



**TOWN OF JUNO BEACH**

340 OCEAN DRIVE  
 JUNO BEACH, FL 33408  
 PHONE: 561.626.1122 • FAX: 561.775.0812  
 WEBSITE: [www.juno-beach.fl.us](http://www.juno-beach.fl.us)  
 E-MAIL: [junobeach@juno-beach.fl.us](mailto:junobeach@juno-beach.fl.us)

Peggy Wheeler, Mayor  
 DD Halpern, Vice Mayor  
 Marianne Hosta, Vice Mayor Pro Tem  
 Diana Davis, Councilmember  
 John Callaghan, Councilmember  
 Frank Davila, Interim Town Manager

TOWN OF JUNO BEACH RECEIVED  
 2025 FEB 26 P 5:17

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO TOWN BOARD OR COMMITTEE**

NAME Natalie (Nancy) Graboski HOME PHONE 561-508-7200  
 ADDRESS 1025 Bay Colony Drive South, Juno Beach 33408  
 OCCUPATION (current or most recent) (retired) Southampton Town Council BUSINESS PHONE (631) 838-2188  
 BUSINESS ADDRESS 118 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a crime or plead guilty or nolo contendere to a crime other than minor traffic infraction?  
 YES  NO If so, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been found to have violated a code of ethics for public officers and employees?  
 YES  NO If "Yes", please provide the following information: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of Violation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disposition: \_\_\_\_\_

Resume attached? (optional) Yes  No  Brief Description of Education/Experience \_\_\_\_\_  
BA Wheaton College, Norton, MA - 1965; Teacher - Elisabeth Morrow School, Phillips Ave. School, Bd. Pres. Bridgehampton Coop. Nursery School; Bridgehampton School Board; Cornell Cooperative Extension - Board; Town of Southampton: Planning Board, Town Board

Are you a registered voter? Yes  No  Do you live in the Town year-round?  or seasonally? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in Juno Beach? 1998-21 (seasonal); 2021-2025 year round

Please list any current or prior experience as a volunteer on a board, committee, association, etc.  
St. Patrick Church, Council of Catholic Women; DAR Palm Beach Chapter

Do you currently serve on a Town Board? Yes  No  If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the board or committee on which you wish to serve. If more than one, number for preference, with first choice being #1.  
 Planning & Zoning Board  Audit/Finance Committee  Charter Review Committee

Why are you interested in serving on this board/committee? I am interested in land use and bring 9 yr. experience on the Southampton, NY Town Planning Board. As a farmer's wife I fall on the land use rights of the spectrum. But there will be growth charge and that's OK. Important to find the proper balance and to ensure that development applications are weighed carefully and decisions made in compliance with the standards set forth in the code.  
 Signature Natalie S. Graboski Date 2/26/2025

**ALL MEMBERS OF TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TRAINING BY READING THE PALM BEACH CODE OF ETHICS, VIEWING THE ETHICS VIDEO AND THE SUNSHINE LAW PRESENTATION.**

**Please Note:** Under Florida law, this document is a public record. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public-records request, do not include your email address. If your home address and phone number are exempt under Florida Statutes, please advise the Clerk's office when submitting this form.  
 rev 1-03-2025

**NANCY S. GRABOSKI 1025 Bay Colony Drive South, Juno Beach 33408 nhsgraboski@gmail.com**

Juno Beach Town Council  
340 Ocean Drive  
Juno Beach, FL 33408

Feb. 26, 2025

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit an application for appointment to the Juno Beach Planning and Zoning Board.

I have enclosed the Application and a copy of my resume. Additionally, there are a few articles that speak to my previous experience serving on the Southampton, NY, Town Planning Board and Town Board which may give you a window in on my accomplishments and reputation.

My husband, Benny, and I lived in Bridgehampton, NY, on the east end of Long Island, for over 50 years, where he was a potato farmer. Starting in 1967, we traveled every winter to FL for three months to escape the cold, first to Ft. Lauderdale, then Boca Raton, and since 1998 to Jupiter/Juno, after one of our daughters married a Juno Beach native. They both operated the Lazy Loggerhead Café in Carlin Park for 25 years. As my husband readied to retire and we planned to spend more time here, we decided to buy our own place and purchased the condo at Bay Colony in 2016, relocating year-round from Bridgehampton in 2021. Sadly, my husband was not well and I lost him in fall 2022. I am blessed to have three daughters nearby: in Juno Beach, N.Palm Beach, and Ft. Lauderdale.

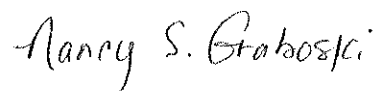
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I would welcome the opportunity to serve the good people of Juno Beach on the Planning and Zoning Board. I am happy to interview or speak with you directly, if you wish. If you have any questions or want further information, please feel free to call me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nancy S. Graboski

(561) 508-7200 home  
(631) 838-2188 mobile

**EXPERIENCE**

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• Teacher, grade 4

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• Teacher, grades 3, 4, 5, 6

**EDUCATION**                      **Wheaton College**                      Norton, MA  
• B.A., European History, June 1965

**PERSONAL**                      • St. Patrick Church – Council of Catholic Women  
• Daughters of the American Revolution; Palm Beach Chapter

## **Town Hall Fixture Bids Fond Farewell**

### **Graboski's service spanned 20 years**

**BY ROHMA ABBAS**

Two unexpected romances were born during the summer of 1966 to Nancy Graboski—then Nancy Stokes. The first was a budding romantic relationship with potato farmer Benny Graboski, who still lived on his family's farm on Mitchell Lane in Bridgehampton, where he was born. That rooted way of life intrigued the young woman, who had grown up traveling around the Midwest with her father, John Stokes, a nylon hosiery salesman.

The second romance was a growing love and concern for Southampton Town, an adopted community not too different from Cape Cod, where she lived before she came to the East End. Her love for Mr. Graboski led to their marriage in 1967, and a life spent rearing their four children: Diane DeCaprio, Jennifer Wilson, Carole Coles and Teddy Graboski.

Ms. Graboski's passion for her community manifested itself in several different roles, beginning in 1968 when she was a teacher at the Phillips Avenue Elementary School in Flanders for a year; a 4-H club leader for 10 years, beginning in 1977; membership on the Bridgehampton School Board in the mid-1980s; a member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension from 1986 to 1991; and years spent raising a family. It sparked a career in public service that began in 1991, when she was appointed a Planning Board member, and spanned 20 years, culminating with her final Town Board meeting on Thursday, December 22. The 68-yearold Bridgehampton resident, who has held the position of town councilwoman for the past eight years, will retire at the end of the year.

"I have mixed feelings, I have to say," Ms. Graboski said earlier this week. "It's a little bittersweet."

Friends and colleagues say Ms. Graboski is most known for her meticulous and hardworking nature. Dennis Suskind, a former town councilman, said she took the concerns of residents very seriously when they served on the board together, beginning in 2001. One time, residents complained to her about a number of streetlights that were out in their neighborhood. He said she dedicated several hours at night to see the

situation for herself.

"She went driving around all night, looking at them herself, being able to comment on them with personal knowledge," Mr. Suskind said. "That's the sort of thing she did."

Politics never got in the way, he said. Mr. Suskind is a Democrat and Ms. Graboski is a Republican, but they were able to work well together.

Of most importance to Ms. Graboski throughout her tenure at Town Hall were land use issues. She's been most interested in land preservation and the protection of farmland, and often refers to herself as a "farmer's wife"—the title of a retirement party thrown in her honor by friends last month was "Not Just a Farmer's Wife." She said she is especially interested in the business of farming—something the town has committed to preserving over the years.

From a personal standpoint, farming has held a special importance to Ms. Graboski. For many years, it was Mr. Graboski's primary profession. His potatoes were famously known as "Benny's Best." Ms. Graboski said farming has defined her husband and their way of life.

"He's very solid and he's consistent, and there's a rhythm that you kind of get into with farming that runs with the seasons. And as you're coming into the early winter, things slow down," she said. "... But that rhythm starts kicking up again in spring. The days are getting longer and the sky looks different, and I can just see something in him start to change, you know, in the spring. And it's just, he's got to be out there—like there's soil in the veins or something, you know." Looking back on her time at Town Hall, Ms. Graboski said there were projects she was proud of. She takes the most pride in developing the town's hurricane preparedness guide. It was 2006—the year after Hurricane Katrina—when Ms. Graboski realized the importance of having one. "I was hearing comments like, 'What's the Town of Southampton doing? Probably nothing,'" she said. "Oh no. You're wrong about that."

She had her own harrowing experience with Hurricane Carol, a devastating Category III storm that hit New England in 1954. She was living in Massachusetts and was about 11 years old. She said the 110-mph winds and the destruction they wreaked was "mind-boggling" to her. "The power and the fury of it all made quite an impression on me," she said.

With the exception of one year, Ms. Graboski took all the photos for the cover of the hurricane guide. She took them at the beach during nor'easters. "The water was so turbulent and so swirly, and the dune erosion was so significant, and I was always trying to capture something

that would convey to people this is happening here, this is here, this is Southampton.”

There are also mistakes Ms. Graboski admitted she’s made. One of them occurred last year, when she introduced a measure that would have given the town’s code enforcement officers “peace officer” status. It would allow the officers to make arrests. She took heat on the legislation, particularly because the officers would also be allowed to conduct searches without a warrant.

Her plans after leaving Town Hall remain up in the air, Ms. Graboski said. With four grandchildren—the youngest 16 months old—visiting them more is “definitely on the top of the list.” The Graboskis are grandparents to Sam and Liza DeCaprio and Chet and Mason Coles.

Serving the town has shaped Ms. Graboski, she said, and it’s something she’s thankful for.

“It’s really been an extraordinary opportunity for me,” she said. “My life, to be honest with you, has been so much richer for being able to have this opportunity.”

Southampton Press, 12/22/2011

## Past, Present And Future

**BY PHIL KEITH**

Three items on my mind this week: one nostalgic, one hopeful, one cautionary. Let's begin with the hopeful.

I teach a couple of courses, three times a year, at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. It's a heck of a commute, but it's something I look forward to doing. First, I love being around RISD's wonderfully creative students. I can't draw a straight line with a ruler, but you should see the arts and crafts these kids produce: beautiful paintings and drawings, dazzling jewelry, fabulous textiles, sculpture, graphic designs, websites, and so forth. I also like getting out of my routine once in a while, and making the effort to get to Rhode Island and instruct these classes certainly breaks into my normal patterns, and re-stirs the creative juices. Sometimes I drive the entire way, sometimes I hop on the Orient Point Ferry; it mostly depends on how much spare time I have (and the price of gas).

I started one of my regular marketing classes last week and decided to drive up and back, on the off chance that maybe the fall colors were starting to show. They weren't; I'm sure by next week we'll begin to see some change. But something hopeful did strike me, and I think it's a good sign for all of us.

Interstate 95 constitutes a great deal of my trip when I do drive to Providence and, as I am sure you know, it is a well-traveled highway. Over the past two years, it's been a rough go: The pavement has been badly broken in sections, ongoing construction projects had slowed to a crawl, and the necessary and almost constant resurfacing required to keep the road safe and comfortable had fallen far behind.

But not now. Long stretches, especially from New Haven to New London, have been repaved. The huge new overpass in New Haven is finally done, uncorking that bottleneck. I even noticed that several overpasses were being updated and one or two were being rebuilt completely.

Where's the hope in all this? Well, one of my big concerns for the economy the past few months has been in regard to infrastructure, and the rebuilding and maintaining of it. To me, it's a very hopeful sign to see these new beginnings—and, best of all, I paid less than \$3.50 a gallon for gas at one fuel stop in Rhode Island.

Now, the nostalgic item: I received, as I am sure a lot of you did, a notice last week in regard to [Nancy Graboski's](#) retirement party. I am sorry to see her bowing out. I mean, I know her hands are tied by term limits, as far as the Town

Board is concerned, but it won't seem quite the same without her steady hand on part of the very important apparatus that keeps the town moving ahead.

This lady has been as solid as a rock and has always had the best interests of all the citizens of the town as her first priority. She has never failed to do what she thought was right and has even taken some unpopular and strategically perilous positions because she believed it was the right thing to do. She hasn't always had the benefit of the respect she has earned: How many times have people mangled her last name, usually inserting an unnecessary "w"? Nancy just smiles. And what about the time her own party abandoned her so callously? She certainly got the better end of that stick when the votes were finally counted and vindication was the result of her well-deserved reputation for fairness and honesty.

With Nancy's departure, it seems as though an era is somehow passing. Nancy represents, in my view, the sort of solid citizen, service-driven, community-minded passion that has fallen into disfavor with many politicians these days. Too many times these important, cornerstone board positions are viewed as the first steps or necessary stepping-stones to advancement in the political arena or as "bona fides" for further ingratiation into the "better" economic circles of the community. Not with Nancy. Her service has been all about what she has felt was best for her family, friends and neighbors. She will leave that as part of her legacy, along with many legislative accomplishments.

There just aren't too many left like her, and that's a worry. In the Navy, when a loyal shipmate retired or moved on to other endeavors, we used to wish him "fair winds and following seas." It was a high compliment, and I certainly wish to say the same to you, Nancy, as well as "thank you for your service."

The cautionary tale: As a sitting member of the Planning Board, I cannot and would not use this "bully pulpit" to take or espouse any position on any issue before the board. I do think it would be more than fair to make two observations, however, in regard to the ongoing and overheated controversy concerning the proposed Southampton Day Camp on Majors Path.

First, it is truly wonderful to see the public so involved in the process. No matter how you feel about the issue, pro or con, it is always heartening (at least to me) to see participatory democracy in action. Second, despite what the opponents of the day camp think, the board is currently following a process prescribed by law from which we are not allowed to deviate. This is strictly and absolutely true in regard to the unwarranted hammering the board is taking for "not holding public hearings." Public hearings will come, at the right time. Now is not the time, according to New York State law, and the attorney that the camp's opponents have hired to argue their cause would do well to advise his clients on the law and the process that is in place. They clearly do not understand it. Fair dealing can be had for all parties concerned ... and you know, of course, that I am "mostly right."



Phil Keith, a resident of Southampton, is an award-winning author, part-time professor, and fulltime Conservative. His e-mail address is [captphil1@optonline.net](mailto:captphil1@optonline.net).

**EXPERIENCE**

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**EDUCATION**

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• B.A., European History, June 1965

**PERSONAL**

Married to Benny Graboski, farmer, "Benny's Best Potatoes." Four grown children.

# the **Bridge**

SUMMER 2012

**Benny and Nancy  
Grabowski:  
The Public  
Servant and the  
Potato Farmer**



**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...**

**The History of W. Scott  
Cameron Beach, Bridgehampton**

**From Trash Pit to Cistern:  
Exploring the Sanford Farm**

# The Public Servant and the Potato Farmer

BY JOHN STACKS

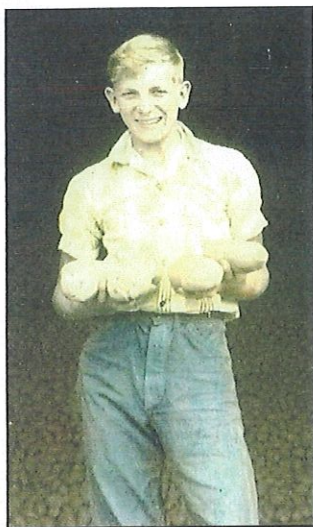
To all appearances, Nancy and Benny Grabowski could not be more different.

Nancy is lithe, animated, a rapid-fire talker and thinker, her grey blue eyes darting left and right as if to take in everything and everyone in her presence. She is a graduate of prestigious Wheaton College where she majored in history and speaks in full paragraphs stuffed with complexity.

Benny Grabowski is a quiet, beefy man who is quite selective in what he has to say. He looks exactly like the farmer he was raised to be and has always been: strong, large hands with an appetite for physical labor that still has him growing his own premium potatoes (called appropriately, Benny's Best.)

But as dissimilar as they are, the two represent, each in his and her own way, two deep traditions of the Bridgehampton community: farming and public service.

In fact, it was their very differences that attracted them in the first place.



Benny at age 16

Benny's father, an immigrant from Poland, bought the original sixty acre family farm in 1928. It had belonged to a family named Miller and had been farmed continuously since the early 18th Century. Benny was born on the farm, the youngest of eight children.

He left school at age 16 and by age 20 was running the entire farm. At its peak, he farmed about 300



Benny and Nancy, 1995 (photo by Steve Kotz)

acres of land, his own and land that he rented from others, and he was growing between 200 and 225 acres of potatoes. It was extraordinarily hard work. Planting and harvesting were done by hand and the sixty-pound bags of spuds had to be lifted by hand onto the collection wagons.



Potato fields, 1952

Benny was then a blonde haired young man. Nancy first came to the Hamptons in the summer of 1966. She had grown up outside of Springfield, MA. After college, she took a job as a teacher in New Jersey and, with a group of friends, rented a summer house in Southampton. One evening, after a movie, they stopped at Shippy's Restaurant for a beer and there she met Benny.

She was as taken with this community as she was with her future husband. "My father was a traveling salesman and this was a whole different way of life. It was tied to the land and to the seasons and to the family. She and Benny were married in 1967.

They have four children ("all married, all happy," she says) and Nancy began her career in Bridgehampton. First she taught school in Flanders, and then in 1972 and 1973, she served on the board of the Bridgehampton Cooperative Nursery School, becoming a member of the executive board and then board president.

In a pattern that was to repeat itself over the years, she became a 4-H club leader and then from 1985 to 1987 she served on the Bridgehampton School Board, becoming vice president in 1986. Each job (all volunteer) led her to be asked to do more. She was on the board of directors of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service from 1986 to 1991.



*Steers on the farm, 1968*

Her first big step into town politics came in 1991 when she was appointed to the Southampton Town Planning Board. She recalls that the appointment was made so that the board would have a representative from the farm community. She chaired the planning board from 1996 to 1999. The board of course is the major mediator in the unending series of land use disputes that naturally embroil a community like Bridgehampton, where open space and farmland form the central attraction that brings more



*Spring planting in the 1980's*



*The farm in the 1970's*

people, more demand for land and more pressure on the very resources that make the place attractive.

Through all the dispute and struggles, she tried to maintain a sense of equilibrium. "It is a question of balance. There is enough in it for everyone as long as there is not too much greed," she says, referring to her planning board tenure.

After her distinguished service on the planning board, it was, as usual, a matter of what was next. In this case, in 2003 she was asked to run for the Southampton Town Board. And it was there that she performed her most valuable service for the town. She lists a set of accomplishments that begins with dark skies (dealing with excessive home and commercial outdoor illumination), and goes on to the assumption of home rule on town speed limits, the preparation of the first town Hurricane Preparedness Guide, advocacy for airport noise restrictions, beautification projects, parking restrictions, road improvements and on and on.

Her most noteworthy political accomplishment, was, however, not a piece of legislation. In 2006, the powers that ran the town board decided to put a prominent real estate developer onto the planning board. Nancy

Grabowski said no, even to her most ardent supporters on the town board.

Her reward for her resistance came that fall when the county political convention refused to name her to the party ticket for re-election. "People were outraged," she recalls. They urged her to run a primary, which she eventually did, without any money or organized political support. She won the primary and won re-election in a rare act of political defiance.

She and Benny are now retired, sort of. Benny is still planting and harvesting some premium potatoes. They live in a meticulously tended home on land that was once part of his family farm. The house is as neat and tidy and elegant as Nancy's intellect. The lawn and the hedges are mowed and trimmed with a precision that only a man of the soil could achieve.

"I was able to use the system as difficult as it is and get things done," she reflects. Term limits mean she can't go back on the town board, but some of her supporters are urging her to run for town supervisor. She thinks that perhaps she is not quite tough enough for that job. On the other hand, she says, "Never say never. I loved what I did." ♦

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