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This Week at Giants Neck Beach

October 7, 2024

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Public Hearing Regarding proposed zoning regulations, Saturday, October 26, 9 am at the Clubhouse.

Zoning Regulations Update At its October meeting, the BOG heard from Jim Ventres, Zoning Officer, concerning the proposed updates to the GNBA Zoning Regulations as of 9/26/2024. Click [here](#) for the updated document. Jim highlighted the significant parts of the proposed updates based on the work of the zoning commission and public input at the past two public hearing sessions. After reviewing the proposed document, the BOG unanimously (5-0) agreed to recommend the adoption of the revised regulations except for Section 8 concerning walls, which was rejected by a vote of 4-1.

Association members are encouraged to review the updated document ([click here](#)) and attend the ongoing public hearing to voice their opinions. The next session will be held on Saturday, October 26, at 9 a.m. at the Clubhouse.

It's October, which means Oktoberfest! Get out your lederhosen and beer steins and join us for this event! \$25 per person for beer, wine, and catering. [rsvp vjpiscatelli@gmail](mailto:rsvp.vjpiscatelli@gmail.com) asap

LET'S CELEBRATE!

OCTOBER FEST

GNBA & PWC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 19 2024 | 6 PM

★ BEER WINE FOOD & FUN ★

\$25 at the door but rsvp to
 vjpiscatelli@gmail.com by October 6th.
 This is an adult only event.

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News

Geese Management Data Collection

Geese Management Committee members are working on data collection to assess the location and timing of geese sightings. Please notify MJ Agostini of the location, time, and quantity of geese or other waterfowl observed to include in the data set. mj@mjagostini.com

Giants Neck Beach - A Natural Beauty!

The pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*, a beautiful fruit, is turning purple this week around our neighborhood. It grows from 4 to 10 feet tall up a purplish stem from a large white taproot. In the past, its berries were used to make ink, so another name is inkberry. This plant dies back to the ground every fall/winter. It comes from the Algonquian word "poker," meaning bloody! This native plant is generally poisonous to humans and pets. Still, in the spring, some people cook its shoots and leaves repeatedly (not the root) before it develops into a poisonous plant—not worth the risk! Elvis Presley sang the 1969 song "Poke Salad Annie," written by Tony Joe White, in which he sings, "And in the fields looks somethin' like a turnip green And everybody calls it Polk salad, polk salad." People should avoid the seeds, as even one can require hospitalization. Many people even develop a rash from touching the plant.

Birds, such as cardinals, thrashers, catbirds, cedar waxwings, and mockingbirds, are unaffected by the toxicity of the berries, so they eat them during the winter and spread the seeds from garden to garden. This plant is essential to migrating birds. Other animals that seem unaffected are the raccoon, opossum, fox, and mice. In other locations, bears also enjoy the berries. The Giant Leopard Moth uses the leaves as a food source. So, although it is a funny-looking plant and may not be very appealing to humans, it is essential to the wildlife we share our neighborhood with. Please get out and enjoy our beautiful natural Giants Neck Beach! And remember to be kind to nature and everyone you meet! We all play a part in making this world a better place!



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P.O. Box 226 Niantic, Connecticut 06357-0026

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