



# *Incorporated Village of Lake Grove* **VILLAGE NEWS**

Fall 2025 Issue • Published by the Incorporated Village of Lake Grove • [www.lakegroveny.gov](http://www.lakegroveny.gov)

## *A Message From The Mayor*



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in organizing this year's Summerfest weekend. It begins with Trustee Richard Kick and the dedicated team he has assembled,

whose planning and preparation make these events so successful. The well attended concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings, followed by Sunday's festivities, truly showcased our Village in a positive and welcoming way.

I had the pleasure of speaking with visitors from outside our community, including some from as far away as Nassau County, and their impressions made me immensely proud. Many who were unfamiliar with Lake Grove remarked on how impressed they were with our well-maintained neighborhoods and vibrant downtown area.

Whether or not you attend these events, we all benefit from the positive attention they bring to our Village. Events such as these not only strengthen our sense of community but also help maintain and enhance property values. Judging by the large turnout, it is clear that people enjoy returning year after year, feeling safe and welcome in our Village.

Another popular event that continues to draw visitors is the weekly car show held each Sunday at Smith Haven Mall from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Enthusiasts from across Long Island attend; some to showcase their prized vehicles, and others to enjoy a family outing viewing vintage, muscle, and exotic cars. These events also provide a boost to our local economy, as many attendees visit Smith Haven Mall, Wegmans, and nearby small businesses afterward. I extend special thanks to the organizers (Drive for Dana charity), Smith Haven Mall, and the Fourth Precinct for making these events possible.

Lake Grove, while preserving its small village charm, has become an attractive destination for visitors who see firsthand why we are so proud of our community. This vitality helps support our retail district, where new businesses continue to open and thrive.

While not every event may appeal to every resident, they bring valuable energy and recognition to our

Village. Naturally, there are occasional concerns, such as loud vehicles or drivers disregarding traffic laws. However, thanks to our strong partnership with the Fourth Precinct, these issues are addressed promptly through enforcement and local court proceedings.

I am also pleased to share that our new all-inclusive park adjoining Village Hall is progressing extremely well. To date, no taxpayer funds have been used. A \$500,000 County grant has supported the project thus far, and additional applications are pending with the State to help bring it to completion. Replacing a blighted property with a beautiful downtown park for children of all abilities is a tremendous benefit to our Village. Now, children with special needs will be able to share a playground alongside their friends and neighbors.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Scottaline  
Mayor

*Feel free to contact me directly anytime:*

Email: [mayor@lakegroveny.gov](mailto:mayor@lakegroveny.gov)

Tel: 631-585-2000 x112

Cell: 631-872-0606

### *Mayor*

**Robert J. Scottaline**

### *Deputy Mayor- Trustee*

**Richard J. Cohen**

### *Trustee*

**John G. Peterson**

### *Trustee*

**Felix Wienclaw**

### *Trustee*

**Richard Kick**

### *Editor*

**Deanna Scollo**

### *Village Clerk*

**Kara Haufler**

### *Village Justice*

**Scott D. Middleton**

### Contact us

Tel: 631-585-2000

Fax: 631-981-0965

### *Email:*

[info@lakegroveny.gov](mailto:info@lakegroveny.gov)

[www.lakegroveny.gov](http://www.lakegroveny.gov)

## Attention Seniors!

Residents and taxpayers of the Town, age 60 years and older, are welcome to join our Brookhaven senior groups held here at the Village Recreation Center. It's a great way for our fellow residents to socialize with one another and enjoy a nice day out. New members are always welcome to join!

**Brookhaven Seniors** meets every Tuesday at 11am. This group provides social interaction through games, cards, and other activities such as luncheons, special events and trips. For more information, please contact Village Hall at 631-585-2000.

**Homemaker's Club** meets every Wednesday at 10am. This group is craft oriented and residents create craft related projects that count; such as holiday stockings for the military, lap blankets for nursing homes, and other charitable projects. For more information, please contact Susan at 631-588-3137.

## Village Hall Meeting Schedule:

### TUESDAY

- Senior Citizen Group- 11:00am-4:00pm
- Lake Grove Justice Court Sessions  
(call for exact dates)
  - Traffic Court is held once per month on Tuesday nights- 6:30pm
  - Village Code Violations are held once per month on Tuesday nights- 6:30pm

### WEDNESDAY

- Homemaker's Club- 10:00am-2:00pm
- Zoning Board of Appeals
  - 1st Wednesday each month- 7:00pm

### THURSDAY

- Planning Board Meeting
  - 2nd Thursday each month- 6:30pm
- Village Board Meeting
  - 3rd Thursday each month- 6:00pm

### - JUSTICE COURT CLERK OFFICE -

**Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00am – 2:00pm

**Phone:** 631-585-2008

**Address:** Justice Court

P.O. Box 1231, Lake Grove, NY 11755-0531

## VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL!

*It's YOUR turn to be part of the process....  
Find out what is going on in your community!*

## Tax Exemption News for Seniors of Low Income Households



Could you be eligible for the Village of Lake Grove's Over 65 limited income property tax exemption? The maximum income to qualify for this exemption is **\$37,399.99** per household. If you wish to apply for the next year's tax bill over 65 exemption, please contact us for an application. Applications are available in person or can be mailed to you by calling Jessica in the Tax department 631-585-2000 ext. 108. All completed applications must be received by the end of each calendar year; however, we strongly advise you to submit your application as soon as possible.

## Honoring former Village Trustee, Eleanor (Ellie) J. Lotto



We are pleased to feature former Village Trustee, Eleanor Lotto in this issue. Ellie, a village resident of nearly sixty years, had a career as a dedicated elementary school teacher and served as an active PTA member for many years until retiring. She used that experience as a leader to better the village community as a Board of Trustee Member, until stepping down after 17 years. Under her leadership as Trustee, she served as the Commissioner of Recreation. Ellie had oversight responsibility for two very important events, our successful summer recreation program and annual harvest festival.

Not only was Ellie a dedicated Village Trustee, but she also initiated a newly created organization in 1999 titled LG C.A.R.E.S (Lake Grove Cultural Arts, Recreation & Education Society). LG C.A.R.E.S was created as a non-profit organization, that fostered community engagement by sponsoring local events, providing scholarships, and strengthening community bonds through volunteer service. Although Ellie has stepped aside from LG C.A.R.E.S, this wonderful group is still going strong! Through fundraising efforts, they proudly award 6 scholarships each year to qualified high school graduates who are residents of Lake Grove.

Commitment to community is evident in everything she has done, even taking on the role as editor of the village newsletter. Ellie's dedication through the years should be an inspiration to others and we wanted to thank Ellie for all her years of public service to the residents of Lake Grove.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Keeping the Community Warm through EJ's PJs

Since 2011, EJ's PJs has been a compassionate, community-centered nonprofit organization that provides pajamas and comfort items to young children and teens in foster care, families experiencing hardship, senior citizens, and residents of recovery homes. It all started when Patricia Poggi and her sons started the drive, with just a bin on their front porch; to now gaining the support of the local community with drop-off boxes during the holidays located throughout Long Island.

Patricia had one mission in mind from the start- to create a sense of comfort and security by collecting and distributing pajamas to those that need it the most. The Poggi family's commitment in helping others is demonstrated by hosting various community events, including pajama drives and fundraisers. These events often involve partnerships with other organizations and are held at different locations. Most



recently, EJ's PJs partnered with Hummus Fit in Lake Grove and had a hugely successful event. The events are designed to bring the community together, raise awareness about the need for warm pajamas, and provide a fun way to support their mission. EJ's PJs continues to grow, making a positive impact across communities.

If you feel so inclined to support this great organization, stop by village hall with your donation during our EJ's PJs holiday drive and/or check out their website at [www.ejspjs.org](http://www.ejspjs.org)

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



### *A Legacy of Smiles, Light & So Much Love*

One of our own village residents, Noah Lee Sagistano, was born February 2, 2022 and soon after coming into the world, he was diagnosed with Congenital Heart Defect (CHD). Before his little life could even begin, Noah faced significant challenges and multiple medical procedures and surgeries. Yet, through it all, his spirit shone brightly. Tragically and unexpectedly, Noah passed away July 2023 following a major surgery that his family hoped would improve his condition.



The Village of Lake Grove would like to bring awareness to Congenital Heart Defect in this issue. CHD Awareness Week is held each year from February 7th- 14th to recognize children and adults living with congenital heart disease, celebrate their journey and increase public awareness of these heart conditions. Noah Lee was a bright light, so full of smiles, joy and resilience, whose short life left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

To honor Noah's legacy, his parents founded Noah's Smile Inc., a charitable organization aimed at supporting families with children facing serious illnesses. Noah's Smile seeks to provide comfort and support to families navigating similar challenges. For more information, please visit [www.noahssmile.org](http://www.noahssmile.org)



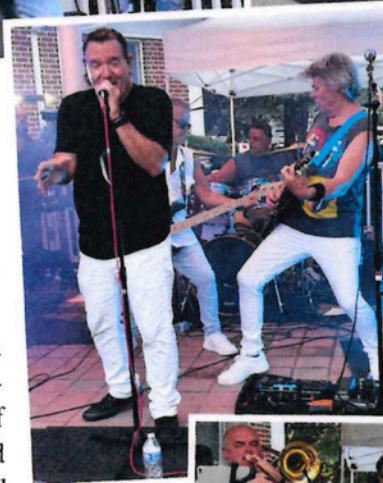
# Lake Grove Summer Festival - *Another Huge Success!*



Hawkins Avenue came alive once again for our annual SummerFest held on August 17th; a community tradition that always draws large crowds. The event was well attended by residents of all ages, families, and visitors from neighboring towns. The weekend started off with bands playing Friday and Saturday night at the Village Memorial Park and then a full day of festivities on Sunday, which included over 100 vendors, numerous food trucks, a full day of music and a car show.



We would like to offer a very special thank you to Trustee Richard Kick and his dedicated committee for planning the event. It takes many months of planning to make the festival as successful as it is, and their hard work does not go unnoticed. We would also like to thank Wegmans, Steel Equities, Hummus Fit, Crunch Fitness, Global Restoration, Rockefeller's Kitchen & Cocktails and LG CARES for sponsoring our bands this year. We are always looking for new vendors and sponsors...please contact Village Hall if you would like to participate next summer 631-585-2000.



## New Business SPOTLIGHT

## A LOT OF CHANGES COMING TO THE VILLAGE!

### When one door closes, another one opens...

The Village Idiot Pub in Lake Grove has closed, but a brand-new concept is taking its place. Rockefellers Kitchen & Cocktails debuted in September. The major revamp will feature refurbished décor and a Gatsby-style aesthetic, designed to host events with a vintage flair. Owner John Sarno opened The Village Idiot Pub in Lake Grove in 2019. Now the space will enter its next chapter and change with the current times, capturing a cool vibe where the focus will be on martinis and specialty cocktails.



**DSW Plaza** continues to expand with more businesses debuting in the near future! Wegmans is thriving and residents are still commenting on how happy they are that Wegmans has come to Lake Grove. Wegmans Wines, Ross Dress for Less, Wells Fargo, and Jin-ya Ramen Bar will all be launching soon in that shopping center, as well as more great stores to come.



**Smith Haven Plaza** Nordstrom Rack, the off-price retail division of Nordstrom, and the apparel brand J. Crew, will soon be opening in the Smith Haven Plaza shopping Center.

The choice to open in the plaza highlights a growing trend: Lifestyle and fashion retailers are increasingly moving away from traditional big malls and into smaller shopping centers that offer easier parking and quick access, especially with highly trafficked anchors. We look forward to their addition to this busy shopping center!



### Smith Haven Mall Getting Major Makeover!

Smith Haven Mall is also changing with the times. The mall will undergo a full renovation to the exterior and interior of the property, including a number of new retailers, dining destinations, an outdoor plaza, and amenities throughout the property. It's all being planned as an upgrade to help the mall stay competitive and cater to changing shopper habits. The planned outdoor plaza will have new landscaping and seating to create more of a park-like setting for community events. The food court will also be extensively revitalized, featuring all new seating and an improved dining experience. The exterior will also be getting a facelift to encompass a more modern design and refreshed

entryways. The redevelopment project will include the popular fashion brand, Zara, which will be the retailer's first location on the east end, making for some very happy shoppers! All of these upgrades will provide a more pleasurable shopping experience for our community. The remodel began this summer and is expected to be completed in 2026.

### Pooch's Bed & Barkfest: Where Five Stars and Pet Care finally meet!



Pooch's Bed & Barkfest is a fairly new business in the village. It is a luxury dog boarding and daycare facility. The reviews of this pet hotel have been nothing but fabulous. They are committed to the pets they host, offering a caring, well-educated, professional staff to serve each guest that walks through their doors.

Discover a premier dog hotel and daycare services tailored for your pet's comfort and happiness. Pooch's strives to provide the best experience for your pet; including 24-hour exceptional care, custom themed suites equipped with tv's,



and a staff that will treat your pet like their own.

It's truly a luxury stay for your fur baby! If you want peace of mind the next time you're away, contact the owner Ann for pricing and even a personal tour of the facility. She can be reached at 631-615-8411.

### KID STRONG Helping Kids Win at Life!

KidStrong is a children's training gym program that builds strong & confident kids by developing a strong body, mind and character through weekly classes that are fun, yet challenging....all led by expert coaches. Their programs are specifically designed by child development experts to improve kids' emotional, mental and physical skills. Coming soon to the Shops at Lake Grove!



## "Your Neighborhood Voice"

a word from resident contributor Kerri Allegretta

### Prevent Unwelcomed House Guests This Season

As temperatures decrease, and food sources become scarce, common outside critters such as squirrels, raccoons, and chipmunks may try establishing their winter nests in your attic, wall spaces, and other cozy spots around your home. Human structures provide more warmth and protection, making homes an attractive alternative to traditional tree nests.

Once a winter nest inside the home is established, they can cause significant damage through chewing, nesting materials, and waste. The best approach is to be proactive by sealing potential entry points before they can begin nesting and setting up outdoor nesting boxes that could be used as an alternative shelter option. Peppermint spray on pieces of cloth or cotton balls can also be used as a safe deterrent around potential entry points to discourage animals from investigating these areas.

If you already have unwanted guests that have moved in, never seal entry points while animals might still be inside, as this often traps wildlife in homes, could separate babies from parents, and creates bigger problems. Instead, homeowners should contact local wildlife control professionals who can humanely remove the animals and properly secure entry points after ensuring no animals remain inside.

### Wildlife Resources

To find wildlife professionals in your area, download the Animal Help Now (AHNow) app. Please note wildlife rehabbers are volunteers, and response time might be slow, and donations are appreciated but not expected. If you are interested in becoming a Wildlife Rehabilitator, visit the Department of Environmental Conservation website.

## SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

### Help Keep our Village Safe and Clean

Please help our Department of Public Works maintain our village to the highest standards. Although it is always important to keep us informed of problem areas, it is imperative during any storm season. Please contact us about any of the following problems or any other maintenance issues now and throughout the year.

- Storm drains blocked or clogged with debris
- Possible unsafe conditions at any of our parks
- Sand or debris on sidewalks
- Low tree branches hanging over sidewalks or roads
- Damaged or open fences around sumps
- Litter
- Signage obstructed or damaged.

Even though we continue to be enjoying fall, winter will inevitably be here soon. We urge our residents to follow the village's state of emergency ordinance prohibiting vehicles parking on the road and the removal of basketball hoops during a storm. Working together, we can help ensure that roads and sidewalks are cleared in a safe and efficient manner. Here's how you can help:

- **Do not throw snow from your walkway or driveway onto the road. Having snow removal teams return to the same street multiple times increases the cost and time necessary to clear the roads.**

- **Remove snow from your vehicle while it is still parked in your driveway and certainly before you travel.**
- **Village Code requires that residents and business owners remove snow and ice from the sidewalk within 24 hours of the snow event.**

*If you have questions on snow removal, please call the Department of Public Works at 631-585-2000*



### A MESSAGE FROM THE LAKE GROVE VILLAGE FIRE MARSHAL

Andrew J. Brofman, Lake Grove Fire Marshal

**Planning ahead can save your life!** Do you know which fire department protects your home? Calling the direct number to the fire department that protects your part of the Village can save 4 to 6 minutes response time! If you don't know the answer to this question, you can call the Village Fire Marshal.

### October is National Fire Prevention Month!

This October we thought it would be a good time to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention with a fire safety checklist for your home & family:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom and outside each separate sleeping area.
- Make sure smoke alarms are on every level of your home, even the basement.
- Test smoke alarms once a month. Replace batteries as needed.

- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Check the manufacturer date on the back of the alarm.
- Get a fire extinguisher and place it in a spot that's easy to get to in an emergency.
- Plan a meeting place outside for your family in case of fire and practice a fire escape plan.
- Make sure matches and lighters are secure and out of reach from children.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms on each level of your home and test them regularly.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY LINES

Nesconset Fire Dept.....631-924-5252

Centereach Fire Dept.....631-981-0177

Ronkonkoma Fire Dept...631-588-8410

Setauket Fire Dept.....631-941-4441

**Make sure your house number is visible from the street.**  
*If we can't find you, we can't help you!.*



# Lake Grove Village Department of Public Works Guide

## APPLIANCES & SCRAP METAL

Appliances & Scrap Metal will not be picked up with regular garbage. Place items at the curb only after contacting Lake Grove Village Hall for a scheduled pick up. Please call 631-585-2000 to schedule a pickup.

These items include: appliances, air conditioners, metal bath tubs, swing sets, water heaters, metal lawn furniture, metal pool frames, auto engines, automobile parts, chain link fences, boats & trailers, metal sheds, and coiled bed springs, along with washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators & freezers with doors removed, and other similar items.

- **Major homeowner construction, commercial construction and demolition debris** won't be accepted and must be removed by a private firm.

- **Lumber** must be cut into 4-foot lengths and tied & bundled securely. Nails must be removed or flattened against the wood.

- **Propane tanks** can be brought to any place that sells or services them. No oil tanks or other metal items contaminated with toxic substances will be picked up. Used oil can be taken to the Brookhaven Town Landfill or your local service station.

- **Bulk items, such as sofas, coffee tables, TV's, etc.** do not require a phone call for special pick up. Residents are allowed to put out no more than 4 bulk items a week on Thursdays or Fridays, depending on where you live in the village. Place at the curb by your garbage pails and the bulk item will be picked up on the 2nd garbage collection of the week.

## PAPER BAGGED LEAVES & BRANCHES ONLY

Paper bagged leaves and branches should be placed curbside at the beginning of the scheduled week.

- No bag should exceed 50 pounds
- Branches & Brush- must be bundled and tied in 4' bundles (maximum length)

**Please note: Leaves & Brush not bundled appropriately or placed in plastic bags will not be picked up.** Each Fall and Spring the Village of Lake Grove provides an allotment of paper bags to each homeowner. **We will be giving out Leaf Bags September 29th through November 1st.** Just come down to the Leaf Barn on the designated dates highlighted in yellow on the recycling calendar. Each resident was mailed a recycling calendar and it is listed on our website as well. Additional bags can be purchased at home improvement stores. The pick-up schedule for Fall 2025 leaves & brush is as follows:

### LEAF BAG & BRANCH CLEAN UP DATES

PAPER LEAF BAGS, BRANCHES & BRUSH  
(BRANCHES & BRUSH MUST BE TIED AND BUNDLED & NO LONGER THAN 4 FEET LONG)

#### NORTH SIDE PICK-UP

Any street north of Village Hall  
WEEK OF **10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17** (last week)

#### SOUTH SIDE PICK-UP

Any street south of Village Hall  
(including Washburn Street & Moriches Road)  
WEEK OF **10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/24** (last week)

*Leaf bags & tied and bundled brush CAN NOT be combined. They get picked up separately. Brush must be at curb Sunday night prior to pick up week. Will be picked up one day between Monday and Friday. **NO grass.***

## **Resident Feedback: We want to hear from you!**

We put a lot of time and effort into the content of our newsletters. To get the most out of the village newsletter, it's essential to create content that our audience wants to read. Surveying our audience can help us better understand what subject matter is most valuable to you. If you wouldn't mind offering us some feedback to help improve

future issues of our newsletter. Some thought-provoking questions are: What do you most enjoy about the newsletter? Is there anything you would like included that is not currently included? What would you like to hear more about?

*We would love to hear from you...please email your comments and/or suggestions to  
Deanna Scollo at [deannas@lakegroveny.gov](mailto:deannas@lakegroveny.gov)*





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## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

# *Please Save!* Lake Grove Residents

### IMPORTANT LAKE GROVE VILLAGE INFORMATION INSIDE

*Mark your calendars for  
these fun-filled events!*

#### Village of Lake Grove 2025 Harvest Festival

Fun for Lake Grove residents  
of all ages!

- Halloween Costume Contest
- Hay Ride and Pony Rides
- Pumpkin Decorating
- Petting Zoo
- Food Vendors
- DJ Entertainment
- Raffles, Games, and Prizes

Date: Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Time: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Kelly Park

Patricia Lane, just off Hawkins Avenue

For more information, call (631) 585-2000



### HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**December 12th**  
**6:30 pm**  
Village Recreation Hall

#### BLOOD DRIVE

DONATIONS SAVE LIVES

Village of Lake Grove

Sponsored by

Mayor Scottaline the Village Board  
Senator Dean Murray,  
and Legislator Leslie Kennedy

Village Recreation Hall

Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

12:30pm - 6:30pm

Any further questions contact Jennifer at 516-310-2382

Medical Questions call 1-800-688-0900

S.C.P.D. FOURTH PRECINCT  
PRESENTS

OPERATION  
MEDICINE  
CABINET

 Don't let your medication fall  
into the wrong hands

Have any unused or expired medication at home?

Please bring with you for safe disposal by the S.C.P.D.

Lake Grove Village Meeting Hall

Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

10:00am - 12:00pm



#### Notify Me!

If you are interested in being  
added to our notification  
call list for emergency related matters  
or any upcoming events, please contact  
Village Hall at 631-585-2000.

## Meet with the Mayor!

*An informal community chat  
with Mayor Scottaline*

The advantage of being in a close-knit  
community like Lake Grove Village is that  
we have more opportunities to interact  
with one another. This is a unique way to  
catch up with Mayor Scottaline, as well  
as professionals in the community, in a  
friendly relaxed atmosphere. This is your  
opportunity to:

- **Voice Your Concerns:**  
discuss local issues that matter to you
- **Share Your Ideas:**  
contribute to the future of our  
community
- **Build Community:**  
forge meaningful connections with  
your neighbors

Whether you are a resident or business  
owner, our collective voices will contin-  
ue to shape our future! Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm in the  
village meeting hall.

- Thank You for Your Continued Support -