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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

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Patchogue-Medford High School presents 'Mean Girls'

BY NICOLE FUENTES

They might wear Pink on Wednesdays, but Patchogue-Medford High School will be sporting the color on Thursday, Feb. 6, for the opening night of "Mean Girls."

Co-producer and Dean of Students Michelle Mars hopes to see the community come out and support the students and their theater program. She co-produced the show with school counselor Megan Space.

"'Mean Girls High School Version' is a high-energy, hilarious show that our students bring to life through their incredible performances," she said. "The show highlights the trials and tribulations of finding your way through high school while focusing on the power of kindness and being true to yourself. It's a timeless story that many can relate to."

Approximately 150 students are involved, from cast, stage crew, pit and even the cosmetology students.

Senior Abigail Caravella, who will be playing the lead as Cady Heron, said putting on the show took a lot of dedication and tenacity.

"All of the long hours will be well worth it when we shine on stage!" she said. See 'MEAN GIRLS' on page 6



Hoping to dazzle the corner

BY LINDA LEUZZI

The Bellport Sunoco Gas Station and its Grab & Go convenience store at 1741 Montauk Highway, in North Bellport, transformed the northern corner by Station Road in 2019 with its modern, well-maintained look.

Now, its owner, John Farakh Iqbal, wants to replicate the same effect across the street at 1742 Montauk Highway with his Bellport Center Plan.

Preferring to be referred to as Farakh, he pitched the plan at the latest Greater Bellport Coalition Committee meeting last Tuesday at South Country Ambulance, with his architect Tahir Qureshi, P.E., of Long Island Engineering & Architecture.

"We sent a letter of support to Brookhaven Town a month ago," said JoAnn Neal, GBC co-chair with Regina Crawford, "and we'll go to the town board meeting when it's presented." Farakh brought his architect and attorney to the meeting.

Right now, his site plan, filed under Fraz Realty Inc., was submitted several months ago with the town, he said.

Reynolds Tax Service, an over 40-year-old company, is currently on the site and is still busily operating. Neal said the owner, William Reynolds, was retiring.

Farakh said hopefully, if his project is approved, he'll move to tear down the building for the Bellport Center. Farakh had fingers crossed in antic-

See BELLPORT CENTER on page 13

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EAST PATCHOGUE

Several arrests made in missing girl case PAGE 7

MEDFORD

New branch hosts Take Your Child to Library Day PAGE 11

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Friends of Lakeview Cemeteries release annual report

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Friends of Lakeview Cemeteries is a volunteer committee of the Greater Patchogue Foundation, committed “to the restoration, improvement and preservation of the historic cemeteries located on West Main Street in the Village of Patchogue.”

Dating to the 1700s, these five cemeteries include the graves of local citizens and veterans from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam. The committee is working to create a park-like setting for all the community to enjoy and learn from.

The friends recently released their 2024 report, noting that “it has been a productive year for us, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and support from our donors.”

“We also have great partners in local government and other not-for-profit historic preservation organizations,” the release stated.

The nonprofit, in 2024, received two grants and monies through fundraising, including:

The Gardiner Grant: A Challenge Match Grant sponsored by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. The fundraising period for the grant was approximately mid-June to mid-November. They raised funds through donations from members of the community, from two cemetery tours in the fall, and from their annual fundraising raffle for a weekend at Fire Island that raised over \$4,100. They raised a total of \$7295 during this period, and in early December were presented a check for the amount at the annual Gardiner luncheon at Old Westbury Gardens.

Suffolk County Grant: They received \$6,000 from the Suffolk County Parks Hotel-Motel Fund, which supported their restoration, education and beautification efforts. Last year, they also launched their website, PatchogueCem-



etery.org, and relaunched their e-mail newsletter.

As for their restoration efforts, a 2022-23 professional assessment found over 300 historic gravestones in Waverly Cemetery in need of repair. The oldest section, according to the Friends, is Union Burial Ground, along Waverly Avenue, north of the gas station, where a multi-year restoration project is underway.

Also, after a training session for volunteers in 2023, trained volunteers were busy restoring gravestones in the spring of 2024 through November. The work included resetting fallen gravestones, straightening stones, and cleaning stones.

“Dozens of stones are now restored and the iconic Rice family plot with the cross monument has been cleaned and planted with dozens of flower bulbs,” the report reads.

Volunteers are now making plans to continue the work in the spring. Also, all new volunteers are welcome to join.

Last year, they also hosted several cleanup days in the spring and fall; attended by community volunteers who help clean up litter and leaves, plants and flowers.

As for their 2025 goals, they are hoping to restore the iconic monuments in the Lakeview and Rice cemeteries back to lighting up at night.

“Unfortunately, many of the lights are not functioning now, so we hope to raise funds to repair the wiring and replace the light fixtures,” said the Friends of Lakeview Cemeteries.

The group also plans to restore the Union Burial ground by removing invasive plants behind the gas station, placing educational signage around the entire property, possibly including QR codes to the website, working with the

For more information, visit PatchogueCemetery.org, call 631.207.1300, e-mail LakeviewCemeteries@gmail.com, or visit Facebook.com/CRCPatchogue.

Elizabeth Oakes Smith Society to restore the Elizabeth Oakes-Smith gravesite, scheduling regular guided tours of the property as a fundraiser, and preparing for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

ABOUT THE LAKEVIEW CEMETERY

The property at West Main Street and Waverly Avenue in Patchogue Village holds five historic cemeteries. The iconic gated entrance on West Main Street leads to the Lakeview and Rice cemeteries, owned by St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. The west side, known as “Waverly Cemetery” or “Old Patchogue Cemetery,” includes the Gerard and Old Episcopal cemeteries, and the original Union Burial Ground dating to 1793. Waverly is legally abandoned and maintained by the Town of Brookhaven and Friends of Lakeview Cemeteries. The cemeteries are accessible by a pedestrian gate on Waverly Avenue and the West Main Street vehicle entrance.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF LAKEVIEW CEMETERIES

Friends of Lakeview Cemeteries (formerly Cemetery Restoration Committee) is a volunteer committee of the Greater Patchogue Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. In the 1990s, volunteers began working to restore an overgrown property that was barely recognizable as a cemetery and documenting the graves. In 2006, this group became a committee of the Foundation. The current leadership team began working together in 2016. ■

‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ to return to Patchogue in December

BY GARY HABER

“It’s a Wonderful Life... in Patchogue” will become an annual event held the second weekend in December, event organizers said Thursday.

This year’s edition will be held Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14, event chair Steve Muñoz said Thursday at the Patchogue-Medford Library downtown branch, where organizers presented the Patchogue-Medford Friends of the Library with a check for \$1,300 from the event.

“We’re going to try to make it bigger and better,” Muñoz said of this year’s event, which last year featured carolers from Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Patchogue and local community theatre actors performing scenes from the classic film at various locations around downtown Patchogue, including James Joyce Pub and Restaurant and Capital One Plaza.

More than 30 theater students from Black Box Theatre Company in Selden were also part of the performances and they had “an incredible time,” Black Box owner Kris DeVito said.

“They can’t wait to do the next one,” DeVito said.

Among the changes organizers are considering for this year’s edition are doing one session of perfor-



Organizers of “It’s a Wonderful Life... in Patchogue” presented a check for \$1,300 to Patchogue-Medford Friends of the Library on Thursday.

ADV/Haber

mances each day rather than two, but making the scenes from the movie longer and possibly adding more, said Muñoz, who owns The Amazing Olive shop and is co-treasurer of the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce. Patchogue Business Improvement exec-

utive director David Kennedy was grand marshal for the first version of the event, which was held Dec. 14 and 15, 2024. Blum’s Lingerie and Swimwear was the platinum sponsor. Other sponsors included the Long Island Advance.

Organizers haven’t yet named the

grand marshal for this year’s event.

Event organizers netted \$13,000 in donations. In addition to the \$1,300 donated to the Friends of the Library, the remainder will be donated to the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce to help with the cost of the events the chamber puts on for the community, Muñoz said.

The Friends of the Library provides financial support for library programs, including its summer reading program and an upcoming SAT-preparation workshop. ■

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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
 Advance Building
 20 Medford Avenue/P.O. Box 780
 Patchogue, NY 11772
 Phone: (631) 475-1000 Fax: (631) 475-1565
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Legal notices: Vicki-Ann Morales (ext. 23)
 LIAOffice@liadvance.net
Executive Editor: Nicole Fuentes (ext. 21)
Letters to the Editor: liascnib@gmail.com
Production: Andrew Ingenito (ext. 22)
Office Manager: Doug Marino (ext. 27)
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Patchogue board to consider exceeding tax cap

BY GARY HABER

The Village of Patchogue board of trustees will hold a public hearing on Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. on whether the board should have the option of increasing property taxes for the coming fiscal year by more than the state limit, which is currently 2 percent.

Several municipalities across Long Island have voted to increase property taxes by more than the state cap.

If Patchogue's board votes itself that authority, it doesn't necessarily mean property taxes will go up by more than 2 percent, mayor Paul Pontieri said.

In past years, the board has voted itself the authority without raising property taxes by more than the state cap, Pontieri said.

It's too early to know what the budget will look like for the upcoming fiscal year that starts June 1, as department heads are submitting their budget requests now, Pontieri said. He expects any property tax increase will be just below, or right at 2 percent, in a range of 1.8 percent to 2 percent, he said.

The increase was 1.9 percent for the current fiscal year, which ends May 31.

The village, like municipalities across Long Island, is seeing higher costs for employee health care and pensions. Pension costs alone are expected to be more than \$800,000 next year, Pontieri said.

For about the past 10 years, the board has used \$500,000 from the village surplus to keep property tax increases to a minimum, Pontieri said. He said he expects the board will do the same for the



upcoming fiscal year.

Pontieri said it is important for the village to keep some surplus funds so it has money in hand to pursue matching grants for projects, such as the \$3 million revitalization of Shorefront Park. In the past 20 years, the village has received about \$100 million in grants, he said. The village also used part of its surplus to pay for repairs to Mascot Dock

after Superstorm Sandy before receiving reimbursement from the federal government, he said.

The board has to adopt a budget by May 1. It typically holds a public hearing sometime in April.

The date for the hearing hasn't been set yet.

The tentative budget will be available for public inspection by March 14. ■

Patchogue theatre promotes production manager to director of operations

Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts recently announced the promotion of Matt McKone from production manager to director of operations.

According to the theatre, this is a "well-deserved" advancement for his exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to the theatre, as well as his experience in live performance and venue management.

McKone joined the Patchogue Theatre team in 2015, starting his journey as lighting director during the venue's transformative renovation in 2016. His expertise and dedication led to his appointment as technical director in 2017, where he played a significant role in enhancing the theatre's technical capabilities. After a brief hiatus during the pandemic, McK-

one returned as production manager, taking on additional responsibilities that contributed to the memorialization of the theatre's historic 100th anniversary.

In his new role as director of operations, McKone will oversee the theatre's overall operational strategy, focusing on enhancing the audience experience while maintaining the highest standards of technical excellence. His leadership will guide the theatre through upcoming projects and initiatives aimed at further solidifying its reputation as a premier live performance venue.

"Matt has proven time and again his ability to navigate complex challenges with ease and grace," said Michele Rizzo-Berg, executive director. "His understanding of our operations, coupled with

his experience in the industry, makes him the ideal choice to lead us into this exciting new chapter for the Patchogue Theatre."

Matt holds a B.A. in technical theatre, with an emphasis in production management, from High Point University. With over a decade of experience in diverse roles across the East Coast, from technical direction to maintenance and facilities management, he possesses a unique ability to blend technical proficiency with strategic leadership.

"I am honored to take on this new role and continue serving the Patchogue Theatre community," said McKone. "I look forward to collaborating with our talented team to create unforgettable experiences for our audiences while honoring the rich legacy of this venue." ■



SC Veterans Emergency Home Heating Assistance Commission accepting applications

Suffolk County executive Ed Romaine announced that the Suffolk County Veterans Emergency Assistance Commission is now accepting applications from veterans in need of home heating assistance. Consideration is given to all home heating options and to minor home heating system repairs.

"With all the pressures facing our heroic veterans, staying warm at night should not be one of their concerns," said Romaine.

The commission has \$100,000 at its disposal for 2025. Members of promi-

nent veterans' organizations determine eligibility and sit on the commission.

"Suffolk County serves the largest population of veterans in New York State. Our office has identified there is a need for veterans, especially those on a fixed income, with assistance paying the high cost of heating their homes. These heroes that served our country in times of peace and during war deserve the help that the Suffolk County Legislature has provided through the Veterans Emergency Home Heating Assistance Program," said Suffolk

County Veterans Service Agency director Marcelle Leis.

If you are interested in learning more and/or applying for the Veterans Emergency Home Heating Assistance Program, please contact the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency at (631) 853- 8387 or email at veteransinfo@suffolkcountyny.gov.

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Bellport High School shows 'Mean Girls'

Bellport High School thespians are set to present Tina Fey's "Mean Girls" on Friday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. The student cast members, pit and crew have been working diligently to perfect the performance, which is for mature audiences only. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at the door or in advance here: <https://cur8.com/16815/project/128867>.

Courtesy photo



'MEAN GIRLS'

FROM PAGE 1

Her favorite part of the show: "Revenge Party."

"I get to share the stage with some of my best friends and sing such a thrilling, high-energy song," she said.

As for getting into character, she said, the best way was to try and relate her character to her own life experiences.

Junior Joseph LaMartina, who will be playing the lead role of Aaron Samuels, hopes the production sparks the love for music the high school has.

"The Patchogue-Medford High School music department is an important part to the school and is filled with talented and wonderful people such as Mr. Reich, Ms. Champion and Mr. Zarchy and many others," said LaMartina, noting the support of their teachers. "People should come see this show because they won't be disappointed."

His favorite part of the show, which he claims can rival Broadway, is their performance of the song "Stars."

"This song has important messages that are relevant to teenagers and others today. The song is about how everyone is special and unique in their own ways and we should raise each other up rather than put each other down," he said.

As for his role as Aaron Samuels, he said, there were some parts easier to get into than others, such as being a social high school student. However, other aspects were harder to get into, like understanding math, he said laughing.

"I've never been good at math," he added. "In the show, Aaron is shown as a kind and overall good person who sometimes makes mistakes, and that's every person in the world, but it's been a fun character to get into and when on that stage, the only word I can use to describe it as is 'Grool.'"

Proud mom, Michele LaMartina, is very excited to see the show.

"The students at this high school are so incredibly talented and they are a family! They are so supportive of each other," she said. "The directors are outstanding and they give these kids so many opportunities to showcase themselves and all the best this district has to offer!"

The theater department will be presenting Tina Fey's production on Thursday, Feb. 6, Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 by calling the music department at 631-687-6413 or at the door. ■



Katelyn Oterson, Sienna Reefer and Georgia Salerno playing Karen, Regina and Gretchen.



Junior Kristen Schafer, playing Janis, and senior Michael Johnstone, playing Damian.



Senior Abigail Caravella playing the lead as Cady Heron, with Katelyn Oterson, Sienna Reefer and Georgia Salerno.

Courtesy photos

**Thank You For Reading
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Individuals charged in Patchogue kidnapping case

BY MARIANA OLIVA

An eighth individual was arrested last week in the kidnapping case involving a 14-year-old girl from Patchogue. Since the first arrest on Jan. 3, there have been seven additional arrests, and it remains unclear as to whether or not others will be charged.

“Anyone that played a role in the abuse of a child, we are going to hold responsible, and we’ve done that,” Suffolk County district attorney Ray Tierney said during a press conference.

The minor went missing in the evening of Dec. 9 after getting into an unknown vehicle. She was found 25 days later by her father, after receiving a tip from an unknown individual. She was located on a boat in Islip, near White Cap Fish Market, where her captors planned on taking the minor to the Carolinas.

Kevin McDonald, 20, of Medford, was charged most recently with second-degree rape and endangering the welfare of a child. McDonald is accused of smoking marijuana with the minor and engaging in sexual conduct.

The first person charged in the case was Francis Buckheit, 64, of East Islip. Buckheit is facing the more severe charge



of first-degree kidnapping, a class A-I felony in New York State, as well as second-degree rape and child endangerment charges. The boat the girl was found in is owned by Buckheit.

Bunice Knight, 47, of Copiague, was the second person charged in the case. He is being charged with second-degree rape, endangering the welfare of a child, and three counts of criminal sale of a controlled substance.

Alton Harrell, 35, of Bellport, is the

third person charged. Harrell is the individual who picked up the minor the night she went missing and brought her to a location in North Bellport. He faces second-degree rape and kidnapping charges.

The fourth person charged is Daniel Burke, 63, of Bohemia. Burke is facing the same severe charges as Knight: first-degree kidnapping, second-degree rape and child endangerment. He is being held without bail.

The sentencing for the class A-I felony

Buckheit and Burke are facing is a minimum of 15 years in prison, with a maximum of a life sentence.

The fifth person charged in the case is Robert Eccleston, 61, of Islip. He faces second-degree rape and kidnapping, and child endangerment charges. Eccleston is alleged to have had sex with the minor twice.

Jacquelyn Comiskey, 52, of Bellport, is the sixth person charged. Comiskey was charged with child sex trafficking and endangering the welfare of a child. She allegedly exchanged the minor to an individual in Copiague for crack cocaine.

The seventh individual is Elizabeth Hunter, 34, of Islip. Hunter has also been charged with child sex trafficking, promoting a sexual performance by a child and endangering the welfare of a child. She used images of the minor in an attempt to exchange her for drugs and money.

All of the individuals involved have pleaded not guilty to the charges they face. The Islip Bulletin reached out to the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office for a statement and received the following response:

“The Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office does not confirm or provide information regarding alleged victims of sexual assault.” ■

Bellport basketball loses on the road at Smithtown West

BY GARY HABER

Bellport came into its game at Smithtown West on Tuesday, Jan. 28, in first place in League IV, with an 8-1 conference record and having already clinched a playoff spot.

Smithtown West, on the other hand, was looking to avenge a 58-50 loss to Bellport earlier in the season and the Bulls turned to 3-point shooting to get it done.

Smithtown West connected on seven 3-pointers (five in the first half) and ended the first half on a 13-4 run. The Bulls started the second half on a 7-0 run and built a lead of as many as 20 points in the third quarter. Bellport battled back in the fourth quarter, cutting Smithtown West’s lead to 7

points at 60-53 with 2:24 remaining, when Sean Glynn stole the ball and took it in for a layup.

Bellport couldn’t get any closer and Smithtown West held on for a 67-59 win.

“[Smithtown West] ended the second quarter well and they carried that momentum into the third quarter,” Bellport assistant coach Rich Brown said. “We tried to fight back, but it wasn’t enough.” Brown said the Clippers will focus on consistency in their remaining games leading into the AA playoffs, which start Feb. 13.

“We’ve got to put together a full 32-minute game,” Brown said. “Once we do that, we’ll be in a much better position.”

Three seniors were Bellport’s leading scorers. Glynn scored 19 points, Michael Frankie scored 13 points and Jordan Battist had 8.

The Clippers (8-2 in League IV) are in second place behind Deer Park (9-1). Bell-

port has two games remaining in the regular season: Feb. 5 at home against Deer Park and Feb. 7 at Centereach. ■



Bellport’s Jordan Battist (No. 4) throws a crosscourt pass to Amari Trent (No. 10).



Bellport’s Sean Glynn (No. 1) puts up a shot. Glynn scored 19 points for the Clippers.

ADV/Haber

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FEBRUARY 6-11



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Patchogue Plunge

Patchogue Young Professionals' annual winter splash for a great cause at Sandspit Marina, Patchogue, 10 a.m. Event donation registration \$35 and up. Proceeds will go to St. Paul's Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen. To register, visit www.patchogueyoungprofessionals.com/form/patchogue-plunge-2025.

Thursday, February 6

Job Fair – The Suffolk County Dept. of Labor sponsored event at Patchogue-Medford Library, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dress to impress and bring your resume to meet with employers and learn about job opportunities. Visit the library online for more information.

AI: The New Romance Language – Beginner-friendly workshop at the Medford Branch of Patchogue-Medford Library will discuss how artificial intelligence is reshaping how we create, connect, and communicate, 6:30-8 p.m. Attend in person or via Zoom. Register online or call 631-654-4700.

Friday, February 7

Music Class for Babies – Sprouts & Friends, a fun creative 8-week class for ages 6-12 months will be offered by the Town of Brookhaven at the Henrietta Acampora Rec Center, Blue Point, Fridays, Feb. 7 through April 4, 1-1:45 p.m. Fee: \$57/8 weeks. Register online at Brookhavenny.gov/reconline. Call 631-451-6163.

Wining About Art – Patchogue Arts

Council presents a new series of art talks paired with wines from the region, 7 p.m. Location to be shared when tickets are purchased. This month's theme: Medieval to Gothic: Mythical Beasts, Sacred Symbolism, and Guardians in Stone. Register online at: www.patchoguearts.org/lectures-wining-about-art/.

National Wear Red Day – February is American Heart Month, and the national Go Red Day was created to further raise awareness of the No. 1 killer of women—cardiovascular disease. Visit WearRedDay.org for more information.

Saturday, February 8

Mixed Media Art Class – Town of Brookhaven adult art class offered at New Village Rec Center, Centereach, meets Saturdays, Feb. 8 to March 15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Fee: \$42/6-week session. Register at Brookhavenny.gov/reconline or call 631-451-5307 for help.

SMART Friends and Family – Workshop at Patchogue-Medford Library for family and friends of people with addictive behavior, 10-11:30 a.m. No registration needed.

Gain support and connect with other people experiencing similar challenges. For details, visit www.pmlib.org.

Sunday, February 9

Patchogue Plunge – Patchogue Young Professionals' annual winter splash for a great cause at Sandspit Marina, Patchogue, 10 a.m. Event donation registration \$35 and up. Proceeds will go to St. Paul's Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen. To register, visit www.patchogueyoungprofessionals.com/form/patchogue-plunge-2025.

Blood Drive – Give the gift of life at Bellport Community Center, 4 Bell St., Bellport, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To make an appointment, contact Melissa at 917-566-8537 or mgatto@nybc.org.

Tuesday, February 11

Make A Friend Day – This national day serves as a reminder of the importance of friendships in our lives and encourages us to get out, meet people, and create new friendships. Ways to make new friends: sign up for a class, volunteer, host a party, introduce yourself to a neighbor.

OF NOTE

Patchogue Historical – On Sunday, Feb. 16, the society will present "When the Bay Froze Over: Days of Ice boats & Scooters" at 2:30 p.m. at the Historical Society Museum, lower level of Patchogue-Medford Library's Carnegie Teen Center, 160 W. Main Street. Audience sharing, participation encouraged. Contact gphsociety@yahoo.com, find them on Facebook or call 631-804-9269.

PMYC Movie Fundraiser – Patchogue-Medford Youth & Community Services invites the community to see the new "Captain America: Brave New World" movie on Monday, Feb. 17 at Sayville Theatre, 4:30 p.m. Tickets: seniors and under 18, \$15. All others, \$16. Admission includes popcorn and a soft drink. Online registration required. Visit www.pmycs.org. All funds will support youth programs and food pantry.

Career Fair Volunteers – South Country School District seeks local business professionals, technical school and military leaders to volunteer for a Career Fair, April 10, 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Contact JNegrone@southcountry.org or by phone at 631-730-1660.

Adult Rec Classes – The Town of Brookhaven will offer the following classes at the Henrietta Acampora Rec Center, Blue Point: Copper Repousse' Decorative Metal Workshop, Tuesdays, 12-2 p.m.; Adult Art Class, Watercolor meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Oils/Acrylic meets Thursdays, 10:30 am. Yoga meets Mondays, 1-2 p.m. Country Line Dancing, Improper Level, meets Mondays, 2:30-4 p.m. To register or get more information, visit Brookhavenny.gov/reconline or call 631-451-6163 for help.

Post Jingle Mingle – Join St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Patchogue, for their first winter gala on Saturday, Feb. 22, 5 p.m. Sit down dinner, music and dancing. Limited tickets. Call 631-475-3078.

The Historic Million Dollar Quartet – Relive the music of Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Roy Orbison with Sun Records live in concert at Patchogue Theatre, Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. For tickets and info, visit the box office at www.patchoguetheatre.org or call 631-207-1313.

Adrian Vandenberg Live – Hear your favorite Whitesnake and Vandenberg hits on stage at Patchogue Theatre, Thursday, March 6, 8 p.m. For tickets and info, visit the box office at www.patchoguetheatre.org or call 631-207-1313.

Thrift Shop Sale – St. Paul's Thrift Shop, at 31 Rider Ave., Patchogue, begins 2025 with a BOGO sale on all clothing. Buy One and Get One Free! Coats, BOGO \$5. Two wedding gowns with headpieces, \$100 each. Find designer bags, jewelry, teapot sets, small appliances, dishes, linens, books, clothes for the family, dress, and sports apparel. Now accepting debit and credit card payment. Handicapped parking in rear. Donations accepted during business hours: Monday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 631-307-9154.

Selected for SCMEA

Thirty-four talented South Country School District student-musicians were selected to perform in the prestigious Suffolk County Music Educators' Association All-County Festival in March. The students were selected to perform based on previous NYSSMA scores and teacher recommendations. The district congratulates the following students:

Bellport High School

- Valeria Bautista
- Rebecca DeLillo
- Steven Garfen
- Penelope Gordon
- Sarah Lewis
- Gabrielle Waller

Frank P. Long Intermediate School

- Keegan Gerstel
- Margaret Hoenes
- Reagan Kellerman
- Parker Mendoza
- Mikael Schindler-Schul
- Dylan Stickley

Bellport Middle School

- Sofia Amaya
- Erica Berdugo
- Marisa Casiano
- Sarah Chillogallo
- Daniel Correia

- Robert Crabtree
- Marjorie Diaz Sanchez
- Collin Garnar
- Savannah Grosso
- Kaci Karvaski
- Liam Kuegel
- Ava Lena
- Zoey Mendoza
- Cassius O'Neil
- Ciprian Ovalle
- Elliott Palermo
- Gianna Pannullo
- Claudio Pineda-Segura
- Mackenzie Porter
- Naomi Schindler-Schul
- Samantha Thompson
- Reed Wilson



Six music students from Bellport High School have been selected to perform in the prestigious SCMEA All-County Festival. Not all pictured. Photo courtesy of the South Country Central School District

Celebrating Lunar New Year

Brookhaven Elementary School first-grade students recently celebrated the Year of the Snake with a parade down their school's hallways. As part of the Lunar New Year celebration, the students wore masks that they had created while learning about the traditions surrounding Lunar New Year.



Photo courtesy of the South Country Central School District



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(A, B, C, and D Residence Zones)

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- **Regular Hours:** Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 4:30pm
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL 451-TOWN OR VISIT BROOKHAVENNY.GOV

Suffolk County Police Major Case Unit detectives investigate bank robbery

A man entered TD Bank, located at 251 East Main Street, at approximately 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28, and passed a note to a teller demanding cash. The teller complied and the suspect fled on foot with cash. Detectives are asking anyone with information on the robbery to call the Major Case Unit at 631-852-6555 or anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS.



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Patchogue-Medford Library hosts Take Your Child to the Library Day



Summer, 3, Kenna, 5, and Blaise Chrzastek, 7, building with the kinetic sand sensory bin in the children's program playroom at the Patchogue branch of the Patchogue-Medford Library

BY ISABELLA SCUTERI

On Saturday, dozens of families stopped by the Patchogue-Medford Library in Patchogue as they celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day, a literacy-inspired event for children and tweens.

The library is doing a big push for literacy, highlighting book characters as the theme of the event.

Activities included science experiments, sensory play, making pins, paper hats, character quizzes, and mini golf that were based around characters from popular children's books like "Dog Man," "Pete the Cat," "Paddington," and "Harry Potter." In the Historical Room, children's books written on and about Long Island were read to put a local spin on the event. Photo opportunities with Paddington took place behind a backdrop inspired by his new movie, "Paddington in Peru," and a "Pete the Cat"-themed action path in the hallway was led by Pete himself.

The mastermind behind this event, which was also held in the Medford branch, is Vanessa Chiappone, who spent months collaborating with different departments in the library to make this day possible. Most of the activities were self-directed, with supervision from parents and the librarians, allowing children to learn independence, build social skills, and become involved in their community.

"I really love to see everything come together... everyone is really enthusiastic to jump in and do their part to make it fun and make it a well-rounded event," said Chiappone. "These events are really great to show families all that we have to offer. On this day, everything is open for families to enjoy."



Madison and Harper Freese take a quiz with Patchogue-Medford librarian, Emily Wagner, to see which character from the popular book series "Dog Man" they are most like.



Paisley Thompson creates a chemical reaction by mixing baking soda and vinegar along with red food coloring in a volcano.

In the Maker Space, a room normally available only with an appointment, children were able to walk in, color, or draw on a piece of paper, and have their image turned into a wearable button with the help of assistant librarian Christopher Gawiak.

"The children's department is trying to become more STEAM focused, like science and engineering. This space is where the kids get to play hands-on with that," said Gawiak.

In the TinkerLab, children's librarian and STEM STEAM specialist Elizabeth Ramos, was dressed as Mrs. Frizzle from popular book series "The Magic School Bus" to conduct a volcano science experiment. This station became a favorite among the children as they were able to mix baking soda and vinegar to create a bubbling reaction that acted like a volcano erupting with lava.

Hayden Cruz, parent of 7-year-old Stella, loves the socialization aspect of his daughter learning while participating with other kids. "We're at the library a handful of times per month, especially when they have an event like this. The library does a good job of making it fun yet educational for the kids, so they are walking away learning something new," said Cruz.

Families spent the day celebrating literacy, fun, and a great community. These events mix socialization with reading and highlight the services the library offers that most people don't know about. ■

Isabella Scuteri is a reporter with The SBU Media Group, part of Stony Brook University's School of Communication and Journalism's Working Newsroom program for students and local media.



Elizabeth Ramos, children's librarian and STEM STEAM specialist, creates volcanoes and explains chemical reactions at the TinkerLab station. All photos by Isabella Scuteri



Robert, 11, and Newt Fleming, 6, freehand their favorite book character onto a piece of paper in the Maker Space that they will later turn into a wearable pin.

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Patchogue
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ADVANCE SPORTS

Center of attention

Bellport's Simon making her mark at Queens College

BY GARY HABER

Last season, Autumn Simon was an all-county center at Bellport High School and the team's leading scorer.

She helped lead the Clippers, a No. 5 seed, to their first-ever Suffolk County Class AA championship game appearance.

This season, Simon is making her mark at Division II Queens College in New York, where she's playing significant minutes at power forward and center.

Simon has started four games and

played in each of the Knights' 18 games, averaging 15.1 minutes, which is a lot of playing time for a freshman.

Simon's averaging 3.9 rebounds and 2.7 points a game.

Her best game so far was on Nov. 26 against Wilmington University, when she scored 12 points in the Knights' 65-47 win. Simon led the team with 13 rebounds.

At 6-foot-2, Simon is the tallest player on the team and someone head coach Elizabeth Naumovski turns to when she needs someone to come off the bench and pull down some rebounds.

Simon's height and mobility make her a versatile player who can play both power forward and center, said Naumovski, who first started scouting Simon when

she was in 10th grade at Longwood High School. (Simon transferred to Bellport her senior year.)

"I think she's got a pretty high ceiling," Naumovski said. "She's a wonderful kid. Good energy, great spirit about her, and exceptionally well liked by her teammates."

Simon has also grown more confident in her ability as a player, Naumovski said.

Simon's gone through the typical adjustments players make going from high school to college where the season is longer, the players are bigger, and the game is faster.

"It's definitely not like high school at all," Simon said.

Back home in Bellport, Simon has a lot of family support, including her grandfather, Anthony Permenter, who comes to all of the Queens College home games and has traveled to many of the away games.

Simon's busy with school and basketball, but she did make it to a Bellport basketball game over winter break.

As for Simon's future at the college level, Naumovski is upbeat.

"Autumn is going to have a very good career here," she said. "The sky's the limit for her."



Last season, Autumn Simon led the Bellport Clippers to the Suffolk County Class AA championship game. This season, she's getting a lot of playing time at power forward and center at Queens College.

Courtesy photo

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MARGARET (PEG) HUBBARD RAND



August 20, 1920 – January 18, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Margaret (Peg) Hubbard Rand on January 18, 2025, at the age of 104. A beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and devoted community volunteer, Peg lived a life filled with purpose, service, and kindness.

Born in Ipswich, Massachusetts, on August 20, 1920, Peg was a remarkable woman whose life was defined by her unwavering generosity and commitment to those around her. She was a founding member of the Hearth Club and devoted 55 years of her life to volunteering at Brookhaven Hospital. Peg's passion for giving extended to her involvement with the Bellport Brookhaven Historical Society and the Fireplace Literary Society, where she contributed in countless ways. She was also an integral part of Playcrafters, assisting with props, costumes, and behind-the-scenes support.

Peg was a familiar face in the Bellport community, often walking miles alongside fellow members of the Bellport Garden Club for roadside cleanup. She dedicated her time to making the annual Brown Bag Ball a success, working tirelessly each year to decorate the hall. Additionally, she was an active participant at Christ Church, where she sang in the choir, served in the altar guild, and lent her energy to numerous fundraising events.

Her career included significant contributions as a biochemist for the Manhattan Project, and later, as a skilled seamstress doing alterations for Plain & Fancy. In 2014, she was honored as "Woman of the Year" by the *Long Island Advance* for her exceptional dedication to her community.

Besides her passion for helping others, she loved to garden and get her hands in the dirt. Each summer she harvested vegetables, fruits and flowers. Peg also loved to travel. She was able to go throughout the world with her husband, family and friends. One of her favorite locations was London.

Peg was predeceased by her beloved husband, Alonzo C. Rand, with whom she shared nearly 75 years of marriage. She is survived by her four children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, all of whom were blessed to know her love, strength, and warmth.

A memorial service to celebrate Peg's life will be held at a later date.



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BELLPORT CENTER: Developer to provide more Montauk Highway revitalization

FROM PAGE 1

ipation that the project wouldn't start until the end of 2025.

Farakh said he's invested \$2 million in developing the Sunoco Station as well as purchasing its property, which backs up to Atlantic Avenue and is located next door to Miracle Plaza.

"We wanted a nice gas station," Crawford said. The former Sunoco was a crumbling eyesore. "He even gave us a decorative fountain."

"I'll spend \$2.4 million on the new project. I want it to look nice," Farakh said. "I live here; I've lived in Bellport since 1991, and I have a lot of respect for the local residents."

Farakh's project, 4,300 square feet, 5,300 with the second floor on the 22,221-square-foot lots (a little more than a half-acre), includes signage for four tenants on the first floor. "The second floor will be dedicated to the North Bellport community's nonprofits for meetings," he said.

"We said we needed that," Neal said of the second-floor addition.

Possible tenants discussed at the meeting included a pizzeria, a small chicken establishment similar to the former Spicy's, and a 24-hour walk-in clinic, agreed Farakh.

"We're still hoping for a laundromat," said Neal. Neal has witnessed residents biking to the nearest one with laundry bags propped on their handlebars. "But that would have to go into the north side."

Some of the features in Farakh's architectural plans included a front entrance canopy, shielded gooseneck-type light fixtures for illumination, externally illuminated wood-type signs, storefront

framing with 1-inch insulated and tempered glass with a dark bronze finish, and dry stack cultured stone. The architectural plan featured at least 10 good-sized windows on the first floor.

There were 25 attendees at Tuesday's meeting, Neal said, including councilman Mike Loguercio.

"It's privately owned, zoned J2," said Loguercio in a phone call. (J Business 2 district refers to a commercial zone primarily intended for medium-scale businesses. The proposed use is for commercial/retail.)

"The owner is looking to develop it as one of the options. He did file a site plan a few months ago and has to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals first, and then we can take a look at it with the community," Loguercio said. "At that time, we can decide what's the best fit for that location. I'm looking to do what's best for the community and the owner of the property."

Fred Combs, executive director of the Bellport Hagerman East Patchogue Alliance, who attended, offered their building for those looking to utilize job applications and resumes in anticipation of the future project.

Also at the meeting was Legis. Dominick Thorne. "Montauk Highway is a county road, so I wanted to know what they wanted there."

"We're trying to move buses and are thinking of making a transportation hub by the LIRR, so that it would be in a walkable area to their homes, like a transfer point for buses. Some from Patchogue go to Bellport," he said, "and vice versa."

Crawford pointed out one time, when she needed a ride to Patchogue, Farakh



Greater Bellport Coalition co-chairs JoAnn Neal and Regina Crawford flank proposed Bellport Center developer John Farakh. Farakh revitalized the Sunoco Gas Station and its Grab & Go convenience store at 1741 Montauk Highway in Bellport and wants to do the same on the south side.

ADV/Leuzzi

pitched in and personally drove her.

Thorne said the transfer point would be close to the railroad on Station Road. "A little north, a little south, where we have some land, and also in the parking area," he said. "We would have to work with the county, the MTA, and our town partners to make it better in that neighborhood."

Thorne said there was enough room for the hub, as well as land for sewers to help revitalize the area.

"One of the things needed for that area is local medical access, transportation and jobs," Thorne said. "I want to know what the GBC's vision is for the neighborhood is. Also, what's needed in police protection and making the neighborhood

safe for everyone." He also mentioned the possibility of calming barriers on Montauk Highway "to give it a neighborhood vibe and crosswalks."

There was also a presentation for a Muslim Cemetery on Beaver Dam Road. Seven representatives of the Muslim community were in attendance, Neal said, and about 14 acres are in the process of being purchased there. "One already joined our coalition," she said. ■

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PAID POLITICAL AD

Paul Ingrassia of East Patchogue Heads to DC

Just hours after President Trump took his oath of office as the 47th President of the United States, 29-year-old attorney, Paul Ingrassia, was also sworn in as White House Liaison to the Department of Justice. Paul secured the top position within the Trump Administration after being known as “President Trump’s favorite writer.” President Trump read and shared dozens of Paul’s Substack articles on his Truth Social page and immediately recognized that Paul was a staunch and loyal supporter who had never wavered especially during the darkest days that President Trump faced over the past six years. Paul graduated Cornell Law School in 2023, interned at the White House, under Larry Kudlow with the Trump Administration 2018, and graduated Fordham University 2017. Paul is a devout Catholic, and it is his faith which guides his decisions and principles.

Hours after being sworn in, Paul was out of the gate running. Dressed in a tuxedo and Olivia, his sister, in her gown, they were on the way to The Liberty Ball when Elon Musk contacted Paul to see if he might be able to help get January 6 political hostages released from the DC prison. Minutes earlier, President Trump pardoned over 1500 of the protesters who were present at the US Capital building, also known as the “People’s House.” With temperatures about 5 degrees around 9 pm in the evening of January 20, there was no place that either Ingrassia would rather be than to help free the MAGA supporters who sacrificed their freedom, family, jobs and reputation to stand with President Trump on that fateful January 6, 2021, day.

Paul and his deputy, Gina, a Space X employee, along with an FBI Agent, and Donna Ingrassia whisked brothers Andrew and Matthew Valentin of Pennsylvania out of the DC jail and took them to a hotel that Elon Musk insisted on paying for. When asked what gave strength to the young brothers as they were sentenced to years in prison, their response was “strong faith in God, trust in President Trump, and a

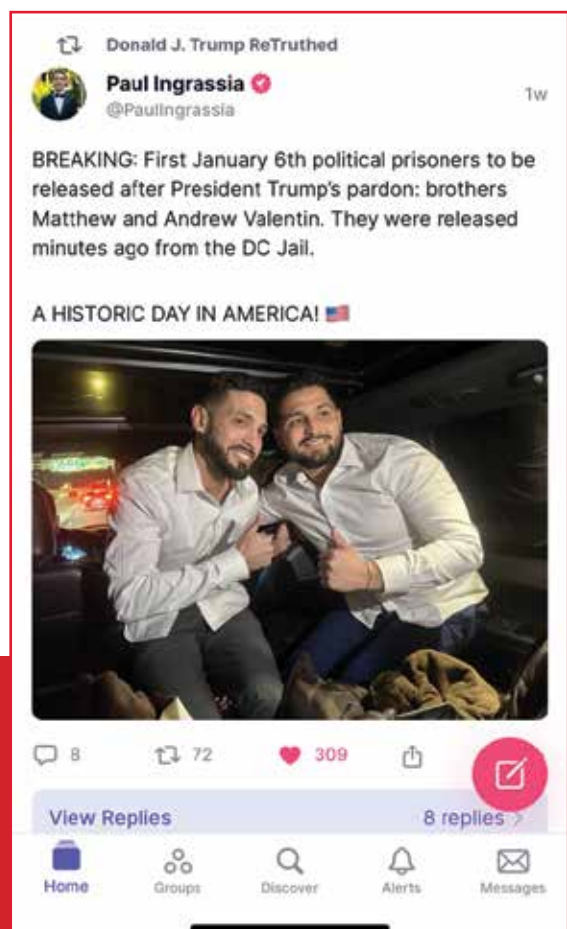
very supportive family.” The young men were in a state of shock when they were notified of their release. Driving with them to their hotel, they expressed gratitude, and were in disbelief of their release. Andrew asked to borrow a cell phone to call their mother. Placing the call on speaker phone, the mother’s reaction was emotional as she cried with joy and thanked God. The group escorted the brothers to their rooms at about 12:45 am. The Valentin brothers were among the first January 6 incarcerated to be released.

Some of Paul’s responsibilities include staffing the DOJ, FBI, US Attorney’s Offices, and US marshals. Paul is responsible for communicating critical messages between the White House and the DOJ. When asked what he hopes to accomplish, Paul said that he wanted to staff the office with several assistants and make the department “into a MAGA juggernaut with the highest quality and the most competent and loyal people.” Paul wants to root out corruption and restore integrity to the rule of law among the public by ending the weaponization of justice. The rapid overhaul of the DOJ is already sending shockwaves throughout the country and the world, signifying that President Trump’s promises made, will be promises kept.

The country is yearning for the America first agenda. Thank you, President Trump. Thank you, America. And most importantly, Thank God.

America has been blessed.

Good luck, Paul! We love you!



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From Our Archives

75 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 1950

Patchogue Lions and their ladies will turn out tonight at Felice's restaurant to celebrate the club's fourth charter night, marking three years of service to the community. The club has done its best to put Patchogue on the map by staging a Fourth of July parade down Main Street, drawing huge crowds. Established in February 1947, the Patchogue Lions' first president was **Robert Crapsey**, who was succeeded in 1948 by **Sal Scotto**. Current leader of the club is **Robert Robertaccio**.

Clifford Marshall, who is attending Syracuse University, returned to Syracuse Monday after spending a week with his mother, Mrs. Virginia Marshall of North Ocean Avenue, Patchogue.

The Youth Fellowship of St. Paul's Episcopal Church attended a supper meeting of the Youth Fellowship of Christ Church, Bellport, Jan. 22. Members present were **Dawn Allman, Joyce Tobin, Phyllis Rowland, Helen Saunders, Mary Middleton, Carolyn Tibbetts, Roberta Shand, Ethel Shand, Joyce Conklin, Barbara Leffert, Jacqueline Moore, Jerry Payne, Frank Jackson, Jack Ruegger, William Husing, John Hammer** and **Russell Barrie**.

Mrs. **Anne Henken** of Church Street spent Sunday in Garden City visiting relatives.

Mary Lou Clark, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace L. Clark of Bellport, was baptized Sunday at the Methodist Church, Patchogue.

James Fucci of Jayne Avenue underwent an operation recently at the St. Albans Naval Hospital.

Little **Billy Horn**, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Horn of West Main Street, underwent a tonsillectomy Monday in Southside Hospital.

Soon after Mrs. **Ira E. Henthorne** of Cleveland Street had lost a wallet containing \$44 and her automobile driver's license on West Main Street Friday, the wallet was turned in at Patchogue police headquarters by **John Spoerer** of West Main Street. Police reported that Mrs. Henthorne rewarded the finder with \$5.

Roz Rinaldi, a petite 5-foot hoopster, is expected to give her 6-foot male opponents on the St. Francis AC cage squad plenty of trouble when the Saints play the Cover Girls in a benefit game for St. Charles Hospital, Feb. 24 in Patchogue's Bay Avenue School gymnasium.

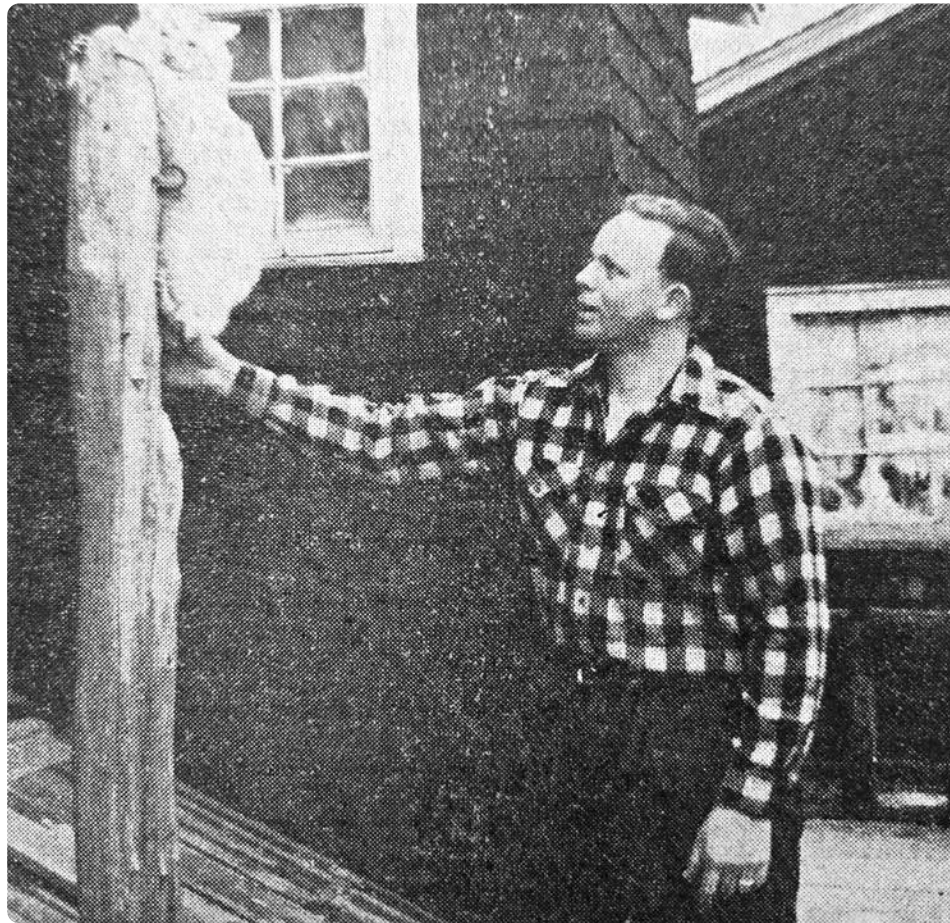
Jackie Hare, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Hare of Lee Avenue, who has been confined to his home by illness for six weeks, is now improving. His brother, Donald, who has also been ill for several weeks, has recovered.

Mrs. **Maude Jones** is leaving Saturday to spend a vacation in Florida. During her absence her store in Bellport will be in charge of Mrs. **Elizabeth Arthur**.

The Mesdames **Leon Manning, Percy Hammond, Daniel Whaley** and Miss **Jeannine Conklin** and Mr. and Mrs. **Edwin Lucas** will attend the Ice Show featuring Miss Sonja Henie at Madison Square Garden, New York City, Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. **Joseph Zak** entertained her Mah Jong club at her home on Jayne Avenue Tuesday night.

Members of the GER Club enjoyed a trip to New York City last Thursday, when



From the Feb. 2, 1950 edition: Snowball, Henry Katner's pet albino raccoon, brushes up on her tree-climbing technique on a post at the rear of Mr. Katner's home on Hammond Street, Patchogue. She dines on a diet of horse meat, bone meal, wheat cereal and cod liver oil and weighs over 50 pounds. Mr. Katner, who has a penchant for odd pets, is also host to two alligators more than three feet long, which are quietly hibernating in a cardboard box in the Katner apartment. He expects to receive a pair of freshwater otters in early March.

they attended a performance of "Where's Charlie?" and had dinner at the Divan Parisienne. Those making the trip were the Mesdames **Peter Tallerine, Sal Lotito, Frank Lotito, Sam Ivey, Rose Frisco, John Gamaldi, Peter Gamaldi, Francis Slechta, Perry Leydecker, Harold Farrell**, and the Misses **Jennie Lotito** and **Ruth Frisco**.

One of the big swans that cruise around East Lake took a notion last Sunday to explore the highways and byways of the mainland. Waddling out of his habitat, he eventually reached South Country Road, but by the time his pontoons had carried his great weight to the concrete, he just got tired and decided to rest. Motorists forced to a standstill leaned out of their car windows and gaped. The long-necked aquatic bird stared back insolently and held his ground. Drivers grinned and detoured.

Miss **Marion C. Young** of Browns Lane, Bellport, has been visiting in Westfield, N.J., for a few days this week.

John V. Quinn has returned to Bellport after spending some time at Mt. McGregor Veterans camp near Saratoga.

Mr. and Mrs. **William Wingerath** of Academy Lane left Sunday morning by plane to spend several weeks in Miami, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. **Howard Kiroack** entertained at dinner Sunday at their home on South Howells Point Road **William J. Byrnes, Carlton L. Devine** and Mr. and Mrs. **E.P. Dalmasse**.

Mrs. **D.W. Albin** and Mrs. **Norman Paswater** of Main Street have gone to Tucson, Ariz., for several weeks.

A son, Nicholas Jr., was born Monday morning, Jan. 23, in Southside Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. **Nicholas Lanzetta** of Circuit Road.

Mr. and Mrs. **Gus Costanzo** of Association Road are vacationing in Miami, Fla.

Miss **Carolyn Kenny** recently attended a health and physical education conference at Syracuse. She is secretary of American Women in Physical Education in New York State, Long Island Zone, and teaches at the Bellport school.

Miss **Penelope Shoup**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon C. Shoup of Leisurely Lane, will participate as a court jester in the annual ice show, "Courtly Cavorts," as part of the winter carnival at Bates College, Lewiston, Me., today. She is a junior at Bates and a member of the choral society.

50 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 1975

The **Village of Patchogue** will inaugurate its Minibus transportation program on Tuesday, Feb. 18. The village has been divided into five routes, and each route will be covered three times per day, Tuesday through Saturday.

Miss **Diane Pallas**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Pallas of Everett Street, Patchogue, has been placed on the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology. She is enrolled in their medical laboratory technology program and will soon be completing her third year.

Sgt. **George Loughlin** of the Suffolk County Police Department Fifth Precinct received the Policeman of the Year award from the Patchogue Moose Lodge at a recent dinner and dance in his honor.

Donald Pendleton, son of Mr. and Mrs. **Daniel Skidmore** of Patchogue, has just

completed eight weeks basic training at Great Lakes Naval Base, Ill. He will now be going to school in Memphis, Tenn., studying electronic navigation.

Patchoguers **Mark Molinoff**, age 13, and his brother, **Perry Molinoff**, age 9, both were winners of bronze medals at an official NASTAR Slalom Race at Waterville Valley, N.H., last week. The race is a nationwide competition divided into various age categories. This is the second year that Mark won a bronze medal.

The Patchogue-Medford girls basketball team continued its winning streak by defeating Ward Melville last week, 41-36. Scorers for Patchogue were **Madelaine Feindt**, 12; **Kitty O'Brien**, 11; **Grace Scaros**, 8; **Peggy Niemschick**, 4; **Lori Trava**, 4, and **Lori Roe**, 2.

Mr. and Mrs. **Patsy Pascuzzo** exchanged wedding vows at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel R.C. Church on Dec. 8, 1974. The bride is the former Miss **Brigid Mary Halligan** of County Mayo, Ireland. Patsy Pascuzzo is the son of Mrs. Rose Pascuzzo and the late Pasquale Pascuzzo of Patchogue.

Mark Stewart of Woodland Park Road, Bellport, is among students who received master's degrees after completing their work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He received a master's degree in water resources management.

Lillian Holt has been named Bellport High School 1974-75 Betty Crocker Family Leader of Tomorrow. She has just completed a program making her eligible for early graduation at Bellport High School in January 1975.

Mrs. **Andrew Olsen** of Station Road spent four days last week in Rockville Centre with her sister-in-law while her brother was in the hospital.

Mrs. **Frances Cornacchiolo** of Country Greens Drive was surprised at a baby shower given in her honor at the home of Mrs. **Marie Tutino** on Country Greens Drive. The shower was given by Mrs. Tutino, Mrs. **Diane Giattino**, Mrs. **Claire Cheesman**, Mrs. **Cathy DeMaio** and Mrs. **Sandra McInturff**.

Miss **Marguerite Ellen Petersen**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. **Karl Rattatz** of Woodland Park Road, is a sophomore at Pratt Technology Institute in Brooklyn. She is majoring in art and has received word that she is on the Dean's List.

Mr. and Mrs. **Calvin Shand Demarest** of Bellport announce the engagement of their daughter, **Wendy**, to **Robert DiDio**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Angelo DiDio of Bellport. Miss Demarest is a junior at Rider College, N.J. Mr. DiDio has just received his associate degree at Suffolk Community College in business administration and plans to attend Hofstra University in the fall. No date has been set for the wedding.

The emergence of **Willie Chaplin** as their floor leader, and an amazingly successful performance from **Steve Smith** up front were the key ingredients last Friday night in a rousing 92-86 triumph by Bellport over William Floyd. The win kept the Clippers, who have been playing top-notch basketball lately, sizzling toward a red-hot finish.

Playing this week at the Patchogue Theatre: "The Towering Inferno"; at the Plaza Theatre: Dustin Hoffman in "Lenny" and at the Rialto Theatre: "The Stepford Wives."

-Compiled by **Debbie Zampariello**

DO YOU HAVE A GOOD PHOTOGRAPH FOR THIS PAGE?

Mail it to: Long Island Advance, 20 Medford Avenue, Patchogue, New York 11772. Please include a brief, typewritten description of the photograph with your submission. All photos will be returned.

First-of-its-kind tax credit to support small-business advertising in local media

Sen. Monica R. Martinez and assemblymember Jen Lunsford, with support from the Empire State Local News Coalition, introduced legislation to establish a new tax credit for small businesses that advertise in local media outlets.

The Lift Our Communities, Advertise Locally (LOCAL) Act aims to maximize the reach of small businesses' advertising dollars and boost their visibility in their local communities. The new program will prioritize supporting minority-, woman- and veteran-owned businesses, as well as any local business with 10 employees or fewer.

"Small businesses are centers of our communities, built upon relationships with neighbors," said Sen. Martinez. "The LOCAL Act will strengthen those ties by making it easier to connect to local customers through the trusted media deeply rooted in the places they serve. This legislation fosters a cycle of growth, allowing small businesses to expand

their reach while investing in the media outlets that keep New Yorkers informed and engaged."

By supporting the marketing needs of small businesses through advertising in local media outlets, the initiative will help small businesses promote their products and services, while keeping investment local in the media outlets that New Yorkers rely on every day for critical information.

The bill has already garnered strong support from nine major business trade groups—including the Long Island Association, the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce, Upstate United and the National Federation of Independent Business—as well as the Empire State Local News Coalition's more than 200 local New York newspapers, which view the legislation as a winning solution to both increase investment in local small businesses and bolster the sustainability of local news organizations.

"The LOCAL Act is a win-win-win for local businesses, local news, and local communities," said Zachary Richner, founding member of the Empire State Local News Coalition. "These institutions are intricately connected and work together to create the vibrant communities that New Yorkers love. Thank you to Sen. Martinez and assemblymember Lunsford for crafting creative policy that not only recognizes these institutions as pillars of local communities but also supports their synergistic relationship."

Under the LOCAL Act, a minority-, woman- or veteran-owned business, as well as any business with 10 employees or fewer, would be eligible to receive a refundable tax credit of 80 percent of its first \$5,000 of local advertising for a maximum credit of \$4,000 per year. The program would be capped at \$10 million annually. "The LOCAL Act is a smart, common-sense approach to supporting the economic backbone of New York's towns:

small businesses," said Rich Schaffer, Town of Babylon supervisor. "Now more than ever, New York's leaders must prioritize advancing creative solutions like the LOCAL Act to ensure small businesses across our state have the tools, resources and support they need to thrive."

About Empire State Local News Coalition

Comprising more than 200 print and online newspapers, the Empire State Local News Coalition launched in 2024 to advocate for sound public policy that ensures the important work of local news organizations can continue across New York state. Through our independent journalism, we aim to serve, inform, uplift, and protect New Yorkers. We care deeply about our local communities as well as the future of New York's free press. For more information, visit SaveNYLocalNews.com.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Innovative and Alternative Wastewater Treatment Systems are high efficiency replacements for outdated, conventional cesspools which are a major source of nitrogen pollution in Long Island's groundwater. IA/OWTS reduce nitrogen pollution by up to 70 percent over traditional cesspools.

Suffolk County faces a pressing water quality crisis due to outdated septic systems that leach nitrogen into groundwater, polluting our bays, rivers, and drinking water. With over 360,000 homes relying on cesspools, the need for innovative and alternative wastewater treatment solutions has never been more urgent. Excess nitrogen fuels harmful algal blooms, depletes oxygen in waterways, and threatens marine life, local fisheries, and coastal resilience.

Turning the Tide

With the passage of Prop 2 in November that provided funding, Suffolk County is poised to take great strides in addressing

this challenge by advancing its sewerage strategy and exploring cutting-edge wastewater treatment technologies that reduce nitrogen pollution. These solutions, including advanced septic systems and expanded sewer infrastructure, are crucial for protecting public health, supporting economic growth, and preserving our environment.

Learn More

We invite you to join us on March 7 for an insightful discussion at our Speaker Series: "Clean Water, Clear Future - What's Next in Suffolk's Sewering Strategy." Seating is limited and registration is a must. Our experts will share the latest updates on wastewater initiatives, funding opportunities, and the path forward for cleaner water. This is a vital conversation for homeowners, business owners, and community leaders invested in safeguarding Suffolk's water resources.

Register today: <https://givebutter.com/Vz9l3y>

IA/OWTS
noun

Innovative & Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems are high efficiency replacements for outdated, conventional cesspools which are a major source of nitrogen pollution in Long Island's groundwater.

IA/OWTS reduce nitrogen pollution by up to 70% over traditional cesspools.

Save the Great South Bay

OP-ED

The Advance has the opportunity to prove its relevance

BY BETSY CRAZ
EAST PATCHOGUE, NY

Don't get me wrong, I'm grateful. At a time when agenda-free news is an endangered "species," our community can still rely on a traditional print and digital newspaper. Week after week The Long Island Advance dutifully reports on our businesses, schools, sports, the arts and Brookhaven town government news.

Under normal circumstances, it's the best we can expect from a weekly, local newspaper. But the events unfolding in Washington prove that we are living in exceptionally abnormal times. The Advance must broaden its reporting scope so readers can navigate the local impact of the new administration's historical policies.

For instance, even though Trump's drastic federal spending freeze was temporarily paused by the courts for being unconstitutional, The Advance could fol-

low up on reports that researchers and faculty at area universities and institutions already lost their grants and their jobs as a result. And The Advance could look into accounts that local college students have been notified that their feder-

al school loans would not be available for the next school year.

Some might be wondering if Trump's funding slashes will impact the implementation of Suffolk County's Clean Water Act that voters passed last Novem-

ber. And will the critical infrastructure projects already underway on Long Island be suspended?

It would be helpful to know how our local places of worship and schools are

See **OP-ED** on page 20

The Long Island ADVANCE

Published weekly at 20 Medford Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772

Established 1871

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JOHN T. TUTHILL, III

Publisher 1972-2018

It is not our aim to tell readers what to think, but to provide them with food for thought and to make interpretive editorial comment on the news

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Douglas E. Marino

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MY TURN

Driving Mr. Daisy

BY BRIAN CURRY



I've pretty much abdicated, surrendered, given up the side of my vehicle that has the steering wheel, the gas pedal and the brake.

No need to worry—I have not lost my marbles, my eyesight, or even my sense of direction. All of them are still within acceptable boundaries, according to the various doctors that I have driven myself to lately.

And yes, it is even a rather misogynistic thought to presume that the driver's side of the auto is the domain of only the male members of the species. It's not, and I don't feel it is, but in the interest in peace... and quiet, I just threw in the figurative towel.

My wife Debra, who will read this column long before it stares back at you from your copy of *The Advance*, would be the first one to agree that she is not a good passenger. When not in control of those aforementioned wheels, pedals and brakes, she feels very anxious.

Mind you, my driving record is okay. Our auto insurance premiums have no significant dings on it and I'm not on a first-name basis with the local body shop. Having said that, I do have some scrapes and dents to own up to, but not of the moving violations sort.

Debra is a Class A type of behavior woman. She has been in charge or in control of her health-related job, her own business, and even our household finances. Me? If I have a roof over my head, a pillow underneath it and three squares, I'm good to go.

So even though I stay in my lane, use my directionals and follow the rules of the road, why am I willingly sliding over to the passenger side?

Her reactions to imagined or even real hazards leave me even more nervous than her. If she senses that a car is too close, or a hazard is not being seen, she will let out a "Watch!" while pushing down on the imaginary brake pedal and grabbing her seat.

Now, I'm all for a heads-up or a warning ahead of a problem, but offer me more than a "watch." Watch what? A car? A pedestrian? An immovable object? Or is a jet going to land on Sunrise Highway in front of me?

I, of course, respond to this com-

mand (usually said in a higher voice than normal) by my head jerking in 34 different directions, a clutching of the steering wheel, and about 20 evasive driving movements in every which way. For what, I have no idea!

That's pretty much why, for the most part, I will now gladly have nothing more important than the glove box on my side of the car. I have not sent back my driver's license and still get behind the wheel for any solo jaunts I may find myself motoring to.

What I hadn't counted on was the many benefits to not driving. I am now actually seeing the scenery, the roadside attractions, the signage and nature. Of course, when I spot something newsworthy, I may try to point out something only to get a "I'm trying to watch the road here." Something I've said to her many a time.

But overall, things are quieter and more peaceful as I watch the world pass by.

That is until I utter that word, "Watch!" ■

Brian Curry is a longtime Long Island Advance columnist and is a three-time winner of the New York State Press Association's "Column of the Year". You can contact him at currypoinofview@yahoo.com



Recognizing red flags

Identify healthy and unhealthy relationships

In today's fast-paced digital world, it's more important than ever for adults and teens to understand the dynamics of relationships. Recognizing the red flags of unhealthy relationships, as well as learning how to foster healthy communication and mutual respect, is a crucial part of building healthy futures. Long Island Against Domestic Violence (LIADV) and the Suffolk County Police Department are joining forces to raise awareness and empower adults, parents and teens to identify and act upon these red flags. On Feb. 6, the Town of Brookhaven will host "The Red Flags of Dating," two simulta-

neous workshops, one for youth and one for parents and adults. The event will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Brookhaven Town Hall, One Independence Hill in Farmingville, NY 11738.

This initiative will focus on educating teens about the warning signs of unhealthy and abusive relationships, as well as providing them with the resources they need to seek support. Participants will also gain insights into the services available to them through Long Island Against Domestic Violence (LIADV) and the Suffolk County Police Department. With their guidance, we hope to foster a new generation that understands the importance of respect, trust, and communication in all relationships.

Key Topics to be Covered:

Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships: Participants will learn to differentiate between healthy, respectful relationships and those that are toxic or harmful. Topics include signs of emotional, physical, and verbal abuse.

Support Services Available: Long Island Against Domestic Violence offers numerous resources and programs to assist individuals in abusive situations, providing counseling, shelter, and legal assistance. Additionally, the Suffolk County Police Department provides immediate help and advice for those who may be in danger or need further guidance.

Talking to Your Teen About Unhealthy Relationships: Parents, adults and guardians will receive tips on

how to approach difficult conversations with their teens. This includes fostering an open, non-judgmental dialogue, recognizing warning signs, and encouraging their teens to reach out for help when necessary.

Why This Matters: With incidents of dating violence and abuse on the rise, it's imperative that both teens, adults, and their families are well-equipped to recognize the signs early and act quickly. Through this collaborative effort, LIADV and the Suffolk County Police Department aim to help teens make informed decisions about their relationships, build confidence, and learn where to turn for help if they ever need it. To register, RSVP to Sharon Boyd womenservices@brookhavenny.gov. ■

NYC admin sentenced for submitting forged doctor's notes

Suffolk County district attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced that a New York City Administration for Children's Services employee, Alan Anderson, 60, of Oakdale, was sentenced to 10 months in jail for possessing and submitting 12 forged doctor notes to his employer to avoid having to appear for work. The arrest and conviction were the result of a joint investigation by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and the New York City Department of Investigation.

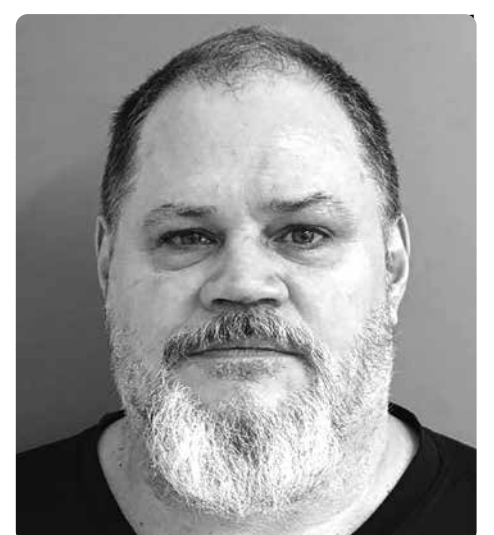
"The defendant's scheme not only defrauded taxpayers, but also under-

mined the vital work of the Administration for Children's Services, an agency tasked with protecting the city's most vulnerable residents," said district attorney Tierney. "This sentence sends a clear message that we take public corruption seriously, regardless of scale. The integrity of our public institutions depends on honest service from every employee."

According to the investigation and the defendant's admissions in open court, between Feb. 13 and May 7, 2024, Anderson submitted 12 fraudulent doctor notes to his employer, the New York City

Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"), in order to avoid having to commute to his scheduled in-person office dates.

At the time of the alleged offenses, Anderson was scheduled to work at the physical office location on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. All the dates Anderson submitted doctor notes were for either a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Anderson did not submit any notes corresponding with his scheduled remote workdays of Tuesday and Thursday. ■



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purpose field and track with new lighting and a scoreboard; new tennis courts; drainage upgrades and other improvements; all of the foregoing to include the original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith; and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$78,500,000; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the plan may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District;

(b) that the Board of Education of the District is authorized to expend \$21,000,000, plus any interest earnings thereon, from three (3) separate Capital Reserve Funds of the District, which were established on May 11, 2021, May 10, 2022 and May 14, 2024 respectively pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law, to pay a portion of the cost of the Project;

(c) that a tax is hereby voted in the amount of not to exceed \$57,500,000 to finance the balance of said estimated total cost, such tax to be levied by and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by said Board of Education; and in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$57,500,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable; and

(d) that District funds from current and/or future operations may be available to pay a portion of the cost, and any such funds expended therefor shall offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied and the amount of bonds herein authorized to be issued.

Such Bond Proposition shall appear on the ballots used for voting at said Special District Meeting in substantially the following condensed form:

BOND PROPOSITION

YES NO

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Board of Education of the William Floyd Union Free School District of the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley is hereby authorized to undertake District-wide Capital Improvement Plan (the "Project"), substantially as described in a plan prepared by the District with the assistance of John A. Grillo, Architects, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$78,500,000; (b) that the Board of Education of the District is authorized to expend \$21,000,000, plus any interest earnings thereon, from three (3) separate Capital Reserve Funds of the District, which were established on May 11, 2021, May 10, 2022 and May 14, 2024 respectively pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law, to pay a portion of the cost of the Project; (c) that a tax is hereby voted in the amount of not to exceed \$57,500,000 to finance the balance of said cost, such tax to be levied by and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by said Board of Education; and in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$57,500,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable; and (d) that District funds from current and/or future operations may be available to pay a portion of the cost, and any such funds expended therefor shall offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to

be levied and the amount of bonds herein authorized to be issued.

The voting will be conducted by ballot on voting machines or paper ballots as provided in the Education Law and the polls will remain open from 6:00 o'clock A.M. to 8:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the voters then present to cast their ballots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Education Law §2014, personal registration of voters is required, and no person shall be entitled to vote at the Special District Meeting whose name does not appear on the register of the District. The register of the qualified voters of said School District prepared at the Annual Meeting and Election held on May 21, 2024, shall be used as the basis for the preparation of the register for said Special District Meeting to be held on March 26, 2025. Any person whose name appears on such register or who shall have been previously registered for any annual or special District meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special District meeting or election held or conducted at any time since January 1, 2021, will not be required to register personally for this Special District Meeting. In addition, any person otherwise qualified to vote who is registered with the Board of Elections of Suffolk County pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law shall be entitled to vote at said Special District Meeting without further registration.

NOTICE is also given that prospective voters may be registered in the District Clerk's Office, at the William Floyd High School, 240 Mastic Beach Road, Mastic Beach, New York, on each day that the District Clerk's Office is open, prior to March 18, 2025, between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. (Prevailing Time).

NOTICE is also given that the Board of Registration will meet at the District Office, 240 Mastic Beach Road, Mastic Beach, New York, on Friday, March 21, 2025, from 9:00 o'clock A.M. to 5:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) for the purpose of preparing a register of the qualified voters of the District for said Special District Meeting, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register, provided that at such meeting of the Board of Registration he/she is known or proven to the satisfaction of such Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at said Special District Meeting.

Immediately upon completion, the register of the School District, as well as the register of qualified voters of the District prepared by the Board of Elections of Suffolk County, will be filed in the office of the District Clerk, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 9:00 o'clock A.M. and 4:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) each of the five (5) days prior to the day set for the Special District Meeting, except Sunday, and on Saturday, March 22, 2025, by appointment only.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots in the form prescribed by Section 2018-a of the Education Law may be applied for during school business hours at the Office of the District Clerk. If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the completed application must be received by the District Clerk no later than Tuesday, March 25, 2025. No absentee voter's ballot shall be canvassed unless it is received in office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) on the day of the Special District Meeting.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available for public inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk during regular school business hours on each of the five (5) days prior to the day set for the Special District Meeting, except Saturday and Sunday.

NOTICE that pursuant to Section 2018-e of the Education Law, applications for early mail ballots

may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk of the District during all days in which the District is in session. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than February 24, 2025 and by March 19, 2025, if the early mail ballot is to be mailed to the voter. If the early mail ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter at the Office of the District Clerk the completed application must be received by the District Clerk no later than March 25, 2025. No early mail voter's ballot will be canvassed unless it has been received in the Office of the District Clerk of the District no later than 5:00 P.M. (Prevailing Time) on March 26, 2025. A list of all persons to whom early ballots have been issued will be available in the Office of the District Clerk's office during office hours on and after March 20, 2025 until March 25, 2025, except on Saturday March 22, 2025, by prearranged appointment by contacting the District Clerk at (631) 874-1117 or via email at cvisintin@wfsd.k12.ny.us. A challenge to an early ballot may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an absentee ballot.

NOTICE is also given that military voters who are not currently registered to vote may apply to register as a qualified voter of the District by contacting the District Clerk at the William Floyd High School, 240 Mastic Beach Road, Mastic Beach, New York by telephone (631) 874-1117, or email: cvisintin@wfsd.k12.ny.us to receive an application to register as a qualified voter of the District for the Annual Election and Budget Vote. Military voters may indicate their preference for receiving the registration application by mail, by facsimile, or electronic mail (email). The application to register must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 o'clock PM February 28, 2025. An individual will qualify as a military voter if he or she (1) is a qualified voter of the State of New York, who is in actual military service, and is absent from the District on the day of registration or election or is discharged from service within 30 days of an election; or (2) a spouse, parent, child, or dependent of such service member who is a qualified voter and is absent due to the service of the military member. Military ballots may be applied for during school business hours at the office of the District Clerk. Military ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 o'clock P.M. (Prevailing Time) on the day of the election in order to be canvassed. In order for a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the school district must have received in the office of the school district clerk a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 o'clock P.M. on February 28, 2025. A military voter may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application, or ballot. Such designation shall remain in effect until revoked or changed by the military voter. Ballots for military voters shall be mailed, or otherwise distributed, no later than March 1, 2025. Military ballots must be received by the District Clerk (1) before the close of the polls on election day and showing a cancellation mark of the U.S. postal service or a foreign country's postal service, or showing a dated endorsement of receipt by another agency of the U.S. government or (2) by 5:00 o'clock P.M. on election day and signed and dated by the military voter and one witness thereof, with a date which is ascertained to be not later than the day before the election.

NOTICE is also given that a list of all persons to whom military ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours, 9:00 o'clock A.M. to 4:00 o'clock P.M., prevailing time, until the day of the Annual District Meeting and Election.

Only qualified voters who are duly registered will be permitted to vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Dated: January 21, 2025

Carolyn Visintin
District Clerk
AVISO DE LA REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DEL DISTRITO
DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR LIBRE DE LA UNIÓN WILLIAM FLOYD DE LOS MASTICS-MORICHES-SHIRLEY,
EN EL CONDADO DE SUFFOLK, NUEVA YORK

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Libre de la Unión William Floyd de Mastics-Moriches-Shirley, en el Condado de Suffolk, Nueva York, ha adoptado una resolución el 21 de enero de 2025, autorizando una Reunión Especial del Distrito de los votantes calificados de dicho Distrito Escolar que se llevará a cabo el

Miércoles, 26 de marzo de 2025 de 6:00 a.m. a 8:00 p.m. (hora prevaleciente) en el vestíbulo contiguo al auditorio de la Escuela Secundaria William Floyd, 240 Mastic Beach Road, Mastic Beach, Nueva York, con el propósito de votar sobre la siguiente Proposición de Bonos:

PROPUESTA DE BONOS**SE RESUELVE:**

(a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Libre William Floyd Union de Mastics-Moriches-Shirley, en el Condado de Suffolk, Nueva York (el "Distrito"), está autorizada por la presente a emprender un Plan de Mejoras de Capital para todo el Distrito (el "Proyecto"), sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de John A. Grillo, Arquitectos, que está archivado y disponible para inspección pública en la oficina del Secretario del Distrito; incluyendo la construcción de adiciones y/o alteraciones y mejoras a los edificios del Distrito y sus sitios, que consisten en (según y donde sea necesario): la construcción de nuevos espacios de educación técnica y profesional (CTE), aulas, seguridad, vestíbulo, oficinas, salas de conferencias, entradas y baños; reconstrucción interior y reconfiguración del espacio para proporcionar nuevas aulas, laboratorios, CTE, baños y otros espacios; mejoras en estacionamientos y aceras; mejoras deportivas y recreativas, incluyendo la construcción de un nuevo campo de usos múltiples y pista con iluminación y un marcador; nuevas canchas de tenis; mejoras de drenaje y otras mejoras; todo lo anterior incluye el mobiliario original, el equipo, la maquinaria, el aparato y el sitio auxiliar o relacionado, la demolición y otros trabajos necesarios en relación con los mismos; y a gastar, incluidos los gastos preliminares y los gastos inherentes a ellos y a su financiación, una suma que no exceda del costo total estimado de 78.500.000 dólares; siempre que los costos detallados de los componentes del Proyecto, tal como se establecen en el plan, puedan reasignarse entre dichos componentes si el Consejo de Educación determina que dicha reasignación es en el mejor interés del Distrito;

(b) que la Junta de Educación del Distrito está autorizada a gastar \$21,000,000, más cualquier ganancia por intereses sobre los mismos, de tres (3) Fondos de Reserva de Capital separados del Distrito, que se establecieron el 11 de mayo de 2021, el 10 de mayo de 2022 y el 14 de mayo de 2024 respectivamente de conformidad con la Sección 3651 de la Ley de Educación, para pagar una parte del costo del Proyecto;

(c) que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto que no exceda los \$57,500,000 para financiar el saldo de dicho costo total estimado, dicho impuesto será recaudado y recaudado en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que determine dicha Junta de Educación; y en anticipación de dicho impuesto, por la presente se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por un monto principal que no exceda los \$57,500,000, y por la presente se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos a medida que los mismos vengán y sean pagaderos; y

(d) que los fondos del Distrito

de las operaciones actuales y/o futuras pueden estar disponibles para pagar una parte del costo, y cualquier fondo gastado para ello compensará y reducirá la cantidad de impuestos autorizados a ser recaudados y la cantidad de bonos autorizados a ser emitidos en este documento.

Dicha Proposición de Bono aparecerá en las boletas utilizadas para votar en dicha Reunión Especial del Distrito en sustancialmente la siguiente forma condensada:

PROPUESTA DE BONOS

SI NO

SE RESUELVE:

(a) Que la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Libre William Floyd Union de Mastics-Moriches-Shirley está autorizada por la presente a emprender un Plan de Mejoras de Capital en todo el Distrito (el "Proyecto"), sustancialmente como se describe en un plan preparado por el Distrito con la asistencia de John A. Grillo, Architects, y a gastar para ello una cantidad que no exceda los \$78,500,000; (b) que la Junta de Educación del Distrito está autorizada a gastar \$21,000,000, más cualquier ganancia por intereses sobre los mismos, de tres (3) Fondos de Reserva de Capital separados del Distrito, que se establecieron el 11 de mayo de 2021, el 10 de mayo de 2022 y el 14 de mayo de 2024 respectivamente de conformidad con la Sección 3651 de la Ley de Educación, para pagar una parte del costo del Proyecto; (c) que por la presente se vota un impuesto por un monto que no exceda los \$57,500,000 para financiar el saldo de dicho costo, dicho impuesto se recaudará y se recaudará en cuotas en los años y en las cantidades que determine dicha Junta de Educación; y en anticipación de dicho impuesto, por la presente se autoriza la emisión de bonos del Distrito por un monto principal agregado que no exceda los \$57,500,000, y por la presente se vota un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichos bonos a medida que los mismos vengán y sean pagaderos; y (d) que los fondos del Distrito de las operaciones actuales y/o futuras pueden estar disponibles para pagar una parte del costo, y cualquier fondo gastado para ello compensará y reducirá la cantidad de impuestos autorizados a ser recaudados y la cantidad de bonos autorizados a ser emitidos en este documento.

La votación se llevará a cabo por cédula en máquinas de votación o boletas de papel, según lo dispuesto en la Ley de Educación, y las urnas permanecerán abiertas desde las 6:00 a.m. hasta las 8:00 p.m. (hora prevaleciente) y durante el tiempo que sea necesario para permitir que los electores presentes en ese momento emitan su voto.

SE NOTIFICA ADEMÁS que, de conformidad con la Ley de Educación §2014, se requiere el registro personal de los votantes, y ninguna persona tendrá derecho a votar en la Reunión Especial del Distrito cuyo nombre no aparezca en el registro del Distrito. El registro de los votantes calificados de dicho Distrito Escolar preparado en la Reunión Anual y Elección celebrada el 21 de mayo de 2024, se utilizará como base para la preparación del registro para dicha Reunión Especial del Distrito que se llevará a cabo el 26 de marzo de 2025. Cualquier persona cuyo nombre aparezca en dicho registro o que haya sido registrada previamente para cualquier reunión o elección anual o especial del Distrito y que haya votado en cualquier reunión o elección anual o especial del Distrito celebrada o realizada en cualquier momento desde el 1 de enero de 2021, no estará obligada a registrarse personalmente para esta Reunión Especial del Distrito. Además, cualquier persona calificada para votar que esté registrada en la Junta Electoral del Condado de Suffolk

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