

# HAMPTON BAYS



## *Beautification Association*

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### **2019 HBBA Annual Membership Application and Renewal**

The Hampton Bays Beautification Association, founded in 1985, is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the beauty and quality of life in the hamlet of Hampton Bays.

Your initiative, your interest, and your involvement are the key reasons for our success.

Your continued support and interest are needed now. Please "Catch the Spirit" by joining us at one of our monthly meetings held on the first Monday of each month (excluding January, February, March and Holidays) at 7:00 pm at the Hampton Bays Library.

Please visit our website ([www.hbba.net](http://www.hbba.net)) for more information about our projects, events and meeting dates and join our Association and together we can make a difference in beautifying our community.

Please return the membership card with your check in the enclosed envelope. We hope to see you at one of our meetings or events.

*Susan von Freddi*

Susan von Freddi, President

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**Garden Party - Saturday June 1, 2019 Oakland's Restaurant 12-3:30 PM**

**Concert Under The Stars - Sunday August 11, 2019 - 6-9 PM - Rain Date August 16**

**Halloween Costume Party - Sunday October 27, 2019 Villa Paul Restaurant 4-8 PM**

**Holiday Luncheon - Wednesday December 4, 2019 11:30-3 PM Oakland's Restaurant**

*If it has a flower on it, it's HBBA*





**STRONG:**  
 Hurricane soccer  
 teams making final  
 playoff push. A17



**GYLLENHAAL:**  
 Actress discusses her life  
 and career at Hamptons  
 Film Festival. B1



# Rain Garden To Replace Old Post Office Driveway

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

BY | DESIRÉE KEEGAN



Patricia Francy waters the plants.

VALERIE GORDON/PHOTOS



A new Hampton Bays rain garden is an aesthetic and ecological win-win.

The Hampton Bays Beautification Association, which adopted the post office years ago, is taking on another project at the site facing Ponquogue Avenue. After removing hedges and planting grass, adding a sprinkler system and brick walkway, and planting flowers, association president Susan von Freddi Gassman announced the addition of a rain garden.

“It is important to have ecosystems in the community — that you don’t just plop a garden somewhere, you try to make it sustainable and economically advantageous,” von Freddi Gassman said of the rain garden, which will replace an old and unused driveway. “It will also be a teaching thing — for students to come up to and learn about it.”

Rain gardens can reduce runoff by allowing the water to soak into the ground, as opposed to flowing into storm drains and surface waters which causes erosion, water pollution, flooding, and diminished groundwater.

Permaculturist Mark Fasanella from Ecological Cultural Initiative, a local nonprofit that develops environmental programming and field projects, in collaboration with community groups, cultural institutions, and government, came up with the idea a few years back. Fasanella did not have the funds to make it happen, so von Freddi Gassman adopted the idea, and brought it to life with association funds and a grant from the Muriel F. Siebert Foundation.

According to Coastal Landscapes owner Daren Poles, climbing hydrangeas, wild bergamot, swamp milkweed, Northern blue flag, and echinacea magnus, among other native flowers and plants, will pack the rain garden. It will also attract butterflies and bees. According to Poles there will also be native stones, a recreation of

a riverbed, and a bridge to cross over it. The rain garden will be revealed ahead of the eighth annual San Gennaro Feast of the Hamptons, which begins Saturday, September 29.

“We thought we could come up with some ideas to naturalize that area,” Poles said of the previous concrete slab. “I think the project adds interest and value downtown. We also wanted to leave a section of it closer to the road for artists to display

their work.”

The HBBA president said being that the area is close to the train station along Good Ground Road, and across from the community center, she saw it as an important corner that needed aesthetic improvement. She said the project fits the goals of the association, which spends time planting flowers, hanging plants, fixing town pergolas, cleaning medians, and enhancing signage.

“It improves the look of Main Street, improves quality of life,” von Freddi Gassman said. “People like and respect what we do. This will leave us with one of the prettiest post offices on Long Island.”

Another environmentally-friendly addition was purchased by the association this year. New pots for hanging plants along Good Ground Road contain reservoirs that act as a water-saving feature. In the hot summer months when there’s little rain, the town waters the plants, which cost the HBBA \$10,000 a year. The association hopes this project will alleviate the stress placed on town water trucks.

“I grew up in Hampton Bays, so for me it’s personal,” von Freddi Gassman said. “To me it’s important that the main streets look good. We just want to make Hampton Bays look beautiful.”

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## HOPING FOR A LITTLE RAIN

New garden  
 dots downtown

BY VALERIE GORDON

Downtown Hampton Bays is another step closer to transforming into a walkable neighborhood with the recent completion of a rain garden outside the Hampton Bays post office. Last week, Daren Poles of Coastal Landscapes and Designs completed the finishing touches on the 21-by-80 garden, which features a winding brown-and-white-speckled rock walkway and 5 different types of vegetation, including climbing hydrangeas, swamp milkweed, trumpetweed and other perennials. Additionally, a new mahogany walkway leading from the sidewalk along Good Ground Road



Patricia Francy, left, Susan von Freddi, Madeline OKeefe, and Daren Poles.

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