

SOUTHAMPTON TOWN BOARD

Maria Z. Moore, Supervisor

Cyndi McNamara, Councilwoman | Rick Martel, Councilman

Michael A. Iasilli, Councilmember | William Pell IV, Councilman

Town**A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR MARIA Z. MOORE**

As we close out the year, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all our Town employees and the many civic leaders who devote their time, talent and energy to serving Southampton. Your commitment to our community is seen every day and deeply appreciated. As we look ahead to the new year, I am confident that together we will continue to make meaningful progress for the residents we serve. I wish each of you and your families a healthy, restorative and joyful holiday season.

With warm regards,
Supervisor Maria Moore

**GROUND BROKEN FOR WESTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

On Tuesday, December 2, Southampton Town officials held a formal groundbreaking event for the new and long-awaited Westhampton Community Center. At 11:00 a.m., representatives from the Town placed ceremonial shovels into the soil at 393 Mill Road in Westhampton. In doing so, they begin to fill a nearly two-decade void that began for the greater Westhampton area when the previous senior center had become dilapidated beyond repair.

Located on the former Bauer property, whose five and a half acres the Town purchased in August 2008, the \$8 million construction project will take place throughout 2026. When completed, the facility's 9,000 square feet will feature offices, game rooms, a multipurpose "flex space," senior lunches, and activities sponsored by the Town's Youth Bureau and Division of Senior Services. It will also have space available for the Arthur Ellis Hamm Memorial American Legion Post 834. For more information about the project, including public presentations and site renderings, please visit www.southamptontownny.gov/2201/Westhampton-Activity-Center.

MOODY'S RE-AFFIRMS SOUTHAMPTON TOWN'S AAA CREDIT RATING

In its investor report dated October 3, Moody's reaffirmed the Town of Southampton's Aaa rating, the highest rating issued by the investment service, and specifically noted the Town's:

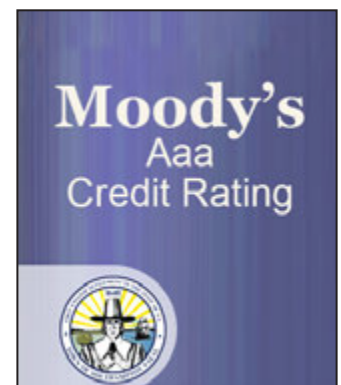
- o Ample reserves and liquidity
- o Manageable debt burden
- o Strong fiscal management and conservative budgeting
- o Strong local economy

The report follows a presentation to the rating agency by Town Supervisor Maria Moore and Comptroller Dorothy Godlewski on September 24, and marks the tenth consecutive year of this highest achievement for the Town from various credit agencies. The Aaa rating will afford the Town a very favorable interest rate when it goes to the financial markets to fund \$12,065,000 in 2025 capital projects.

Moody's report praised Southampton Town's strong financial position and noted that "conservative budgeting and sound fiscal management has led the town to maintaining very stable reserves and liquidity over the past five years."

Supervisor Moore noted, "Moody's continues to recognize the strong fiscal management and conservative budgeting practices of this administration. I am so proud that the policies and practices put into place over the years by our financial management team, with the support of the Town Board, have enabled us to maintain the highest level of financial achievement."

"We continue to budget and to forecast revenues conservatively. Moody's report confirms the value of these sound financial practices," added Comptroller Dorothy Godlewski.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, COUNCILMAN RICK MARTEL

Councilman Rick Martel began his first term on the Town Board in January 2020, two months before the global pandemic began. During the COVID crisis, Councilman Martel focused his energies on ensuring that food and medicines were available to those in need. When an influx of visitors crowded road-end beaches, he collaborated with various Town Departments to implement parking restrictions, reducing the impact on local residents.

Following his initial term, Councilman Martel was re-elected in April 2025. Throughout his time in office, he addressed key community issues, including legislation to prohibit peddling or solicitation within roadways. Quality of life issues were always his priority.

Councilman Martel has served as the Town Board liaison to multiple departments, committees and special projects. They have included Parks and Recreation, Highway, the Hampton Bays Water District, Affordable Housing, Community Preservation, Youth Services, Fire and Ambulance Services, the Great East End Cleanup, the San Gennaro Feast, the Red Creek Park Skate Park, and Penny Park (former Bel Aire Cove property). He also served as the liaison to the hamlets of Hampton Bays, Flanders/Riverside/Northampton, Bridgehampton, Sagaponack, and Water Mill.

We thank Councilman Martel for his dedicated service to our community.



TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON RECOGNIZES LIFE SAVING EFFORTS

The Town of Southampton joined representatives from the County, State and other Townships in recognizing life-saving CPR efforts that took place this year.

EMS personnel from Hampton Bays Ambulance, Southampton Volunteer Ambulance and Westhampton Ambulance, along with police officers and Town dispatchers were recognized on November 6 at the Suffolk County Regional EMS Council 2025 CPR Save Awards ceremony, which took place at South Country Ambulance Company's Headquarters. Twenty-one individuals from Southampton were recognized for their efforts in successfully utilizing CPR skills to save a life during this past year.

Representatives from Southampton Town, New York State, Suffolk County and throughout the region were joined by survivors, family members and other invited guests to celebrate the individuals and EMS teams being recognized for their successful life saving efforts. Each individual who played a role in the successful CPR save was issued commendations and proclamations as the circumstances of each emergency call was read off to the packed house in attendance.

Suffolk County Legislator Ann Welker took a moment to address the crowd, saying, "We are so proud of the daily efforts of all of our EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers and other emergency responders. I am honored to be here today to recognize their life saving contributions to our communities. We owe each and every one of you a tremendous debt of gratitude for your dedication and heroism. Because of your actions, people--some in this very room--are alive and well today."

In also reflecting on the ceremony and contributions of those being recognized, Southampton Town Director of Public Safety, Ryan Murphy echoed Legislator Welker's sentiments, saying, "The Town of Southampton is proud to be able to recognize the successful CPR efforts of all those here today, but we also want to thank all of our volunteer and paid EMS staff throughout the Town and County for their daily efforts. From using CPR to save a life, to assisting someone who had a slip and fall, our dedicated first responders provide help and life saving aid to those in need and positively alter their future." Murphy went on to also call out the efforts of the Town 911 dispatchers in saying, "Our dispatchers are behind the scene heroes as well. They are a key piece of the chain of survival. They get the emergency services to those in need and provide valuable life saving direction while emergency services are enroute. We are thankful for their service to the residents and visitors of the Town of Southampton."

SOUTHAMPTON TOWN BUILDING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2025

- A total of 2,910 building applications have been received as of December 17. This number is projected to reach just over 2,950 by December 31.
- There have been 12,142 physical inspections (Building & Electric).
- In addition to scheduled inspections, 147 trustee property inspections have been conducted.

LONGTIME TOWN TRUSTEES RECOGNIZED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

At the December 15 Trustee Board meeting, the Town recognized two longtime Town Trustees for their distinguished service and leadership: Scott M. Horowitz, President, for 16 years of public service including 12 years on the Trustees Board and 4 years on the Conservation Board, and Edward J. Warner, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer, for 19.5 years of dedicated public service, having been initially appointed and subsequently elected in a special election that November.

During their respective tenures, Trustees Horowitz and Warner played instrumental roles in strengthening the governance, financial stability, and operational effectiveness of the Board. Trustee Horowitz led the effort to establish an independent tax line, securing long-term financial independence and fiscal accountability. Collectively, the Board oversaw the expansion and improvement of public water access points, implemented stormwater runoff and water-quality improvement initiatives, and advanced critical infrastructure projects throughout the Town. The Trustees were further recognized for their efforts to modernize Board operations, resolve long-standing legal matters regarding beach access—including the public access beach case at the picnic area and a property dispute in Westhampton Dunes—as well as secure state permits allowing for the regular opening of the Mecox Cut.

Additionally, their leadership established shellfish sanctuaries in western Shinnecock Bay. In partnership with Stony Brook University, the local Baymen's Association, and other community stakeholders, the Trustees advanced collaborative efforts to restore shellfish populations, improve water quality, and protect vital marine habitats. These efforts transformed Shinnecock Bay from a once-degraded waterway into a model of environmental recovery. For this achievement, western Shinnecock Bay was designated a worldwide "Hope Spot" by Mission Blue on June 6, 2022, becoming the first in New York State. The designation, championed by renowned oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle, celebrates the ecological importance of the Bay and the Trustees' enduring commitment to stewardship of the Town's public waters for generations to come.

Over the past decade, the Trustees worked diligently to place the organization on firm financial and operational footing. Projects such as the Ponquogue Fishing Pier and the Lake Agawam shoreline improvements transformed former liabilities into valuable public assets, reinforcing the Town's commitment to public access, environmental protection, and responsible stewardship.



SOUTHAMPTON TOWN AWARDED \$19 MILLION FOR RIVERSIDE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM PROJECT

FEDERAL FUNDS TO HELP WATER QUALITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Southampton Town's plan for a revitalized Riverside reached a critical funding milestone with the award of a \$19 million federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grant for the construction of a new wastewater collection and treatment system in Riverside. The funding was approved on October 30 by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) as part of a statewide \$135 million initiative to support critical water infrastructure projects.

Supervisor Moore expressed gratitude for the State's partnership in delivering this transformative investment. "This award from EFC will allow the Town to proceed with this critical infrastructure project that will enhance water quality by removing thousands of pounds of nitrogen from our waterways each year and will aid in revitalizing the Riverside community," said Supervisor Moore. "We are deeply grateful to Governor Hochul and the Environmental Facilities Corporation for their continued support and commitment to safeguarding Long Island's sole source aquifer, the Peconic Estuary, and other vital water bodies."

The EFC award builds upon the \$5 million grant to the Town last month through the Environmental Protection Agency's Community Grants program. Through the co-sponsorship of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, the funding was approved by Congress as one of 715 water infrastructure projects totaling \$1.47 billion under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.

The Riverside Wastewater Treatment System Project represents a major step forward in the Town's long-term strategy to improve water quality, promote sustainable development, and revitalize one of its most economically challenged hamlets. The new system will replace outdated and insufficient septic infrastructure with a modern, environmentally sound treatment facility designed to protect groundwater and surface waters throughout the Peconic Bay system.

Supervisor Moore commended the Town's Department of Land Management for its dedication in identifying and pursuing federal, state and local funding opportunities for this project. "[Planning and Development Administrator] Janice Scherer and her team have been relentless in their pursuit of funding for this initiative," Supervisor Moore said. "Their diligence and expertise have been instrumental in positioning Southampton to receive this historic level of investment."

The Supervisor also recognized the Southampton Town Board for its continued support and leadership in advancing the project. "This project has been a true team effort," Moore added. "The Town Board's consistent commitment to improving water quality and infrastructure has laid the groundwork for this success."



SOUTHAMPTON TOWN DISABILITY ADVISORY TASK FORCE HOSTS SECOND DISABILITY RESOURCE FAIR

On Saturday, November 1, the Town of Southampton Disability Advisory Taskforce hosted its Second Annual Resource Fair at the Hampton Bays Community Center.

The Town is pleased to announce this event drew approximately 70 individuals. Among them were families and caregivers from across the East End area, including the North Fork and Brookhaven, who came to learn more about a wide range of services, programs, and support networks dedicated to children and adults with special needs, with over a dozen informational tables hosted by local organizations, advocacy groups, and state providers.



The event started with a welcoming message by Councilmember Michael Lasilli. “Local government can act as an intermediary between residents seeking assistance and the spate of services that are available here in Southampton. It can be overwhelming at times for families, but that is why the Town’s Disability Taskforce does this work,” he said.

Two seminar presentations were offered, one by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), offering insights into their programs and application process, supports and services. The other was presented by Self-Initiated Living Options (SILO) titled “The review and development of documentation to support eligibility with OPWDD and the Social Security Administration for SSI.” Both organizations play a critical role in supporting and promoting the rights of local individuals with disabilities on a state and federal level.

Thanks to Hampton Bays School District Superintendent Lars Clemensen, the High School sent volunteer students to help attendees with bilingual services and informational assistance. Some of which included information about the participating organizations, Braille cards, and the Town’s Resource Guide published last year in both Spanish and English. The Town of Southampton Disability Taskforce continues to remain committed to enhance quality of life for Southampton Town residents and visitors seeking special needs services and this is just one of the many ways the Town is supporting the community.

Councilmember Lasilli added, “The muscle behind this truly is Jamie Bowden, our Town’s Community Organization specialist, who works tirelessly to organize this event, ensuring we get helpful organizations that can make a difference in people’s lives.” Next year, the Town looks forward to expanding its efforts by welcoming even more participants with the aim of becoming a cornerstone event for residents. Additional information can be found on the Town’s website: www.southamptontownny.gov/DATF.

LAKE AGAWAM STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT COMPLETE



The Town is pleased to announce the completion of the Lake Agawam Stormwater Management Improvement Project, a major initiative to reduce pollution and improve water quality at the southern end of Lake Agawam. This effort included surveying, permitting, design, and construction of a new stormwater treatment system within the Lake Agawam parking lot. The centerpiece is a rain garden island and bio-retention system designed to filter runoff before it enters the lake. “The completion of this project marks real progress in our ongoing effort to protect and restore Lake Agawam,” said Town Trustee Joseph McLoughlin. Councilman Bill Pell added, “This rain garden shows our commitment to sustainable solutions that help protect the lake and its watershed.” The project was partially funded through the Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Improvement Project Plan.

MUNICIPAL WORKS COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE



FLANDERS PLAYGROUND: Municipal Works assisted Youth Bureau with the purchase/installation of a new “Rope Venture” playground at the Flanders Community Center. This much-needed amenity will provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for the children who attend the Youth Bureau’s afterschool programs.



TOWN HALL FAÇADE: The masonry restoration began in October 2025, focusing on the wooden and brick façade of Southampton Town Hall, which was originally constructed in 1912. Our team’s efforts in restoring the exterior aim to maintain structural beauty for local residents.



BUDGET FINALIZED: Supervisor Maria Moore and Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer with a copy of the adopted 2026 Southampton Town budget.



HONOR FLIGHT TAKES LOCAL VETERANS TO DC MEMORIALS ON OCTOBER 4

On Saturday October 4, Honor Flight Long Island (HFLI) flew 45 WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans to Washington DC for a daytrip to visit the memorials. The trip included stops at the WWII, Korean War and Vietnam memorials, followed by a bus tour throughout our Nation’s Capital and the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. After landing that evening at MacArthur Airport, Veterans were greeted by a rousing welcome by the Nassau County Firefighters Pipes and Drums Band, plus thunderous applause from hundreds of family, friends and supporters! Honor Flight’s mission is to honor fellow Long Islanders who served in the United States Armed Forces to preserve our freedoms, by providing free, one-day trips so they can visit their DC memorials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT LONG ISLAND, CONTACT JAMIE BOWDEN AT 631-702-2423 OR BY EMAIL: JBOWDEN@SOUTHAMPTONTOWN.NY.GOV



CELEBRATING SHINNECOCK HERITAGE DAY

In October, the Shinnecock Nation hosted its second annual Shinnecock Heritage Day, a recognition established last year by Councilmember Michael Iasilli. The event was held on the Shinnecock territory to honor the intertwined history of the Shinnecock People and Southampton Town.

Tribal leaders, including Chairwoman Lisa Goree and Vice Chairman Lance Gumbs, Trustee Sienna Hunter-Cuyjet, and others were joined by local officials as well as federal and state representatives, including US Congressman Nick LaLota and Assemblymember Kwani O’Pharrow, who attended in support of the Nation’s sovereignty and heritage.

NATIONAL SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MONTH COFFEE BREAK CAMPAIGN

In recognition of National Substance Use Prevention Month, HUGS and SAFE in Southampton teamed up with Hampton Coffee Company on October 1 to launch the “Coffee Break Campaign” at Hampton Coffee Company in Hampton Bays and Westhampton Beach. Throughout the month of October, medium-sized hot coffee drinks were served in cups with positive and uplifting messages that may be shared on social media.



Councilwoman Cyndi McNamara, liaison to SAFE in Southampton, attended the event and stated, “This campaign is part of an ongoing commitment to building a healthier community. Through initiatives like this, we can promote mental wellness and support one another through positive messaging.”



SOUTHAMPTON TOWN SUPPORTS LGBTQ+ YOUTH

In September, together with the Town’s Youth Bureau and the LGBT Network, a Gay-Straight Alliance summit was held to discuss ways to provide common spaces for LGBT youth to engage educationally and professionally. Members from the Hampton Bays and Southampton School District, as well as the Hampton Bays Library, joined in the discussion on finding ways to make our community and inclusive place for all.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE HAMPTON CLASSIC HORSE SHOW

The Town of Southampton is proud to recognize the Hampton Classic Horse Show as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary. A cornerstone of Southampton's cultural heritage since its modern revival in 1976, the Classic has grown into one of the world's premier equestrian events, drawing 1,500 horses and 50,000 spectators each year. With more than \$1 million in prize money, the show features riders of all levels—from children and amateurs to top professionals and Olympic medalists—alongside boutiques, food vendors, and a family-friendly kids' area.

The Classic also demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusion through the Long Island Horse Show Series for Riders with Disabilities, now marking its 20th year at the event. This program provides riders with physical and mental challenges the opportunity to compete on a prestigious stage.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Hampton Classic supports nearly 100 charitable events annually and has donated approximately \$4 million to the Southampton Hospital Foundation. Under the longtime leadership of former Town Councilman Dennis Suskind, the show continues to celebrate Southampton's equestrian tradition while enriching the community culturally and philanthropically.



FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS EDUCATION CLASS

On Saturday, October 25, Community Development Long Island (CDLI), in partnership with the Towns Housing Department, held a First Time Homebuyer Education Course at the Hampton Bays Community Center. This was the first full day course offered on the East End and was broken into various sessions that focused on all aspects of buying a home. Professionals in these fields along with CDLI covered topics including but not limited to renting vs. buying, homeowners' insurance, closing costs, and home inspections. For more information about the classes offered by CDLI, please call 631-471-1215 ext. 8398. For more information on the Town's Housing programs, please call the Housing Department at 631-702-1731.



LONG POND GREENBELT GETS DEC GRANT FOR LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

There is exciting news in the Long Pond Greenbelt! An ecological study is launching to help protect the coastal plain ponds and their shores in Sag Harbor. The coastal plain ponds and shores of the Long Pond Greenbelt Preserve are unique habitats, home to a wealth of rare species. These include many species of dragonflies, rushes, sedges, fascinating aquatic plants, and elegant flowers.

The lands around the ponds are mostly preserved, public, and/or forested. Nevertheless, human land use can have significant negative impacts on these precious natural communities. Water quality, hydrology, and invasive species are all key concerns for the health of these habitats. Invasive species have been introduced to the ponds from other regions through human actions. This habitat alteration must be kept in check to keep the coastal plain ponds in balance. Otherwise, the rare species populations may dwindle.

What is the best way to make conservation decisions to protect the coastal plain ponds? The Town of Southampton is working with expert Lake Managers from GEI Environmental Consulting to answer that question. This work is possible thanks to a grant from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation. (Note that the opinions, results, findings and/or interpretations of data do not necessarily represent the opinions, interpretations, or policy of the State.)

The researchers are in the data-collection phase, examining water quality, depth profile (bathymetry), and vegetation in Long Pond and Little Long Pond (Sag Harbor). With this information and years of expertise, they will have the power to make science-based conservation recommendations. They will compile and analyze this information to create a strategic approach in a Lake Management Plan.

As of August 2025, we have some of their preliminary data. Maps show Little Long Pond is up to 19 ft. deep in some places, while Long Pond is 10 ft. at its deepest. Little Long Pond has a prominent trend of dense vegetation in the deepest areas, while Long Pond has denser vegetation closer to shore. These are just the beginnings of the data the researchers will analyze as they formulate a lake management plan.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt, the South Fork Natural History Museum, and the Southampton Town Trustees. These organizations are committed advocates for the Greenbelt, and their partnership and support makes this project possible. Thanks also to the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) for their guidance and assistance with invasive species management in the ponds. *New York Natural Heritage Program. 2025. Online Conservation Guide for Coastal Plain Pond. Available from: <https://guides.nynhp.org/coastal-plain-pond/>. Accessed August 18, 2025.*



TOWN BOARD PASSES RESOLUTIONS TO PROVIDE SNAP CUTS RELIEF

At the Wednesday, November 12 Board Meeting, the Town of Southampton Board approved three critically important resolutions to provide assistance to residents impacted by recent reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), addressing food insecurity and strengthening local support networks through the following measures:

- **Direct Meal Assistance:** Providing direct meal assistance to all seniors experiencing food insecurity.
- **Community Partnership Support:** Allocating funds to assist the Long Island Community Foundation in its Feed the Need program.
- **Emergency Aid to School Districts:** Offering emergency assistance to local school districts serving families affected by the SNAP cuts.



The Town extends its gratitude to the entire Town Board for their collaboration; to the many advocates and concerned citizens who reached out; to Superintendent Lars Clemensen of Hampton Bays; and to Kara Bak and the dedicated staff of the Housing and Community Services Department for their ongoing commitment to addressing food insecurity throughout our community.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHAMPTON TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Southampton Town Police Department continues to be committed to our schools and our students. One such example is **Police Day**--a community event for our youth, which is held directly at our schools. On October 10th, we hosted our event at Phillips Avenue Elementary School, where approximately 600 students participated in interactive demonstrations and displays from several of our specialized units, including the Emergency Services Unit, Marine Patrol, K-9 Unit, Aviation Unit, and the Unmanned Aircraft Service Unit. Police Day is an entertaining and hands-on experience that promotes safety, awareness, and understanding of police work.

The Police Department also is pleased to announce its **2026 Civilian Police Academy**, which will begin in January at Police Headquarters. The program offers an official, behind-

the-scenes look at the daily duties, training, and operations of law enforcement within our community. The academy is designed to enhance the relationship between the Police Department and the public we serve by building a better level of trust, communication, and understanding. There is no physical component to the academy, and the program is open to all Southampton Town residents.

Participants will learn about:

- Laws of arrest, search and seizure
- Use of force
- Driving under the influence enforcement
- Narcotics investigations
- Domestic violence response
- Criminal Investigations and Gangs
- Additional specialized topics



Scan QR Code for
Civilian Academy Info



Other opportunities include riding with police officers, attending a firearms range demonstration, and observing emergency vehicle operations.

The 16-week academy, whose first session is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, will meet every Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Seating will be limited, and Southampton Town residents will receive preference. Non-residents will be seated if space allows. Applications will be accepted until January 7, 2026. To apply or for more information, contact Lieutenant William Kiernan at wkiernan@southamptontownny.gov or Susanne Parkin at sparkin@southamptontownny.gov.

CPF AWARDS PRESERVATION FUNDS TO WHB PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



The Southampton Town Community Preservation Fund (CPF) awarded \$4 million to the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center (WHBPAC) via a Grant of Historic Preservation and Conservation Easement which ensures the preservation of the historic facade of the iconic 1932 theater and a Grant of Restrictive Use Easement that protects the cultural values of the parcel for the purposes of cultural enjoyment and opportunities. The restrictions ensure the public benefits aimed at community access to programs in the areas of performing arts, cinematic arts, arts education, music, dance and comedy. A beloved cultural landmark in the heart of Westhampton Beach, the WHBPAC serves both the local community and visitors alike as a cultural destination.

This unique opportunity preserves the Town's community character, historic integrity, and access to arts and culture.

The CPF, funded through a 2% real estate transfer tax, was originally established to preserve open spaces and farmland, in recent years its mandate has expanded to include the preservation and rehabilitation of historically significant buildings that are owned by the Town and those operated by nonprofit organizations.

Under the terms of the CPF, the acquisition will ensure that WHBPAC continues to be a vibrant venue offering diverse and affordable cultural programs while preserving the historic structures main street facade. These restrictions in property interest of the property secures the theater's role as a community mainstay well into the future.

LED BY SUPERINTENDENT CHARLES McARDLE, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ACHIEVES MANY IMPROVEMENTS

Now that 2025 has come to an end, the Highway Department would like to thank Supervisor Maria Moore and the entire Board for their constant support throughout the year. Councilman Bill Pell, the Highway liaison to the Town Board, was a significant part in getting many conceptual ideas to the table.

- Our evening commute home is less painful westbound thanks to changes made at the intersection of Montauk Hwy and Canoe Place Road in Hampton Bays.
- A new turning lane was added at the Noyac Road/Long Beach Road intersection.
- Our Phase 1 Water Quality Project on Bay Drive in Hampton Bays is now complete.
- We collaborate with CPF Water Quality on an infrastructure project on Lighthouse Road in Hampton Bays.
- Our Quogue crew cleared stormwater drains on Dune Road, a task that is done yearly to prevent flooding.
- Two large fallen trees were removed with special care, avoiding damage to headstones, at Historic North Sea Cemetery.
- Special Operations leader Greg King assisted Trustees with repairs to a boat ramp on Little Neck Road.

We look forward for all the great projects that are in our pipeline for 2026. Happy New Year from the Highway Department!

Photos Top R/down: Superintendent McArdle; Montauk/Canoe Place Rd; Noyac Rd/Long Beach Rd; Bottom row L to R: N. Sea Cemetery; Lighthouse Rd.; Dune Rd.; Little Neck Rd. ramp repair; Bay Drive improvements.



HUMAN RESOURCES HOLDS FIRST TOWN CAREER FAIR

The very first Town of Southampton Career Fair was held on October 23 at the Hampton Bays Senior Center. The Career Fair was an informative event which included twelve Town departments along with Suffolk County Civil Service, Suffolk County Department of Labor, Hampton Bays Public Library, and Youth Enrichment Services. A spring Job Fair is already in the works for March of 2026; it will focus on summer positions within the Town. To see currently available Town jobs, scan the QR code to the right.



Scan QR Code for Jobs

SERVING WITH HEART: A CONVERSATION WITH SOUTHAMPTON'S DEVOTED TOWN ATTORNEY



When you meet or hear of Southampton Town Attorney James M. Burke, it doesn't take long to understand why people describe him as genuine, humble, and deeply devoted to his community. Located on the East End of Long Island, New York, Southampton is known for its beautiful beaches and historic charm, but for Burke, it's the people who make it truly special. He carries a passion and purpose that drew him to public service decades ago. His story is one of faith, gratitude, and love for family and community values that continue to define both his professional and personal life.

That sense of purpose has guided his entire career. For him, "Public Service isn't about titles or recognition. It's about people. It's about the family who needs affordable housing, the farmer trying to preserve his land, and the child who deserves to grow up in a safe and caring community." Those are the stories that motivate him every day.

In his eyes, community and family are reflections of God's grace, proving that love, service, and faith can still unite people in a world often divided. Through his compassion, humility, and enduring commitment to others, Burke reminds us that gratitude isn't just spoken, it's lived, and like the best family traditions, it begins in the heart.

Reprinted in part from Faith magazine with permission of author Sean Wright. Read the full article at SeanWrightMedia1.com.

YOUTH BUREAU HIGHLIGHTS



This fall, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau reached over 400 young people through after-school and evening programs, leadership opportunities, special events, and individualized counseling. We are proud to share some of these highlights.

The Youth Bureau along with our partner organizations, i-tri, The Retreat, HUGS, Riverhead CAP, Our Fabulous Variety Show, and additional partners from the East End Partners for Youth held the East End Youth Leadership Summit at Suffolk Community College where more than 100 students from 11 East End schools participated. Through discussions, confidence-building activities, and creative expression, students explored important issues affecting teens today.

The Youth Bureau continues to operate an afterschool enrichment program from the David Crohan Community Center in Flanders for children of working parents, offering weekly programs in art and creative expression, STEM, writing and literacy through Word Warriors, wellness and social-emotional growth, and physical agility. Students also receive balanced meals provided by a partnership with Long Island Cares.

The Youth Bureau's leadership and civic engagement programs for middle and high school students also continue to thrive reaching capacity in most of our programs. This fall the Youth Advisory Committee had a record number of volunteers. In November, a small army of teens made their way across Southampton Town, raking leaves for our senior residents. It was a truly rewarding project for everyone involved, creating meaningful connections and making a real difference in the lives of others.



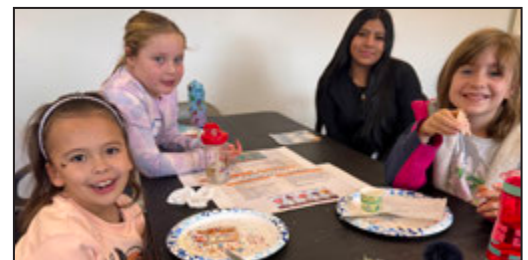
A special thank you goes out to Councilmember Michael Iasilli, who guided our Youth and Government students in understanding the responsibilities of policymakers, the importance of building bridges, and working together for positive community change. Participants in the program gained valuable insight into how their voices matter.



On November 11, while schools were closed to honor our veterans, most businesses were open and many parents still needed childcare while they worked. The Youth Bureau hosted a full-day event at SYS for students in grades K through 6th. Students enjoyed sports, games, arts, and challenges. Thank you to Future Stars and SYS for helping make this day possible!

A big thank you to Hampton Coffee and Nice Place Coffee for supporting our Teen Open Mic Nights. These evenings create a safe, encouraging environment for teens to express themselves creatively and build confidence performing in front of others.

Through enriching programs, leadership opportunities, special events, and individualized support, the Town of Southampton Youth Bureau advances its mission of positive youth development, empowering hundreds of young people each season with opportunities to grow, connect, and thrive.



SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH BUREAU
@SOUTHAMPTONYB

NEWS FROM OUR PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Ribbon Cut November 25 for New Fitness Path; Maritime Park Offers Equipment & ADA Access

Shinnecock Canal Maritime Park now has a new attraction for the local community! After several months of planning, a ribbon cutting for the opening of a new fitness path and exercise equipment circuit was held on Tuesday, November 25.

In the Town's pursuit to offer more inclusive and ADA compliant facilities, the new exercise equipment that flanks the fitness path is designed to include people with special needs and disabilities. The path and equipment will be open for public use at no charge. While the walking path is open to all ages, users must be at least 14 years old or have adult supervision to use the equipment. The fitness path itself is one-sixth of a mile long with seven stations offering the following exercise units:

- o Accessible Hand Cycle
- o Recumbent Bike
- o 4-Person Leg Press
- o 2-Person Accessible Chest Press
- o Balance Steps
- o 4-Person Lower Body Combo
- o 2-Person Air Walker
- o 2-Person Pull-Up Station



Each station provides soft cushion surfacing, a QR code for equipment instructions, and an amazing view of the Shinnecock Canal. The Maritime Park is open from dawn to dusk and located adjacent to the Parks and Recreation administration offices at 6 Newtown Road in Hampton Bays.

"The project is a perfect next step to the improvements made at the facility a couple of years ago when we installed a paved parking lot, ADA sidewalks, and a covered pavilion," said Town Parks Director Kristen Doulos. "We wanted to provide a healthy space that encourages people to get outside and get moving, while still fully maintaining open vistas to the park and canal."

Funding for this project was provided through a combination of Community Development Block Grant funding and Town Board appropriations. Parks Department and Housing & Community Development personnel have worked diligently to bring funding to qualifying projects like this and many others.

"This will be a wonderful asset for our community," stated Councilwoman Cyndi McNamara. "It provides accessible, outdoor space for community members of all ages and abilities to stay active, regardless of whether they can afford a gym membership. This initiative truly supports the health and well-being of our residents, and I'm really excited to see this come to fruition."

The Parks Department also will provide instructional exercise and training programs to residents for a small fee. Those programs are featured online: www.southamptontownny.gov/parks.



Town Works with Community on Red Creek Skate Park Redesign

Approximately twenty local skaters came out for a meeting held at Red Creek Park in Hampton Bays on September 24 to get the first glimpse of designs for a major renovation of the skate park at the facility. Engineering firm L.K. McLean Associates and Platform Group, a firm that specializes in the design of one-of-a-kind custom skate parks, presented two conceptual designs. Both options featured concrete surfaces but had variations on the bowl shapes, street course layouts, and types of obstacles and park elements.

The Town encouraged those who were interested in the project to view the designs and take a brief survey. The deadline for survey submissions was October 15.

"The participants at the meeting were very enthusiastic about the designs, and provided some great ideas and feedback," said Councilman Rick Martel. "We also hope that anyone else who is interested will take the survey so we can really try to hone in on as many wants and needs as possible."

The project is being funded by the Southampton Town Board's appropriation of \$1.25 million in the 2025 capital budget, and is being managed by the Parks & Recreation Department. Construction of the new park is anticipated to be completed in summer 2026.



BECOME A LIFEGUARD!

Training starts this Winter for Summer 2026

Certify now and start working for the Town Memorial Day Weekend!

Join Our Lifeguard Team!

Non-Surf Training Open To Ages 15+

Becoming a lifeguard is a rewarding experience!

Starting salary is \$20.29 per hour.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING NON-SURF COURSE

Location: Suffolk County Community College (Eastern Campus)

Age: 15 and over

Start - End: 1/6/26 - 1/16/26 (schedule below)

Fee: Res \$200 / Non-Res \$250

WHEN	LOCATION	POOL	CLASSROOM
Tues. 1/6	SCCC	3:00pm-5:00pm	5:30pm-8:00pm
Wed. 1/7	SCCC	3:00pm-5:00pm	5:30pm-8:00pm
Thurs. 1/8	SCCC	3:00pm-5:00pm	5:30pm-8:00pm
Tues. 1/13	SCCC	3:00pm-5:00pm	
Wed. 1/14	SCCC	3:00pm-5:00pm	
Thurs. 1/15	SCCC	3:00pm-5:00pm	
TEST			
Friday, 1/16	SCCC	3:00pm-5:00pm	

PLEASE NOTE: CPR training & testing must be completed in addition to either course. You must register separately for CPR and space is limited. We suggest you register for CPR when you register for lifeguard training. If age 15 after completion of courses, you can work at Foster Memorial Long Beach.

LIFEGUARD CPR TRAINING FULL COURSE

NOTE: MUST ATTEND ALL THREE (3) CLASSES, INCLUDES BOOK FEE

All individuals registering for our Lifeguard Courses must sign up for a FULL CPR course, unless they have recently been certified in CPR and AED training for adults, children, and infants, as well as choking instruction.

Location: Red Creek Park (RCPAC)

Age: 15 and over

Day/Time:

Tue. 1/20 Basic Part 1 RCPAC 6:00pm-9:00pm

Wed. 1/21 Basic Part 2 RCPAC 6:00pm-9:00pm

Fri. 1/23 Basic Part 3 RCPAC 6:00pm-9:00pm

Fee: Res \$90 / Non-Res \$110 (3 Classes)



Register Today!

southamptontownny.gov/parks/online



- Gas-powered Leaf Blowers are completely prohibited May 20 – September 20.
- Restricted use is permitted September 21 - May 19:
 - Not on Sundays or Holidays
 - 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM only
 - Not more than two permitted on lots ¼ acre or smaller
- Electric Leaf Blowers are exempted from these restrictions.

LEAF BLOWER LAW REDUCES TOWN NOISE COMPLAINTS

Councilmembers Michael Iasilli and Bill Pell invited Public Safety Director Ryan Murphy to a Town Sustainability Committee meeting to review how recent outreach efforts have aided compliance with the Gas Leaf Blower Restriction enacted in 2022. The Sustainability Committee concentrates on policy areas that help reduce carbon emissions and advocates for sustainable alternatives that benefit the environment. Last year, the Committee advanced an outreach effort in conjunction with the Town Council Office to gauge the new law's efficacy. Director Murphy revealed that based on data collected through the Town's SOS system, this year saw a reduction in complaints pertaining to gas leaf blowers. The observed changes also demonstrate the need to continue outreach efforts to see if an observable decline continues.

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON ESTABLISHES THE EAST QUOGUE PARK DISTRICT



At the September 26 Town Board Meeting, the Southampton Town Board voted unanimously on legislation put forth by Councilwoman Cyndi McNamara and co-sponsored by Supervisor Maria Moore and Councilman Rick Martel, establishing the East Quogue Park District.

Community leaders in East Quogue presented their plan to establish a park district in East Quogue at a Town Board Work Session on June 5. The plan presented was to fund and facilitate certain improvements to downtown East Quogue, such as replacing trees on Main Street with native species, improving the East Quogue Village Green, maintaining hanging baskets and urns along Main Street. Additionally, the park district would fund seasonal lighting and decorations, and ongoing maintenance for the East Quogue Post Office garden and the native plant garden at the Bay Street Marina.

"I would like to thank the community members who brought this forward and made the residents aware of the proposal," said Councilwoman

McNamara. "Our parks department does a great job but the community wanted more, in terms of beautification. I think this will be great for East Quogue."

The initiative had widespread support from the East Quogue Civic Association, Beautification Committee, Citizens Advisory Committee, and Historical Society.

The maximum amount proposed to be expended for the improvements is \$75,000 and would be funded by the taxpayers who live within the district, at an estimated cost of \$22.80 per year for a \$700,000 property.

The district will be run by a parks district advisory committee, comprised of member of the Town Board and members of East Quogue community organizations, similarly to the Bridgehampton, Hampton Bays and Water Mill park districts.

TOWN BOARD SUCCESSFULLY REDUCES SPEED LIMIT ON ROADS OF CONCERN

At the November 25 Town Board Meeting, the Town Board unanimously passed Res. No. 2025-1429, lowering the speed limit from 30 to 25 on three roads of concern in the North Sea and Tuckahoe area. Many constituents have brought up concerns about traffic safety on Big Fresh Pond Road, Lake Side Drive, and Parrish Road in previous years.

A study had been published in July 2023 as per Town Board determination in 2022. Some of the main recommendation include 'enhanced signage and the lowering of the speed limit.' Many areas of the road have significant curves making it difficult to respond if traveling at fast speeds. One alarming finding of the study stated, the accident data analysis found 19 crashes in the study area and on adjacent roadways (Nelson & Pope, 13). Though the crashes referenced were not fatal, it is what triggered the Board to take the recommendations seriously and act.

Councilmember Lasilli, who brought this matter to the Board for consideration, stated, "This is a great step forward in addressing traffic safety on these critical roadways. Not only does this legislation reduce the speed limit on these roads but also addresses some of the other key concerns outlined in the study's recommendations. I want to commend Town Engineer Tom Houghton for his work on this and corresponding with the many constituents who urged the Town to examine the area," commented Councilmember Lasilli.

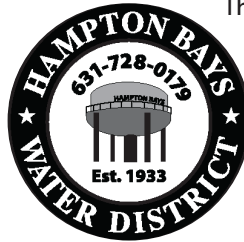
Councilmember Bill Pell stated, "This is a great measure that makes the community safer. I am happy to support these efforts." Supervisor Maria Moore also commented, "This showed us how our process can take shape in examining requests for speed limit changes, and will guide us in the future when additional requests come in."



PET HEALTH AWARENESS RAISED ON PET VAX & LICENSING DAY

On September 30, Councilmember Michael Lasilli and Town Clerk Sundry Schermeyer teamed up for a town-wide initiative to enhance awareness on dog licensing and rabies vaccination requirements. Public Safety Director Ryan Murphy joined to address how the initiative aims to improve community health and reverse the recent decline in dog license registration. Supporting the Town was Southampton Animal Shelter, which assists the community by providing affordable veterinary care, and John Di Leonardo from Humane Long Island.

WATER DISTRICT PROJECT UPDATES



The Hampton Bays Water District is moving forward with the next phase of its comprehensive 10-year master plan, implementing major infrastructure upgrades designed to enhance system performance, water quality, and long-term resiliency for the entire community.

A key component of the district's ongoing improvements is the installation of a state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. This modernized digital platform will significantly strengthen cyber-security protections, improve real-time monitoring, and enhance operational efficiency across all district facilities.

In addition, the district has launched a water-meter change-out program to replace aging meters with contemporary, highly accurate models. These upgrades will ensure precise flow measurement, support improved water-volume tracking, and help customers better understand and manage their water use. The district is also preparing to begin work on a new test well in December. The results of this exploratory project will determine the feasibility of developing a new well site that would further improve the delivery of high-quality potable water and bolster fire-protection capabilities for residents and businesses.

Through its stringent and proactive water-management practices, the Hampton Bays Water District has consistently demonstrated its ability to provide safe, clean, and reliable drinking water to all customers. With these continued investments, the district remains committed to advancing its system to the highest standard possible—today and for the future.

