



The Bucket and Buoy

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JBLC Dennis M. Kane, Editor MARCH 30, 2010

"Save Our Parks"

The JBLC participated in the February 27th "Save Our Parks" rally held at Heckscher Park in East Islip. Sponsored by Suffolk Legislator Wayne Horsely, the rally was attended by numerous Long Island legislators and a wide variety of user groups. Newsday put the crowd size at over 700. Even with stormy weather, it was an impressive and passionate event.

Each legislator and group spokesperson vented their frustration with the Governor's proposed closing of 91 state parks and historic sites, with Heckscher as their primary focus. We learned that the money required to fund parks statewide was "2 tenths of one percent" of the total state budget. "Chump change" and "pocket change" were words used by two of the legislators. Several speakers cited the enormous amount of visitor money and jobs lost to local communities if the parks were closed. Records show that for every dollar spent by the State on parks five dollars are spent by park visitors in that area.

Emotions ran high as the logic of the proposal was assailed, and saltier words were used to denounce the Governor himself.

The rally at Heckscher was only one of many that occurred statewide, and both tone and content were the same from Niagara to Orient Point. The people spoke loud and clear: they want their parks!

Yesterday, the Senate made a major move towards restoring funding to all parks. Go to this links for more details.

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/Press/20100324/>

Proposed closings within the Long Island region were WBH Pool, the pool at Montauk Downs, Orient Point, and might have forced layoffs for the JBLC. While we don't have official confirmation, we believe the recent changes will restore staffing and facilities to 2009 levels.





Suffolk County Legislators Wayne Horsely and Ginnie Fields join Mike Fitzpatrick, JBLC President Tom Donovan and 700 other Long Island residents at the Save Our Parks rally held at Heckscher State Park on Sat., February 27th.





Leadership Meeting Schedule

Executive Board Meetings Usually the Wednesday prior to BRA meetings, at Tom Donovan's home. These are open **only** to Executive Board members or invited guests. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Reports from committees are presented at the EB meetings. The committee Chair is expected to present the report in person (or thru an alternate). Each committee has been assigned a month to make its report.

Executive Board Meeting Dates: April 7, May 5.

Beach Representative Assembly (BRA) Meetings Usually the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at NYSUT offices, 1000 Woodbury Rd., Suite 214, Woodbury. Winter meetings start at 7:00 PM ; 7:30 PM in the Summer (June through September).

BRA Meeting Dates: April 14, May 12.

Negotiations Update

The JBLC contract negotiations team will be meeting with GOER on April 12th in Albany. Public discussion of specifics is inappropriate, but recent developments have us feeling optimistic. This meeting will not deal with the proposed park closings and possible effect on our workforce.

Editor's Note: Over the winter, we have not publicly commented on some issues for two reasons. First, we hope to get the Beach Reps more involved in privately contacting their crews about issues discussed in the BRA meetings. Second, public disclosure could negatively impact the very delicate process of contract negotiations and other labor issues. As the season approaches, more information will be provided in a number of ways. But you should contact your Rep as a **first** effort.

Bryan Donovan goes bald in support of the 10th Annual Baldrick's fundraiser to conquer kids cancer.



The event was held March 13th, at Napper Tandy's Irish Pub in Northport.

