



St. Luke's East Hampton Reflections from Fr. Ben

Help Coast Guard Members During the Shutdown

At 0700 every morning in Montauk Harbor, a team fires up the engines of two 47 foot motor lifeboats, making sure everything is prepped and ready to go. A "47" is rated for heavy weather, able to go out all conditions, and can roll completely over, right itself and keep on going. The similar checking of the boats happens at stations up and down the coast of Long Island, with crews trained and ready to respond to emergencies at sea, such as that of the Fishing Vessel Lilly Jean that was lost off of Cape Ann just a few weeks ago. Many people are unaware that the Coast Guard is funded through the Department of Homeland Security, rather than the Department of Defense. This means that during a government shutdown, members of the Coast Guard do not get paid, even though they keep working and continue to stand watch. Many - especially the newer and younger Coasties - live paycheck to paycheck and can really struggle when shutdowns occur. A small denomination gift card or other token makes a huge difference. I will be visiting Coast Guard Stations in Montauk and Shinnecock over the next couple of weeks. If you drop gift cards at my office, I will make sure they get to the Officers in Charge who will distribute them to those who need them the most. Thank you.

OLA Rapid Response

How can I help local Immigrants? One of the best ways is to work with our partners at OLA. Become part of a Rapid Response Network, bring groceries to someone in their homes, advocate and volunteer in different ways. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Whistles are Available in the Fireplace Room

In 2026, immigrant advocates and neighbors are using whistles as a tool of nonviolent resistance to alert communities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity.

- Three short whistles: Indicates that ICE agents are present in the vicinity.
- One long, sustained whistle: Signals that an individual is currently being detained or that an arrest is imminent.

Purpose and Impact

- Early Warning: The sound alerts neighbors to hide or move away from the area before an arrest can be made.
- Community Mobilization: Whistles act as a call for community members to converge on the scene to form a crowd, which can slow down operations and provide witnesses.
- Documentation: The noise encourages bystanders to use their phones to record agents, ensuring there is a public record of the encounter.

