



LLOYD HARBOR

January 2026

Village Record & Camp Survey

As we enter our Village's 100th Anniversary Year in 2026, we are already planning ahead for the summer season at our Village Park/Camp. Below we share a charming and nostalgic account of golden summer days at Village Camp. The author, Julianne Massa, is a former camper and Lifeguard at our Village Park/Camp.

The Trustees and I send all good wishes for the New Year!

Jean M. Thatcher, Mayor

FUN, EXPLORATION, FRIENDSHIP & SALTY-SWEET ADVENTURE... RECOLLECTIONS OF GOLDEN SUMMER DAYS AT VILLAGE CAMP

BY JULIANNE MASSA

Every year summer steamrolls onto Long Island, the heat clinging to the air from morning till night, not releasing it until a few weeks into September. Being a kid during the summer means being suddenly given all this freedom to swim, play games with friends, go for boat rides and to laze in the shade. I was not very creative as a child. I just wanted to avoid being sweaty, so I often opted just to sit in front of the TV all day, watching Disney and basking in the coolness of my air-conditioned house.



My mom was not willing to let me waste away my summer with cartoons, so she sent me to the Beach Camp at Lloyd Harbor Village Park. My older brother was also a camper. She saw how much fun he had there and thought that I would get the same enjoyment out of the experience.



My first summer I was young, entering Kindergarten that upcoming September (although the camp's age limit for groups is now first grade.) I was almost too young to be able to remember my experience at Beach Camp. But when I think of that first year it is swaddled in the golden light of the sun. I was always wet and always laughing. Whether I was testing my bravery by swimming out to the floating ropes that marked the boundaries of the swim area, or being splashed by the hose during a game of Drip Drip Drop, I could say for sure that I much preferred that to air-conditioning. I loved stepping out of my car



*Trustee/
Deputy Mayor*
Willam Burdo



Trustee
Leland Deane



Trustee
Joseph Gitto



Mayor
Jean Thatcher



Trustee
Jennifer Hubbell



Trustee
George Patsis



Trustee
Steven Richman

everyday among the swarm of other parents ushering their kids through the parking lot, and being greeted by Jim Barton, the Camp's Supervisor. He made sure to know every kid there. I loved walking up to my Counselors, where they would act overjoyed to see me, even though I had been there only the day before.

After that first year there seemed no other way to spend my summer. For me, Beach Camp never got old. If we weren't swimming we were doing arts and crafts. If we weren't making string bracelets we were guarding our prisoners in a tense game of capture-the-flag, or practicing our forearm swing at the tennis courts. When we finally got old enough we ventured out into Long Island Sound to kayak, paddle board, and get tossed around on the tube, pulled along by the ski boat. Every time I caught just a little bit of air on that tube I was sure I had broken some kind of record. In all of Beach Camp history no one had reached the heights I did!



I haven't even mentioned Special Day, a highly-anticipated weekday for every camper. As soon as I saw the pizza boxes stacked tall on the picnic tables – twice as tall as I was – and the bright blue waterslide, blue as a tropical sea – being slowly filled with air, I knew it was going to be a day of endless fun. I would stuff myself with pizza, take a few zips down the water slide and then, wet and laughing, go to my Counselors to claim my popsicle prize. The hot sun would melt the popsicle, dying my chin and hands in rainbow food-coloring.

The summer I aged-out of Beach Camp I was left with the question of how I was supposed to fill my time. For years I had done the same thing, returned to the same place. I couldn't imagine waking up on a hot summer morning and not making the drive to LHVP. It seemed the only logical conclusion was to start working there.

It was initially jarring when I began working as a Lifeguard. I realized that I was no longer a carefree camper, charging into the water, tasting its saltiness as I fully submerged. I was now responsible for those campers, making sure that after they went under, they came back up.



*The hours I spent in the lifeguard chair watching the tide as it ebbed and flowed, the sun making it glitter like liquid jewels, I gained a new appreciation for the Camp. I spent my years as a camper running through the day, fueled by the energy that only a child can possess. I never stopped to see LHVP for the beautiful place that it is. The five summers I spent as a Lifeguard (eventually being promoted to Head Lifeguard during my fifth year) led me to better understand the environment that every Staff member – Supervisors, Counselors, Lifeguards, and Boat guys – worked to cultivate for the campers: **one of fun, of exploration, of friendship, and of salty-sweet adventure.***



Village of **LLOYD HARBOR**

Jan. 2026

2026 RECREATION COMMISSION SURVEY

For Lloyd Harbor Residents Only

Your responses will help the Commission plan Camp options and summer events for Summer 2026. Your input is most appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to respond. **Return by January 21, 2026.**

Name _____

Home Address _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

Please indicate your interest in the following (circle yes or no):

1) 9 AM early drop-off option at Camp for added fee:

Yes No Comment: _____

2) After-Camp Program option (tennis/arts) for added fee:

Yes No Comment: _____

3) Rainy-day option for holding Camp:

Yes No Comment: _____

4) Extension of Junior Rec to include students entering 9th grade:

Yes No Comment: _____

5) Would you attend family events (i.e. movie night, live music, fishing derby) for added fee:

Yes No Comment: _____

6) Would you be interested in volunteering to help with family events:

If yes, email: _____

Mail, drop-off or email: Village Hall: 32 Middle Hollow Road, Huntington, NY 11743

Email : lhvh@lloydharbor.org

Additional survey forms can be downloaded: lloydharbor.org (Park & Recreation Tab)