

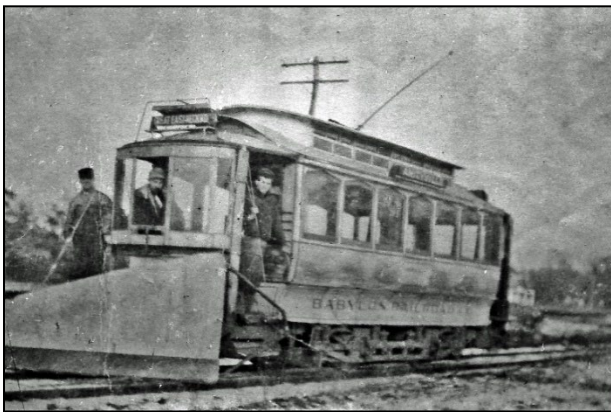
## HAMLET OF WEST BABYLON

### History Highlights

The first West Babylon school was erected in the early 1800s, on Montauk Highway near Great East Neck Road. Poet Walt Whitman taught at the local school during the winter of 1836, while his family lived on a nearby farm (the site of which is now the Great South Bay Shopping Center).<sup>1</sup>



*The Great South Bay Shopping Center debuted in 1956.<sup>2</sup> As pictured, stores included Abraham & Straus department store, Grand Union grocery store, and Pergament home store.*



#### **BELMONT JUNCTION.**

Thirty-six miles from Long Island City, Telegraph Office.  
Number of trains each way daily, 5.  
Single fare, \$1.00; Excursion, \$1.70.

At this point the Central Railroad, of Long Island, intersects and joins the Southern Railroad, of Long Island. Within two miles of the depot is Mr. Aug. Belmont's celebrated stud farm, "The Nursery." Here his beautiful thoroughbred horses are raised and trained for the race course; this is one of the most complete establishments of its kind in the country. Nobody should fail to visit it.

*A Babylon Railroad trolley car, circa 1915 (left). The trolley appears to have a snowplow fastened to the front. Above the front windows is a "Great East Neck Rd" sign and on the side is an "Amityville" sign, indicating that the trolley was headed west, toward Amityville. Image courtesy of the Lindenhurst Historical Society. At right, an advertisement for the Belmont Junction station, excerpted from Long Island And Where To Go, compiled by the LIRR, 1877.*

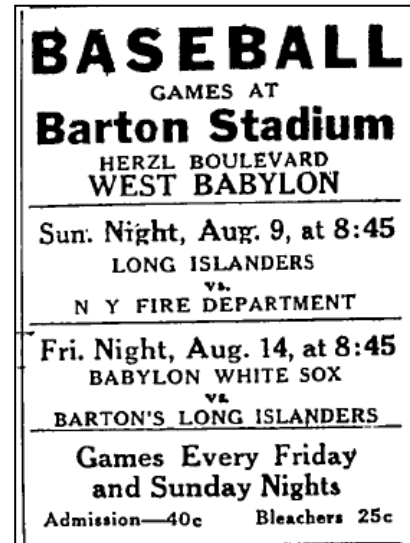
Starting around 1874, a branch of the Central Railroad of Long Island joined with the Long Island Rail Road near the intersection of Great East Neck Road and Railroad Avenue. Known as Belmont Junction, the railroad operated a freight depot and telegraph station until 1888.<sup>3</sup> Belmont Junction was also a trolley stop for the Babylon Railroad trolley line that extended between Amityville and Babylon, from 1910 to 1920.<sup>4</sup>

Many flower farms and nurseries flourished in the West Babylon area. In 1930, Bulk's Nursery constructed a windmill along Montauk Highway to mark the site of their garden center.<sup>5</sup> The slogan

for Bulk's Nursery was "Where the Windmill Is!" Although the windmill collapsed by the mid-1980s, the image of a windmill continues to be associated with West Babylon.



*Bulk's Nursery, at the southeast corner of Montauk Highway and Bergen Avenue, circa 1960.*



*Advertisement for Barton's Stadium, Lindenhurst Star, August 7, 1936.*

In 1936, actor James Barton opened the first lighted sports park in Suffolk County, which hosted baseball games and wrestling matches.<sup>6</sup> Barton's Stadium operated during the 1936 and 1937 seasons and is now the site of Santapogue Elementary School. (More information about Barton Stadium is available from the Town Historian's Office.)

Although it is now the most populous hamlet in the Town of Babylon, the population of West Babylon was relatively small until after World War II.

## **What is a Hamlet?**

A hamlet is a community. The Town of Babylon is comprised of ten hamlets and three incorporated villages. The hamlets are: Copiague • Deer Park • East Farmingdale • North Amityville • North Babylon • North Lindenhurst • West Babylon • Wheatley Heights • Wyandanch • And, the barrier beach communities of Captree Island, Gilgo Beach, Oak Beach, Oak Island and West Gilgo Beach.

Local governments in the state of New York include counties, cities, towns and villages. The communities within Town governments are known as "hamlets." The term "hamlet" does not have a legal definition under NYS law, but is used to identify communities within Towns (such as the Town of Babylon) that are not part of incorporated villages, sometimes referred to as "unincorporated communities."

A hamlet does not have its own government and is under the jurisdiction of its Town for municipal services (e.g. garbage pick-up, building codes). Causing great confusion ... hamlets have no official boundaries. (Outside of the state of New York, the term "hamlet" is rarely used.)

Generally, the hamlet of West Babylon is bounded on the west by the Village of Lindenhurst (Park Avenue on the north side of Montauk Highway and Neguntatogue Creek on the south side of Montauk

Highway). On the east, West Babylon is bounded by the Village of Babylon (Beechwood Drive on the south side of the railroad and Little East Neck Road on the north side of the railroad). North of Sunrise Highway, the boundary between West Babylon and North Babylon has historically been Little East Neck Road, and the boundary between West Babylon and North Lindenhurst has historically been Route 109.

Of course, on the south, West Babylon is bounded by the Great South Bay. Three necks make up the waterfront of West Babylon – Santapogue Neck,<sup>7</sup> Great East Neck, and part of Little East Neck – as described in the “Town of Babylon ‘Necks’” section. Reportedly, Santapogue means “a place of cool water” and Neguntatogue means “abandoned” or “forsaken land.”

### **A Brief Look at West Babylon Population**

When it separated from the Town of Huntington in 1872, the Town of Babylon had a population of about 3,000 people. The chart below illustrates the population growth of West Babylon and the Town of Babylon.

<b><u>Decade</u></b>	<b><u>West Babylon Population</u></b>	<b><u>Town of Babylon Population</u></b>
1940	n/a	24,297
1950	2,684 <sup>(8)</sup>	45,556
1960	8,051 <sup>(9)</sup>	142,309
1980	41,699	203,483
2000	43,452	211,703
2020	43,213	218,223

*Please note: While the boundaries of the Town of Babylon are clearly defined and have remained the same since 1872, the “boundaries” of the hamlets are not clearly defined. In the census, hamlets are referred to as Census Designated Places (CDP), the boundaries of which can change from decade to decade.*

The largest and fastest increase in population occurred after World War II, commonly referred to as the “Suburban Population Boom.” From 1940 to 1960, the population of the Town of Babylon increased by 485%. The rapid increase of residents brought an increased need for housing, schools, road improvements, stores and commercial developments, and employment. In those short decades, much of the Town of Babylon and its communities changed from rural countryside to suburban neighborhoods.

*On the following page –*

*The left side of this 1873 map – the “pink” area – depicts Town of Babylon School District No. 2, commonly referred to as West Babylon. The old “School No. 2” is labeled to the south side of Montauk Highway, just east of Great East Neck Road. (If you find the words “Little East Neck,” look just above the “L,” and you should see the school.) This map shows only a small part of the community now known as West Babylon. At the time of the map’s creation, the Village of Babylon had not yet incorporated; the different colors denote the school districts. Atlas of Long Island, NY published by Beers, Comstock & Cline, 1873.*





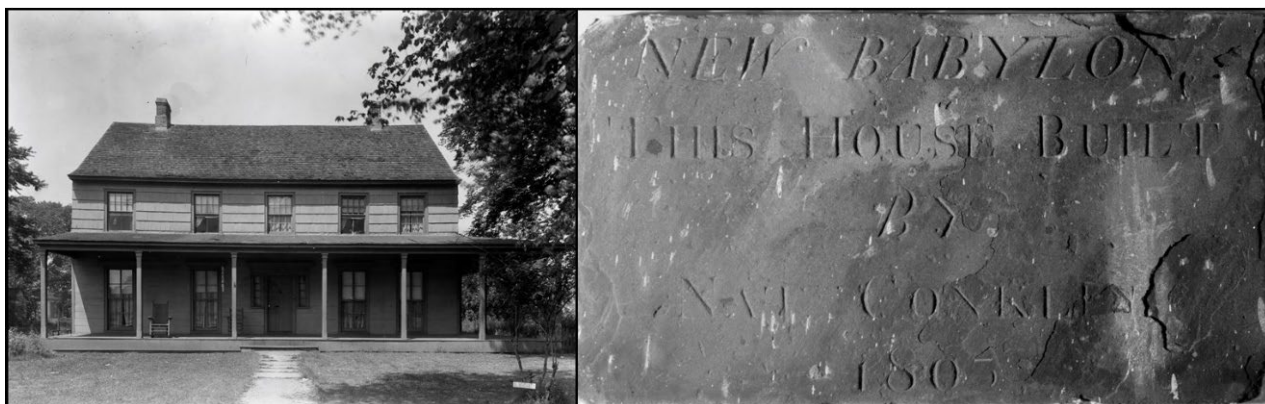


### **West Babylon – the Name, the Zip Code, Etc.**

The earliest written evidence of the name “Babylon” is found in the home of Nathaniel Conklin, built at the corner of Deer Park Avenue and East Main Street, in 1803. The name is commonly credited to Phebe Smith Conklin, Nathaniel’s mother, though two differing legends exist.

The first legend purports that she chose the name from the Bible Psalm “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down.” The Psalm describes the exile of the Jewish people from Jerusalem during the Babylonian captivity (perhaps Phebe Conklin felt exiled from her previous home). However, a more scandalous version suggests that Mrs. Conklin was displeased with the proximity of her son’s home to a raucous tavern at the American House. Referring to the alleged corruption and depravity of Ancient Babylon described in the Bible, she declared her new community as “another Babylon!” Nathaniel proclaimed the community a “*New Babylon*,” and engraved the name in his chimney stone. The stone is now exhibited at the Nathaniel Conklin House museum at 280 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon (the house was moved to that location in 1871).

Instead of “New Babylon,” the name Babylon was adopted. The post office name was changed from Huntington South to Babylon in 1830.



*The Nathaniel Conklin House and stone inscribed “New Babylon – This House Built by Nat Conklin 1803.” The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The Nathaniel Conklin House, 280 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon, is now a museum. Images from the Library of Congress, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936.*

The name “West Babylon” appears to have started as a general reference to being the western end of Babylon or an area west of Babylon. The broad area now known as West Babylon, North Babylon and the Village of Babylon was generally referred to as “Babylon” up through the late 1800s. The incorporation of the Village of Babylon in 1893 established a municipal boundary between the village and the hamlet of West Babylon, but much of the area west and north of the Village of Babylon continued to be referenced as “Babylon,” up until the mid-1900s.

In the decades after World War II, the rapid population increase and expansion of community facilities – schools, stores, and businesses – created the individual West Babylon community identity.

The Babylon Post Office was established on March 8, 1851, with Nathan E. Bassett as Postmaster,<sup>10</sup> and likely served the areas now known as West Babylon, North Babylon and the Village of Babylon. In the 1800s and early 1900s, post office operations were typically conducted from an existing store/office location, and the merchant/Postmaster received modest compensation for the job.

Up through the early 1900s, it was common for residents to retrieve their mail from the post office. For example, in 1905, a letter addressed to “Miss Mary Jackson, Babylon, New York” or “Babylon, Long Island,” was sufficient to have the letter delivered to the Babylon Post Office, where it would wait for Miss Jackson to pick it up. The Babylon Post Office started residential mail delivery in 1909.<sup>11</sup> As the West Babylon community grew, the delivery area was extended.<sup>12</sup> A substation of the Babylon Post Office, for West Babylon, was opened on Little East Neck Road, near Park Avenue, in January 1950.<sup>13</sup> However, it used the name Babylon, not West Babylon.

In 1951, the West Babylon Taxpayers Association started a campaign to establish a “West Babylon” mailing address. (Apparently, residents had been able to use “West Babylon” in the late 1930s, but the Babylon Postmaster had told West Babylon residents to use “Babylon,” by 1950-1951.) In writing to the Postmaster General, the WBTA President, Samuel N. Smith, cited that the West Babylon population was 2,684 people and “*We want our West Babylon addresses back.*”<sup>14</sup>

The West Babylon Post Office moved to the south side of Sunrise Highway, at Burnell Place, in October 1956. Under the direction of James Perretty, a 25-year postal employee, 16 letter carriers moved from the Babylon Post Office to West Babylon.<sup>15</sup>

Not just in the Town of Babylon, but across Long Island, the assignment of zip codes can cause confusion about “where” things are located. In 1963, the U.S. Postal Service introduced the basic 5-digit zip code, across the country. The West Babylon Post Office was assigned 11704. The zip code assigned to addresses is based on the post office assigned to deliver the mail, but can be confused with all of the other facilities associated with an address. Here are examples of addresses within the West Babylon zip-code and school district.

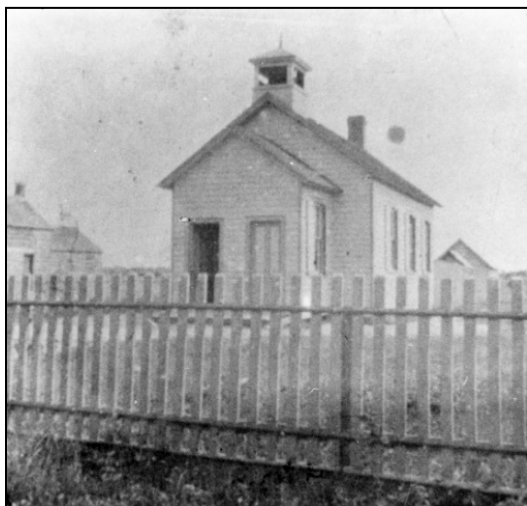
<b><u>Address</u></b>	<b><u>Post Office</u></b>	<b><u>School/Library</u></b>	<b><u>Fire Dept.</u></b>	<b><u>Village or Town</u></b>
24 Marilyn Court	West Babylon	West Babylon	West Babylon	Hamlet of West Babylon, Town of Babylon
820 Herzel Boulevard	West Babylon	West Babylon	West Babylon	Hamlet of West Babylon, Town of Babylon
407 Litchfield Avenue	Babylon	Babylon	West Babylon	Hamlet of West Babylon, Town of Babylon
19 Cambridge Drive	Babylon	West Babylon	Babylon	Village of Babylon
180 Marcy Street	West Babylon	North Babylon	North Babylon	Hamlet of North Babylon, Town of Babylon
312 Granada Parkway	Lindenhurst	Lindenhurst	Lindenhurst	Hamlet of West Babylon, Town of Babylon

Including the community of Venetian Shores in the hamlet of West Babylon is confusing to many people. As noted above, the neighborhood is under the jurisdiction of Lindenhurst post office, school/library district and fire department, but the area is not within the Village of Lindenhurst. Therefore, the community is part of the hamlet of West Babylon. For census purposes, the Venetian Shores area is part of the West Babylon Census Designated Place (CDP). Also, a street repair on Granada Parkway, for instance, is not handled by the Village of Lindenhurst but, rather, the Town of Babylon.

## **West Babylon School District**

Most of our school district boundaries were established in the mid-1800s. The landscape of our communities changed – from farms and fields to streets and homes – but school district boundaries largely stayed the same, with a few exceptions.

Prior to 1872, the school district was known as Town of Huntington School District No. 20, after the Town of Babylon separated from Huntington in 1872, it became known as Town of Babylon School District No. 2,<sup>16</sup> before the name West Babylon Union Free School District was adopted in the early 1900s.



*(left) West Babylon's second schoolhouse, in its third location, at Elmwood Road and Route 109, pictured circa 1890. At right, West Babylon students, and their lone teacher, at the one-room schoolhouse at Elmwood Road and Route 109, in 1898.*

In the article “West Babylon’s First Schools,”<sup>17</sup> Eileen Smith outlined the history of West Babylon’s early schoolhouses and locations. The first known school was reportedly built on the north side of Montauk Highway, about 500 feet east of Great East Neck Road (not far from the Montauk Highway entrance to Stop & Shop); which Ms. Smith found on the 1835 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Map.

This first school is the one at which Walt Whitman was a teacher, 1836-1837. Whitman lived with his parents who lived and worked on a farm that is now part of the Great South Bay Shopping Center, so he did not live too far away from the school.<sup>18</sup>

In 1871, the second West Babylon school was approved and built on the south side of Montauk Highway.<sup>19</sup> The one-room schoolhouse had seats for 30 students. Reportedly, this schoolhouse was later moved to Muncy Road (south side of Montauk Highway, about a block west) and, moved again, to Elmwood Road and Route 109 (Farmingdale Road).

By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the one-room schoolhouse was inadequate for the community’s educational needs. In 1906, a one-story concrete-block school was built just south of the present West Babylon High School, on Great East Neck Road near Arnold Avenue.<sup>20</sup> In 1911, the roof was raised and a second story added, and in 1920 the school was expanded with a rear addition.<sup>21</sup> When the Main School was built, the old school was sold.





*Progression of the West Babylon School, 1906-1920s. The roof of the one-story building was listed and a second-floor was added. Later, an addition was built on the back the school.*

To accommodate the growing school population, in 1930, a new brick school, the West Babylon Main School, was opened on the west side of Great East Neck Road and south of Muncy Avenue.<sup>22</sup> The two-story school had a Neo-Classical design with tall columns supporting the front portico. The school educated students up through the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade (at some point the school went up through the 10<sup>th</sup>-grade). By the 1950s, the school was known as the West Babylon Junior High, before the Old Farmingdale Road school was built. Deemed an “outdated” building by the early 1980s, the school property was sold and the building demolished. The old Main School site became the Holiday Square apartment complex.



*The 1939 West Babylon School Band posed on the front steps of the Main School. Engraved above the front door were the words “Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve.” Those words are displayed in the District’s Administration Building, where the Board of Education meets.*



*The West Babylon Main School, c. 1950 (left) and during its demolition in July 1982 (right).*



The 1950s population boom brought many changes to West Babylon, particularly the need for more school facilities. Prior to the establishment of a dedicated high school for the West Babylon School District, students typically attended Babylon High School. The present West Babylon High School occupies the old Haab family farm, on the west side of Great East Neck Road and Route 109.

School District Mascot – Eagles

School District Colors – Navy Blue and Gold

- Main School – opened 1930, closed 1977 (demolished 1982)
- Santapogue Elementary School – opened 1952 <sup>23</sup>
- South Bay Elementary School – opened 1953 <sup>24</sup>
  - During planning and construction, the school was referred to as the Great East Neck Road School. The school district held a naming contest for the new school. The winning name – South Bay School – was submitted by 11-year-old Alice Boyn; she also received a \$25 war bond.<sup>25</sup>
- Forest Avenue Elementary School – opened 1956 <sup>26</sup>, closed 2025 <sup>27</sup>
- Tooker Avenue Elementary School – opened 1962 <sup>28</sup>
- John F. Kennedy Elementary School – opened 1964 <sup>29</sup>
  - In December 1963, while the school was under construction, and just a couple weeks after President Kennedy was assassinated, the Board of Education passed a resolution to name the new school in honor of the late President.<sup>30</sup>
- West Babylon Junior High School – opened 1957 <sup>31</sup>
- West Babylon Senior High School – opened 1960 <sup>32</sup>

**West Babylon Union Free School District**, 10 Farmingdale Road, West Babylon, NY 11704 • (631) 376-7000 • [www.wbschools.org](http://www.wbschools.org)

### Historical Markers within the Hamlet of West Babylon

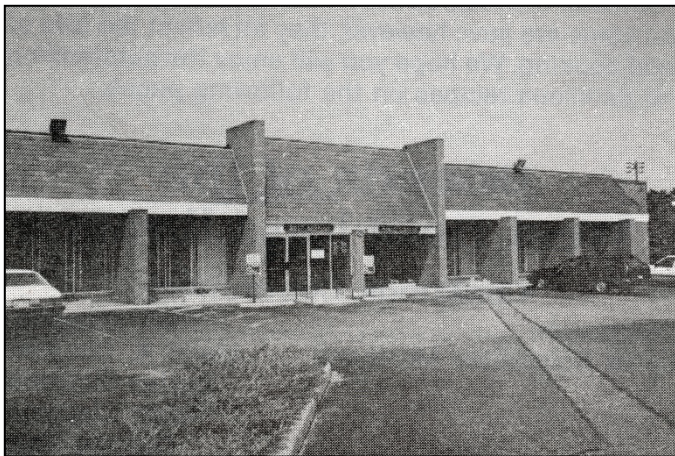
<u>Marker Name &amp; Location</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<b>Babylon Railroad Co. - Trolley Route --</b> Commemorates the electric trolley route between Amityville and Babylon; south side of Railroad Avenue, west of Woodbine Avenue. <sup>33</sup>	In 1909, the South Shore Traction Co. established an electrified trolley line, extending over six miles from the railroad station in Amityville, through Copiague, Lindenhurst, West Babylon, and the Babylon railroad station, to the ferry docks in Babylon Village.	Dedicated by the Town of Babylon on June 11, 2010, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the trolley route.
<b>Belmont Junction --</b> Commemorates a former railroad station and trolley stop; southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and Great East Neck Road. <sup>34</sup>	Belmont Junction -- Connected Central Railroad with LIRR Ca. 1874. Freight & Telegraph Site Until 1888. Located Near Belmont Stud Farm. Trolley Stop 1910-20.	Funded by a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

## **West Babylon Public Library**

Founded in 1981, the West Babylon “Friends of the Library” group was the catalyst that brought forth the West Babylon Public Library. Through fundraising and public awareness campaigns by the Friends of the Library, residents voted to create a local library. The West Babylon Public Library opened its doors in September 1983.



*Founding members of the Friends of the West Babylon Public Library; (l-r) bottom row: Ines Verderosa, Joan Haugen, Fran Porro, Ruth Ruymen, Louise Bruno; top row: Kathey Geiger, Barbara Lutz, Joan Bruno, Mary Ann Spinella, Mike Rizzo, Mary DeSimone, Bill Rowe, Carey Realbuto.*



*The West Babylon Public Library, c. 1983. When the library first opened, the other half of the building was a snack food distribution center. So, if you ever attend a library event and there are Lay's potato chip bags on a snack table, it is a nod to the library's early neighbor.*

In 2003, the library building was expanded, and opened in time to celebrate the library's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which included the unveiling of an original sculpture by Laurie O'Gara Hassels. Before there was a West Babylon Public Library, Ms. Hassels' mother, Florence O'Gara, had helped to raise awareness for a library with a bumper sticker that stated “Don't follow me, I'm looking for the West Babylon Library!” <sup>35</sup>

**West Babylon Public Library**, 211 Route 109, West Babylon, NY 11704 • (631) 669-5445 • [www.wbab.suffolk.lib.ny.us](http://www.wbab.suffolk.lib.ny.us)



## **West Babylon Volunteer Fire Department**

The West Babylon Volunteer Fire Company organized in 1945. The town of Babylon approved the fire company on September 18, 1945 and the first official meeting was held on November 8, 1945.<sup>36</sup> At that first meeting, the volunteers approved the proposed by-laws and elected officers: President Ellison C. Driscoll, Vice-President Albert E. Kendall, Secretary Townsend E. Driscoll, Treasurer Hugo Avolin, and Trustees Stephen Smith, Max Ottens and James O'Brien. The new company purchased a 6-cylinder, 1944 Chevrolet truck from the War Assets Corporation and a company banner, but it did not yet provide fire protection.

In 1947, the company moved towards creating a fire department, separate from the Babylon Fire Department, and the West Babylon Fire District was approved in 1948.



*(left) The fleet of Station No. 1 in 1954 -- (l-r) 1951 Mack 505, 1944 Army truck, 1951 Mack, 1948 Ford LaFrance, 1952 Cadillac Ambulance, 1948 Maxim Hook and Ladder truck. (right) West Babylon's Station No. 2 on Herzel Boulevard, which was established in 1949. Photos courtesy of the West Babylon Volunteer Fire Department.*



*First Chief's automobile (Chief Joseph Kramarcik), 1956 Buick Special, purchased for \$2800.*



*West Babylon Fire Department, 1958 American La France (called "Betsy"). The new truck was christened by Dorothy Reuss (Mrs. Julius Reuss).*

**West Babylon Volunteer Fire Department**, 126 Arnold Avenue, West Babylon, NY 11704 • (631) 669-7165 (non-emergency) • [www.westbabylonfd.org](http://www.westbabylonfd.org)

## **Monuments and Memorials**



*Several memorials, plaques, and a cannon are located at the jointly occupied American Legion Sergeant John Sardiello Post #1634 and VFW Babylon Memorial Post #2192, at 10 Bruce Street. Established in 1946, the American Legion post was named for Giovanni “John” Sardiello (1918-1944), who was killed in action in France, during World War II.*

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*In Commemoration of Our Heroes Who Have Made the Supreme Sacrifice*

*This Plaque Donated by West Babylon Lions*

*Monument Erected by Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 American Legion – Babylon  
Memorial Post 2192 Veterans of Foreign Wars – May 6, 1962*

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*In Commemoration of Our Heroes Who Have Made the Supreme Sacrifice*

*Donated by Joseph Mastro – Owen H. Johnson – West Babylon Civic Association – South  
Shore Detachment – Marine Corps League – Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634*

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*Dedicated November 8, 1991, In Memory of Joseph M. Abbondondelo, Sr., W.W. II  
Veteran from Wife: Muriel, Sons: Joseph, Jr. and Howard (flag pole)*

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*In Memory of Our Deceased Veterans of All Wars*

*Donated by Cadman H. Frederick*

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*Historic Cannon Memorial – In Grateful Appreciation*

*We Honor Those Who have Contributed Towards This Cannon and Memorial Site*

*Dedicated November 11, 2004*



## **Town of Babylon Parks and Recreational Facilities:**



*Capt. John C. Pape (left). At right, the re-dedication of Capt. John C. Pape Memorial Park, October 28, 2017.*

### **Capt. John C. Pape Memorial Park, Old Farmingdale Road**

Formerly known as the North Street Ballfield, the 12-acre park was renamed in 1970, by the Babylon Town Board.<sup>37</sup> The park honors Capt. John C. Pape, who was a graduate of West Babylon High School, Class of 1961, and served 6 years in the U.S. Army, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, before he was killed in action in Vietnam, May 18, 1969.

Park facilities include football and junior baseball fields, a playground, restrooms and free Wi-Fi access.

### **Van Bourgondien Park, Albin Avenue**

The 19-acre park is named for the family who previously owned the parkland and operated a well-known flower growing business – Cornelius and Clara Van Bourgondien. Suffolk County purchased the property in the 1970s and the Town of Babylon contracted to manage the public park in the 1980s.<sup>38</sup>

In 2019, the renewed playground at Van Bourgondien Park was named for Det. Peter Figoski, an NYPD officer who was killed in the line of duty, in 2011.<sup>39</sup>

Park facilities include soccer fields, tennis courts, a playground, restrooms and free Wi-Fi access.

### **Scott Park, Junction Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**

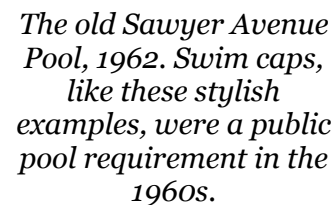
Park facility with basketball courts and playground.

This 12-acre park opened in 1962.<sup>40</sup> Originally known as Sawyer Avenue Pool, the park was renamed on June 24, 1997 in honor of New York City Police Officer Anthony Sanchez who was killed in the line of duty on May 19, 1997. Sanchez was a West Babylon resident and a 10-year veteran of the Police Department.<sup>41</sup>

The pool facility has handicap accessible ramp, children's pool, restrooms, changing area, showers, shade arbor, lounge chairs, tables with umbrellas, and Wi-Fi access.



*Sawyer Avenue Pool sign, c. 1976.*





**Venetian Shores Beach and Spray Park**, Granada Parkway, Lindenhurst

The 26-acre bay-front park takes its name from the residential home development named Venetian Shores, which started in 1926.<sup>42</sup>

Park facilities include softball fields, turf fields for football/soccer, basketball and tennis courts and a roller hockey rink. This facility also includes a boat launching ramp, picnic area, playground, restrooms, beach swimming, Spray Park, fishing, food services and free Wi-Fi access.

The spray park is a Resident Only bay beach facility with interactive spray park, restrooms, playground, concession, picnic area with grills, and Wi-Fi access.



*Venetian Shores Beach Pavilion, 1958.*



*Venetian Shores Beach Pavilion, circa 2005.*

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**Hamlet of West Babylon**

- <sup>1</sup> *Walt Whitman's America: a cultural biography*, by David S. Reynolds, Alfred Knopf: New York, 1995, p. 56-57.
- <sup>2</sup> "\$2 Million Martin's Store 1<sup>st</sup> to Open in Huge Project," *Newsday*, August 11, 1956, p. 15; Advertisement, "Opening Celebration Days of the Great South Bay Center," *Newsday*, September 21, 1956, p. 82; "A&S to Open Huge Babylon Store Tomorrow," *Newsday*, October 8, 1957, p. 7c.
- <sup>3</sup> "Railroad Echoes," *Suffolk County News*, September 29, 1888, p. 2.
- <sup>4</sup> "Town Topics," *South Side Signal*, July 10, 1914, p. 5; "Trolley Franchise Hearing is Held," *South Side Signal*, June 25, 1920, p. 1
- <sup>5</sup> "Jac Bulk Is Having A New Dutch Windmill Constructed," *Lindenhurst Star*, November 9, 1929, p. 8; "West Babylon News of Interest," *Lindenhurst Star*, February 28, 1930, p. 2; "Bulk's Windmill Office A Real Land Mark," *Lindenhurst Star*, March 14, 1930, p. 4.
- <sup>6</sup> "Night Games at Barton Stadium," *Lindenhurst Star*, May 29, 1936, p. 12; "Barton Stadium Is Officially Opened," *Lindenhurst Star*, June 12, 1936, p. 11.
- <sup>7</sup> *The Indian Place-Names On Long Island and Islands Adjacent, with Their Probable Significations*, by William Wallace Tooker, G.P. Putnam's Sons: New York, 1911. Please note: Spellings and pronunciations of Long Island Native American words and names are subjective and typically determined by community residents. The Native Americans of Long Island had a spoken language, and records kept by Colonists, starting in the 1600s, contained interpretations of the Native American language. The European settlers typically used phonetic spellings, which often differed among documents and writers. The meanings of Native American words can also differ among historians and researchers.
- <sup>8</sup> The estimated 1950 population figure was derived from a 1951 newspaper article; "W. Babylon Civics Want Right Address," *Newsday*, June 18, 1951, p. 18.
- <sup>9</sup> Population from "Historical Population of Long Island Communities, 1790-1980: Decennial Census Data," compiled and edited by State University of New York at Stony Brook Library and Long Island Regional Planning Board, August 1982.
- <sup>10</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S., Appointments of U. S. Postmasters, 1832-1971*. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.
- <sup>11</sup> "R.F.D. Appointment. William S. Johnson, Jr., Has Been Appointed on Babylon Route No. 1," *Brooklyn Times Union*, May 1, 1909, p. 10.
- <sup>12</sup> "Man Shortage Hits Mails," *Newsday*, July 6, 1945, p. 10; "Babylon P.O. Extends Mail Delivery," *Newsday*, September 3, 1948, p. 7.
- <sup>13</sup> "Post Office Business," *Newsday*, January 18, 1950, p. 70.
- <sup>14</sup> "W. Babylon Civics Want Right Address," *Newsday*, June 18, 1951, p. 18.
- <sup>15</sup> "Post Office Rites Set at W. Babylon," *Newsday*, September 28, 1956, p. 29.
- <sup>16</sup> "Renumbering the School Districts of Babylon," *South Side Signal*, March 30, 1872, p. 2.
- <sup>17</sup> "West Babylon's First Schools" by Eileen Smith, *Long Island Forum*, September 1980, p. 192-193.
- <sup>18</sup> *Walt Whitman's America: a cultural biography*, by David S. Reynolds, Alfred Knopf: New York, 1995, p. 56-57.
- <sup>19</sup> "The people of school district No. 20 ...," *South Side Signal*, October 28, 1871, p. 2.



- <sup>20</sup> “West Babylon School,” *Brooklyn Times Union*, May 30, 1906, p. 7; “Babylon Local Record,” *South Side Signal*, September 8, 1906, p. 3.
- <sup>21</sup> “Will Raise School Building,” *South Side Signal*, June 23, 1911, p. 1; “West Babylon,” *South Side Signal*, April 2, 1920, p.1.
- <sup>22</sup> “School Proposed At West Babylon,” *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, March 19, 1929, p.3; “West Babylon Votes \$250,000 Schoolhouse,” *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, June 30, 1929, p. 18.
- <sup>23</sup> “Commissioner Commits,” *Newsday*, December 26, 1951, p. 15S (cornerstone); “Santapogue School Opens Doors to West Babylon Pupils On September 10,” *Lindenhurst Star*, September 5, 1952, p. 5; “Formal Dedication Ceremonies of the Santapogue School Set for Tuesday,” *Lindenhurst Star*, June 4, 1953, Sec 2, p. 5.
- <sup>24</sup> “South Bay School To Be Ready For New Students Upon School Opening, Sept. 9,” *Lindenhurst Star*, August 13, 1953, Sec. 2, p. 2.
- <sup>25</sup> “South Bay School,” *Newsday*, January 29, 1953, p. 23.
- <sup>26</sup> “Start School in W. Babylon,” *Newsday*, May 20, 1955, p. 24; “Cornerstone Rites,” *Lindenhurst Star*, September 16, 1955, p. 5.
- <sup>27</sup> “West Babylon board of education votes to close Forest Avenue Elementary School,” by Darwin Yanes, *Newsday*, February 12, 2025, newsday.com.
- <sup>28</sup> “W. Babylon Voters OK New School,” *Newsday*, December 1, 1960, p. 41; “W. Babylon Maps New School Plan,” *Newsday*, December 13, 1961, p. 28 (under construction).
- <sup>29</sup> “News Briefs – West Babylon,” *Newsday*, August 26, 1964, p. 13C.
- <sup>30</sup> “News Briefs – West Babylon,” *Newsday*, December 13, 1963, p. 19C.
- <sup>31</sup> “W. Babylon Meets ON 3 Million School Plan,” *Newsday*, October 11, 1954, p. 22; “Junior High Cornerstone Put in Place,” *Babylon Leader*, August 22, 1957, Sec.2, p. 4; “\$2 Million Sr. High Asked in W. Babylon,” *Newsday*, August 27, 1957, p. 13; “W. Babylon Opening Junior High,” by Thomas Collins, *Babylon Leader*, August 29, 1957, p. 1, 8.
- <sup>32</sup> “District Oks West Babylon High School,” *Newsday*, November 20, 1957, p. 14; “Suffolk News Calendar – West Babylon,” *Newsday*, December 11, 1959, p. 9C (cornerstone).
- <sup>33</sup> “A trip to Babylon’s past,” by Denise M. Bonilla, *Newsday*, June 12, 2010, p. A10.
- <sup>34</sup> “Leaving their Markers,” by Denise M. Bonilla, *Newsday*, May 8, 2018, p. A25.
- <sup>35</sup> “West Babylon – Library Celebration,” *Newsday*, August 31, 2003, p. G37; “Loyalty, by the Book,” *Newsday*, September 21, 2003, p. G2; “A renovated bookworm haven,” by Jennifer Smith, *Newsday*, March 28, 2004, p. G34.
- <sup>36</sup> “Fire Department Is Formed at West Babylon,” *Suffolk County News*, October 5, 1945, p. 9; “Certificates of Incorporation,” *County Review*, October 18, 1945, p. 10; “County Board Takes Up Many Matters,” *Long Islander*, January 17, 1946, p. 11.
- <sup>37</sup> John Charles Pape was raised in West Babylon and graduated West Babylon High School in 1961. In the 1961 West Babylon High School yearbook Pape appeared on several pages – as a noted art student, for participation in stage crew, and as a baseball player. After graduation, following the example of his father Charles who had served during World War II, he joined the Army. His younger brother Donald later answered the call to service, joining the Navy.

After serving one tour in Vietnam, John Pape returned home for leave in 1967. The local news touted the achievements of then Lieutenant Pape noting that “he served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division as a Rifle Company Commander ... received the Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Award of

Bronze Star for Valor ... the Purple Heart [and would] be receiving the Silver Star” when he reported to Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, after his leave. They also reported that he intended to make the Army his career.

John Pape returned to Vietnam where he was promoted to Captain and by all accounts served with honor and distinction. Writing in 2006, William Hawkinberry posted a tribute to his friend with whom he had graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1965: “John was a hard-driving Platoon Leader, but never asked his men to do something that he would not do.” While serving in the Quang Tin Province of Vietnam, Captain John C. Pape was killed in action. He left behind not only his parents, two brothers and a sister, but a wife and two young children.

In May 1970, Town of Babylon Councilmen Rowland Scott and Patrick Waters offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the late CAPTAIN JOHN C. PAPE, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Pape of West Babylon, died in the service of his country May 18, 1969 on a second voluntary tour of duty in Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, CAPTAIN PAPE, holder of The Silver Star, The Bronze Star and numerous other decorations, distinguished himself by his gallantry and valor,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that after consultation with the Sgt. John Sardiello Post, American Legion, the Town Board does hereby authorize the field known only as “North Field” at North Street in West Babylon, be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1970, as “THE CAPTAIN JOHN C. PAPE MEMORIAL FIELD” in memory of Captain Pape, and in recognition of the sacrifices made by all the brave men from the Town of Babylon who have given their lives in the service of their country. Unanimously adopted.

His name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in Washington, DC, on Panel 24W, Line 49.

<sup>38</sup> “Van Bourgondien Property To Become A County Park,” *Babylon Beacon*, July 3, 1980, p. 1; “After Five Years, Park Plan is Okd,” by Kristen Kelch,” *Newsday*, March 3, 1984, p. 11; “Property Redemption Bill Approved,” by Rick Brand,” *Newsday*, September 24, 1986, p. 21.

<sup>39</sup> “Gunned Down: Wanted man kills NYPD cop in Brooklyn,” by Emily Ngo and Chau Lam, *Newsday*, December 13, 2011, p. A3-4; “LI neighbors in harm’s way,” by John Valenti and Olivia Winslow, *Newsday*, December 13, 2011, p. A4; Playground dedicated to fallen NYPD Det. Peter Figoski,” by Craig Schneider, *Newsday*, July 27, 2019, [www.newsday.com](http://www.newsday.com).

<sup>40</sup> “Warm Spring Brings Early Swim Season,” *Newsday*, May 25, 1962, p. 32; “News Briefs – Babylon,” *Newsday*, July 3, 1962, p. 17C.

<sup>41</sup> “Murder of a Cop – City officer from LI shot dead in battle with robber,” by Michele Salcedo, *Newsday*, May 20, 1997, p. A3, A50; “‘Excellent Family Man’,” by Olivia Winslow, *Newsday*, May 20, 1997, p. A3; “Park Renamed to Honor Slain City Cop,” *Newsday*, Niraj Warikoo, *Newsday*, June 26, 1997, p. A29.

<sup>42</sup> “Venetian Shores Is A Beautiful Development,” *The Chat*, May 22, 1926, p. 58; Advertisement, “Make Your Reservation Now! Venetian Shores,” *The Brooklyn Standard Union*, June 3, 1926, p. 2.