

# Head of the Harbor

500 North Country Road | St. James, New York 11780 | [HeadoftheHarborNY.gov](http://HeadoftheHarborNY.gov) | Summer 2023



## Emergency Medical Services

Dear Friends,

By far the majority of 911 calls in our village are for medical emergencies where time is of the essence. At the August Trustee work session, we invited St. James Fire District Commissioner Kit Gabrielsen to discuss response capability for medical emergencies. Kit introduced two paramedics at the meeting and demonstrated the new ambulance that was donated by Avalon Park.

A paramedic is a medical professional who specializes and is trained in emergency treatment. Paramedics can provide advanced emergency care without a doctor's order, using equipment carried in the ambulance or in the first responder vehicle. They can start IV medications, use mechanical breathing devices and are trained in medical response to heart attacks, strokes, and accident trauma. They give antidotes to a drug overdose or poisoning. Paramedics will monitor a patient and communicate with a doctor during transportation to the hospital and will provide a detailed account to the emergency room doctor upon arrival.

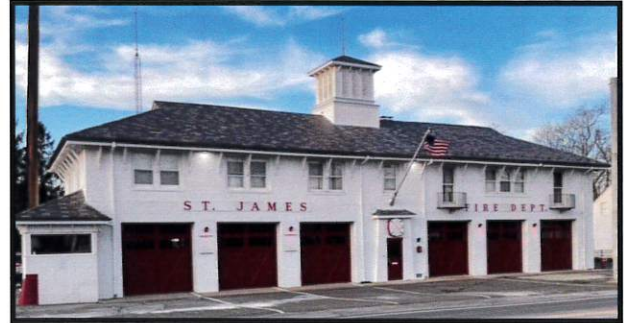
Station #1 is the historic St. James Firehouse on Route 25A. It has been used for over a hundred years to provide fire protection for our village. It is on the village side of the LIRR crossing, unlike Station #2 which is located on Woodlawn Avenue. A paramedic and the new ambulance are currently housed at Station #1. Another paramedic is at Station #2. The new ambulance is specifically designed to travel on narrow Village roads and long driveways. The ambulance has a four-wheel drive and can travel in the snow.



The day after the meeting I spent some time at Station #1 with the EMS coordinator, Greg Companion, and Fire District Commissioner and Chairman Tom Donohue. Tom has been a strong supporter of retaining and restoring Station #1. Deputy Mayor White introduced Tom to the idea and the process of applying for NYS Historic status. Station #1 is now listed as a New York State Historic Structure and this designation makes the Fire District eligible for potential grant opportunities.

Tom went over the wish list for the building both interior and exterior. He also showed me the plans for two new fire engines on order, to replace by next summer the existing 30-year-old equipment. The new fire trucks will have shorter wheelbases that will improve maneuvering on narrow streets and cul-de-sac.

Village residents are encouraged to visit Station #1, become involved with the Fire Department, and participate in Fire District elections.



**St. James Fire Department  
Fire House #1  
533 North Country Rd.  
St. James, NY 11780**

### Road Paving

Earlier this year Valley Wood East and West as well as Armand Court were re-paved. Next for re-paving is Harbor Road from Bacon Road to the Grist Mill. Long overdue, this road work will be part of an Avalon Park project to provide access from the park entrance to the recently added property north of Harbor Road, formally called Shore Farm.

An underground pedestrian walkway will be constructed allowing park visitors to avoid walking on Harbor Road. The Village has entered into a long-term lease of the property under Harbor Road. The road re-paving will follow the construction.

### Trees

Our village is recognized for its winding country roads, mature trees and extensive landscaping. We live in a park-like setting. To help protect the character of our Village Chapter 149 of our Code entitled "Trees" provides reasons, rules and responsibilities that residents should follow. Our Building Inspector, Robert (Bob) O'Shea, is available for questions about the permitting process for tree removal and vegetation clearing.

A Tree Committee formed by Trustee Ogden is available to Bob with information about tree conditions, native trees for replacement, and Arbor Day events.

Until next time,

*Doug*

Douglas A. Dahlgard  
Mayor