



The MPD Tide

January 2026



Mattituck Park District's Monthly Newsletter

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Commissioners' Corner

Throughout January, our staff remains fully engaged despite historic winter conditions, responding to 12 inches of snow across park properties. Our snow removal contractor focused on snow removal and access, ensuring lots, pathways, and critical facilities remained safe and functional. In addition to winter maintenance and protecting park infrastructure, staff alerted the US Coast Guard of a buoy that washed ashore on the Breakwater jetty (see picture above).

At the same time, the district continued behind-the-scenes preparation for the upcoming summer season. Staff advanced planning for seasonal operations, reviewed schedules, and began coordinating staffing and equipment needs for peak months. Permitting logistics, beach operations, and facility readiness are all addressed early to ensure a smooth transition from winter response to summer service delivery, positioning the parks for a safe, efficient, successful, and fun season ahead.

From the Clerk

February Venue Discount If you are a Mattituck or Laurel resident and wish to book and hold a February event at one of our venues, you will receive a 25% discount. The calendar is already filling up with events being booked through the end of the year at both Vets and the Bailie Beach Lodge. Please contact the office on 631-298-9103 to reserve your date soon!

2026 Beach Permits are Now Hangtags

Starting with the **2026 beach season**, the Mattituck Park District is introducing **hangtag beach permits** to make beach access quicker and easier for residents.

Hangtags should be hung from the **center rearview mirror** so beach attendants at all MPD beaches can easily see them when vehicles stop at the booth.

Each hangtag is **assigned to a specific vehicle**, and the **license plate printed on the hangtag must match the vehicle using it**.

What You Need to Know:

- Beach permits may be purchased **online or in person**
- A **license plate number is required** for each permit
- A maximum of **four (4) beach permits per household** is allowed
- Permit cost remain \$25 each
- Each permit is valid for **one vehicle**

Online purchases are the quickest option. Orders are reviewed for residency eligibility and mailed out. **Non-resident Permits (\$200)** are also sold online and are good for all 3 beaches. Please allow time for mailing before your first planned beach visit.

Daily Guest passes (\$35) are valid only at Vets and Peconic will be sold by credit card only at the Vets Beach booth.

In-Person Sales Information at the Veterans Office

- Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM and Saturdays from Memorial Day through mid-August
- **Accepted Payment:** Cash, check, or credit card

Residents are encouraged to purchase permits **early**, especially before May, which is typically the busiest time for beach permit sales.

For full details and a direct online purchasing link, please visit the **MPD website**. **Veterans, active-duty military, National Guard, and Reserve members** should have received an email with renewal instructions. If you did not, please apply through the MPD website



Program on Horseshoe Crabs, Coyotes and Eagles

On Monday 28 February at 6.30PM the Mattituck-Laurel Civic will host an informational lecture at Vets on horseshoe crabs, coyotes, and eagles which are parenthetical to wildlife at our parks. Both Bailie Beach and Breakwater are home to bald eagles and there have been reports of coyotes on the east side of the Mattituck Inlet. Horseshoe crabs are ubiquitous to our LI Sound and Peconic Bay beaches; they first appeared 250 million years ago and have changed little over time. Not crabs at all, they are living fossils related to arachnids such as spiders and scorpions.

Eagles:

- Update on North Fork bald eagle population
- Learn how to protect our local bald eagles
- Participate in community science/report sightings

Coyotes:

- Update on North Fork eastern coyote population
- How to coexist with coyotes
- Report sightings of coyotes

Horeshoe Crabs:

- Discuss challenges faced due to human interactions
- What makes them so well adapted to survive millions of years?
- Current conservation efforts and concerns

Summer Programs 2026

For decades, the Town of Southold has sponsored swimming lessons on Mattituck Park District beaches. Originally at Breakwater, the lessons are now held at Veterans. This year, they will be the weeks of the 6th and 13th of July. For more information, please contact Southold Recreation at 631-765-5182.

Turtleback Conservation offers Summer Programs at Bailie Beach and Veterans Park for children ages 5–12. A hands-on, nature-based experience is focused on wildlife conservation, environmental stewardship, and outdoor exploration. Camp runs Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM, and features live animal encounters, guided nature walks, creative projects, and engaging science activities. Rooted in conservation education and fun, it inspires curiosity about our parks and beaches and fosters lasting connection to the natural world.

MPD residents can use this promotional code for a discount when registering through May 1st: mattituck-laurel resident. Please visit their website for more information: turtlebackconservationcenter.com



Good to Know

The Commissioners hold a Work Session and a Meeting every month, and occasionally a Special Meeting. In February, the Work Session will be held off the usual schedule: Thursday February 12 at 6PM and the Meeting will be on 26 February at 6PM, when we will open up bids received for a water filtration RFP for Aldrich Ln. Agendas are posted on our website in advance. You are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings. (Note, normally our work session and meeting are on the first and third Thursday of the month.)

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Mark Your Calendar

February 23	MLCA Program on Horseshoe Crabs, Coyotes and Eagles
February 18	MHS Biography Lecture: Jefferson at Vets 6PM
March 18	MHS Biography Lecture: Madison at Vets 6PM
March 29	36 th Annual Easter Egg Hunt
April 4	Easter Egg Hunt Rain Date
May 9	NF Animal Shelter Adopt A Dog Event at the Aldrich Dog Park 11AM-2PM

2026

6th Annual MPD Concert Series

27 June

4 July (Special Semiquin-centennial Concert)

18 July

1 August

15 August

5 September

Save the Dates

HORSESHOE CRABS, COYOTES, AND EAGLES... OH MY!

Let's explore the North Fork Wildlife

Jennifer Murray, Executive Director Turtleback Conservation Center

Alexa Annunziata, Director of Outreach Peconic Baykeeper

Monday, February 23, 2026

6:30 - 8:00

Veterans Park - Mattituck