copy of the vehicle registration and \$20 to the Village Hall and your sticker will be issued and sent to you. The registration must show that a vehicle is owned by a property owner and/or resident of Laurel Hollow.

Permits for dinghy/kayak rack spots are \$40 for one rack spot and \$60 for a second, if available. Payments for the parking and rack permits may be made by credit card at the Village website www.laurelhollow.org by clicking on "Online Payments" and then "Application for Parking and Dinghy Permits" or by check or cash (do not send cash through the mail). The credit card fee does not go the Village but to the third-party vendor.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG** *Be a responsible homeowner and not one of the selfish ones who does not pick up after their dog for which we as a community suffer. Dog feces contain coliform bacteria, which pollutes our waters and presents a danger to the ecological system itself. Don't be a polluter. Don't be a lawbreaker. Don't make your dog the object of undeserved scorn. Be kind to your neighbor and our community, always pick up after your pet.*
- **Work hours for contractors and landscapers** on Saturdays is from 9:00am to 4:00pm. and from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Friday. No work is allowed on Sundays or Holidays. The permitted work hours are posted at every job site.

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**. Also, **call 911** even for incidents such as landscapers working on Sundays or builders working on a holiday. While it may not be deemed an emergency, the 911 call center acts as our dispatcher for all calls and will prioritize the call information and send it directly to our patrol car. Do not call the Village Hall or the Oyster Bay Cove or Laurel Hollow police booths for an event because they 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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