

Letters from our readers

On the waterfront...

Editor, The NEWS:

The push is on. With a rising sea and moving shorelines the rush to armor the coast is intensifying. Montauk, Orient, Fire Island and the Peconic bays, shoreline hardening structures are infiltrating the coast everywhere.

But nowhere is the structural response to erosion control more intense than the North Shore. With the Village of Nissequogue being central to the public discourse concerning the protection and functionality of the beaches and bluffs.

Beaches and bluffs are dynamic natural protective features which function as an interactive system. Stability is controlled by four primary factors: supply of sand, shape of the beach, energy (currents, waves and surge) and sea level rise. These four integrated influences form a dynamic equilibrium which determines shoreline resiliency.

Coastal armoring (vertical seawalls, stone barriers, geotextile containers) is the antithesis of unrestricted natural processes. Hardening structures disrupt sand supply, littoral transport and impede shoreline migration. With each passing storm brings greater exposure and the gradual narrowing of the beach. Loss of intertidal habitat, loss of public access and diminished coastal resiliency are the unintended consequences of seawalls in all its forms.

Regretfully, the Village of Nissequogue is succumbing to the pressure from private property interests, and allowing the proliferation of hardening

structures in absence of bona-fide threats to homes. These approvals are in conflict with well-founded coastal policy described in the Town of Smithtown, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program which the Village has agreed to uphold. A more profound concern is the complacency of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The agency is routinely rubber-stamping armoring permits to the detriment of coastal resources which they are charged with protecting.

Sea level rise — the elephant in the room. A four inch rise over the past forty years is projected to be 16-30 inches over the next forty. The reality is in the near future we will be forced to retreat from the shoreline in order to save our beaches. A daunting challenge to say the least, but it's time that we demonstrate collective foresight and resolve in this endeavor. Our environment, economy and coastal lifestyle depend on it.

Kevin McAllister
Founder and president
Defend H2O

Got guns...

Editor, The NEWS:

Week after week some opinions are published that go unchallenged. I have to weigh in: I don't know when or how the NRA became the boogie man in the Parkland shooting. That tragedy wasn't the fault of the NRA but actually began with an Obama Era program called Promise. It was a program that offered

financial gain for not reporting or incarcerating young adults. They wanted to curb the school to prison pipeline. Due to that program, all the calls made to the police on this student's behavior went unreported. Then he chose to purchase a gun. A background check showed nothing.

The FBI failed to do anything when twice they were called. This person was a troubled youth. As his mom was dying, she tried to get some help to no avail. Although this was a horrible tragedy, the school safety persons failed to respond even though they were on the premises. Six minutes and nothing was done until another police department responded.

This was the only mass shooter under the age of 21. All the rest had been over 21. Since everyone is trying to tighten gun laws, why do we hear nothing of the killing fields in the south side of Chicago? Illinois has the toughest gun laws in the country. How can this be? The NRA is demonized but I ask you: who kills more children? The NRA or Planned Parenthood?

On the criticism of President Trump and Amazon's shipping rates with the post office (I resent someone calling him Donald when I'm sure they never called the previous president Barack) Amazon has saved the post office which loses money on 1st class mail. The deal with Amazon doesn't quite cover the workers' benefits (pension, healthcare). President Trump is a businessman and is aware of this.

Jill Wrubel
Nesconset

Be our guest

Protecting Long Island's Waterways and Way of Life...