



NEXTSTOP

magazine

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NextStop Goes
On Location in
East Hampton

**September's
Can't Miss
Events!**

Hampton Classic
Shinnecock Powwow

HarborFest

HARVEST: Wine Auction
& Celebration

East Hampton: East End Cool

By Diane Roncone

East Hampton is a top contender in the global real estate market for several reasons, one being its close proximity to New York City and the ease of getting back and forth by **Hampton Jitney**, limousine, or helicopter. There is even the option of taking an amphibious seaplane, via **Aquatica Aviation**, directly from East Hampton to the East River in only 45 minutes! Another reason is the sheer beauty of East Hampton's landscape, with its nearby ocean beaches and surrounding farmlands, where visitors are reminded that there really is a kinder, gentler life. *National Geographic* named East Hampton "America's Most Beautiful Village," in part because of its charming Norman Rockwell-like backdrop: centuries-old buildings line the streets, one after the other, and the beautiful town pond has the ever-present swans during the warm days while winter evenings there provide a romantic setting as ice skaters gracefully spin and twirl under the soft glow of the streetlights.

America's Most Beautiful Village



Old Hook Mill

The area's history started with the Native Americans who lived here, followed by settlers in the 1600s; not too many years passed before the wealthy discovered this gem and soon summer cottages sprung up, dotting the landscape and making a perfect venue for the many writers and artists who flocked here over the years. Famous artist **Jackson Pollock** made a home here with **Lee Krasner**, and their **Pollock-Krasner House** is open to the public to this day. A current artist living here is sculptor **James DeMartis** (also known for his blacksmith designs), who creates indoor and outdoor sculptures, both practical and whimsical. Artisans from **Smith River Kitchens**, as strange as it may sound, create kitchens (and bathrooms) that are works of art, using unique architecture and craftsmanship. They have offices in East Hampton; New York City; Fair Haven, New Jersey; and Greenwich, Connecticut. Of course, the **Vered Art Gallery** is the place to go to see works in various mediums by famous artists such as **Matisse**, **Picasso**, **Mapplethorpe**, and more. The Vered Art Gallery has sold works to **The Museum of Modern Art**, the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, **The J. Paul Getty Museum**, **The Art Institute of Chicago**, and **Musée d'Orsay**.

Over the years, celebrities and the extremely wealthy started building mega-mansions here, and one organization that kept an eye on preserving the village's integrity in the midst of all the changes was (and still is) the **Ladies' Village Improvement Society**, established in 1895. This group was never a "Timid Little Ladies' Society" only interested in planting pretty plants here and there. In 1925, according to the LVIS website, www.lvis.org, they "advocated for village zoning, the prohibition of gas stations on Main Street, and the elimination of billboards on any village street." (Thank you, ladies!) In the 1950s they began a scholarship awards program; this year they raised enough money to award eight \$10,000 scholarships, plus an additional \$3,000 scholarship. This year also marked their 114th annual fundraising fair!

Another local institution intent on preserving the village is the **East Hampton Historical Society**. It has a wide array of exhibits, collections, programs, events, and gardens, in addition to operating six local historical sites and museums: **Mulford Farm** (circa 1680), the **Town House** (circa 1731), the **Osborn-Jackson House** (circa 1740), the **Clinton Academy** (circa 1784), the **Town Marine Museum** in Amagansett, and the **Boat Shop** in Three Mile Harbor.