



Lloyd Harbor Village Record



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



Inside this edition:

Announcements & Events	1 & 2
History Highlights	3 & 4
Organization of the Village Government	5 & 6
Conservation Corner	7
Police Department	8

Save the Date!!

✓ Master Plan Hearing

Monday, December 21st, 8 PM at Village Hall. Notices to follow

✓ Recreation Commission – Position available

The Recreation Commission has an opening available for a Commission member. The Recreation Commission is responsible for all Village Park operations & facilities. These include the beach, dock, tennis courts, playground area, Park grounds, summer camp operations & tennis programs. Summer camp includes children of elementary school age, the Junior Recreation program and the new Teen Camp program. No meetings during summer months, June – Sept; meetings during remainder of year generally 3rd Thursday of month, 7:30 at Village Hall. The Village Park serves residents of all ages & provides a beautiful waterfront space for all to enjoy. Please send letter of interest & bio or resume to :

Eileen Schulz, Village Clerk

Village of Lloyd Harbor • 32 Middle Hollow Rd. • Huntington, NY 11743



Contributing articles are invited from residents on:

- Upcoming Activities
- Outstanding Achievements
- Harbor History
- Conservation
- Recreation

Please submit articles for review by the last Wednesday of the month to:

Village Hall
32 Middle Hollow Road
Huntington, NY 11743

Fax: 631-549-8879

✓ Save the Date !

*The Lloyd Harbor Historical Society
invites you to visit*

Santa in the Barn



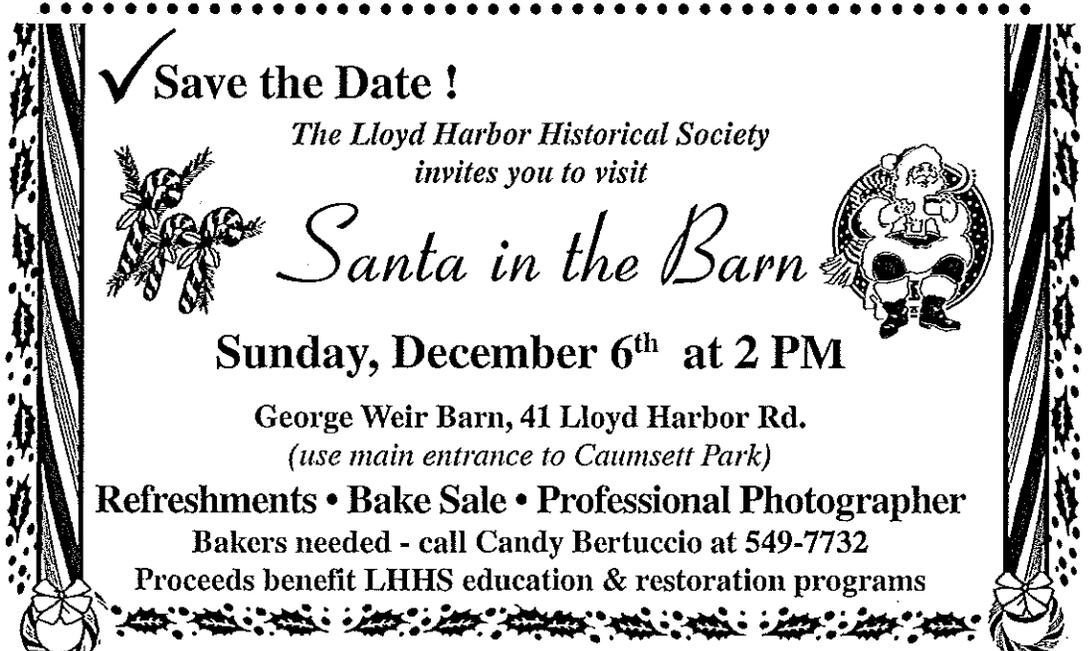
Sunday, December 6th at 2 PM

George Weir Barn, 41 Lloyd Harbor Rd.
(use main entrance to Caumsett Park)

Refreshments • Bake Sale • Professional Photographer

Bakers needed - call Candy Bertuccio at 549-7732

Proceeds benefit LHHS education & restoration programs



MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

✓ Attention Boaters *December 15th deadline*

All catamarans, kayaks, canoes, dinghies, etc. must be removed from the Village Park by December 15th. The Park is not a storage yard, so we ask your cooperation in this regard. Boats remaining in the Park will be removed & disposed. Need help with dismantling & hauling catamarans? *Mike D'Agostino has kindly offered to assist. Call 423-7799*

.....

✓ Caumsett State Historic Park Hearing on Caumsett's Master Plan *Tuesday • December 8, 2009 at 6:30 pm • Cold Spring Harbor Library*

Written comments will be received until January 8, 2010. Caumsett's proposed master plan can be viewed at www.nysparks.state.ny.us/inside-our-agency/public_documents.aspx

.....



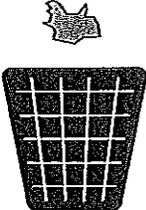
✓ Birdseed Sale



Buy top quality seed & support a great cause! Volunteers for Wildlife makes it easy to feed your little feathered friends this winter, and support Volunteers' wildlife rehabilitation & educational programs at the same time. You can order seed at your convenience by **downloading the order form at www.volunteersforwildlife.org/downloads/pdfs/birdseedsaleflyer09.pdf** or calling 423 - 0984 to request an order form. Sale continues all winter, & finishes in March. For more information on Volunteers' excellent programs, visit them online at www.volunteersforwildlife.org.

✓ REMINDERS !

Littering - Litter continues to be a problem & a particular eyesore now that the leaves are off the trees. There is a \$250 fine for littering in the Village. Please speak with your gardeners, lawn service, contractors and any other vendors who may not be aware of this ordinance. Provide trash containers for anyone doing outdoor work on your property. Please do your part to cut down on litter. Every little bit hurts!



LIPA – Work to be done on trees & limbs at risk of falling & disrupting power. See Highway Department news.

Wells - If you have a well, you should periodically (annually) have your water analyzed for potability, to confirm that it remains free of contaminants. Suffolk County Health Department & a number of private engineering firms perform this work.

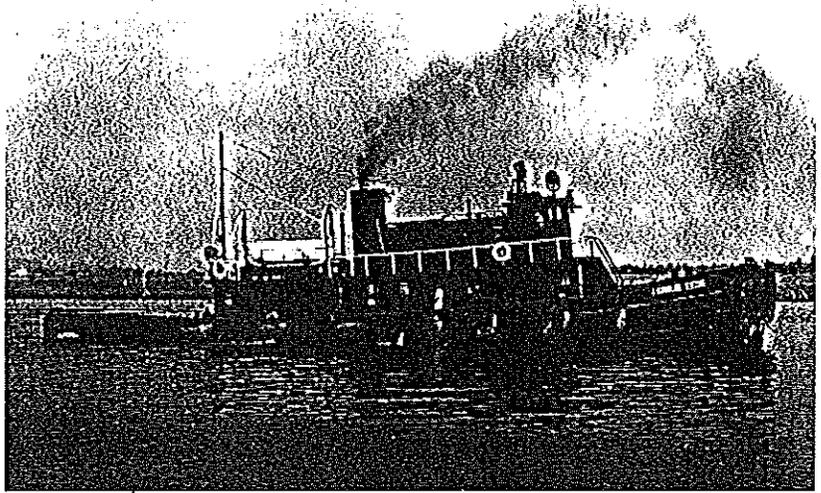
History Highlights

“THE SINKING OF THE GWENDOLINE STEERS”

By Walter D. Kolos - *Village Historian*

The Devil's Belt

Known as “The Devil’s Belt” in Colonial times, the Long Island Sound is famous for being both a treacherous and unpredictable estuary. Rimmed by rocky shoals, its often pond like placidness can quickly turn into a violent sea. Countless ships - and lives - have been lost to it. One of the most famous maritime tragedies was the sinking of the *Gwendoline Steers* off of Lloyd Neck in 1962.



Tugboats, Barges & Treacherous Wakes

For decades the tugboats and sand barges of the Steers Sand & Gravel Co. traversed the waters between Northport and New York. For beachgoers, especially on Lloyd Neck, the barging activity seemed endless and monotonous. Laboring tugs pulled a half a dozen or more low-slung sand laden barges westward on the Sound. In the opposite direction, empty barges were being hauled eastward for re-fills at Sand City or Northport.

For sailors with small craft, the full barges in tow posed a serious navigational hazard. The water displacement of the barges created a treacherous wake and undertow which could draw in sailboats that came too close. Sailors and boaters alike were warned to keep a safe distance from all sand towing activities.

The *Gwendoline Steers* was a seventy year old, 150 ton, 98 foot long tugboat. It was owned by Steers, and had been given several names over its long working career. “Gwendoline” was the name of the wife of the company’s owner, J. Rich Steers. In addition to the Northport sand mine, the Steers had an even older operation at Sand City off of Eaton’s Neck which ceased in 1964. The Steers family lived in Lloyd Harbor, on the property now called Pond Drive,

Wind, Ice & a 50 Degree Drop in Temperature

The tragedy of the *Gwendoline Steers* began on the Sunday morning of *December 30, 1962*. In Alfred Sforza’s book *Portrait of a Small Town, Part II* Sforza wrote that the vessel’s Captain Henry Dickman guided the boat quietly out of New York at 11:30 a.m. It was later that afternoon that the tugboat would encounter some of the most terrible conditions ever seen on the Sound. According to some accounts, temperatures as low as 6 degrees Fahrenheit had been recorded on that fateful Sunday afternoon. Also that day, 75 mile per hour wind gusts had been reported in

Huntington, following a 50 degree temperature drop that day. The ice in Huntington Bay and surrounding waters was making navigation very difficult.

Nine Foot Waves & Taking On Water

Dr. Sforza also wrote that the tugboat was an hour late, and reported that she was taking on water. However, at this point, the pumps were working (the tugboat had recently been in a grounding accident). Eaton’s Neck Coast Guard Station had last made contact with the *Steers* at 4:30 p.m., as it entered the channel between Lloyd Neck and Eaton’s Neck. At this time, the

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS *continued from page 3*

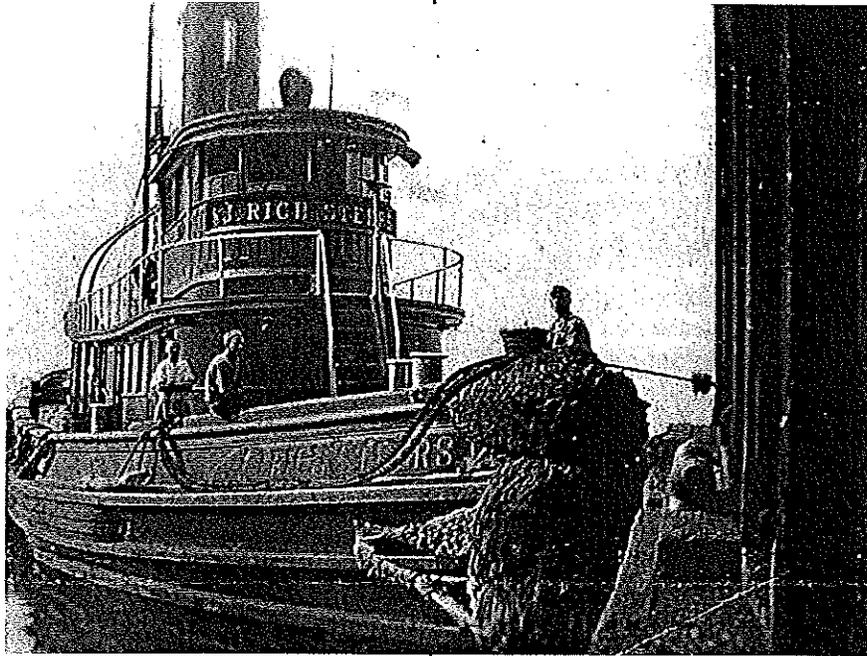
vessel was being pummeled by nine foot waves and 55 mile per hour winds.

There were concerns about attempting a rescue in the frigid weather. This prevented the launching of the two 40 foot boats at the Coast Guard rescue station. The *Gwendoline Steers* had disappeared. Search planes had been dispatched, but there was no sign of the tugboat. The boat was gone, and there was no sign of the nine crew members. When the boat was eventually found, the clock on board had stopped at 4:57 p.m.

Frozen Bodies, Swirling Waters

Ice in the water, and piles of shore ice made it very difficult to search the area. On December 31st, police came across a lifeboat with an ice- encased body under the bow—it was that of Hugh A. Reid, the engineer. Bodies of other frozen crewmen started to surface the first day after the boat vanished.

Divers and special ships equipped with sonar and other state of the art devices of the day were employed to seek out the sunken vessel. Throughout the winter and spring, more bodies began to surface. Some were found locally in Huntington Bay, others had drifted off to the east to places like Smithtown and the Nissequogue. The last body was found on May 26th in the swirling waters off of Race Point at Fishers Island, over 80 miles away at the easterly entrance to Long Island Sound. All crewmembers were now accounted for.

**A Mysterious Sinking**

The boat was eventually found in 40 feet of water off Lloyd Neck. Now the boat, and all of the crew members were accounted for - still the reasons for the sinking remains a mystery. Investigators speculated that an ice build up may have caused the boat to take on more water than

the pumps could handle, dragging it down. At the time, many said that river tugs with their low sides, such as the *Steers*, should not have been plying the ocean - like waters of the Sound.

The author remembers going down to the beach at Fiddler's Green to

see the high waves breaking at the dunes. The group assembled there could see a boat foundering in the violent waters off Lloyd Neck Estates. It was difficult to see with the high waves and spray, on that dark afternoon. Reports of its loss came in that evening.

Marked by a Navigational Buoy

Today, the *Gwendoline Steers* still sits upright in where it sank 47 years ago, just off Lloyd Neck. Marked by a navigational buoy, it is both a popular destination for divers, and an active habitat for marine life. It was a legendary sinking, and a loss that is still fresh in the minds of many. To this day, cause of the loss of the *Gwendoline Steers* is still a mystery - and a chilling memory.

Conservation Corner

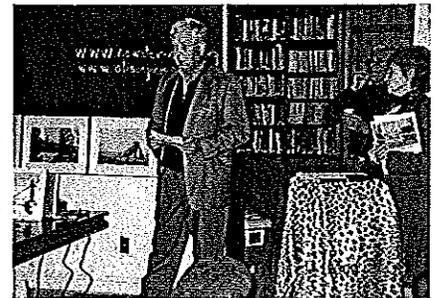
Water is what you think of when the well is dry!



The topic of the Conservation Board's Banbury Conference on November 14th was WATER - the worldwide problem of supply, potability and access. *Alison Jones*, award winning photographer, conservation author and founder of No Water No Life (www.nowater-nolife.org) a foundation that uses the power of photography to raise awareness of the coming global crisis of insufficient water, was the featured speaker. Using photography to document both the degradation and loss of fresh water and the effects of lack of potable water on all life - human, animal, plant - her photographs depicted an urgent underlying message. *All of the proceeds from Alison's photography support the efforts of NO WATER NO LIFE.*

Highlights of her talk follow:

- **Global population** over 6.7 billion, 1.5 billion people without adequate potable water
- **Water consumption** doubling every twenty years with resulting world wide conflicts over access & availability
- **Long Island** at risk. Increased use of chemicals on lawns, gasoline additives and fumes from burning fossil fuels all seep into the groundwater & result in diseases to humans, flora & fauna. Nobody & nothing is immune from contamination of our water supply.



The 6 member No Water - No Life team documented watersheds in North America & Africa and found:

- Glaciers are melting
- 80% of the diseases in undeveloped countries are water- related
- Social unrest in undeveloped countries is water - related
- The inability of women to gain access to an education is related to the need for them to spend inordinate time obtaining water for their families.
- Population growth contributes to water depletion.
- Resource extraction is responsible for much of the water degradation.
- Pollution of known surface & groundwaters decreases the supply of potable water.
- Manmade infrastructures interfere with water recharge.
- Biodiversity has been decreasing.
- Climate change is contributing to water shortages.
- Wetland reclamation is sorely needed.
- Agriculture consumes 80% of daily water use, much of which is wasted.

We must:

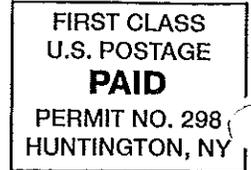
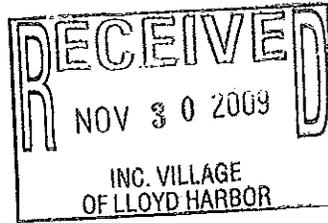
- Reduce consumption.
- Enforce better management plans.
- Conserve land in a natural state.
- Stop deforestation.
- Use technology to reduce global warming and its causes.
- Remediate polluted areas.
- Use negotiation and cooperation in politics to adopt solutions to the worldwide problem.

BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR WATER & WELL TESTED REGULARLY by the Suffolk County Health Dept. or other qualified testing firm.



Village of Lloyd Harbor
32 MIDDLE HOLLOW ROAD
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743

Phone: (631) 549-8893
Fax: (631) 549-8879
Website: www.lloydharbor.org



|||||LH•2•404 *****AUTO**5-DIGIT 11743
RESIDENT
32 MIDDLE HOLLOW RD
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743-1614

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to Chief Chuck Flynn, who sat for the NYS Chief's Exam in March 2009. The Chief's Exam is a comprehensive 8-hour exam. Chief Flynn received the highest score to date recorded in Suffolk County and, it appears, in NY State as well. Well done, Chief Flynn!

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Village Highway Department has been notified that LIPA is identifying trees / limbs throughout the Huntington area that have the potential to fall on power lines and disrupt power during snow, ice, and wind storms. Work in the Village will probably take place before the end of the year. LIPA flagmen will be in place during any work



At this Thanksgiving Season, the Mayor & Trustees wish to thank all of the volunteers on our boards & commissions who help to run our village so well, at no cost to residents.



Best Wishes to all residents & Village employees for a joyous Christmas and Holiday Season and a healthy and peaceful New Year.