

# The Quogue Village Voice

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It is daylight savings time again, but at the moment we are awaiting a possible blizzard, and there are no other signs of the coming end of winter. Nevertheless, we are reasonably confident that actual spring and summer will follow soon. Here are a few noteworthy items for residents:

## Quogue Market

We are more than happy to have the Quogue Country Market up and running again. If you have not done so already, introduce yourself to proprietor Reggie Sethi and manager Tommy Panebianco. They are both incredibly friendly and enthusiastic. The store has been operating for a few months, but the shelves have really been filling up in the last week or so. Please be sure to “shop (very) local” both at the Market and at the other merchants in town. It is important for your Village.

## Southern Pine Beetle Infestation

Our area is experiencing a massive infestation of the Southern Pine Beetle, which attacks pitch pines and other varieties of pine trees. The Village has had to remove many trees from the sides of roads and other Village property. The beetle attacks a tree and lays eggs under the bark. The tree then oozes resin to “pitch out” attacking beetles. The resin will dry into white or reddish popcorn-sized globs visible on the tree’s trunk. They are a good indicator of infestation, although by that time it is probably too late to save the tree. When the tree is dead, evidenced by the browning or absence of needles, the beetles are no longer present—they have likely moved on to another tree. A good place to find more information is: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99331.html>.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY, LARGE DEAD TREES CAN BE DANGEROUS IF THEY ARE LOCATED IN AREAS NEAR DWELLINGS OR FREQUENTED BY PEOPLE OR PETS.** They can fall or snap off and cause property damage, personal injury or even death. Take a look at your property and the yards of your neighbors. Arrange to have hazardous trees removed from your property and point out to your neighbors any hazards on theirs.

## Rental Laws

About this time last year, the Board of Trustees modified our Village rental laws. You are reminded that the minimum period for which a single-family dwelling may now be rented is 14 consecutive days. As previously, if a single-family dwelling is rented, the entire dwelling must be rented (i.e. no renting of rooms). There is a provision allowing application to the Board of Trustees for exceptions in the case of local events given by a resident (such as a child’s wedding) or a not-for-profit organization operating in the Village. Remember that all seasonal rentals (those that cover any period from May 15 to September 15) require a seasonal rental license. The application form can be found on the Village website.

### **April Leaf Pick-up**

The Village Highway Department will begin picking up leaves during the week of April 3rd. Leaves must be on the shoulder of the street by Sunday, April 30 in order to be picked up. Do not pile leaves around fire hydrants or utility equipment. **DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS.** They will not be picked up, and you will have to remove them.

No brush, such as twigs and branches, or lawn cuttings will be taken away, and mixing this debris with leaves will result in the leaves not being removed. Brush with branches up to 3" in diameter may be taken to the Westhampton recycling facility in April. For more information, go to [www.southamptontownny.gov](http://www.southamptontownny.gov)

### **Village Beach Stickers**

The Village Office will begin accepting applications for Village beach stickers (and lockers) on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Application forms and instructions will be available on the Village website on April 1st. Please follow the instructions carefully and take care to submit all the information that is required. Please get your papers in early and avoid the crush—typically right before weekends, especially holiday weekends. That will save you and the Village Office staff a lot of unnecessary stress.

### **Village Taxes**

Village property tax bills for our next fiscal year beginning on June 1, 2017 will be mailed near the end of May and will be payable not later than July 3<sup>rd</sup> (July 1 being a Saturday). New York law provides that payment must actually be received or mailed AND POSTMARKED by the due date in order to avoid a penalty. Postal meters do not qualify as postmarks. Also, be aware that most bank bill-pay checks do not have postmarks on the envelope. Under those circumstances, New York law provides that the taxes are deemed paid on the date payment is actually received. Please plan accordingly. The penalty for being a day late is 5%.

Note that Village tax bills are separate from tax bills of the Town of Southampton, which may be paid in two installments. The second-half of the Town bill that came out last December is payable not later than May 31, 2017.