

PRESIDENTS LETTER 2011 LINDEN SHORE DISTRICT

Hello all and thank you for taking the time to read my final letter as President of Linden Shore District. It has been my good fortune to serve the last three years in this capacity surrounded by a great group of people that comprise the current Board of Directors and slate of officers. It is with their diligent work and assistance that during my time as President a few very difficult and challenging items were accomplished, to the benefit of all of the residents of the district. First and foremost the work at Mefferts Pier has been completed. The pier, a LSD landmark and vital link in the erosion control of the sandy crescent shaped Montoweese Beach, was finished up over the early spring of 2011, and now boasts a sturdy base of custom quarried Stony Creek Granite and a smooth and accommodating concrete cap. Its striking presence as one drives along Linden Avenue and views the splendor of our shoreline cannot be missed. It is a far cry from the rubble strewn, eroded jetty that sat neglected for many years as the relentless tides, waves and wind took their toll. I advise anyone to stroll down to the end of the pier and take in the unique perspective that it provides; a panorama of everything that is special about The Linden Shore District. The lengthy permit process spearheaded by Jimmy Goggin and the arduous construction by Andy Daros seem well behind us now, and it is hoped that this pier provides the district with the protection and unique vantage point for many generations to come.

While on the subject of moving ahead, the new Linden Shore website [.lindenshoredistrict.com](http://lindenshoredistrict.com), has also received a makeover with the oversight and direction of Rick Zilinkas. The enhanced and user friendly site now contains a wealth of information, archives and history of the district, as well as interactive links to tide tables, marine forecasts and many other nautical sites. It provides residents of the district easy access to the LSD bylaws, the meeting minutes, financial status and several more useful menus to acquaint oneself with the inner workings of the district. It is hoped that the new website consolidates the sometimes lost, confusing or unclear information of Linden Shore District, while making it a fun and favorite place to 'surf' about things particular to our community. Looking for a deal on a used dingy, try the "Items For Sale" link, wondering if the water is just right for a swim, click on the "Water Temperature" link. Rick did a great job with the site creator Webbersaur.us, so give it a look, we hope you'll be 'hooked'.

When moving on, it is sometimes necessary to reflect on the past and be thankful for the people and things that got us where we are today. Regrettably Winifred Judge, the longtime serving special adviser on the districts landscaping maintenance and upkeep is stepping down from her position. Her wealth of knowledge and genuine concern about the flora and trees that make our shoreline so special will be sorely missed. Thank you, Winifred for your many years of service. I will extend my gratitude to George Gobin, the man I refer to as the 'keeper of the flag', whose vigilant eye and in depth knowledge of the lore of the area have also served the residents of the district in ways that perhaps no one else could. Linda Anderson continues to serve us well as the District Secretary, taking notes and assisting in the manner of scribe, secretary, postmaster and numerous other capacities. John, Vince, Louis, Ed all have helped my tenure in ways for which I must express my gratitude as I look back at what has been accomplished. And as usual there is no rest for the weary. As I pass the baton, more projects lurk on the horizon as the unforgiving forces of the oceanfront give us at once both the beauty and the 'beast' of Mother Nature. The rip-rap and sheet piling at Montoweese Beach is in dire need of repair in the near future. The lovely split rail fence that so gently frames our district roadway is getting old, as the wooden posts rot, and are in need of constant replacement. There was a recent repoint of The Wall at Pebbly Beach, but we need to keep an eye on some of the more wave prone sections. It is my hope that despite some unanticipated interference as I bow out, that the slick ramp at Flat Rock, which has suffered substantial damage, has been transformed into a new, functional and safe set of stairs with a larger landing and protective handrail. Much like the dichotomy of Mother Nature, I have at times been both burdened with the responsibilities of my term in office, yet undeniably rewarded when perseverance, hard work and coming together results in the preservation and enjoyment of the special things that The Linden Shore District has bestowed upon us, its lucky inhabitants.

Thank you, Tony Thompson President Linden Shore District