

Notice to Residents

Attached to this utility pole are plastic strips called “lechis” that convert it, along with the wires at the top, into a “doorway” that Orthodox Jews believe turns everything on the inside of the pole from what was a “public domain” into a “private domain.” This allows them to push baby carriages, carry keys and do other things on the Sabbath that they otherwise could not do under Jewish law.

The Westhampton Beach government opposes the use of public property, on which the poles rest, for such a religious purpose. However, a U.S. Court of Appeals ruled Jan. 6 that the lechis are not overtly religious and instead, constitute a “secular purpose.”

Much is made in legal arguments that the eruv that has been created is “inconspicuous” and “nearly invisible.” Citizens have a right to know what government property is being used for this purpose. For further information, contact the village government. The village as well as Jewish People Opposed to the Eruv are considering an appeal of this and other legal decisions that have been made on this subject. Eruvim have also been proposed for Quogue and Southampton. The governments of those municipalities oppose imposition of an eruv on town property.