

## **March HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Operation SPLASH Meeting, March 6, 2018**

President Rob Weltner announced several GOOD NEWS items:

1. Concerning the menhaden protection issue, the new legislation that passed in November did extend protection of the menhaden, and after the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission received ten thousand letters responding in support of maintaining the quotas, the Commonwealth of VA was convinced to remove its grievance to get the quota overturned.
2. Noting that Operation SPLASH is a Platinum Rated charity organization, Ridgewood Savings Bank chose SPLASH to receive its \$1000 donation.
3. Thanks to Dante Grover, SPLASH saves \$3000 every year, as Dante takes it upon himself to bottom-wash all the boats for free each season. Plus, although we anticipated a hefty bill for the repair and servicing of the Mercury engine, the invoice he sent was for \$0. Many thanks go to Dante Grover.

**Senior Vice President Skip Zawrotny** asked for volunteers for Babylon's celebration of Earth Day 2018. Held May 5 at Town Hall, Sunrise Highway in Lindenhurst, SPLASH members will be needed to man the SPLASH tables, 11-2.

**Second Vice President Stefanie Scherner Birnbaum** announced the Walk for Education in Baldwin on April 22. Held in memory of Baldwin resident and SPLASH member Joan Flatley, the event will raise money for a Baldwin School scholarship.

Standing in for **Third Vice President Mary Jean McCarthy**, Devorah Crupar gave the Education Report, pointing out that new programs have been developed over the past year, including student water quality studies and first-hand/on-site education at the Bay Park STP.

Devorah also suggested the possibility of SPLASH's securing an upcoming contract to work with The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery on the infrastructure project in the Mill River area.

**President Rob Weltner gave the President's Report: More GOOD NEWS!**

1. He noted that one of the drawbacks of the operation of an STP is that it uses two million gallons of fresh water from our aquifer each day to run the two plants--Cedar Creek and Bay Park. The Good News is that Suez has agreed to install a small tertiary system at Cedar Creek to further treat the already treated sewage, enabling them to reuse that effluent, instead of our drinking water, to run the plant. That's a savings of 365 million gallons of water each year. They will most likely put a tertiary plant at Bay Park, as well.

2. Rob reported on our up-to-date collection totals: Our statistical data show that over the past three years, Operation SPLASH has removed from the bays, beaches and waterways 32,519 plastic bags, 65,803 plastic bottles; 23,887 glass bottles; and 4,629 balloons. In addition, over the past three years, 1392 boat trips were logged and 18,302 volunteer hours were recorded, bringing our 27-year garbage removal totals to new highs: As of the close of the season 2017, SPLASH has removed 2,377,992 pounds (or 1,188,000 tons) of garbage from the bays.

**New Business**

1. A presentation was made by BUOY4 Clothing Company, an enterprise that was started by a group of friends, including two brothers Kenny and Kevin Owens. Their clothing line is available online at BUOY4.com. To honor his brother Kevin, who succumbed to a battle with cancer last April, Kenny has chosen to make BUOY4 a benefactor of Operation SPLASH, promising that a percentage of the sales proceeds will be donated to Operation SPLASH in Kevin's memory. BUOY4 started tonight with a \$500 donation. Kenny, the CEO, can be contacted at 516-852-4767 or kenny.owens@buoy4.com.

2. Devorah spoke about Patagonia Sports, a company that has given us access to a site called Catchafire, an online platform that offers free professional help for non-profit organizations to learn ways to build their membership and work more effectively.

3. Jerry Foster, owner of Freeport Kayak Rentals, described plans he has for this summer's kayak events. Rentals will be offered Saturdays and Sundays, as well as special events, such as Full Moon Paddles, Guided Eco-Tours and Boats and Burger Tours. For more information, contact Jerry at 1-855-WE KAYAK or [www.FreeportKayakRentals.com](http://www.FreeportKayakRentals.com).

4. Cheryl Bennett, representative of Cornell University's Cooperative Extension in Nassau County, described the Master Gardener Class that is now accepting applications for volunteer training for the Fall 2018.

Contact information: 516-565-5265; [www.ccenassau.org/mastergardener](http://www.ccenassau.org/mastergardener)

Respectfully submitted, Beverly Visconti, Recording Secretary