

Dear Quogue Residents,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote yesterday and to our election organizer, Village Clerk Aimee Buhl, and our indefatigable poll workers, Helen Horton and Peggy Stevenson. The election in the age of Covid went off without a hitch. There was a total of 191 voters—undoubtedly a record turnout in an uncontested Quogue election and likely evidence of more people than normal in town. The Liberty Party slate of Peter Sartorius (Mayor), and Bob Treuhold and Kim Payne (Trustees) did not have any opponents named on the ballot and therefore managed to get elected, although less than unanimously. Bob is new to the Board of Trustees but has chaired the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past six years. He will be sworn in at the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday. Pamela Chepiga will succeed him as Chair of the Zoning Board, and Ed Tolley will become a full Zoning Board member. Congratulations to each of them and thank you for your willingness to serve the Village.

Leaving the Board of Trustees after many years of service is Jeanette Obser, who did not stand for reelection. She contributed mightily to the Village, particularly in the areas of building improvements and beautification. We will dearly miss her impeccable taste and hard work in those areas, her valuable judgment and good cheer. Thank you Jeanette for all your service to the Village of Quogue. Don't stray too far from Village Hall, however. I am planning to do my very best to tap into your talents on a continuing basis.

Speaking of service, over the weekend the Quogue Association at its Annual Meeting awarded its Quogue Bowl for service to our community to Mike Nelson, who is certainly a most deserving recipient. In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Quogue Wildlife Refuge for 20 years, Mike served for nine years as a director of the Quogue Association and as tides consultant and chief duck wrangler for its annual (pre-coronavirus) duck race. As a long-time, fully-involved member of the Fire Department, Mike is currently serving as First Assistant Chief. He is soft-spoken, unfailingly cheerful and willing to help on any task. These qualities helped him gain not only the Quogue Bowl but also love of his wife and chief sidekick, Assistant Director Marisa Nelson. Hearty congratulations to Mike, whose name will be permanently engraved on the Bowl, soon to be displayed in our beautiful new Library for all to see.

California has escaped New York's quarantine list this week along with five other states: Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada and Ohio. Let's hope these removals can stick.

Unfortunately, the nature boardwalk on Dune Road was vandalized again last week, chiefly with graffiti unfit for viewing except by the nonliterate wildlife in the wetlands. The walk is closed for the time being, but we will reopen it as soon as possible.

Under a law signed by Governor Cuomo this summer, effective on November 1, 2020 all passengers in an automobile will be required to wear seatbelts. Currently, all passengers in the front seat and children ages 16 and under in the back seat are required to be belted. While motorists and their passengers are getting better about buckling up, in a week of enforcement under New York State's "click it or ticket" program (which you may have read about in the Southampton Press last week), the Quogue Police wrote more than 20 summonses. That's down from past years but still too many given the ease of the task and the harm that failure to follow the law can cause. For your information, the principal contributing factor to traffic accidents in Quogue is cell phone usage by drivers. That's another easy one to avoid.

Remember not to leave your key fob in your luxury car and to park it in the garage if possible. High-end car thieves are still active on the east end.

Night bikers are probably not reading this email, but readers who have charge of some are reminded that bikes are required by law to have lights at night and to observe traffic laws (e.g., riding on the right side of the road). That will help the rest of us avoid being startled and potentially worse outcomes.

Enjoy the Fall.

Peter Sartorius
Mayor