



Incorporated Village of LLOYD HARBOR

Fall 2025

MAYOR'S MESSAGE *FROM THE MAYOR & TRUSTEES* DEER MANAGEMENT

We have recently had extensive discussions with the NYS DEC and Professional Wildlife Managers APHIS (non-regulatory unit of the USDA) and White Buffalo (international wildlife management operation.) **The hard truth is that there can be no seriously effective deer management until Professional Wildlife Managers are differentiated from the ordinary hunter, and allowed to use the equipment and methodology needed to significantly reduce the exploding deer population. The NYS Legislature controls how Professional Wildlife Managers are categorized, and how they are allowed to operate. Our legislators, NYS Senator Mario Mattera & Assemblyman Keith Brown have worked tirelessly on this issue. Unfortunately, effective resolution is repeatedly de-railed by downstate and other legislators who refuse to acknowledge the severity of the problem.**



MAYOR
JEAN M. THATCHER

New York State collects every statistic needed to demonstrate a growing crisis of public safety, health and environmental degradation. There are in excess of 70,000 deer-vehicle collisions reported annually; roughly \$60 million in estimated crop damage; and a significant increase in tick-borne illnesses including Lyme, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis; Ehrlichiosis; Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and most recently Powassan virus. Further, the NYS DEC admits to having been concerned for a long time about deer over-population.

Professional Wildlife Managers have long known what the prestigious NYS Wildlife Society (NYTWS) recently stated : “Wildlife damage management is not only a legitimate but essential component of modern wildlife stewardship, distinct from regulated hunting and trapping. NYTWS supports the need to maintain and improve the operations of professional wildlife damage management in NY State, including permitting activities not allowed during regulated hunting and trapping.”

From 2014-2017 the Village, using APHIS, ran a very successful Deer Management Program (despite restricted dates & severe weather conditions) removing some 1,200 deer and donating all meat to the Long Island Cares (Harry Chapin Food Bank.) In 2017 this program came to a complete halt when NYS DEC attorneys re-evaluated their interpretation of existing legislation. *The result was that Professional Wildlife Managers had to operate under the same restrictions as the ordinary licensed hunter. Predictably, the Professionals could not efficiently and effectively complete the task of deer management and were unable to support a full complement of highly trained staff.*

The Village is in contact with the NYSDEC, Professional Wildlife Managers and our Legislators. We continue to explore all legally allowed options to effectively handle this severe problem. The unfortunate fact is that is that the situation continues to be exacerbated by NYS, and the encumbrances and hurdles that limit any meaningful deer management.



Trustee/
Deputy Mayor
Willam Burdo



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