

JOHN VENDITTO
Town Supervisor



Town of Oyster Bay

54 AUDREY AVENUE
OYSTER BAY, NEW YORK 11771-1592

May 2005

Dear Resident,

As you may already be aware, the Town of Oyster Bay and the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have entered into an Order on Consent regarding Bethpage Community Park. This allows for the Town to develop and implement its own remediation plan, based on testing performed by its own experts, for the first phase of the cleanup and remediation, which is an approximately 6.6-acre area at the north end of the park.

The Town hired H2M Group, an environmental engineering firm, to develop a remediation plan, known as an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM). Once the Order on Consent was signed, the DEC approved the first step of the IRM, a site investigation, which follows a DEC-approved plan for further testing of soil and water. During the investigation, scheduled to take place during May and the early part of June, special drills will be used to extract the soil samples at depths up to 60 feet below ground. A groundwater sampling program will also be implemented to assess groundwater quality beneath the park. At present, there is one groundwater monitoring well within the park and three around the perimeter, which are part of Northrop Grumman's ongoing remediation program. Four additional wells will be established to target groundwater quality relative to the Town's remediation area. The soil and water samples will be analyzed, the new data, along with previously collected data, will be evaluated and an appropriate Remediation Action Plan will be prepared that addresses all health and environmental issues.

During the testing, the park will be closed to the public. The testing is expected to take four to six weeks, and the park will be open in time for the start of the pool season on Saturday, June 25. If you have questions concerning the upcoming work in the park, please contact Phyllis Barry in the Public Information Office at 624-6390.

PLEASE NOTE: Pool registration, which begins on Saturday, May 28, will be held at Haypath Road Community Park, Haypath Road and Fairway Drive, Old Bethpage. The dates and times for registration are: May 28 and June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18 and 23 - noon to 7:00 p.m.; May 29 and 30 and June 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19 and 24 - noon to 6:00 p.m. Questions concerning pool registration should be directed to the Parks Department at 797-4159.

The park will be remediated in two phases. The first phase is the portion covered under the Consent Order. Once that area has been remediated... actual remediation is slated to begin in the fall of 2005 after pool season has ended... the Town will proceed with plans to close the existing entrance to the park and construct a new entrance from the Cherry Avenue Extension. Upon completion of Phase I remediation and improvements, Phase II, which is in the area of the ballfield where the greatest amount of contamination has been found and will require more extensive remediation, will be addressed. There will be additional public outreach before any remediation begins.

Since the closing of the park following the discovery of PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) in the soil, the Town has been working closely with State officials to get the responsible parties to take legal and financial responsibility for the remediation of the park and to develop and implement a remediation plan in an expeditious manner. The Town took the unusual step of asking the DEC for a Consent Order for the Town to begin the cleanup of the park when it became apparent that the responsible parties would not have a remediation plan in place in the near future. I feel strongly the only way we can get the park fully back in operation and proceed with plans for park improvements is for the Town to take the lead. The Town has commenced legal action against Northrop Grumman and the United States Navy for financial reimbursement for any work performed by the Town in connection with the remediation of the park.

As always, if I can be of help to you on this or any other matter, please feel free to call my office at 624-6350.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Venditto', is written over a light-colored background.

JOHN VENDITTO
TOWN SUPERVISOR