

# The Southampton Press

EASTERN EDITION

JANUARY 22, 2026 | THE SOUTHAMPTON PRESS

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### New Hands and Hearts

Long before the North Sea Community Schoolhouse Association existed, the region that would become North Sea had already begun writing its own rich story.

English settlers first landed at Conscience Point in 1640, an event memorialized as the birthplace of Southampton's colonial history. As the settlement grew, education followed closely behind.

By the early 20th century, the area was dotted with small, one-room schoolhouses. In 1908, land was sold by James E. and Sarah C. Jennings to "School District Number 15 of the Town of Southampton" to build a new schoolhouse on Noyac Road.

Builder James M. Jagger constructed the cedar-shingled structure, complete with a pedimented entry porch, square bell tower and elegant architectural details that exceeded its humble function. For decades it served the children of North Sea and neighboring districts.

With the consolidation of school districts in 1934, the North Sea schoolhouse became an obsolete educational institution, but instead of being demolished, something remarkable happened. Local residents rallied to save the building, and in that same year it was purchased by the newly formed North Sea Community Schoolhouse Association.

In 2016, this historic building was formally designated a Town of Southampton landmark, acknowledging its architectural and cultural significance.

And, yet, the real history of this place isn't written in plaques or proclamations. It's written in memories. It's written in children lining up with baskets for the Easter Egg Hunt, in parents and grandparents watching from the edges of the lawn. It's written in the glow of the Christmas Tree Lighting, in the moment when Santa arrives and the room fills with excitement. It's written in the rumble of engines at "Wheels on Wednesday," in neighbors talking long after they planned to leave. It's written in quiet conversations at the Art Show Benefit, and in friendships that began because someone decided to show up.

These are not just events. They are the rituals that turn a place into a community. But traditions only survive if someone carries them forward.

This year, our longtime volunteer who has lovingly run the Easter Egg Hunt is retiring after years of service. So will this tradition continue? Its future depends on whether new members step in to create the memories your children will cherish.

Please help save the Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Party! You don't need special skills. You just need to care.

Nearly a century ago, your neighbors stepped in and saved this building so it could continue serving the community. Today, the building is still here, but the traditions inside it need new hands and new hearts.

Come join us. We meet on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

**Luisa Esposito**  
North Sea Community  
Schoolhouse Association