

# NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

EARLY SUMMER

## THE BUDGET: PARTICIPATING IN THE “FREEZE”

The Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget was passed by the Board of Trustees on April 27, 2015. The budget calls for a zero percent tax increase and a slight decrease in sanitation fees. Also approved was a \$ 538,625 Capital budget to address road paving, a new DPW building and the Downtown Revitalization project at the “four corners” section of the Village.

This budget will allow the Village to participate in the Governor’s Property Tax Freeze legislation which will provide a credit to residential property owners in Brightwaters whose home is their primary residence and they have a total household income of \$500,000 or less.

The various taxing entities in our area who also comply with the legislation will be combined on one check to the resident homeowner. The tax credit for the Village taxes would have been the amount of the increase in taxes over last year, which was zero, OR the current inflation figure as set by the State of 1.46% multiplied by last year’s tax amount, whichever is greater. In the case of the Village, it will be the 1.46%. More information can be found at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov).

The end result for our residents is no tax increase and small refund from the State. In order to continue this program into the second year, the Village must con-



tinue to comply with the tax cap and demonstrate savings in 2017, 2018 and 2019. This will require seeking additional review of our purchasing efforts, aggressive cost cutting and possible sharing of services with neighboring taxing jurisdictions. The administration will continue their efforts in closely monitoring the fiscal affairs of the Village.

## WALKER BEACH: THE SUMMER PLACE TO BE

The Village has been diligently working on improvements to Walker Beach to make it more family friendly and the place you want to be this summer! The walkway will be re-installed this year, several trees were planted thanks to an Arbor Day grant, the playground area is receiving new sand,

an additional basketball hoop is being installed at a more kid-friendly level, a volleyball net will be erected, the shower facilities are being updated and additional seating is being provided for our little ones. So come on down! Lifeguards will be on duty for weekends starting Memorial Day and full

time on June 22nd. Please see the line-up for family nights and other activities on page 4. Beach passes are available in Village Hall and will also be sold at Walker Beach. Cost: \$30 residents, \$90 non-residents. Over 65? Senior discounts: \$15 resident, \$60 non-residents. Please bring your car regis-

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VILLAGE CLERK-TREASURER

JOHN CATANIA  
DPW FOREMAN

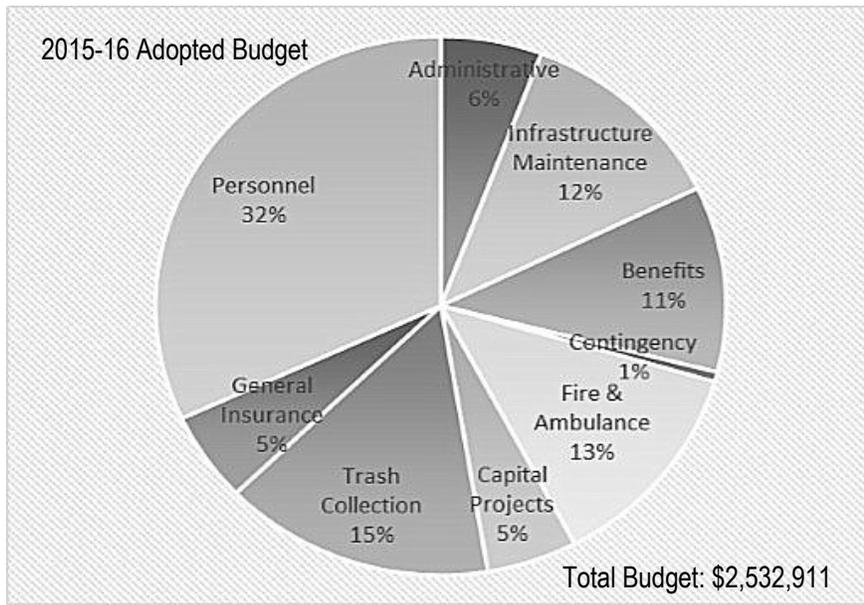
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DAVID KLUEPFEL, ESQ.  
VILLAGE JUSTICE

VILLAGE HALL: 631-665-1280  
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tration with you. Cash or checks are accepted. Beach passes will be checked during the opening hours of the beach which are Daily 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Wednesday and Friday evenings the beach is open until 9:00 PM. Alcohol and pets are NOT permitted at the beach.



## WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO IN THE VILLAGE OF BRIGHTWATERS

The chart at the left provides a general overview of where your tax dollars go for the 2015-16 budget year. The adopted budget can be found on the website:

[www.villageofbrightwaters.com](http://www.villageofbrightwaters.com) under Files and Forms/Treasurer.

## STORM WATER MANAGEMENT APPLIES TO EVERYONE

Whether you live on the Bay, near the Bay or miles away, the actions you take may still contribute to the pollution levels in our lakes, streams and open waterways. Since the Village consists of primarily developed areas, the water rushing off of paved surfaces picks up sediment, litter, automobile fluids and other contaminants. Pesticides and fertilizers that are applied in our yards can stimulate the growth of unwanted aquatic weeds and algae.

The Village compiles a report to the New York State DEC every year indicating what efforts have been undertaken to manage the storm water within the village boundaries. Street sweeping, storm drain cleaning, drain inspections and public education are all part of the Storm Water Protection Plan. It is also up to our individual residents and businesses to act responsi-

bly—we are all in this together!

### What Can I Do?

**Car washing:** Use soap sparingly. Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water. Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, not in the street. Or wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water naturally. Best of all, take your car to a commercial car wash, especially if you plan to clean the engine or the bottom of your car. Most car washes reuse wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

**Pet Waste:** Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason to clean up after our pets. Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and bay untreated.

ed. Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste properly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches

**Lawns:** When we pamper our lawns, our hearts are in the right place. After all, a beautiful lawn is rewarding. But good intentions can ruin a beautiful lawn. Over-watering stimulates fungus, leaches nutrients out of the soil and causes soil compaction. Over-application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides destroys beneficial microorganisms and disrupts the natural balance in your soil. One application of low phosphorus fertilizer in the fall is adequate for most healthy lawns. Cultivate your lawn's natural abilities. Water sparingly and minimize the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. A healthier lawn with less work? It's true!

Suggested website for more information:

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)



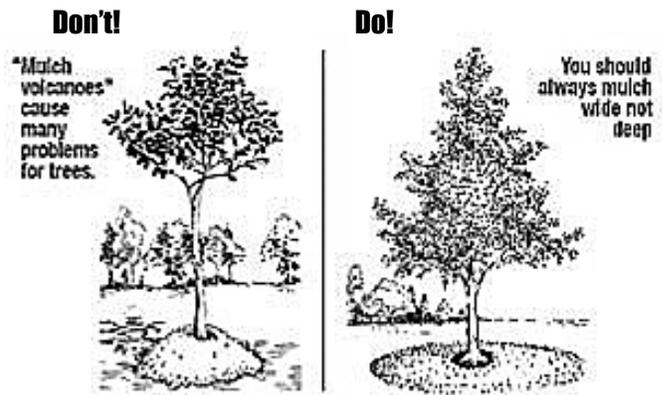
## MULCH: PLEASE! BUT NOT THE BASE OF TREES!

Everyone loves the look of a well maintained yard with mulch on the flower beds! Mulch helps control weeds, decomposes to enhance the soil, stabilizes moisture, moderates temperature extremes and just looks nice.

However, it is not so nice for tree barks. A “mulch volcano” is what results when you pile mounds of mulch right up to a tree trunk, often with a depression at the top to (theoretically) collect water. Since this approach *looks* like a volcano, the term has been widely adopted.

The Village has gone to great expense to plant and maintain trees on the Village right of ways and is now undertaking efforts to inform residents who have “volcano” mulched the Village trees on their front lawns that they may be causing damage to these trees. Letters will be going out to residents asking them to remove the mulch on the trunk of the tree immediately! The Village will also be providing educational materials to the local landscapers to “cease and desist” this potentially harmful practice.

If we all work together, our Village trees will thrive and provide homes for birds, squirrels and other wild-life while providing shade for years to come!



## LET’S TALK ABOUT BRIGHTWATERS HISTORY



Mayor McDermott, Priscilla Hancock, Jane Arbeiter, Trustee Whitwell and Trustee Sullivan

On March 19th, 2015, Village Historian Jane Arbeiter, in conjunction with the Village, hosted

an evening discussion about the history of the Village . Many interesting facts were revealed and re-lived! Jane had a slide presentation as well as many artifacts and photographs depicting the origin of the Village.

The area that is currently the Village was purchased by the T.B. Ackerson Company in

1907, which included 1,200 acres with a chain of 5 spring fed lakes and a sandy shoreline. The canal was carved out in 1908 as an ornamental boat landing with Roman pagodas. This is just a sprinkling of the

robust history of our Village.

Jane is excited to continue these discussions in the future and invite all residents to join in the conversation.

If you have any additional photos or information on the history of the Village, please forward it to [historian@villageofbrightwaters.com](mailto:historian@villageofbrightwaters.com) and Jane will include it in the next scheduled talk!

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS BY PHONE, TEXT, EMAIL OR SOCIAL MEDIA

In order for the Village to keep our residents informed in the event of emergencies, we urge them to utilize Suffolk County Police Department’s options to receive notifications by phone, text, email or through social media (Facebook, Twitter).

**Code Red** will provide notifications by text or phone. We have included the link on



the Village website. If you do not have Internet connections, you may also sign up by calling 631-852-4900 Mon.-Fri. 9AM to 5PM.

If you would prefer to follow and receive Suffolk County notifications on social media or as a text, please click on the NIXLE icon on the Village Web page or go to

[www.suffolkpd.org](http://www.suffolkpd.org) and click on the “NIXLE” icon at the top of the page and click on the “Sign Up” button. Reports of accidents, robberies, and other police activity are released shortly after they occur. Whether you are preparing for a storm or trying to avoid a traffic jam, being informed is the key!



## ROAD WORK AHEAD!



**Street Sweeping** will be starting again! The next scheduled sweep is **Saturday, May 16th**. There will be four sweepers throughout the Village. **Please move all cars off of the streets!** Rain date will be Saturday, May 23rd.

The Village will also be starting various road paving projects North of Orinoco. Paving will start in the month of June. Residents on the streets to be paved will be notified ahead of time. The first project will be Wohseepee Drive from Lombardy to Pine.

## Calendar of Events

Sat. May 23rd: Walker Beach Officially Open for Weekends

Mon. May 25th: Memorial Day Parade, Main Street, Bay Shore 11 AM

Sat. June 6th: Community Spring Garage Sale at Wohseepee Park

Sun. June 7th: Rain Date for Garage Sale

Tue. June 16th: Village Election at Courthouse 12PM to 9 PM

Mon. June 22: Walker Beach open every day

Sat. June 27th: First Block Party/Movie Night Wohseepee Park 6PM

Wed. July 1: last day to pay taxes without penalty

Wed. July 8: Family Night at Walker Beach—Chris Pace Night 6PM

Wed. July 15th; Family Night at Walker Beach 6PM

Wed. July 22nd: Family Night at Walker Beach 6PM

Wed. July 29th: Family Night at Walker Beach with Music/Fun/Food  
Milk & Sugar Night 6PM

Sat, Aug. 8th: Ice Cream Social Wohseepee Park 7PM

Thurs. Aug. 20th: Snapper Tournament at Gilbert Park 4PM

Please check the on-line calendar at [www.villageofbrightwaters.com](http://www.villageofbrightwaters.com)!

**REMINDER: VILLAGE HALL WILL BE OPEN THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 9:00 TO 12:00!**

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