

North Fork to State: 'Save our park'

Town & County | Romaine leads rally to keep Orient Beach Park open

BY JULIE LANE | SUFFOLK TIMES

"If the state doesn't come to its senses, the people of Orient will take back what is theirs," Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine told some 150 people who braved brisk winds and the cold on Monday for a rally at Orient Beach State Park to demand that the park remain open.

Orient is among six Long Island parks targeted for closing by the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, while five more would see cutbacks in activities, all to close a \$30 million gap in the parks office budget.

It costs \$400,000 a year to operate Orient Beach State Park and it brings in annual revenues of \$300,000, Mr. Romaine said.

"For \$100,000, they would close this park," Mr. Romaine said, drawing boos aimed at the state deci-

sion-makers from the crowd of park supporters.

The park is an economic engine for the North Fork, said Sylvia Daley, owner of Quintessential Bed & Breakfast. "Shutting down this park is shutting down revenues," she said, adding that people are drawn to inns like hers in East Marion because of the park and its beaches.

"We can't jump on a jet plane and go someplace else," Bob DeLuca of the Group for the East End said, speaking of the role the park plays in the lives of local residents.

"Our economy is driven by the environment," he said. "We can't let this stand; we have to let the government know this park must stay open."

The people of Orient maintained the area as a park until 1929, when they deeded it to the state. If it can't be maintained, Southold should take it back, Councilman Al Krupski Jr. said at the rally.



KATHARINE SCHROEDER PHOTO

Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine gets protesters worked up at a rally to persuade the state to keep Orient Beach State Park open.

The town has its own fiscal crisis and it's unclear how it might provide for park maintenance.

Mr. Romaine called on area residents to write letters to the parks department, the governor and state legislators and to reach out to national environmental groups to add their voices and "credibility" to the effort to save the park.

JUSTICE COURT

The following is a list of court cases adjudicated at the February 8 and 22 sessions of Shelter Island Justice Court. The reports are compiled from information provided to the Reporter by the court. Judge Helen J. Rosenblum was on the bench for both sessions.

FEBRUARY 8 SESSION

Emma A. Goodale of South Vienna, Ohio was fined \$50 plus a \$85 state surcharge for unlicensed operation, reduced from aggravated unlicensed operation in the 3rd degree. A registration violation was dismissed.

Adam B. Hashagen of Shelter Island was fined \$100 plus \$85 for a speeding charge, 40 mph in a 35-mph zone, reduced from 55 mph.

Criminal summonses for failure to appear in court were issued for Georgia Petelis of Brooklyn, charged with grand larceny and two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 7th degree; and Armodio S. Velasquez of Riverhead, charged with aggravated unlicensed operation in the 3rd degree.

Nine cases were adjourned until later dates on the court's calendar — two for status checks, one at the court's request and six at the request of the defendants or their attorneys.

FEBRUARY 22 SESSION

The following were issued criminal summonses for failure to appear in court: Jack B. Armstrong of Greenport, charged with a seat-belt violation; Harris M. Simon of Riverhead, charged with a stop sign violation; and Armodio S. Velasquez of Riverhead, charged with aggravated unlicensed operation in the 3rd degree.

Eighteen cases were adjourned until later dates on the court's calendar — 11 at the court's request, one for a status check and six at the request of the defendants or their attorneys.

Correction

The address for the family of Mabel Randall is 52 Vail Drive, Franklin, Massachusetts, not Maine as published in the February 11th Reporter.

POLICE REPORT

Deer cause two traffic accidents

Road checks and radar enforcement were carried out on March 1 at various locations on the Island. Four speeding tickets were issued to motorists on that date.

Ross Milligan, 34, of Riverhead was driving on Ram Island Drive when he was stopped by police and issued a summons for speeding — 50 mph in a 35-mph zone. He was also ticketed for failure to produce a license.

C. M. Longueville, 38, of Water Mill was ticketed on New York Avenue for speeding — 41 mph in a 25-mph zone.

Patrick John G. Dunn, 31, of Medford was given a summons for speeding on South Ferry Road — 52 mph in a 40-mph zone.

A speeding ticket was issued to Victor Calderon, 36, of Center Islip for traveling 48 mph in the 35-mph zone on St. Mary's Road.

ACCIDENTS

Kia A. Pedersen of New York City was driving on West Neck Road on February 23 when she hit a utility pole head on. According to the police report, she said the dog in the vehicle had distracted her and she had lost control after making a right hand turn from Westmoreland Drive. There was over \$1,000 in damage to the front end, and the vehicle had to be towed from the site. Ms. Pedersen was transported to Eastern Long Island Hospital for evaluation. The dog was turned over to the animal control officer.

On February 25, Brian J. Lechmanski of Shelter Island was driving northbound on East Brander Parkway when a deer ran into the passenger side of his vehicle, damaging the sideview mirror, hood and a pillar. Damage was estimated at over \$1,000.

Angela Corbett of Shelter Island reported on February 26 that she was backing out of a space in the Presbyterian Church parking lot when she hit the front of a parked car belonging to Linda D. Cass of Shelter Island, resulting in over \$1,000 in damage. Ms. Corbett said she didn't see the vehicle parked behind her.

Michael Colligan of Shelter Island reported a minor accident on February 27 when he hit a deer while driving westbound on Congdon Road. His right headlight was damaged. Police had to put the deer down.

OTHER REPORTS

A case of aggravated harassment in Dering Harbor was reported to police on February 23.

A dog was reported at large in the Center on February 23. Police picked up the dog and took it to the town kennel where it was released to the owner on condition that he produce a license. The owner did so.

For information purposes, a caller told police on February 23 that three days earlier two hunters were on the property with four hunting dogs.

On February 24, the Shelter Island Fire Department responded to a chimney fire in Cartwright and extinguished it.

Police responded to a landlord/tenant dispute in the Center on February 24.

Police received information on February 25 that was possibly related to a criminal investigation in Suffolk County.

A Cartwright caller reported a possible attempt at identity theft on February 24.

A Center caller told police on February 24 that a dog might be

stuck in the ice on a Center pond. The dog was able to get out and ran away. Police canvassed the area with negative results and notified the animal control officer.

On February 25, police were asked by another agency to assist in locating a person. The individual was subsequently found off-Island.

A dog found running at large in the Center was dropped off anonymously at police headquarters on February 25. Police returned the dog to its owner.

On February 25, police notified the Highway Department about flooded road conditions in West Neck; Town, Heights and Dering Harbor highway staff were informed on February 26 that the roads were hazardous throughout the Island.

A possible burglary was reported by the caretaker of a Menantic residence on February 27.

A caller reported a sick seal on a West Neck beach on February 27. Police coaxed the seal back into the water without incident.

Police responded to a domestic dispute in the Heights on February 28.

The SIFD responded to three automatic fire alarms at residences on Ram Island and in West Neck and the Center on February 24, 27 and 28 respectively. One was caused by an alarm malfunction, a second was set off accidentally, and a closed fireplace damper caused smoke that activated the third.

A medical alert was set off on February 28; no problems were reported.

AIDED CASES

Shelter Island Red Cross ambulance teams transported three aided cases to Eastern Long Island Hospital on February 27 and 28.