

Mayor
Rosemary Bourne
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Ralph Fumante
Board of Trustees
Charles Goulding
James Townsend
George J. Sheehan

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF OYSTER BAY COVE
#25B-Route 25A
OYSTER BAY, NY 11771
Phone: (516) 922-1016
Building Dept: (516) 922-1071
Fax: (516) 922-1761
www.oysterbaycove.net

Village Clerk
Donna Harris

Building Inspector
Joseph Richardson

FALL 2008

Dear Resident,

Last Spring, I discussed the environmental importance of trees to our quality of life. In this letter, I want to emphasize the impact of light pollution. The Dark Sky Association estimates that outdoor lighting in the United States wastes about \$10 billion in energy costs per year. The current generation of outdoor lighting designs are not only more energy efficient but also less obtrusive for neighbors and the environment. The Town of East Hampton is a leader in implementing regulations and installing fixtures that are dark sky friendly and put the light on the ground where it belongs. To that end, two residents donated a pair of flat lens street lights to our Village. One light is opposite the entrance to East Woods School. Take a look; let me know what you think. Better yet, "adopt" a light. Call the Village Office to learn how to do this. The cost is modest.

Additionally, you can upgrade your landscape lighting thereby saving energy AND helping the environment. A win/win situation. Go on line and visit the Dark Sky Association's site. Good things can emanate from small changes.

VILLAGE BEACH:

As promised, after reviewing the beach survey, a new storage rack has been commissioned. It will be built and installed by our Road Commissioner for use next season.

REMINDER: Boats may NOT be stored at the beach over the Winter. Please don't risk having your boat impounded.

FALSE ALARMS:

A recent conversation with Chief Cronin drew my attention to the incidence of rising false burglar and fire alarms. Responding to these alarms poses a danger to our Police Officers, Fire Fighters and general public. It also may divert them from attention to other emergencies. We encourage all residents to use their alarm systems whenever possible but a review of your system and proper maintenance will greatly help reduce the incidence of false alarms.

ROADSIDE ROCKS:

Over a several year period, an increasing number of residents have placed lines of rocks along the road facing their homes. The purpose is to prevent cars from entering the space and defacing the land.

While the intent may have merit, the reality is that occasional "conflicts" between cars and rocks can and do occur as drivers swerve to avoid collisions with other vehicles. Sometimes, movement results in the rocks encroaching on the road itself with unfortunate consequences. If the rocks are on the homeowner's land, responsibility for any problems rests with them. They are equally responsible if they place such rocks on land that does not belong to them. They should check their surveys.

Bottom line; be aware of the safety issues with roadside rock lines. Perhaps, there is a better and safer solution that reduces the potential of litigation for the homeowner.

As always, your comments and observations are welcome. With best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, I am

Yours truly,

Rosemary Bourne,
Mayor