

# Inc. Village of Head of the Harbor



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Spring 2023

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Dear Friends,

This letter will focus on the capabilities of our Village Police Department and how it is keeping up with today's challenges.

Many of you know our Village Chief of Police, Charles "Chuck" Lohmann, who was appointed six years ago when Martin Thompson retired. Chuck manages a squad of three dozen detectives in the Suffolk County DA's office. His networking abilities reach the County Police Department and the DA's office, State and Federal Agencies.

Chuck selects our (part-time) police officers who are fully trained county police officers. Some of our officers hold county positions as detectives, some are K-9 officers, and most are EMT certified. It is Chief Lohmann's job to hire the best officers, to effectively deploy them and to make sure their equipment and training are up to date.

The Village has four police cars, three marked and one unmarked. Two cars are equipped with License Plate Readers. The Readers provide information and communicate with the County Police database. Other equipment in the patrol cars connect wirelessly with the NYSDMV and populates traffic tickets and processes them to our court.

Our village is patrolled 24/7 and our response time target for alarms is three minutes or less. Village police, like volunteer fire departments, provide back up or mutual aid to our neighboring village.

Our police are tasked to protect our village which includes a school, churches, a 200+ acre park and preserve, a nature preserve, a vineyard and farms. Chief Lohmann meets regularly with the school and with Avalon Park to discuss security measures. Our police perform checks on the school security and maintain regular liaison with the school.

Over this past Winter and into the Spring Chief Lohmann has been making improvements to our Police Department by creating an Emergency Response Center at Village Hall. The police station has been reconfigured to include three workstations with communications capability to the County Police, Nissequogue Police, Town Public Safety, PSEG, the St. James Fire Department, and our own Highway Department. In the event of a severe storm or similar emergency the station will be staffed and powered by a backup generator if necessary. The station now has video surveillance, a TV weather & local news service, internet, and a small kitchen area. Added electric stations provide charging for portable radios, defibrillators, and Tasers.

Chief Lohmann says in an emergency it is critical to have the ability to communicate. The Chief also reminds us that his patrol officers respond to the County 911 dispatch system. Should you see something or have an emergency please do not hesitate to call 911 and ask for a Head of the Harbor police officer. Do not use the office phone line except for messages that are not time sensitive, such as informing that you will be away or requesting street parking permission for an event.

I also want to stress that our crime rate is exceptionally low, but it's not zero. In this day and age you never know what to expect, and our police officers can't be everywhere all the time, so please be alert, keep cars locked when parked, take out your keys or fob, do not leave packages in your cars or in sight, and always set your house alarm when going out. Please remember to use the 911 system to call for village police.

Kindly take a moment to meet our officers and understand the terrific job they do serving and protecting us. Or just say hello and wave.

Very truly,

*Doug*

Douglas A. Dahlgard  
Mayor