



Eye on the Street: Sewers

Locals weigh in on the ongoing wastewater debate in Suffolk County

A9



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Middle Country Public Library director Sophia Serlis-McPhillips cuts the ribbon during the grand opening of the library's new café. Photo by Raymond Janis



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Suffolk County Legislator Nick Caracappa and Middle Country Public Library director Sophia Serlis-McPhillips celebrate the grand opening of the library's café. Photo by Raymond Janis

New café at MCPL Centereach expands cultural, education opportunities

BY RAYMOND JANIS

EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Middle Country Public Library, Centereach unveiled its new café Friday, Sept. 8, continuing an ongoing campaign expanding arts, education and cultural opportunities throughout the greater Middle Country area.

The new café offers freshly brewed coffee, craft espresso drinks and baked goods from JeJoJo Bagels of Centereach. It is open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Library staff hosted community members and public officials for the grand opening ceremony. Library director Sophia Serlis-McPhillips cut the ribbon to the cheers and adulation of the crowd.

"This café is part of a renovation we did for the entire library, which started in 2018," she said. "We had a soft opening over the summer, but today was the official."

Serlis-McPhillips highlighted the considerable public demand for a café space through the years, suggesting that the recent library renovations offer a suitable opportunity to embark upon the undertaking.

"We wanted to do that because it seemed like what the patrons and the community wanted," the MCPL director said. "It is nice for people just to sit down and relax."

She continued, "Unlike some other places, we are manning the staff. So we hire the staff and train them," adding that the partnership with JeJoJo's represents an ongoing effort by the library "to keep everything local."

Along with the new café, MCPL offers a new maker space and a recording studio. Serlis-McPhillips noted how these innovations have "become part of our everyday operation."

Suffolk County Legislator Nick Caracappa (C-Selden), the majority leader of the county Legislature whose 4th District includes Centereach, congratulated library staff and patrons alike.

"This is just an exciting day for the residents of Middle Country to have a facility like this," he said. "We've always had beautiful libraries, but this just takes it up a notch."

The majority leader highlighted how the new café plays into ongoing community revitalization efforts, with proposals for greater public investments and sewers. He maintained arts and cultural institutions such as MCPL as "vital" to the health and future prosperity of the community.

"We should never overlook arts—whether they be from paintings to theatrics to ... 3D printing," he added. "The capabilities are unlimited for what we can do, and we have to keep that alive and well in our community."

Town of Brookhaven Councilman Neil Manzella (R-Selden), who represents Centereach on the Town Board, was once a part-time employee at MCPL. He underscored the several transformations the facility has undergone since his departure.

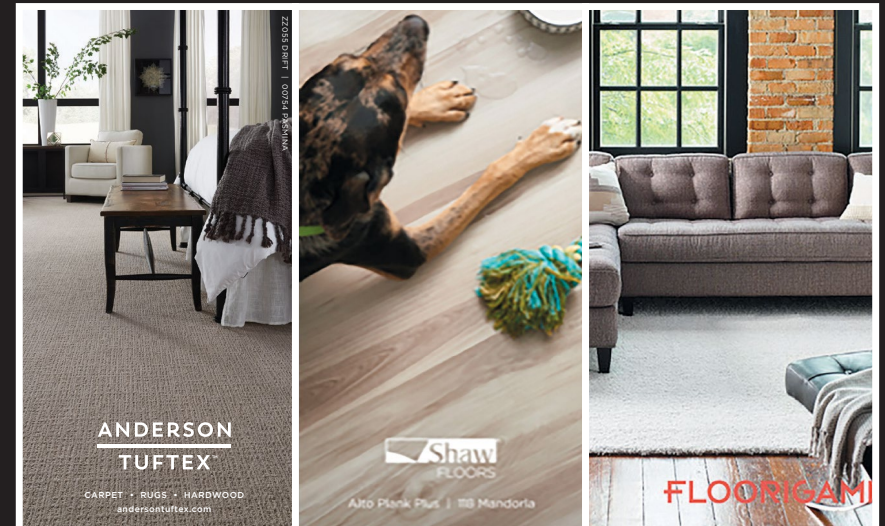
"It's just so heartwarming to see how much it's growing and adapting to the times," he said. "To see how much it's growing and everything they do, it's just amazing."

Manzella expressed enthusiasm for the opportunities of sewers and for further community revitalization and commercial redevelopment. But as local government works toward those objectives, he said institutions like MCPL remain a "cornerstone" for residents.

"Anything that helps provide the arts, that helps provide outlets for any kind of entertainment or fun, the library is something that provides that," the councilman said.

Adding to these sentiments, Serlis-McPhillips regarded the library as "central."

"I definitely feel that we are in the heart of the community," she said. "Our community supports the library a lot," adding, "When we work together collectively, I think that makes a difference."



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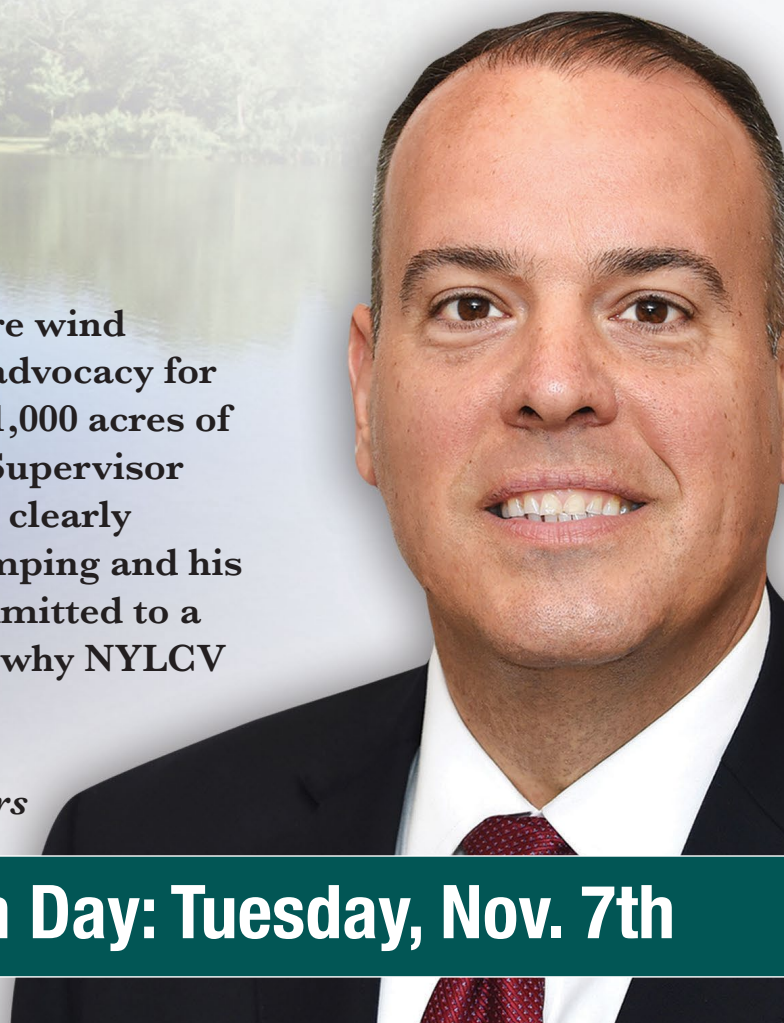
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MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Joe started his career at Caffe Amici on a busy Mother's Day, helping out in the kitchen at the request of his uncle, who was the chef. He was 15 years old at the time. He spent time working in the kitchen, and over the years worked in every other position in the restaurant: busboy, waiter, bartender, and the pizza counter. He eventually became the restaurant's General Manager.

Joe left the restaurant business and Caffe Amici in January 2017 when given the opportunity to work for the Long Island Railroad. He spent just over 3 years at the railroad in the signal department, where he became a mechanic while also finishing his Bachelor's Degree in Systems Engineering.

When the chance to open Capellini with long-time friend and partner, Sal Cacciato, presented itself in mid-2019, Joe jumped on it. Capellini opened in January 2020, and Joe was back doing what he loved. He grew Capellini into another popular Suffolk County Italian restaurant and remained the owner until the summer of 2021. He left Capellini in July of that year to fulfill his dream, coming full circle, and bought Caffe Amici where he started his restaurant career 25 years earlier.

He tells all the younger staff that he hires that if they put their mind to it and are willing to work hard, they can be whatever they want to be, starting at the bottom and working their way to the top, just like he did.

The restaurant is in Joe's blood. It is who he is, what makes him feel alive. He gives so much energy and passion to his work, which is evident when you step foot in Caffe Amici and see him in action. Joe's energy and passion are also invested in his family. He works hard to provide for his wife, Chrissy, and 10-year-old twin boys, Joseph and Christian. He loves spending time at home with them and also enjoys time on family vacations, like a cruise to the Caribbean or a trip to Hawaii.

- Years at Caffe Amici: 27! (on and off)
- Favorite Dish: Shrimp Monachina
- Fun Fact: Joe and Chrissy met at Splish Splash in 1997 but were reintroduced to each other in 2010 by one of Joe's employees – Chrissy's sister!

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

Selden motorcyclist killed

Suffolk County Police Seventh Squad detectives are investigating a motorcycle crash that killed a Selden man on Sept. 9 in Manorville.

Henry L. Zdenek Jr. was riding a 2005 Harley-Davidson motorcycle southbound on Clancy Road, near Hampton Vista Drive, when he crossed into the northbound lanes in an attempt to pass other motorcycles at 10:28 a.m. Zdenek swerved back into the southbound lane to avoid oncoming traffic and struck a 2004 Harley-Davidson being ridden by Rosalind Zayas.

Zdenek, 59, of Selden, was transported via ambulance to Peconic Bay Medical Center in Riverhead where he was pronounced dead. Zayas, 62, of Central Islip, was taken to the same hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

Anyone with information on the crash is asked to call 631-852-8752.

Chiropractor endangered welfare of child

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on Sept. 12 that Ronald Bernardini, 65, of Smithtown, a chiropractor at a Lake Ronkonkoma medical office, pleaded guilty to Endangering the Welfare of a Child, after inappropriately touching a 16-year-old female patient during a chiropractic examination.

As part of his plea, Bernardini was required to surrender his license to practice as a chiropractor. An order of protection was also filed against Bernardini, in favor of the minor female victim.

Selden man pleads guilty in deadly DWI

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on Sept. 8 that Anthony Milano, 31, of Selden, pleaded guilty to Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, for speeding and driving while intoxicated which led to a crash that killed his rear passenger.

According to court documents and the defendant's admissions during his guilty plea allocation, on August 15, 2022, at approximately

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Do you recognize these two men? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for petit larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Sixth Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public's help to identify and locate the two men who allegedly stole LEGOs from Target, located at 307 Independence Plaza in Selden, on August 22. The suspects fled toward a bus stop. The merchandise was valued at approximately \$830.

2:14 a.m., Milano was driving at a high rate of speed on Clearview Avenue in Selden when he lost control of his vehicle causing him to crash into a parked car, and then a tree.

Milano's rear passenger, Paige Swiecicki, 30, of Selden, was killed due to injuries sustained from the crash. Milano's front passenger, Scott Johnson, 30, of Selden, sustained serious physical injuries and was transported to Stony Brook University Hospital.

During the initial investigation, Milano made admissions to drinking alcohol prior to driving, and consented to a blood test which revealed his blood alcohol concentration was .09%. Prosecutors later obtained a warrant for Milano's blood that was taken upon his admission to Stony Brook University Hospital, which revealed his blood alcohol concentration was .11%.

Additionally, an analysis of Milano's vehicle's black box revealed he was driving 78 miles per hour seconds before the crash.

— COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers offers a **cash reward** for information that leads to an arrest. Anyone with information about these incidents can contact Suffolk County Crime Stoppers to submit an anonymous tip by calling 1-800-220-TIPS.

LEGALS

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Email: legals@tbrnewsmedia.com

Notice of formation of M.A.E. Building Consulting, L.L.C. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 8/24/23. Office located in Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to 50 Highview Avenue, Selden, NY 11784. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

164550 9/7 6x tmc

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF
FIRE COMMISSIONERS
CENTEREACH
FIRE DISTRICT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Centereach Fire District will have an Information Hearing on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the amendment to the LOSAP plan. The meeting will be held at the Centereach Fire District Headquarters Building, 9 South Washington Avenue, Centereach, New York.

Dated:
Centereach, New York
September 5, 2023

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
CENTEREACH FIRE
DISTRICT

Jennifer Gardner,
District Secretary

165600 9/14 1x tmc

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTEREACH
FIRE DISTRICT

NOTICE OF
SPECIAL ELECTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Election of the **CENTEREACH FIRE DISTRICT** will take place on October 17, 2023, at the District's Headquarters Building, located at 9 South Washington Avenue, Centereach, New York, between the hours of 6:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. (prevailing time) for the purpose stated in the below proposition:

PROPOSITION

THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CENTEREACH FIRE DISTRICT, TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN, COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, IN A RESOLUTION ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 5th, 2023, APPROVED AN AMENDMENT OF THE DEFINED BENEFIT LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHED FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF THE CENTEREACH FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO EXTEND THE MAXIMUM YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT FOR WHICH A PARTICIPATING ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MAY EARN A SERVICE AWARD FROM 30 TO 50 YEARS, TO INCREASE THE MONTHLY AMOUNT FROM \$20.00 TO \$30.00, AND THEREFORE THE MAXIMUM PROJECTED ACCRUED MONTHLY SERVICE AWARD FROM \$600 TO \$1,500, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024.

THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 CONTRIBUTION DUE FOR THE PROGRAM IS ABOUT \$398,814, WHICH INCLUDES AN AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION FOR EACH PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER THAT EARNS SERVICE CREDIT OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,508. THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR THE AMENDED PROGRAM WILL INCREASE AS A RESULT OF THIS AMENDMENT AND IS THEREFORE ESTIMATED TO BE AT \$486,716. THEREFORE, THE AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION PER PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER THAT EARNS SERVICE CREDIT WILL ALSO INCREASE TO AN AVERAGE OF APPROXIMATELY \$3061. THE DISTRICT PAYS ADDITIONAL ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF ABOUT \$6,500 WHICH WILL NOT CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THIS AMENDMENT.

SHALL THE STATED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS BE APPROVED?

Please note that the Centereach Fire District will be utilizing paper ballots for this special election.

Only those persons who have registered with the Suffolk County Board of

Elections on or before September 24, 2023, shall be eligible to vote at this special election.

Dated:
Centereach, New York
September 5th, 2023

By Order of The Board
of Fire Commissioners
of the Centereach
Fire District

Jennifer Gardner,
District Secretary

165610 9/14 1x tmc

Public Announcement
for School Meals
Community Eligibility
Provision

The Middle Country CSD today announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2023-2024 school year, which would allow for all children at all Middle Country schools to be served meals at no charge.

For additional information please contact the following person:
Middle Country CSD
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Food Services
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Centereach, NY 11720,
Contact Phone Number:
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(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION
OF RESOLUTION

SUBJECT TO
PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Centereach Fire District, in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York, at a meeting thereof, held on the 5th day of September 2023, duly adopted, subject to permissive referendum, a Resolution, an abstract of which is as follows:

The Resolution authorizes the sale of a 2011 Ford F550 Medtec Ambulance, with Stretcher, at a total price of no less than \$50,000.00.

Dated:
Centereach, New York
September 6, 2023

Jennifer Gardner,
Fire District Secretary
Centereach Fire District
9 South Washington Avenue
Centereach, New York
11720

165840 9/14 1x tmc

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF
ZONING APPEALS
TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE IV, SEC. 85-55 (B) OF THE BUILDING ZONE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS WILL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW, HOLD THE FOLLOWING, AT ONE INDEPENDENCE HILL, FARMINGVILLE, N.Y.: 1. A WORKSESSION ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 (BZA CONFERENCE ROOM – 1ST FLOOR) AT 4:00 P.M., 2. A PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, **SEPTEMBER 20, 2023** (2ND FLOOR AUDITORIUM) COMMENCING **AT 2:00 P.M.** (THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE LIVE STREAMED OVER THE INTERNET AT <http://brookhaventownny.igm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>, TO CONSIDER THE MATTERS LISTED BELOW and 3. A WORKSESSION ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2023, (PUBLIC DINING AREA 2ND FLOOR) COMMENCING AT THE END OF THE CALL OF EITHER THE 2:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING CAL-endar AND/OR THE END OF THE CALL OF THE ENTIRE PUBLIC CALENDAR, AS TIME PERMITS TO DISCUSS THE DECISION CAL-endar

**TIMES OF
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**THE FOLLOWING CASES
WILL COMMENCE AT 4 P.M.**

25. Charles & Michelle Ferguson, c/o Andrew Malguarnera, 713 Main St., Port Jefferson, NY. Location: East side Eastwood Blvd., 488.35' North of Middle Country Rd., Centereach. Applicant requests side yard variances for existing pavilion and existing deck. (0200 48700 0300 017000)

26. Jaime Rosa, 3A Foxhill Pl., Selden, NY. Location: East side Foxhill Pl., 247.29' South of Roselyn St. (not open), West side Cleveland Ave. (not open), Selden. Applicant requests total side yard variance for proposed one story residence addition and rear yard variance for existing shed. (0200 54000 0100 048001)

CASES WILL BE HEARD AT
THE DISCRETION OF THE
BOARD.

HOWARD M. BERGSON
CHAIRMAN

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Wastewater infrastructure casts shadow over Suffolk County elections

BY SAMANTHA RUTT
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

As the local election season intensifies, Suffolk County’s wastewater infrastructure has now become the defining policy issue, with residents and environmentalists demanding immediate action to address what they consider an environmental crisis.

Water quality of Long Island’s coveted waterways is currently suffering as the county’s wastewater infrastructure deteriorates rapidly. Much of the system was built decades ago and has not been adequately upgraded to meet the demands of the growing population, critics say.

“Clean water is crucial to the health of our families, the lifeblood of our economy and central to our way of life,” said businessman Dave Calone, Democratic candidate for Suffolk County executive running against Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine (R). “Unfortunately, our water quality is at an all-time low, and we need to act now to protect it.”

Local officials, residents and environmentalists have voiced concerns over the issue. Adrienne Esposito, executive director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said, “Suffolk County Legislators have an ethical and moral obligation to protect our drinking and coastal water resources.”

County Water Quality Restoration Act

The Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act, a plan to restore the county’s water quality, includes two bills that would create a fund to restore clean water by connecting homes and businesses to sewers and finance clean water septic system replacements.

“The need for an overall plan for wastewater infrastructure has been well-recognized for more than 60 years,” said Peter Scully, deputy county executive for administration.

Earlier this year, Scully had spearheaded a proposed 1/8 penny sales tax initiative to finance wastewater infrastructure. This proposal was rejected by the county Legislature in July, setting the stage for a contentious election season over this issue [See story, “Suffolk County Legislature recesses, blocks referendum on wastewater fund,” July 27, TBR News Media].

“Tragically, the Legislature doesn’t consider this a priority and has refused to let the public vote on this plan,” Esposito said. “Letting the public vote on a clean water referendum is good policy and good for democracy. It is deeply disturbing that the legislators support neither of those objectives.”

Impact on elections

The Republican vote to recess has met with fierce opposition from county Democrats, who are using the wastewater controversy to highlight differences in platforms.

“Republicans did not vote to put the referendum on the ballot,” said Keith Davies, Suffolk County Democratic Committee campaign manager. “It is clear that Republicans chose not to trust voters to make their own decisions. In our opinion, it was the wrong decision.”

Responding to these charges, county Legislator Stephanie Bontempi (R-Centerport), who is defending her 18th Legislative District seat against pediatrician Eve Meltzer-Krief (D-Centerport), indicated that her caucus is avoiding a rush to judgment.

“Rushing to pass legislation that is flawed and that will raise our taxes is simply irresponsible and not what our residents deserve,” Bontempi said. “Holding off with a referendum for a couple of months will certainly not lead to the end of Long Island, like some fearmongers like to claim.”

Many of the county’s wastewater treatment plants, pipelines and pumping stations are well past their intended lifespans, representing a growing risk for sewage leaks, overflows and contamination of local waterways and bays.

Meltzer-Krief warned that this could have devastating consequences for the region and its fragile ecosystems, including its renowned coastal areas and marine life.

“The quality of our waterways and bays here in Suffolk County is currently the poorest it has ever been,” she said. “The main cause is nitrogen runoff from outdated cesspools and septic systems which flows into our waters and triggers potentially toxic

algal blooms which deprive marine life of the oxygen they need to survive.”

Research from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicates that nitrogen from sewage is suffocating Long Island’s bays and harbors, contaminating drinking water and causing fish kills and algal blooms.

“Thankfully, scientists know how to reverse this troubling and urgent environmental concern and clean our waters,” Meltzer-Krief said.

But, she added, “It is the responsibility of our county legislators to follow the science and protect our children from the toxins in the water by securing funding for the recommended clean water infrastructure.”

While local officials and environmental organizations have been sounding the alarm for years over aging infrastructure, progress has been slow and funding for these projects has often fallen short of what is required.

Restoring clean, healthy water requires drastically reducing nitrogen pollution from its primary source — Suffolk County’s approximately 360,000 nitrogen-polluting cesspools and septic systems.

“Once the legislation has been amended to properly address our wastewater infrastructure, the voters will be able to decide,” Bontempi said. “The Republican majority at the Suffolk County Legislature wants clean water, too.”

Suffolk County elections will take place Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Suffolk Republicans cannot wash hands of clean water issue

With November elections rapidly approaching, both sides of the political aisle are tense.

All 18 seats on the Suffolk County Legislature are up for election, and with the end of County Executive

Steve Bellone’s (D) tenure, the county executive seat will be open for the first time since 2011. Unfortunately, the political desperation to take unilateral control over Suffolk County has led to dirty tricks and unethical behavior.

In late June, the Republican majority in Suffolk County was given the option to vote on a measure which, if passed, would have placed a clean water referendum on the ballot in November. The referendum would give voters the option to approve a negligible sales tax increase — 12 cents for every \$100 dollars in spending — and critically, gain access to available state and federal funding.

This was particularly important as voters in 2022 overwhelmingly approved a \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act to protect

the environment [See story, “NYS offers possibilities of \$4.2B bond act for Suffolk County, urges public input,” Aug. 31, TBR News Media], with almost 64% of Suffolk County residents voting to pass the funding. Passing a referendum would allow Suffolk County to access some of these funds.

Clean water infrastructure would greatly improve our drinking water and protect our beaches and natural spaces. In addition, the funding would create new jobs for Suffolk County.

The Republican majority, led by Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst), refused to allow residents to vote on approving the referendum. Despite the efforts of labor unions in their efforts to create jobs for working-class individuals, as well as pleading by environmentalists and advocates, the county Legislature tabled the resolution [See story, “Suffolk County Legislature recesses, blocks referendum on wastewater fund,” July 27, TBR News Media].

While McCaffrey made various excuses for his refusal to allow



By Skyler Johnson

Suffolk County to vote on the issue, the true reason was clear: The Republican majority knew that if the referendum was on the ballot, Democratic voters would be driven to the polls in November to approve it.

The blowback was immediate. People of all political parties voiced their disapproval for the Legislature’s blatantly political action. Despite this, McCaffrey let the deadline to

approve the referendum pass.

As residents continued to grow angry, McCaffrey decided to make an attempt to suppress arguments being made by Democratic candidates. Last week, he called a special meeting of the Legislature to approve a December special election for the referendum — a special election which would now cost taxpayers over \$2 million to hold.

However, the special meeting of the Legislature was abruptly canceled. While McCaffrey sought to cleanse the record of his heinous political malpractice, he forgot to consider one key problem: The dissent of his own caucus.

The Republican majority refused to vote positively on the issue. With all six Democrats pledging support for the referendum, McCaffrey could not persuade even three members of his 11-seat majority to vote “yes,” and the special meeting was canceled.

Suffolk County residents now bear the consequences of these political games. Tens of thousands of homes throughout the county are without adequate septic systems.

Without this funding, these systems will continue to leach toxins into our water — water that we cook with, our kids bathe in and our pets drink.

The failure by Republican leadership to come up with a plan to address Suffolk’s infamously poor drinking water quality is inexcusable. The Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting our drinking water, estimates that those served by the Suffolk County Water Authority are ingesting numerous separate contaminants.

In a county with the highest breast cancer rates in the state — rates significantly higher than the rest of the nation — we cannot afford McCaffrey and his Republican majority’s dirty games.

McCaffrey cannot wash his hands of this issue. It is his responsibility to address his majority’s failure of government. If he refuses to do so, voters must take this neglect of duty into account when they cast their ballots on Nov. 7.

Skyler Johnson is the chair of the Suffolk County Young Democrats.

Eye on the Street : Residents and visitors generally favor sewers

BY CAROLYN SACKSTEIN
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

In downtown Port Jefferson and Port Jefferson Station, people were asked whether they favor expanding local sewer districts. We also asked if their vote this November would hinge upon a candidate's stated position on groundwater pollution or wastewater infrastructure expansions.

Some respondents refused to discuss their vote, while others said

they were not single-issue voters, maintaining that their decisions at the ballot box would factor in various issues.

Many of those approached for comment declined to speak, saying that they did not feel sufficiently informed about the ongoing wastewater debate in Suffolk County to provide a reasoned response. All but one of the respondents supported reducing groundwater contamination and expanding sewer access.

Their comments follow:



**Katherine Cahill,
Belle Terre**

"I think there are pros and cons. I am happy to have the water protected. That is very important to me on Long Island, of course. Then there is the political side: How long is it going to take? What is the traffic congestion going to be like? What are the implications to other areas other than just the groundwater?"

"Overall, I think I am for that, assuming we can get sewers put in that can manage the water that goes into them adequately, and it doesn't just get put into the ocean as raw sewage."

Cahill expressed a need for treatment facilities so that clean, treated water is released. She explained that she does not have access to sewers in Belle Terre.

"Water management is a very serious issue up there. The water is eroding the cliff, and we live in a protected environment for the birds and the animals up there. So, the fact that it is not being managed adequately is a very big problem here."

When asked if she thinks sewers might help, she responded, "I do. There is always a downside. The most important thing is managing what happens once the sewers collect the water. Where does it go? How is it going to be treated? How is it going to affect sea life? We are starting to see dead whales from the impact of the windmills."



**Derrick Hines, Nova
Scotia, Canada**

Hines sailed here with his wife and their labradoodle, Tessa. When we asked how the Maritimes deal with sewage, he replied, "Actually, we have septic plants, which make sure any of the sewage going out into the harbor has been cleaned before it is dumped."

When asked if Nova Scotia has any septic tanks or cesspools, Hines said, "Yes, more in the rural areas, where it is too expensive to connect to the sewer systems. [They] have their own septic systems [not a cesspool] where it is pumped out and dealt with afterward."



**Wendy Brame,
South Shore of
Suffolk County**

Brame is a North American Native woman descended from the Shinnecock and Mohican tribes.

When asked if protecting groundwater and expanding sewers in Suffolk County would influence her vote, she replied, "Yes. The sewer infrastructure would impact the environment and the well-being of the people who live here in the community. It is important that we have clean water and fresh air, just an overall better quality of life."



**Kathy Ferraro,
Coram**

Ferraro discussed the impact of stormwater on the sanitary system. "When you come here after a bad rainfall, you've got to watch where you walk, it stinks." We asked if she was on a sewer line in Coram.

She replied, "Yeah, we have city water, and our sewer is right there on the corner where we live." Ferraro was skeptical of a new sewer system on Route 112 in Port Jeff Station, saying, "To put in a new sewer system, I'm not sure. I'm not too supportive. I think it's going to be a hot mess."



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Wolverines girls volleyball falls to the Bulls despite rally

BY BILL LANDON
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The Bulls of Smithtown East looked to make it four wins in a row when they traveled to Newfield for a League III matchup where they dominated the first

two sets winning 25-14, 25-13 in the Sept. 12 contest. Newfield rallied in the third set, leading by three points late in the match but the Bulls made fewer mistakes to win by four points for the 3-0 sweep.

The win lifts the Bulls to 4-0, not hav-

ing lost a set blanking all of their opponents in the early going while Newfield falls to 1-4.

Both teams retake the court Thursday when Newfield travels to North Babylon with a 6:45 p.m. start and Smithtown East hosts West Babylon at 5 p.m.

Pictured clockwise, from top left: Cameron Gamble spikes the ball for Newfield; senior Catarina Pacheco keeps the ball in play; Newfield senior Gabby Agostino sets the play; senior Natalia Zdeb attacks at net; Newfield freshman Lily Kolasinski from the service line; and Newfield's Karli Scarfogliero digs one out.

Photos by Bill Landon



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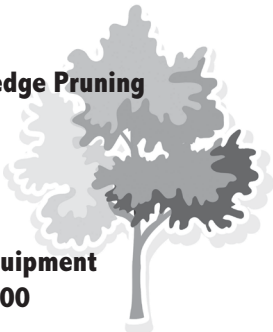
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Editorial

More than a pipedream

Suffolk County's wastewater election

As Election Day nears, it is becoming increasingly evident that our local elections here in Suffolk County will hinge upon the people's vision for wastewater treatment.

The state of our wastewater systems is a crucial policy concern for residents and environmentalists alike. Our existing system of disparate sewer districts and individually operated septic tanks is inadequate, impairing our environment, drinking water and quality of life.

Responsible wastewater treatment countywide can ensure our communities remain clean, healthy and safe. However, as years pass, our county's wastewater infrastructure will continue showing its age — and the consequences could be devastating.

The first and most immediate impact of deteriorating wastewater infrastructure is public health. A failure to address these issues could result in an uptick in health crises, increasing the demand for health care services and leading citizens to question the competence of local governments to meet even their most basic human needs.

Residents expect their elected officials to take proactive approaches in maintaining critical infrastructure. If this does not happen, it can erode trust in government.

Our people ask for clean drinking water. We desire fewer fish kills and algal blooms in our local surface waters. Perhaps above all, our citizens long for political representation that actually advances their needs over the wants of powerful, monied interests that finance political campaigns in this county.

Money talks in Suffolk County, as elsewhere. Powerful special interest groups here — notably developers and organized labor — often curry favor with politicians. For developers, sewers allow for increased building height and density. For labor unions, sewers produce lucrative government contracts.

As we inch closer to November, we remind prospective officeholders that they must be careful not to allow campaign contributors to drive policy, that the people are the prime movers of our democracy.

The paramount stakeholder group in this election is the taxpaying citizens of Suffolk County. Though not cutting large campaign checks, this group will be the ultimate judge deciding who ascends to county office.

Shamefully, the county Legislature failed to put the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act on November's ballot. So, this election season voters must listen carefully to candidates from both major parties. Only those who demonstrate a firm commitment to the popular will should earn our votes.

Candidates must develop a plan for modernizing our wastewater infrastructure. They should be prepared to answer difficult questions on this most critical issue, demonstrating their commitment to the betterment of our county.

To our fellow residents, listen closely during this election cycle, especially to conversations surrounding wastewater.

WRITE TO US ... AND KEEP IT LOCAL

We welcome your letters, especially those responding to our local coverage, replying to other letter writers' comments and speaking mainly to local themes. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and may be edited for length, libel, style, good taste and uncivil language. They will also be published on our website. We do not publish anonymous letters. Please include an address and phone number for confirmation. Email letters to: editor1@tbrnewsmedia.com or mail them to **TBR News Media, P.O. Box 707, Setauket, NY 11733**



File photo by Raymond Janis

Letters to the Editor

Polluted groundwater affects more than the tap

A recent letter by George Altemose ["An alternative to advanced septic systems," Sept. 7, TBR News Media] suggested that instead of increasing Suffolk sales tax 1/8% to help fund upgraded, nitrogen-reducing septic tanks, it would be more cost effective to eliminate the nitrogen after it has already entered the groundwater. But only the groundwater that comes from Suffolk County Water Authority wells and into our homes as drinking water.

What about the polluted groundwater from old cesspools and septic systems that's now going into our beaches, bays and other waterways, killing fish and creating dead zones?

Old cesspools and septic systems need replacing, and they should be replaced with upgraded, nitrogen-reducing systems and there are rebates and grants to help pay for it.

Another consideration, according to one local company's website, is that the upgraded systems work best when homeowners use less water and fewer chemical cleaning products. So in the long run the homeowner will be motivated to reduce water use by running only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher and to stop buying expensive cleaning products with harmful chemicals and instead make their own homemade cleaners using baking soda or white vinegar to prolong the life and improve the performance of their new, high-tech septic system.

Remember, we live on an island and there are grants and rebates to help pay for the upgraded systems because we all benefit from Long Island's beautiful beaches and abundant wildlife.

**Diane Ives
Copiague**

Editor's note: The writer serves on the executive committee of the Sierra Club Long Island Group.

SCWA can't ward off algal blooms

While the Suffolk County Water Authority can do something about nitrogen in drinking water, it does not and cannot do anything to reduce the excessive amount of nitrogen in the drinking water of those of us that get our water from our own wells, nor can it do anything to reduce the amount of nitrogen in our lakes, ponds, streams and saltwater bodies. In those bodies, it is a fertilizer for all sorts of life.

Plant life, called algae, grows and reproduces at an increased rate when fertilizers are present in the water. In large numbers, they form a "bloom" which actually changes the color of the water.

Two of these are brown algae and green algae. Brown algal blooms — aka brown tides — shadow the seafloor, which leads to the death of seagrasses. It also can slow the growth of shellfish.

Red algae, which contains saxitoxin — a nerve damaging toxin — when present in large quantities as in a red

tide or red algal bloom, can kill many fish and shellfish and sicken any animal that ingests the water, including making humans quite sick. Red algal blooms also deplete water oxygen levels, resulting in fish not getting enough oxygen through their gills and dying as a result.

Then there is blue-green algae, which is actually a bacteria — aka a cyanobacteria — that grow in number in shallow, still, warm bodies of fresh or salt water. It, too, contains a neurotoxin called microcystin that is known to cause rashes and make people sick. In fact, it is an excess of this toxin that has killed dogs and other animals when they drink the water.

All because of excess nitrogen that the no drinking water process does or can remove.

**Jane Fasullo
Setauket**

The system needs a reset

It makes no sense that inflation creates a work shortage [See story with Assemblywoman Jodi Giglio [R-Riverhead], "Giglio: Long Island still grappling with labor shortages, inflation," Sept. 7, TBR News Media].

How else can you keep up with inflation if you don't work? And, if wages increase, you also increase prices, which creates inflation.

This is putting the carrot on the stick in front of the donkey. Add to this Big Government and high taxes. The system needs a reset.

**Frank Grande
Northport**

Opinion

What if we're ignoring the wrong things

You know that optical illusion with the vase and the two faces? If you're looking at the outline of the white object, you see a vase, but if you look at the white as the background, you see two faces.



D. None of the above
BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

Is it possible that we might, at times, be missing something in our lives?

We drive from one event to another, often ignoring the people in the car next to us at a stoplight, at the birds resting on a telephone wire or at the last few rays of the sun as the light disappears over the horizon.

Instead, we're focused on getting where we're going, giving our mind a chance to wander to important things, like

what we're going to say to the coach of our son's little league team, to our boss who wants to know why we're late, or to that person at the deli counter who starts preparing our sandwich before we even order.

Along the way, we might be missing signs that could stimulate or enrich our mind in unexpected ways or that could provide the kind of unanticipated signs that serve as clues about our lives. Sure, some people read horoscopes for such help, they ponder the pithy poetry of fortune cookies, or they visit a psychic, who asks them if they've ever known a person named John or if they've ever gone with a date to a movie or like to take walks on the beach.

But, with our heads down, living on our phones, focusing on events and people far from us, is it possible that we might miss something akin to a puzzle piece in the mystery of our lives?

Sure, telemarketers are frustrating and annoying, offering us products we don't

need, asking us for personal information, and assuming a far-too-familiar tone.

What if those telemarketers, who are even more unpopular than used car salesman, journalists and politicians, offered us something between the lines of their scripts that might be of use to us? We don't have to stay on the phone long with them and we don't have to buy something we don't want, but maybe we can give them half a minute, listening to them and politely declining their offer for more life insurance, a time share in the Everglades, or a chance to earn money as a personal shopper.

Maybe something they say will remind us of a task we wanted to accomplish, a phrase a friend or relative used to use, or a responsibility we haven't yet met for ourselves. In a world in which there are no accidents, perhaps they can remind us of something we value.

Along the same lines, the scenery that flies by while we're on a train, a bus or in a car could remind us of a picture we drew from our

childhood, a tree we used to climb, or a friend who might need to hear from us but hasn't felt strong enough to ask for help.

Hundreds and thousands of years ago, people looked to the skies for the kind of signs that might help them.

When we shut ourselves in our homes, disconnect from the people in the room or from the environment, we close down the opportunity to see or consider any signs from the world around us or to get out of our own limited physical, mental and emotional headspace. We also lock ourselves in to a particular way of thinking, removing the opportunity to consider whether today is a day to see the vase or the two faces.

By getting away from our computer screens, cell phones, and cubicles, we give ourselves a chance to see what the world offers, and how those cues affect the way we think about our lives.

Do you eat breakfast, and if so, what do you eat?

My favorite meal of the day is breakfast. Now I'm not one of those happy people who awakened with the dawn, but I will say that my first thought after



Between you and me
BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF

I open my eyes is usually breakfast. It used to be that I had to get up and walk the dog, but that's history. Now, as soon as sleep is over, I am hungry.

Maybe that has something to do with the fact that I don't eat past dinner, and that my dinner usually ends by 7:00 pm or even earlier. That means I have been fasting for at least 12 hours, maybe even 14, so my lustful appetite would seem valid. I start thinking about what I am going to make for breakfast while I am brushing my teeth. It's

almost never what you might expect.

I guess the traditional American breakfast is eggs and toast, and maybe some sort of meat, like bacon or ham. Or people start the day with cold cereal and milk in a bowl or hot oatmeal, with maybe some fruit on top. That's if they have time to fix breakfast.

Many people just run through the kitchen, put on their jackets and rush out the door to work or to school. Perhaps they might snag a roll or a piece of fruit on the way out, maybe even a cup of coffee if they remembered to plug in the pot the night before and to push the button on the way to the bathroom in the morning. Incredible as it sounds to me, I even know some people who eat nothing until dinner—a big dinner that then stretches right up to bedtime.

So what do I eat?

I might eat an egg with some veggies thrown in if it's a weekend and I have time to cook. I particularly like English muffins with Irish butter and one of any number of different

jams I harbor in my frig. More often I will heat up some green lentil pasta that I prepared in advance, top it with low sodium spaghetti sauce and a couple of spices, and munch away. (Don't Yuk! Just try it.) The green lentil flour, which comes in a box, is loaded with good nutrients: 11 grams of fiber; 25 grams plant-based protein. My favorite shape for the flour is rotini; it makes me think I am eating wheat pasta. And by the way, it's made in Italy.

Or, I might finish off the previous night's leftovers. That could be anything from shrimp, which I love, or a kind of white flaky fish like branzino or salmon. Now you might be taken aback by the nonconformist choices I make in the morning, so I will explain. I have had the pleasure of traveling to a number of different countries and eating their traditional breakfasts, so I am not in the least put off by eating my leftover sushi that I brought in the previous night. It makes me think I am in Bali.

On rainy mornings, I have the urge for pancakes because my mother, when I was a

child, often made silver dollar pancakes for breakfast when it rained, especially if it rained really hard. The wonderful smell would fill the kitchen and bring us quickly to the table. I never put butter or syrup or powdered sugar on them; they were just delicious straight from the pan. I confess, though, that now I hardly ever have time to make them. I'm too busy looking for an umbrella.

Instead I grab a smoothie, filled with frozen fruits and dark green leafy vegetables, like baby bok choy and baby kale, that is pre-made in the refrigerator and carry it to my office, where I sip it through a straw for a couple of hours.

Another unorthodox breakfast that I enjoy is a salad, one with cucumbers, tomatoes, pears and walnuts, perked up with a little balsamic vinegar. I don't care for iceberg lettuce much, preferring romaine and mixed greens.

I have learned that only some 35 percent of Americans eat breakfast every morning. How about you?

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