

**Saving the Western Bays**

A new plan to send treated wastewater to an ocean outfall pipe at the Cedar Creek facility in Wantagh has Nassau County officials excited about the money-saving, efficient proposal. The original idea was to build a $450 million ocean outfall pipe at the Bay Park sewage treatment center. Bay Park nitrogen-filled sewage water of approximately 50 million gallons per day goes into the Western Bays through the Reynolds Channel. With the new project costing approximately $200-$300 million, the savings are substantial. The treated effluent from the Storm Sandy damaged plant in Bay Park would be sent to the Cedar Creek facility through a 10-mile aqueduct under Sunrise Highway, and then sent to the ocean through the outfall pipe. Approximately three-quarters of all the nitrogen pollution comes from the Bay Park facility. The Western Bays is a sub-region of the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve, extending from the western boundary of the Town of Hempstead, to the Nassau-Suffolk County line. The bays are home to the largest concentration of salt marshes in New York State and the fewest small sewage treatment plants and the few small sewage treatment plants that service population centers on the North Shore. In 2014, five New York State agencies recommended financial assistance to Nassau County to assist in addressing priority water quality problems involving sub-standard septic systems “hot-spots” in northern Nassau County.” A March 8th report by the Nature Conservancy, www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/stated that septic systems and cesspools are the greatest contributor to the nitrogen pollution. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency warned that Long Island Sound, and four other states are in danger from nitrogen pollution. 

**Sacred Site in Oyster Bay**

**Frank M. Flower & Sons**

Growers of Pine Island Oysters Since 1887

Hatchery in Bayville • Boat Dock in Oyster Bay

**O'Connor - Petitto LLC**

Civil Engineering

Land Surveying

27 Forest Ave., Locust Valley, N.Y. 11560

Email: oconorpetitto@verizon.net

**516-676-3260 Fax 516-676-1514**

The tour and lecture concluded with a picnic on the grounds of the Oyster Bay Historical Society on Summit Street. Participants were treated to burgers, hotdogs, salad, chicken, macaroni salad, ice tea and lemonade and deserts. Ella, a third grader from Oyster Bay really enjoyed the tour, and thought it would be a great field trip for other students. It was a fun way to end the tour that was so full of the history of Oyster Bay. To make a donation to help restore the historic Pine Hollow Cemetery please send checks to the Hood A.M.E. Church Pine Hollow Cemetery Restoration, 137 South Street, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

**Christine Loring**

The past weekend May 21st and 22nd was New York Sacred Sites weekend. This is an event when congregations from across New York state opened their doors. The Hood African Methodist Episcopalian (A.M.E.) Zion Church on South Street, in Oyster Bay hosted a tour of the church and their cemetery.

The tour started at the church which is the oldest church in Oyster Bay. The church was erected in 1856; originally it was a wood structure then it was faced with brick in the 1930s. The church property located on the corner of South and Summit Streets were donated by John & Alice Weeks of Oyster Bay in 1848. The Weeks family was a very wealthy family in Oyster Bay and perhaps one of the wealthiest families in all of New York State. Before the church there was a school house on the site. The Church is named after Bishop James Walker Hood. Some of the original congregation were Edward and Nancy Brown, Sarah and Plato Gall, Israel Potter, Mr. Levi, Sam Mayhew and John Davis. The church is beautiful inside with the wood floors and the stain glass windows. There are three staircases in the church, one of which is very narrow and the door is in a peculiar place. This secret staircase they believe, was used by the “underground railroad” to help slaves escape slavery.

**Patricia Brekka**

This cemetery was also donated by the Weeks family in 1884. Denice S. Evans-Sheppard, the chairman of the Pine Hollow Cemetery Committee led the tour through the Cemetery. There are 9 Civil War veterans buried there. They were veterans of the 20th and 26th United States Colored Infantry. There are also many veterans form all the past wars to the present buried here. The church is in the process of restoring the cemetery. They have just received a grant from Nassau County for the project, but more funds will be needed.

From the church we were taken by a trolley to the church’s Pine Hollow Cemetery. This cemetery was also donated by the Weeks family in 1884. Denice S. Evans-Sheppard, the chairman of the Pine Hollow Cemetery Committee led the tour through the Cemetery. There are 9 Civil War veterans buried there.

The sign at the historical Pine Hollow Cemetery

Denise S. Evans-Sheppard

Enjoying the picnic after the tour

Photos by Patricia Marcus Brown

**The Leader May 25, 2016**