

# The Westhampton Beach Historical Society Newsletter

Early Spring 2023



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Serving the Communities of  
Westhampton Beach, Westhampton Dunes,  
Westhampton, Quogue,  
Remsenburg, Speonk and Eastport

Welcome to the Historical Society's new Newsletter format! We hope we can reach more of our members with a digital Newsletter that can easily be saved and shared with others. A digital Newsletter is also far more sustainable as there is no paper waste or energy expenditure for printing and mailing. It also less expensive for the Society to produce, which means more funds can be directed towards our mission of preserving local history! We hope you like it!

## 2022 Happenings

As there has not been a Newsletter in awhile, we thought to catch you up with news of Society happenings in 2022....We began 2022 with two late-Spring **Sunday afternoon lectures** at the Westhampton Beach Library, including **J. K. Hodge on the Silver Screens of Suffolk County** and **Noel Gish on Long Island historical trivia**, both of which were nicely attended. As the summer began we opened our new **Tuthill House museum exhibit "The Creative Energy of Our Community"**, which focused on local artists. This exhibit was open every Saturday until early September and was highly-praised.

In July we held an **Antique Car Show** outdoors on the Great Lawn. This well-attended event was of interest for both the exhibitors and attendees and was well-received. Our traditional **Summer Crafts Demonstrations** also took place at Foster-Meeker Heritage Center on four Saturdays. Always a popular learning experience for adults and children, this year's activities included wampum making, quill writing, cheese making, leather working, paper quilting, and rug making.

The fall featured our **Annual Benefit & Art Auction** hosted at the new Fauna restaurant. Many members and friends joined us for this fun fund-raiser.

Later in October we hosted a **Pot Luck Supper** for our members, highlighted by a lecture on history of Westhampton Beach. To close out the year we had a **Holiday Party** for members at our campus - this event had the largest attendance ever.



## 2022 Happenings (concluded)



Throughout 2022 we conducted three popular **Walking Tours**, including two in the Village of Westhampton Beach using our newly-updated **WHB Walking Tour brochure**, and one in Remsenburg. We also conducted **educational programs for children**, including a program at the Westhampton Beach elementary school, on-

campus programs, and a **Westhampton Cemetery** tour focusing on grave markers of many prominent historic local citizens.

We look forward to 2023 for even more engaging events - stay tuned! To receive announcements of upcoming events visit our website at <https://whbhistorical.org> and become a member today!



## And Now on to 2023: Another Winning St. Patrick's Day Float!

Once again, our busy Society leprechauns pulled together an **award-winning St. Patrick's Day float!** The 2023 parade theme was "We're All in This Together" and our riff on the theme was "**Rescuing the History of Our Waters Together**" – a reflection of the upcoming 2023 exhibit "Our Local Waters Throughout History". The float featured a dory, lobster traps, baskets of clams, nets, oars, a harpoon, and lots of other bay-related paraphernalia. Our oilskin-clad marchers wielded clam rakes, nets, boat hooks and other implements to fend off the cheering crowds and the **Coast Guard from Shinnecock station joined us** with another boat to round out the theme. The Parade Committee, recognizing our efforts and appeal, awarded us **Second Place in the Community Float category**, for which we are most grateful.

# Membership Reminder – Please Renew in 2023!

As our Society recovers from the COVID-19 crisis, **we need the support of our members more than ever!** Although we continued some activities throughout the pandemic, we were unable to hold some fund-raising events and still needed to maintain our buildings, pay our very small staff, and keep the lights on. Your membership support has been critical, which we very much appreciate. **Our 2023 membership renewal notices have just been mailed,** and we ask for your support once again – we plan to expand our programming in 2023 and your help is needed. Our dues remain low – just \$35 for in individual, \$50 for a family, and \$100 for a business, with higher levels of membership also available. Our Society relies on membership income to support our activities – **please help us to continue to be there for you by renewing your membership!**

## Our Engrave-a-Brick Fundraiser: Your Chance for Recognition!

In 2022 we built a brick walkway for access to the Foster-Meeker Heritage Center. This project provided inspiration for our Engrave-a-Brick fundraiser as we also needed new bricks to replace badly-worn bricks in the Tuthill House front walkway. We launched this fund-raising project in 2022 with good success and hope that our community of friends will continue supporting this project in 2023.

**When you purchase a brick it includes engraving of a personal message, the name of a loved one, a business promotional message, or nearly anything else you prefer that fits on up to three lines of up to 21 characters per line.** The engraving will last for a lifetime and the proceeds go directly to support the work of the Historical Society. The cost is \$200 per brick. Please go to our website at <https://whbhistorical.org/> and click on the Donation Form button on the home page. The Society appreciates your support!



## Westhampton Beach Historical Society's 2023 Calendar of Events

The Westhampton Beach Historical Society has scheduled several very worthy events for 2023. Some highlights include our **June 17<sup>th</sup> Opening Cocktail Party** at the Tuthill House, the **Summer Exhibit**, which will run from June 17 through September 16, and the July 8<sup>th</sup>, and the **Revolutionary War Reenactment on the Great Lawn**. We expect that more events may be added as the year progresses - stay tuned.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Opening Cocktail Party**

at the Tuthill House Museum

**June 17<sup>th</sup> to September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Summer Exhibit**, Tuthill House Museum

Saturdays 10am to 1pm

**July 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Revolutionary War Reenactment**. Great Lawn

(July 9<sup>th</sup> Rain Date)

**July 22<sup>rd</sup> to Aug 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Craft Demonstrations** Saturdays 10am to 1pm

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Potluck Supper**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Holiday Party**

## Westhampton Garden Club Offers Landscaping Help

In 2023 the Westhampton Garden Club will be partnering with the Westhampton Beach Historical Society to create **period-appropriate gardens on our Mill Road campus**. For the past several years the Society has been working on reconstruction of the circa 1735 Foster-Meeker Heritage Center with the goal of creating an historically-accurate example of a local house of that era. Fortunately, the reconstruction is nearing completion, but our landscape has suffered in the process. The Westhampton Garden Club has graciously offered to help by developing and implementing a landscape plan that complements the historic buildings on our campus.



The Garden Club is now researching existing period gardens to understand which herbs, flowers, and shrubs would have been used in a typical garden of the early to mid-1700s. As part of their research, the group recently visited the colonial garden at the circa 1680 Mulford Farm in East Hampton, which was developed by the Garden Club of East Hampton, to learn about its creation.

The group is beginning to design the Foster Meeker Heritage Center garden, which will be coordinated with our Buildings and Grounds Committee and approved by our Executive Board before it is implemented.

**We look forward to having our campus beautified with historic gardens**, which will enhance our educational capabilities and provide a more appealing exterior view for our visitors. As the Garden Club has also offered to provide garden maintenance, we expect that their initial efforts will be maintained and enhanced over time. **Please plan to visit our campus later this year to enjoy our new historic landscape!**

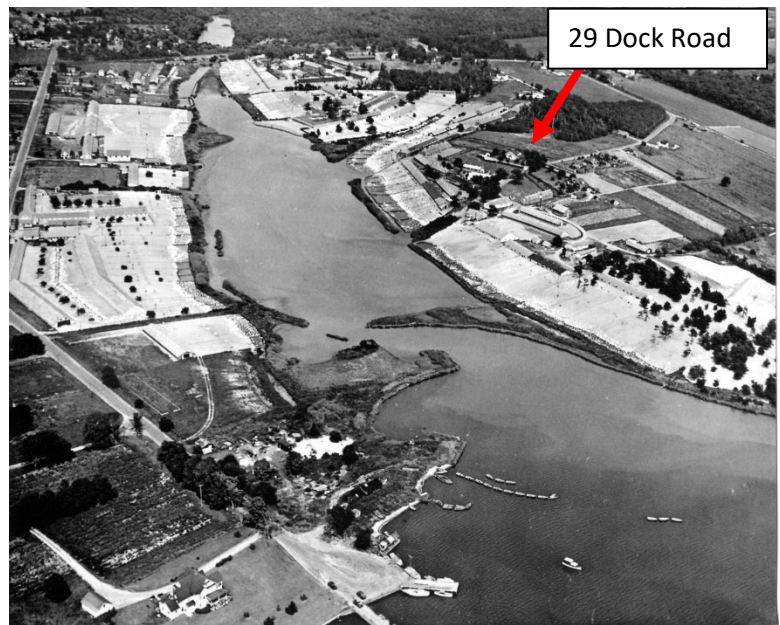
## The Wheatena Duck Farm Residence in Remsenburg: The Town of Southampton's Newest Landmark!



In 2022 Robert and Teresa Mozer, the owners of 29 Dock Road in Remsenburg, decided seek landmark designation for their home. Landmarking not only protects the façade of the dwelling, but also makes the property eligible for maintenance grants and a façade easement from the Town of Southampton's Community Preservation Fund (CPF). Funds from these sources can be very helpful to homeowners with older homes in need of repairs and the Mozers were interested in accessing Town funding for window restoration work.

The 29 Dock Road property is near the east branch of Seatuck Creek, which formerly hosted several duck farms, as can be seen in the 1940 aerial photo at right, and this dwelling was **one of the first duck farm residences in the area.**

**The Craftsman-style dwelling was constructed in 1926 for Paul Wheatena,** who was born in Austria and came to the United States in about 1907, at which point the family name of Wojtyna was changed to Wheatena. Paul started the Wheatena Duck Farm on Dock Road in the mid-1920s and married Marie Piech, who had come to the United States from Poland and was the sister of Klemens Piech, a well-known farmer and one of the founders of St. Mary's Ukrainian Church in Eastport.



*The circa 1940 oblique aerial photo above was taken by David Tuttle and shows the extent of duck farming operations along the east branch of Seatuck Creek. At least four duck farms were reported to have operated on the east side of the creek.*

## The Wheatena Duck Farm Residence Landmarked in Remsenburg (concluded)

Paul and Mary Wheatena had a daughter, Anne, who married Edward Armev of Southampton (formerly of Poland) in about 1931. Anne and Ed Armev lived in the residence at 29 Dock Road and raised their daughters, Shirley and Elaine, in the house. Although Paul Wheatena died suddenly in 1942, **the Wheatena Duck Farm continued operating under Ed Armev and Marie Wheatena for many years.**

The landmarked Wheatena Duck Farm Residence is a Craftsman-style bungalow with exposed rafter ends and an integral front porch. A large gable dormer with brackets rises from the center of the front roof slope and contains a set of ribbon windows. The porch is supported by large, battered brick piers. The windows are original double-hung one-over-one-light sashes. Although some minor renovations have been made over the years, the original historic building fabric remains largely unchanged and has been well-maintained by its owners.

After receiving an Historic Designation (landmarking) Application for the property in May 2022, members of the Town's Landmarks & Historic Districts (LHD) Board met with the Mozers, documented the dwelling, and prepared a summary of the property history and condition to support the landmarking application. The landmarking recommendation was made by the LHD Board to the Town Board in October 2022. After a public notice and hearing process, **the 29 Dock Road property was formally designated as a Town landmark on December 13, 2022.**

The Mozers are grateful to have their home landmarked and have already applied for a landmark maintenance grant. The Town has also benefitted as another of our historic resources has been protected from demolition and renovations that would compromise its historic character. And the community of Remsenburg now has yet another piece of its history preserved for future generations to enjoy.



We hope you have enjoyed the new digital format for the Historical Society's Newsletter! If you have any comments or suggestions, please email our office at [contact@whbhistorical.org](mailto:contact@whbhistorical.org)

Coming in the next edition: Sneak peek at our **2023 Exhibit**, update on the **Dix Windmill**, the **Raynor Fish House**, and **upcoming events!**



*The 2022 Spring Cleanup Crew in action at our campus!*