



# Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor

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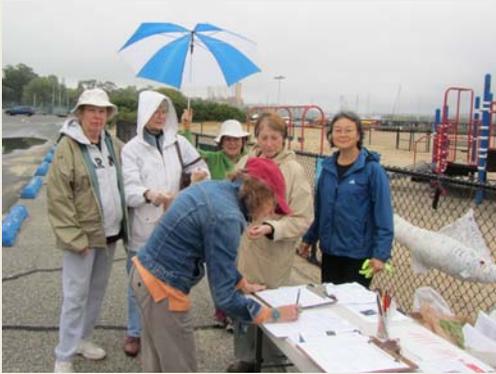
## Harbor News

August 29, 2013

### HEMPSTEAD HARBOR BEACH CLEANUPS

**SAVE THE DATE.** On **Saturday, September 21**, the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor will be coordinating beach cleanups as part of the Annual International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by Ocean Conservancy in cooperation with the American Littoral Society. Volunteers will meet at Tappen and Sea Cliff Beaches at 9:30 AM. The cleanup will continue until 11:30 AM.

Volunteers who participate in the cleanup will be contributing to a massive data-collection effort. They will record and weigh the various types of debris found on the shore. The information is then sent to Ocean Conservancy, entered into a database, and analyzed to see whether there are changes in the amounts or types of debris that had been found in previous years. The data collected from the beach cleanup has been used to approach manufacturers to change the types of materials that frequently end up as floatable debris.



Bring work gloves. All other supplies (bags, pencils, data cards, etc.) will be distributed to volunteers who will meet at the entrances of Tappen and Sea Cliff Beaches. This is a great opportunity to do something meaningful for the environment--a perfect way to think globally but act locally.

If you can help, please call Barbara at 759-9361 or the CSHH office at 801-6792.

### "SEA CHANGE" EXHIBIT AT TILLES CENTER

"Sea Change," an underwater installation by local artists Sally Shore and Barbara Grossman Karyo, will be on view from **September 2013 through July 2014** in the Atrium at Tilles Center for Performing Arts at LIU Post. Taking advantage of the aquarium-like atmosphere of the glass Atrium, "Sea Change" evokes the experience of being underwater with creatures and vegetation that have been created with some of the detritus invading our natural environment.

The impetus for the project occurred in March 2011 when a waste treatment plant in Westchester accidentally released millions of plastic water-filtration disks into Long Island Sound. When the disks began washing up on beaches all along the north shore of Long Island, a call for help went out to members of the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor. Sally and Barbara were members of the team that picked up, in the course of an hour, approximately 22,000 disks from Town of North Hempstead Beach Park, Tappen Beach, Sea Cliff Beach, and Morgan Park Beach. The two artists, standing amid the bulging bags of disks, decided at that point to create something out of the disks, and their first works were a five-foot long fish (by Barbara) and "The Colony" (by Sally), both of which were on view at the "Reclaiming Eden" exhibit at the Jeanie Tengelsen Gallery in Dix Hills in June 2011.

As a result of applying for a grant from Art Under Glass, the project was expanded to become an installation. Sally created the surface of the water filled with rainbows of sensuous vegetation and Barbara crocheted a variety of large, whimsical creatures (including an octopus made out of the plastic disks) to swim through it.

**There will be an artist's reception Sunday September 15 from 2-5, Tilles Center Atrium, LIU Post.** For more information, contact Sally Shore ([sishore@optonline.net](mailto:sishore@optonline.net)) or Barbara Karyo ([Bgkart@optonline.net](mailto:Bgkart@optonline.net)).



## **HARBOR VIEW HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ENSURES ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROPERTY ALONG WEST SHORE ROAD**

The Harbor View Homeowners Association succeeded in preventing improper development on Hempstead Harbor. Only by accident did a resident of Harbor View in Port Washington see a Town of North Hempstead (TNH) notice about a council meeting to consider an application by Dejana Industries, Inc. to consolidate its waste management services and fleet of trucks at a location near the adult community. Upon investigation, it was discovered that Dejana Industries was proposing to build a 56,000-square-foot building for its offices and truck maintenance on a 5-acre parcel owned by the town on West Shore Rd. The town and Dejana had already entered into negotiations about the sale of the property and had signed a contract as far back as August 2012. However, a zoning change was still needed before the project could move forward—hence the July 18, 2013, public meeting.

The Harbor View Homeowners Association, headed by Robert Calica, sprang into action. The association spread the word among its members in the Harbor View complex and to the nearby Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church. The TNH council was not expecting to see hundreds of concerned residents show up to protest the lack of notification regarding a development that could potentially harm their quality of life and the environment. At the very least, according to Bill Coddington, Harbor View community relations chair, it was the issue of inadequate process that motivated the high turnout. Although the town is legally required to notify only residents within 200 feet of a potential zoning change (the nearest Harbor View residence is 450 feet away), community outreach makes for good government. Acknowledging as much, town Supervisor Jon Kaiman announced that the process would be very public from then on and set a date of August 13 for further discussion.

The Harbor View Homeowners Association developed a plan of action and reached out to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor and others to discuss details of the development proposal and the property, which is part of a nearly 27-acre parcel transferred by Nassau County to the town several years ago. The property includes a 7.7-acre pond and contingent wetlands. Up to 10 acres of the property (currently zoned for residential use) could be sold for nonresidential development. The homeowners association developed a plan of action, hired an environmental consultant, and reached out to local public officials. CSHH questions and concerns about the development proposal focused on ensuring that the property is given a full environmental review with the opportunity for public comment.

By the time the August 13 town council meeting rolled around, the homeowners association's environmental consultant had found problems with Dejana's wetlands permit, including discrepancies regarding sewage disposal and potential for waste and hazardous material discharges to Hempstead Harbor. The report concluded that the proposed development posed a threat to Hempstead Harbor and should be subjected to a full Environmental Impact Statement. At the meeting, Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio, who represents Port Washington, addressed the town council and the overflow crowd urging the town to withdraw its support of the application. Faced with very real concerns about the environment and the review process, Supervisor Kaiman proposed that the town help Dejana Industries find a new site, or, if the company wanted to proceed with the present plans, require them to submit a new application. Council members agreed, and the matter was taken off the town's agenda.

### **HEMPSTEAD HARBOR WATER-MONITORING PROGRAM**

The 2013 Hempstead Harbor water-monitoring program continues with weekly water testing and sample collection. This is the twenty-second season since CSHH initiated the program in 1992. CSHH is working in partnership with the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee (the organization representing the nine municipalities that have jurisdiction over Hempstead Harbor) to expand the scope of the program, which includes weekly water testing from May to November.

Since the 2011 reopening of 2,500 acres of shellfish beds for harvesting in the northern part of the harbor, baymen can be seen throughout the season raking clams from the harbor. We continue to receive excellent reports about the quantity and quality of the clams harvested from the harbor. We saw an increase in the usual number of clam boats in Hempstead Harbor in July following the closure of shellfish beds in Oyster Bay due to reported illnesses attributed to eating raw or undercooked shellfish that contain *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, a naturally occurring marine bacteria.

Observations recorded during weekly monitoring of Hempstead Harbor indicate a tremendously improved ecosystem. Recreational-fishing enthusiasts report their catches of large, healthy striped bass and bluefish. Shore birds are plentiful, and several pairs of ospreys return each year to nests that they've built around the harbor, including six that are easily visible in the lower harbor. In July, we received a report about dolphins returning to Hempstead Harbor for the third time in recent years—about eight were seen swimming past Sea Cliff Beach. The challenge is to ensure that any activity around the harbor does not threaten the water-quality improvements that have taken more than 25 years of conservation efforts to produce.



## **27 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING!**

That's how many years have passed since the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor was formed in 1986! A lot has changed, and a lot of the changes that have helped to improve conditions around Hempstead Harbor can be attributed to the hard work and support of longstanding CSHH members.

CSHH continues as an important voice in the community, still striving to protect our local environment. Operational expenses continue as well, and these can be met only by the generosity of community members.

***We need your help!*** Please consider making a donation, payable to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, P.O. Box 159, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. If you can offer special services or technical assistance, please call 801-6792. Encourage friends to get on our e-mail list by writing to [cshh@optonline.net](mailto:cshh@optonline.net). Please let us know that you value CSHH's work over the last 27 years by making your tax-deductible contribution now.