

GRCA
GREAT RIVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.grca11739.com
 greatriver11739@gmail.com

ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 15, 1945

2017 Officers

Cliff Gibbons, President
 Ashley Salzo, Vice President
 Nancy Stein, Treasurer
 Michelle Bassen, Recording Secretary
 Joseph Bertuglia, Corresponding Secretary

2017 Board of Directors

Edward Canavan
 James Bruno
 James DiGiovanna
 Paul Llobell
 Jack Morrell
 Chris Stein
 Tom Vicedomin

2017 Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

P.O. Box #: _____ Home Phone #: _____ Years in GR: _____

Email Address #1: _____

Email Address #2: _____

Interested in joining a GRCA Committee? _____

Suggestions/Ideas for GRCA: _____

Membership Dues

January 2017-December 2017 - \$25 Silver/ \$50 Gold / \$100 Platinum

GR Fire Department January 2017- December 2017 - Silver Waived / \$25 Gold / \$75 Platinum

Membership Option : _____ Silver _____ Gold _____ Platinum

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Please Send Application and Check Payable To:
Great River Community Association
 P.O. Box 13 · Great River · New York · 11739



Issue
 06
 December
 2016

Great River Gazette

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL FROM THE GREAT RIVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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2017 Membership drive in progress..
 Our community needs your help..

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-Martin Luther King Jr.

DECEMBER

1st-23rd	Girl Scouts of Suffolk County Holiday Light Show	Times vary	Shirley
3rd	Holiday Lighting	ALL DAY	
3rd-30th	Bayard Cutting Arboretum Holiday Decorations		
4th	23rd Annual Holiday House Tour		Islip
4th	Holiday Choral Concert	2-3:30 pm	El Library
7th	Annual Orphan Tree Lighting	12-4:00pm	Brookwood Hall
10th-11th	Holiday House Tours at Sagtikos Manor, Myths & Legends	10:30am—3:00pm	Sagtikos Manor
10th–18th	<i>IN THE NICHOLAS OF TIME!</i>	Times vary	Bayway Arts Center
11th	Islip Light the night	5pm	Locations vary
11th	Family Gingerbread House (ages 3 and up)	2-3pm	El Library
17th	Holiday Floral Workshop (Grades 3 - 6)	9:30am-10:30am	El Library
24th-Jan 1st	Hanukkah		
25th	Christmas Day	All Day	
26th-Jan 1st	Kwanzaa	All Day	

JANUARY

1st	New Years Day		
7th	El Historical Society calendar sale	9-5:00 P.M.	El Library
14th-Feb 4th	<i>MADAGASCAR A MUSICAL ADVENTURE</i>	Times vary	Bayway Arts Center
14th	Orthodox New Year		
14th	Breakfast and Birding	8-11:30 AM	Connetquot River Preserve
16th	Martin Luther King Day		
17th	Bayard Cutting Historical Society meeting	1:00 PM	Arboretum
28th	Chinese New Year		

Farmers Almanac predictions for 2017:

Winter temperatures will be above normal, on average, with the coldest periods in late December, early to mid- and mid- to late January, and early and mid-February. Precipitation will be slightly above normal in the north and below normal in the south. Snowfall will be above normal in the north, below normal in the central part of the region, and near normal in the south. The snowiest periods will occur in mid- to late January and early to mid-February.

Great River Community Association 2017 Members

Thank You for your support! We appreciate you!

Platinum
Bruno, James & Kristy
Gibbons, Cliff & ChrisAnn
Gibbons, Ron & Ellen
King, John & Sinead
Llewellyn, Richard & Irene
Phelan, Jim & Marge
Schmid, John & Michelle
Tardi, James & Lori
Tonyes, Richard & Sonya
Wallace, Dan & Becky
Wodicka, Scott & Jane
Zwick, Deborah

Gold
Begun, Mard & Donna
Flynn, Eileen
Fox, John & Meredith
Garbarino, Phyllis
Guinaw, Jim & Carol
Jones, Dave & Janet
Lozinski, Stan & Ellen
MacMahn, Brian & Terri
Morrell, Jack & Barbara
Naftal, Mary
Petrelli, Frank & Christine
Renganeschim Rick & Janet
Shaw/Knudsen, Fergus & Ruth
Single, William
Talamo, Gil & Liz
Theo, Theodore & Janice
Valva, Robert & Ellen
Verde, Craig & Gina

Silver
Alessi, Dan & Jennifer
Bast, Regina
Bertuglia, Joseph
Brown, Peter & Jeanette
Businski, Mark & Bonnie
Carrara, Lil
Colarossi, Richard & Rosalie
Dahl, Robert & Darcy
Dougherty/Pechin, John & Joan
Feldscher, Robert & Laurie
Gibbons, Gilda & Ron
Hill, Kenneth & Laura
LaRosa, Stephen & Inge
Leonard, Richard & Jacqueline
Maimoni, Francis
Manley, Robert
Maurer, Charlie & Irene
Meehan, Brian & Laura
Mercogliano, Christine
Merida, Mitch & Jamie
O'Neill, Dennis & Patricia
Paglino, Jack & Joan
Rooney, Donna
Ross, Tom & Christine
Soltes, Rich & Toni
Staebler, Lawrence & Nancy
Valva, Virginia
Vavricka, William & Mary
Westley, Rose Ann
Winter, Joseph & Melanie

FD/LT
Bishop, James
Boyle, Phil
Cantelmo, Daniel
Carino, Frank
DiGiovanna, James & Karen
Chicarelli, Mike
Daniele, Joseph
Erhard Jr., Alfred
Gormley, William
Hernandez, Carlos
Howard, Robert F.
Keup, Gunter
Launonen, John
Leibbrandt, Henry
Llobell III, Paul
Manzella, Michael
O'Connor, David
Orgera, James
Potter, Thomas
Salzo, Eric & Ashley
Sansone, Karen & Thomas
Schneider, Larry
Sudano, Robert
Sundin, Harold
Verdino, Brian
Viniotis, Michael
Vogel Jr., William

Membership list as of Dec 1st, 2016. Please inform us @grca11739@gmail.com of any errors.

Coming Spring 2017!!! Easter Egg Hunt

Details to follow

We are currently looking for an Easter Egg Hunt committee. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact us @ greatriver11739@gmail.com.



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Non Emergency Police Department (631) 224-2772 Third Precinct (631) 854-8300	East Islip High School Main Office (631) 224-2110/2111/2113
Traffic Safety/Street Lighting (631) 224-5535/5600	Great River Community Association greatriver11739@gmail.com
Town of Islip (631) 224-5500	Great River Community Association Events greatriverevents@gmail.com
East Islip Library (631) 581-9200	Great River Neighborhood Watch greatriverwatch@gmail.com
Town of Islip Public Safety & Enforcement (631) 224-5548	Southside Hospital (631) 968-3000
Town of Islip Environmental Control (631) 595-3630	Good Samaritan Hospital (631) 376-3000

Great River Community Association News

GRCA

GREAT RIVER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.grca11739.com
greatriver11739@gmail.com

ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 15, 1945

Remember when everyone knew their neighbors? Kids played hopscotch on the sidewalk and rode bikes every evening while parents sat on the front porch conversing with friends and sipping iced tea. It was normal to knock on your neighbor's door and ask to borrow a cup of sugar.

On Saturday November 26th the Great River Community Association (GRCA), with newly elected president Cliff Gibbons and newly elected Vice President Ashley Salzo, continued a great tradition of hosting their annual "Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting" at the Great River Memorial Park. This event was followed by the Connetquot River Boat Parade and Grucci Fireworks Display.

Over 150 residents throughout the community came together to share in this holiday moment. Special guests Islip Town Councilman Steven J. Flotteron and Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi attended and participated in the festivities.

Decorative tables were set up with cupcakes, cookies, hot cocoa, eggnog and apple cider for people to enjoy. Families of all ages came together to meet, greet, share stories and form a bond that creates a stronger community. Children were able to make each other into human Christmas trees, create reindeer food to feed those hungry reindeer that come from the North Pole on Christmas Eve and create their own hot chocolate at our hot chocolate bar. We also launched our first ever Great River Giving Tree, which was decorated beautifully by the DiGiovanna Bros. Landscaping Inc., which will allow our community to give back and help us prepare for an even bigger and better future for our association and its members. "We've Been Elf-ed" kits were supplied to start an "Elf-ing" tradition and bring holiday cheer throughout our community.

The night would not be complete without a visit from Santa Claus. This special guest was flown in from the North Pole by the Great River Fire Department and driven into the park on the Great River Fire Department's 1928 antique fire truck where over 50 children greeted him. Santa handed out red and white candy canes, listened to the children's wishes and took photos that will allow for the memories to last a lifetime.

Older children, from the talented East Islip High School Chamber Orchestra led by Giovanna Ruggiero, played amazing holiday songs that brought back memories of our childhood. The holiday spirit was also set with Girl Scout Brownie Troop 2141 and Boy Scout Pack 205 Wolves with their lovely Christmas Carols.

The night ended with a colorful display of fireworks. The "ooh" and "aaah" of the children as each firework propelled into the sky above the Connetquot River could be heard for blocks.

Next year we want to invite all to join us and share in this experience to make this event even more successful.

The Great River Community Association dedicates themselves to bringing our community together. To join or for additional information we invite you to:

Find us on the web: <http://www.grca11739.com>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreatRiverNY/>

Email us at greatriver11739@gmail.com



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For more information, www.greatriverfire.com or facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/greatriverfire/>



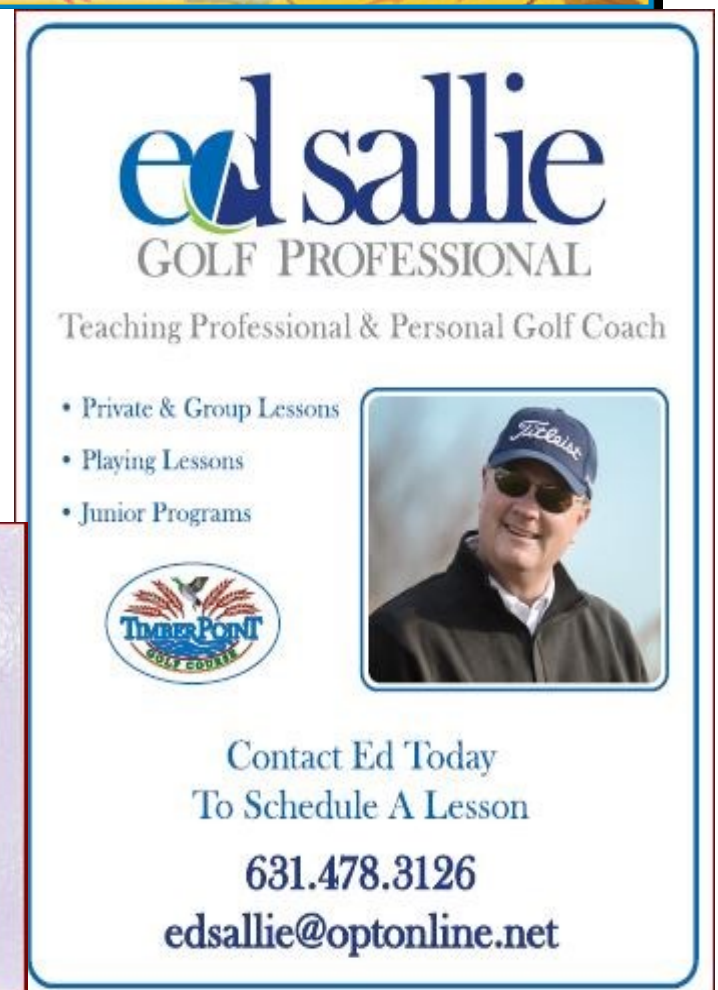
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Great River Community Association News



October Town Meeting Highlights

Guest Speakers/Dignitaries in Attendance: Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi, Suffolk County Sector Police Officer Ralph Hudson

ELECTIONS:

The slate of current Officers was presented, and was unanimously voted in: Cliff Gibbons – President, Ashley Salzo – Vice President, Nancy Stein – Treasurer, Michelle Bassen – Recording Secretary. Joseph Bertuglia was voted in as Corresponding Secretary

NEW BUSINESS:

Goal is revive membership and participation in the Community Association.

Committees (Membership, Welcoming, Beautification, By-laws, PR/ In the Know, Marketing/Social Events) – All Board Members must be part of a committee to remain on the board; non-board members are welcome and encouraged to join committees.

“Downtown” Flower Baskets and Watering Program – We are looking for Business or Family sponsors to bring the Flower Basket Program similar to East Islip to Great River

Neighborhood Watch Program is off and running – contact Ashley Salzo if you would like to get your block involved. Participation requires that more than ½ of the homes on the block want to participate.

Suffolk County Sector Police Officer Ralph Hudson addressed the attendees. He will get Ashley information to disperse to the community regarding boating courses that will be held by the Marine Bureau. He advised they are concentrating on speeding along Main Street and Union Blvd. He warned residents about driveway scams (which is winding down with the winter approaching), not to leave holiday tips under garbage cans and importance of locking their homes and cars, and not to leave the door from the garage to the house unlocked as it is very easy to open the garage doors.

One resident asked if the Association has information regarding the Westbrook complex and whether they have any tax breaks, and the mix of affordable and rental units. The association will see if they can get information on the project.

With respect to the crew (rowing) teams launching from Great River, there was initially a problem with the busses sitting along Great River Road, but that was taken care of. One resident said that there were about 17 cars waiting for their kids. The Recording Secretary should draft a letter to Legislator Cilmi expressing the communities concerns about traffic.

Past Events:

Halloween parade:

Our GRCA 2016 Halloween Parade & Event was a spook-tacular time! The amount of community support and involvement was so incredible that we can't wait to plan even more social events. Our children had a great time decorating pumpkins, making ghosts, guessing how many items are in a jar, poking -a-pumpkin for a prize and enjoying some delicious snacks donated by our neighbors. Thank you to all of our neighbors who volunteered to help and those who made donations. A special thank you to the Great River Fire Department for hosting us and our Halloween committee, especially Jane Wodicka, you all made this event possible and on behalf of our community, we thank you!

Paint and sip

Our first ever Paint & Sip Event was a blast! Many neighbors came out to support us and show off their artistic ability. We are truly impressed with the amount of hidden talent our community has and are looking forward to planning another event soon. Thank you to the Great River Fire Department for hosting us and for the delicious cake!

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a season

of peace and joy.

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Great River Giving Tree

This holiday season, The Great River Community Association has decided to launch our first "Great River Giving Tree". During this time of year, many of us feel this is the season of giving and what better way than to give back to your own community. By making a small donation you will contribute to future community events, help pay costs for the gazette, purchase flower baskets and their maintenance in downtown Great River as well as help welcome new neighbors and purchase signs and posters to notify community members of upcoming events. All donations are a minimum of \$20 with the exception of the flower basket purchase, which is \$100 per basket. Below are some of the specific donations that can be made.

- Flower Baskets - \$100 each – only 5 remain*
- Gazette – minimum of \$20*
- Signs & Posters – minimum of \$20*
- Welcoming New Neighbors- minimum of \$20*
- Easter Egg Hunt – minimum of \$20*

Payments may be mailed to:

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Great River, NY 11739
Or

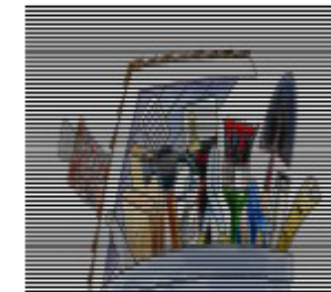
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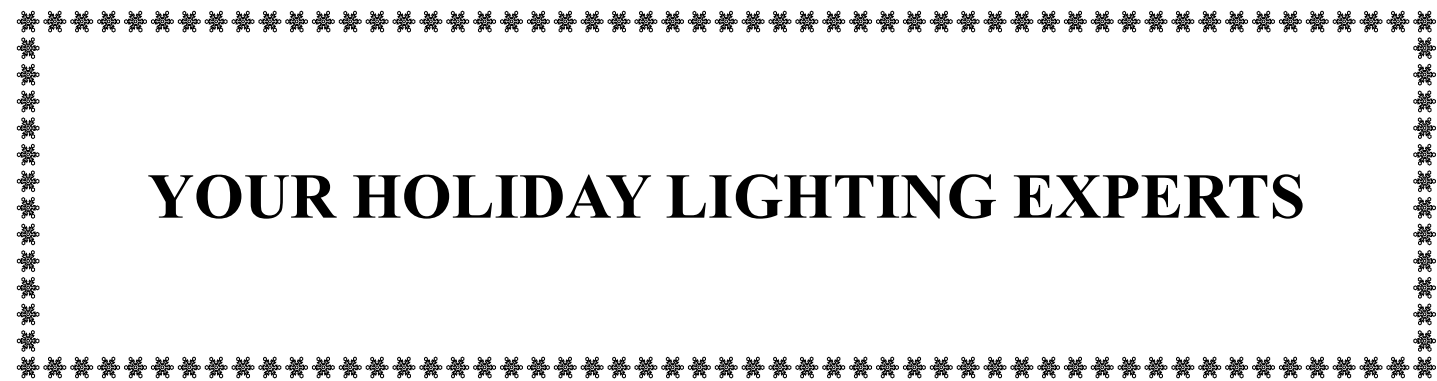
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YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTING EXPERTS

Great River Community Q & A

Here are a few of the questions residents have asked the GRCA:

Why are there neighborhood watch signs only on certain blocks?

A: Some blocks are not part of Neighborhood Watch. In order to be a part of the program, the block must have a block captain and one more than half of the neighbors must be in support of the program. If you live on a block that does not have this program and would be interested in it, you can send your questions and inquiries to greatriverwatch@gmail.com.

My neighbor has had a contractors sign for advertisement on the front lawn for months. Is there a code for that?

A: The town code does allow small signage. See Schedule of Signs Regulations (68-398). The community asks that contractor signage be removed as soon as possible as some of these signs can be distracting.

Why do people put garbage out and let it sit for 4 days?

A: We have stressed as a community that leaving your trash out for long periods of time will not only cause rodents but is an eyesore and reduces our property value. As per code, garbage can be put out after 5:00 PM the day before collection.

My sidewalk is full of leaves, when will the town come clean them up?

A: Any property with a sidewalk in front of or behind it (River Rd) is responsible for the clean up. The Town of Islip will not clean these leaves/mow the lawn. The town IS responsible for cleaning up in front of the sump Area and have been notified.

The trees that were planted along River Rd need trimming? Should I do that?

A: Although we appreciate it, the town has been notified and will handle this.

Who maintains the signs at the entrances?

A: A resident (Ron Gibbons) has offered to have drawings made and send out to bid for annual maintenance & plantings. The cost will determine if the GRCA can afford this. The Town of Islip is not responsible for this.

Is there a noise ordinance for leaf blowers, lawnmowers, etc.?

A: Noise from operation of machinery/construction should take place between the hours of 7:00AM 8:00PM on weekdays and 10:00AM – 5:00PM on Sundays. State or Federal holidays follow a Sunday schedule.

How is my GRCA membership fee used?

A: Our association works on a lot of different components of our community with our member's fees. One of our most enjoyed and visited component is our social events. We ensure that most of our gatherings are free of charge to help bring together our community. We also offer discounted fees for any paid event. In addition to the more visible way these fees are spent we also maintain our informative website, pay for a mass email program, printing and distributing of our newsletter, beautification of the community, welcoming new neighbors with a small gift and making donations to local events and organizations.

winter tips

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous. Stay safe and healthy by planning ahead. Prepare your home and cars. Prepare for power outages and outdoor activity. Check on older adults. Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

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WINTER DRIVING:

- Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Never run a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle

PROTECTING PETS:

- Pets that live outdoors should be fed a bit more in the winter because they need the extra calories to stay warm. They also should have fresh water put out a couple of times a day, or consider a special bowl that prevents the water from freezing.
- If your pet goes outdoors, be aware of the temperature. Pets can get frostbite very easily on the ears, tail and paws.
- When walking your dog, check the paws to make sure that ice is not building up between the toes and that salt from the roads is not irritating the skin.
- If your dog is a swimmer, keep it on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.
- If decorating for the holidays, keep ornaments out of the reach of your pets. Remember that poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and other plants can be toxic if ingested

DRIVING IN THE SNOW

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids.
- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning – nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Know your brakes. If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS) and need to slow down quickly, press hard on the pedal—it's normal for the pedal to vibrate a bit when the ABS is activated. In cars without ABS, use "threshold" braking, keeping your heel on the floorboard and using the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can.

NEW STOP SIGN:

The Town of Islip has recommended a 3 way stop sign be installed at the corner of River Rd and Leaside Drive.



TIPPING YOUR GARBAGE COLLECTOR

Our local police officers had asked us to remind all residents NOT to leave tips on your garbage cans...

You can either hand it to the men OR leave a note to come to the door. This will avoid theft.

Join a GRCA Committee Today!

One of the best ways to get involved, make a difference and meet new people in our community is to join one of our wonderful committees. These committees are responsible for maintaining a close, friendly and beautiful place to live!

Some of our offered committees:
Welcoming Committee
Membership Committee
Social Events Committee
Beautification Committee
Concern Committee

If you are interested in becoming involved in a specific committee within our town, please contact greatriver11739@gmail.com for more information.

Please note this is a volunteer opportunity and you only need to provide your time when you are able to.

ABOUT TOWN

Fishing Dock:

Many residents inquired about speaking with the Town Of Islip to require fishing permits at the dock on Great River Rd. The GRCA is looking into this to see if its possible.



Heckscher park to get Cottages

Cottages are being designed for Heckscher State Park in East Islip that will overlook the Great South Bay, with construction expected to begin in 2018.

The cabins and cottages, estimated to cost \$6 million, are made possible by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's promise to leverage \$900 million in private and public funding for state parks from 2011 to 2020

Great River Sewer Proposal

Suffolk County's Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan identified four areas on the south shore where sewers would contribute to the overall health of our surface waters, tidal areas and sole source aquifers, including the Connetquot River Watershed

The Connetquot River Sewer Project has been identified as a priority.

The Great River community will have an opportunity to hear from the experts and ask questions.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: East Islip Public Library

Slower Cooker Butternut Squash soup

32 ounces butternut squash (can use different types of squash to equal 32 oz., but use at least 16 oz of butternut squash in the mix)
2-3 shallots, chopped
2 cups of vegetable stock
¼ cup lite coconut milk (canned)
Nutmeg
Salt

Instructions:

In slow cooker place:

Peeled and seeded squash
2 cups vegetable stock
Chopped shallots

Cook on high for 4 hours or low for 8 hours.

When the squash is fully cooked (soft, easily pierced with a fork) turn off the slow cooker and:

Add ¼ cup of lite coconut milk to the soup
Blend with an immersion blender or place soup in stand up blender and blend until smooth
Season with nutmeg and salt to taste.
Garnish with pumpkin seeds or feta cheese (optional)

Mulled wine

4 cups apple cider
1 (750-ml) bottle red wine
1/4 cup honey
2 cinnamon sticks
1 orange, zested and juiced
4 whole cloves
3 star anise
4 oranges, peeled for garnish

Instructions:

Combine the cider, wine, honey, cinnamon sticks, zest, juice, cloves and star anise in a large saucepan, bring to a boil and simmer over low heat for 10 minutes. Pour into mugs, add an orange peel to each and serve.

Recipe Corner



Have a great idea for an article or an amazing recipe to share?

Email greatriver11739@gmail.com with your submission for the March Gazette by February 15th, 2017 for your chance to have it published!!

Ringíng in the New Year Around the World

Throughout the world people have many different traditions to celebrate the New Year.

<p>Italy</p> <p>Wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve is thought to bring love, prosperity and good luck. More specifically, in Venice, people gather in St. Mark's Square to see in the new year with a mass kissing session.</p>	<p>Philippines</p> <p>Circles have long been considered sacred in the Philippines; as such they feature heavily in New Year with people wearing polka dots, eating round fruits and tossing coins into pans. It is believed these practices will bring prosperity.</p>	<p>Greece</p> <p>An onion is traditionally hung from the front door of a house on New Year's Eve as a symbol of rebirth for the coming year. Parents then wake their children the next morning by tapping them on the head with the onion.</p>
<p>England</p> <p>The tradition of kissing at midnight stems back to old English and German folklore. It is said that a midnight smooch will set the tone of your relationship for the coming year.</p>	<p>Ireland</p> <p>In hope that the new year will bring them a husband, some single women place mistletoe under their pillows. Meanwhile some people bang bread against the wall to drive away evil spirits.</p>	<p>Turkey</p> <p>As the bells ring in the new year, it is traditional to open your front door and sprinkle salt on the doorstep. The act is thought to bring peace and abundance to your home or business.</p>
<p>South Africa</p> <p>Residents in Johannesburg party hard by throwing old appliances out the window, representing the adage 'out with the old and in with the new'.</p>	<p>Denmark</p> <p>Danes like nothing more than seeing in the new year by smashing plates on their neighbor's doorstep. The more broken plates at your door, the better your luck for the coming year.</p>	<p>Spain</p> <p>Many Spanish and Latin American countries eat 12 grapes in time with the 12 chimes of the clock at midnight, a tradition which is said to secure them a happy year to come.</p>
<p>Russia</p> <p>Russians write down a wish, burn it and then throw it into a champagne glass. They then must drink the champagne before 12:01</p>	<p>Netherlands</p> <p>To purge the old and welcome in the new, bonfires of Christmas trees are burnt and fireworks are let off.</p>	<p>Colombia</p> <p>In hope of having a travel-filled year ahead of them, Colombians carry a suitcase around with them on December 31st.</p>
<p>Peru</p> <p>In one Peruvian village people see out the year with a good old fashioned fist fight to settle their differences. They then wipe the on December 31st.</p>	<p>Germany</p> <p>Many Germans will welcome in the new year by eating a donut filled with jam or liquor, called 'Pfannkuchens'. However, as a practical joke some donuts are given a different filling, such as mustard- if you eat one of these it is seen as bad luck.</p>	<p>Portugal</p> <p>In the northern parts of the country it's not unusual for children to go door-to-door singing carols or 'janeiros', which are said to bring good luck. In exchange they are given coins and treats.</p>

What traditions do you and your families have to celebrate the New Year?



WEDNESDAY NIGHT
WINE DINNER

THREE COURSE MENU
PAIRED WITH THREE WINES
\$40 with wine, \$30 without

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