



Volume XIX No. 45 Hometown Newspaper for Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Glen Head, Glenwood, Locust Valley and Brookville Week of 7/15/10 75¢

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Gold Coast

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There was no official notification to adjacent municipalities. The Nassau County Board of Health did not close the local beaches and nearly 3 weeks later there is no official written report available."

As of press time, Michael Marino, Press Secretary, for Nassau County, was unable to confirm the incidents.

Mayor Ralph V. Suozzi said he was notified long after the fact by the Glen Cove Harbor Master. He stated that the City of Glen Cove no-longer owns the facility; it was transferred to Nassau County in December of 2007. Suozzi said he was notified that tests by the Department of Health showed acceptable levels and there was no danger to residents.

## Sewage Spill In Harbor Health Department Reports No Health Risk

by Kevin C. Horton

On June 25 a spill occurred at the Glen Cove Sewage Treatment Plant causing 600,000 gallons of sewage to enter the Glen Cove Creek and Hempstead Harbor. The Nassau County Department of Health was contacted on Saturday between 9am and 10am according to Mary Ellen Laurain, spokeswoman for the county's health department. Samples were taken by the department two days later on Monday which found, "No negative impact on the water quality and no elevated bacterial levels."

When interviewed, Sea Cliff Mayor Bruce Kennedy stated he spoke to Richard Cotugno, Director of Sewer Operations with the Nassau County Public Works Department. Mr. Cotugno confirmed with the Mayor that the spill occurred between Friday at 7pm until Saturday at 7am, with a constant overflow. The overflow is assumed to have been caused by a power outage and since the plant is unmanned, nobody heard the alarms. Furthermore, the phone lines were down so an automated call did not go out.

The overflow went into the parking lot on Morris Avenue, and then into the storm drains which lead straight into the creek. Based upon typical flow calculations it is estimated that 900,000 gallons of sewage was discharged. The

cleanup effort rendered about 300,000 gallons leaving 600,000 gallons that apparently ended up in Glen Cove Creek and Hempstead Harbor.

Upon learning of the spill, the plant operator, Severent Trent, evidently notified the Glen Cove Harbor Master, the DEC and the Nassau County Board of Health. Mayor Kennedy states that he was told by Mr. Cotugno that mistakenly no one notified Nassau County DPW, Glen Cove City Hall, or Sea Cliff Village Hall. The Village of Sea Cliff found out through Eric Swenson of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee on Monday June 28 at 4:30pm after they had conducted water sampling earlier in the day. Mayor Kennedy said, "The water quality of the collected samples was at acceptable levels. However this was at least 54 hours after the spill had been discovered. The unusually high tides that weekend were ostensibly a blessing as it helped the Harbor clean itself. It is unknown what the water quality was like over the weekend when unsuspecting residents were swimming at the beaches. It is completely outrageous and unacceptable that a calamity of this nature could happen. There was no backup wireless telephone/ radio alarm in place.

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